

## **2021 CHIJ Secondary Breakfast Talk Q&A**

Where questions are of similar nature, the common point(s) had been distilled into a single question. Such questions are tagged with the “ # ” symbol.

Please contact the school at [chijtpss@moe.edu.sg](mailto:chijtpss@moe.edu.sg) should you have further questions. Thank you.

<b>1</b>	<b>School Culture and Ethos</b>
	<p><b><i># What is the one biggest defining difference between CHIJ Secondary and the other IJ schools? Is it based on christian values? Programmes?</i></b></p> <p>As the first CHIJ school to be established in 1854, CHIJ Secondary is the oldest Catholic girls' school and the mother school of all the 11 CHIJ schools in Singapore. The school used to be at Victoria Street, where CHIJMES is currently situated.</p> <p>Our mission as a CHIJ school is to be a Christ-centred school community where all work together for the promotion of truth, justice, freedom and love, with special reference to the needs of persons who are disadvantaged in any way. As such, the school offers an education that is underpinned by the central Christian belief of the worth and dignity of each person.</p> <p>CHIJ Secondary is a Centre of Excellence for English Language and the Arts and our girls experience some of the most enriching and rigorous language and arts programmes. We also offer drama lessons for all Lower Sec classes. We are one of the 6 six schools in Singapore offering the Drama Elective Programme and one of eight schools offering the Art Elective Programme.</p> <p>Our girls also go through milestone cohort programmes at the different levels. Our IJ Goes Global programme takes our girls beyond the familiar to venture into learning in overseas contexts. These include immersion programme and mission trips. We also have the IJ Talent Development Programme where selected girls get to explore a suite of STEM related modules, including coding, forensic science, Google Science Fair and data analytics.</p> <p>An IJ education has always been about empowerment of girls and the girls are also encouraged and supported to embark on Student-Initiated Activities.</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>Student Leadership</b>
	<p><b><i>My daughter is keen to become a councillor. What is the criteria? Is it by class voting? What if she's very suitable for the role but doesn't get enough votes, will the teachers have a say in this?</i></b></p> <p>Councillors are voted in by the student bodies. Our nominees persevere in the face of difficulties and take the initiative to lead their peers, understanding that it is a privilege to serve. They also demonstrate some of the 5 Leadership Practices,</p>

	<p>which include Modelling the Way, Inspiring a Shared Vision, Challenging the Process, Enabling Others to Act and Encouraging the Heart. Student councillors are voted in by the school and teacher feedback is an important part of the nomination and election process. If your daughter is interested in running for council, we would like to encourage her to take the initiative to lead her peers where possible and learn more about what it means to be a leader in the meantime. Elections will take place in Term 2.</p> <p>Ultimately, we believe that all students have the potential to be leaders of self and leaders for others. Each year, we encourage our girls who are not elected to continue doing their best to lead and to serve and to try again the following year. There are also a few leadership positions she can consider, apart from running for council.</p>
<b>3</b>	<b>CCA and other Co-Curricular Programmes</b>
3.1	<p><b><i># Question on CCA selection procedures and what if my child doesn't get the CCA that interest her.</i></b></p> <p>There are several phases that the students go through for CCA Selection:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The students go through the CCA Orientation, with booths put up by each CCA, for students to experience a short taster of CCAs that they are interested in.</li> <li>2. The students attend the various trials/auditions that are required for entry into some CCAs. There are CCAs that do not require trials for Sec 1s to join them.</li> <li>3. The teachers publish the list of students who pass the trial/audition</li> <li>4. Students submit their CCA choices (up to 6, out of 24 available CCAs, 9 CCAs do not require trials/auditions)</li> <li>5. The CCAs are allocated to students based on the trial/audition results, their choices and if there is any over-subscription to any CCA(s), balloting will be carried out.</li> <li>6. Final CCA Allocation will be announced to the students.</li> </ol> <p>In the event that your child does not get the CCA that interests her, she will have the option of changing her CCA at the end of her Sec 1 year, but we do encourage all students to keep an open mind and maximise their learning in the allocated CCA. If she eventually decides to change her CCA, please take note that there are some implications, with regards to the LEAPS2.0 bonus point system.</p>
3.2	<p><b><i>Sec 1s have to choose CCAs by this weekend. Re the LEAPS programme, sec 1s may not be ready to compete yet in SYF or NSG as preparation has already been well underway since last year. For eg, the biannual SYF, the current sec 1 batch only has max of one chance to compete in sec 3. Also unforeseen events happen like last year, there was no SYF (pri) nor NSG due to pandemic. Should the CCA not provide enough opportunity to get a level 3 for Achievement, how does the school help students reach that goal?</i></b></p>

	<p>While a small proportion of Sec 1s will be ready to compete in the SYF and other competitions this year, the majority of Sec 1s may not be able to compete. To achieve a Level 3 for Achievement, students only need to achieve a "Certificate of Accomplishment" once for the Performing Arts. There are also other performance platforms that allow the students to achieve "Achievement" levels.</p> <p>For the sports, clubs/societies and Uniformed Groups, there is an option of the school keying in achievements for students who would be participating in the various competitions/events, in a non-pandemic year. As such, there is no major repercussion of COVID-19 on students' level of attainment in the Achievement Domain.</p>
3.3	<p><b><i>Apart from CCA are there remedial or enrichment class and which are the days ?</i></b></p> <p>Typical CCA training will usually be 2 days per week. The enrichment programmes are conducted by various departments and include themes like STEM - TDP, Poetry Slam - Literature, Drama Night, IJ Flair - Language &amp; Arts. These programmes cater to different interests and students are free to sign up. If there are any school-organised enrichment classes, the students will be excused from CCA for those classes.</p>
3.4	<p><b><i>Do the girls get to choose the VIA projects they are interested in from time to time or will they be allocated to compulsory VIA projects?</i></b></p> <p>For Sec 1 VIA, students are to sign up by indicating their preferred choices for VIA activities curated by the school. We do our best to match students' choice to the allocated VIA activities. During the VIA briefing for Sec 1 students, they are reminded to choose available VIA activities according to their passion, interests, skills, and/or talents. Should they be allocated a VIA activity that is not within their preferred choices, students can view it as an opportunity to discover their hidden strengths, and uncover more about various causes they are less informed about.</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>Curricular Matters</b>
4.1	<p><b><i>Will there be opportunities across the years (eg. Halfway through sec 1/ In sec 2 or sec 3) for students to take HCL if they have not been offered by MOE? When do teachers assess students' MT ability in doing HMT - are there fixed times eg after mid year or EOY exams etc?</i></b></p> <p>For students who are not offered HMTL by MOE, the school will assess their ability to cope with the higher demands of the subject while managing their performance in other subjects. The assessment will take into account consistent performance for MTL and teachers' recommendation when they are in Secondary One. The school will continue to monitor students' performance and progress and are open to offering them HMTL should they do well and attain a distinction grade for MTL in Semester One or Semester Two.</p>

4.2	<p><b><i>Do the girls stay in the same class for Sec 1 and Sec 2?</i></b></p> <p>Yes, students will remain in the same class in lower secondary. In upper sec, their class will change due to choice of their subjects for GCE O or N level.</p> <p>In Sec 2, we have a process to inform students on choice of subjects over the school terms. There will be a series of talks by our ECG Counsellor on their aspiration, Year Head and Subject Heads on Upper Sec school life and subject matters. In Term 4, a letter of offer will be given to students to select their choice of subjects they would like to be offered. These subjects offered will form the GCE papers to sit for in the National Exams..</p>
4.3	<p><b><i>Whether CHIJ will move into subject based banding at all</i></b></p> <p>Full SBB is part of MOE's ongoing efforts to nurture the joy of learning and develop multiple pathways to cater to the different strengths and interests of our students. It is currently being piloted in some schools and will be implemented in secondary schools from 2024.</p> <p>CHIJ Secondary has already implemented subject based banding which involves the offering of higher level subjects to NA and NT students. The school has a phased approach to full implementation and will be piloting it in 2022.</p>
5	<p><b>Assessment</b></p>
5.1	<p><b><i>Assessment schedule and format for Sem 1?</i></b> <b><i>Promotion criteria and the assessments breakdown for each subject.</i></b></p> <p>Please refer to individual subjects' information and assessment guide given in the info booklet for Breakfast Talk. The promotion criteria is printed on the info booklet sent in the Parent Gateway.</p>
5.2	<p><b><i>Is there mid-year exam for sec 1? Is there class and form ranking for sec 1?</i></b></p> <p>There is no Mid-year exam, and the results slip will not reflect the ranking in class or level. We believe the results are meant for students to appreciate their strengths and also mindful of areas for improvement. We would like all our students to be reflective in assessing themselves and to develop the thinker, leader and communicator as an IJ girl.</p>
6	<p><b>School Partnership</b></p>
6.1	<p><b><i>Question regarding meeting with the class form Teachers</i></b></p> <p>The Sec 1 Breakfast Talk is supposed to be the first meeting face-face meeting. We have also scheduled a PTM session on 11 Mar (Thur) at the end of Term 1 to</p>

	<p>update on your child's progress and experience in school. Depending on the SMM by then, the session may have to be a virtual session one as well.</p>
6.2	<p><b><i>Pl do allow car pickup from school as currently the school do not allow pickup from school during dismissal, there are so many car jammed outside HDB gate carpark and also along the road at Toa Payoh Lor1, sometime my girl need to cross the road to look for my car as there are too many car and she has hard time crossing the road and look out for us. Please do note that certain timing other big school bus also go into the Hdb carpark to drop the student which caused even more serious jammed . I hope the school could look into this matter as I understand from other school they do allow cars to pick up the kids from school in orderly manner or even waited in the school carpark for the kids to meet them there.</i></b></p> <p>Cars with decal are allowed in the school compound for pick up after 5pm. As our compound has both the Pri &amp; Sec school, the safety of the students is our priority as there is a large number of students walking in the school compound especially during dismissal time which is staggered across a period of time. Moreover, there are limited parking lots available during office hours as the school is a government agency with season parking restrictions.</p> <p>We do know some parents would arrange to pick up their daughters at the car park behind Blk 168. Our girls can access Blk 168 easily via Gate 3 during dismissal time.</p>
6.3	<p><b><i>Why meetings for parents held during working hours where we working parents are unable to login/join meetings whilst at work. Please offer alternative form of meetings. We would also appreciate receiving recorded link of the parents meetings too?</i></b></p> <p>We try to hold our breakfast meetings within 1.5 hours early in the morning so that parents can still get back to the office thereafter. We will send links on recorded presentation slides after the event on our website.</p>
6.4	<p><b><i>Question regarding PSG</i></b></p> <p>You can join the PSG as shown in the QR code or email according to the message sent by the Chairperson, Ms Audra.</p> <p>You may access the PSG webpage via our school website for more information.</p>