



6 January 2023

Dear Parents/Guardian

Information on Secondary 2 Common Curriculum Subjects (with Coursework)

Greetings and good wishes to you.

Your child/ward will take Common Curriculum subjects in their mixed form classes as part of the Secondary 1 academic syllabus. The Common Curriculum subjects that are graded include Art, Design & Technology (D&T), Food & Consumer Education (FCE) and Music. This letter aims to provide a brief background about each subject and the types of assessment involved.

1. Art

Art at the lower secondary level is designed to foster students' sense of identity, culture and place in society. In addition, it aims to build the students' capacity to critically discern and process visual information, and communicate effectively. Art expands imagination and creativity and the teachers in the Art department is committed towards guiding your child/ward throughout their Art learning journey in OPSS. Art is assessed through in-class assignments and cohort projects. At the end of the year, Sec 2 students will also attempt a Drawing and Painting Examination to enable them to consolidate and present their learning. All these components are compulsory as they give students a well-rounded foundation in Art. Information on Art assessment is appended below.

S/N	Examinable Component	Objectives of Assessment	Additional Information	Percentage of Total Art Marks
1.	In-class Assessment for Term 1	Project 1: Character Design Art activities where students develop technical skills in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Drawing and shading of 3D formsUse of Principles of Design (POD) in creating interesting forms out of shapes	Assessment will be in the form of a pencil shading assignment and a POD exercise. Teachers will advise students on how best to improve their work and skills.	15%



2.	In-class Assessment for Term 2	Project 1: Character Design Art activities where students develop technical skills in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character Design - Research, Visualization and Ideation • Sculpture 	Assessment will be in the form of a Character Design project. Students will apply their synectic skills through the design processes and building of a sculpture.	15%
3.	In-class Assessment for Term 3	Project 2: Photobook Art activities where students develop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical skills in Photography, Basic Photo-editing, and Design skills 	Assessment will be in the form of an artwork photobook assignment. Students will compile self-taken photos based on a written storyline.	15%
4.	End-of-Year Exam	End-of-Year Exam: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 weeks prior to the Art Exam, students will be briefed and provided with a list of themes to choose from. • Based on the chosen theme, students will prepare their final art piece under exam conditions. 	End-of-Year Exam: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation and interpretation of theme • Exploration and development of ideas • Aesthetic qualities • Control of materials and technical processes • Personal responses 	55%

2. Design & Technology (D&T)

Your child/ward will be taking Design & Technology (D&T) in Semester 1. The subject is designed to support the development of cognitive skills and abilities in the field of design.

Students will learn mainly through design-and-make projects guided by a design process. The design process entails identifying design needs from real-world experiences, generating and developing ideas, and realizing the design solution supported by research work. Such projects will involve experiential learning where students will learn to use basic tools to build the solutions they have designed. Therefore, it is mandatory for students to put on the blue apron during the building process for safety and hygiene purposes.

Students will be graded holistically through theoretical and practical lessons. There is no year-end written examination for D&T. They will embark on a project called the coursework to further enhance their understanding of the subject. The coursework, conducted throughout Semester



2, is a graded assessment that contributes to your child's/ward's overall assessment. The assessment details are appended below.

Overall Design & Technology Education Assessment	
Theoretical Assessment	Coursework and Practical Assessment
20%	80%

3. Food & Consumer Education (FCE)

Your child/ward will be taking Food & Consumer Education (*FCE*) in Semester 2. The subject is designed to empower students to be health-conscious and discerning consumers by equipping them with the knowledge about diet and health, and be informed of the benefits of nutritious food and a well-balanced meal.

Students will also be equipped with basic food science knowledge where they will learn how different ingredients interact with one another during the cooking process. Through experiential learning, students will explore factors that influence sensory qualities of food through practical lessons conducted in the Food Laboratory. Students are expected to put on their white apron and Chef's hat on during such lessons for safety and hygiene purposes.

There is no year-end written examination for FCE. Students will be graded holistically through theoretical and practical assessments. They will also embark on a project called the coursework to further enhance their understanding of the subject. The coursework is a graded assessment which contributes to your child's/ward's overall assessment for FCE which has been appended below.

Overall Food and Consumer Education Assessment	
Theoretical and Practical Assessment	Coursework Assessment
30%	70%



4. Music

With an array of musical activities and performance opportunities, the OPSS music unit is committed to providing quality music education for students. It is the school's hope that every student cultivates a life-long enjoyment and involvement in music, and this is achieved through the Advanced Music Programme (AMP) and the Lower Secondary Music Programme (LSMP).

The AMP is a school-based optional programme that students can apply to join. AMP lessons are conducted by Music teachers after curriculum hours through a blended learning approach. This programme is highly recommended for students interested in pursuing Music at a higher level such as Music at the O-level or NT-level. While applicants need not have a music background, they must demonstrate a high level of interest in music and have a commitment to being part of the programme. Since the AMP is a non-compulsory programme, regular school activities such as CCA/remediation classes will take precedence over the AMP. Successful applicants of the AMP will be exposed to a deeper level of music learning and will have the opportunity to experience live music and be given the platform to showcase their talents during school events such as Teacher's Day. Students are able to apply for the AMP at the start of Semester 2, 2023.

The LSMP is a compulsory national music syllabus that aims to enable students to acquire and apply musical skills, knowledge and understanding through listening, creating, and performing. Through this rigorous music programme, the school hopes to develop students in the ability of creative expression and communication, as well as to understand and appreciate music in local and global cultures. LSMP is assessed through in-class assignments, participation, reflections and both individual and ensemble performances. All these components are compulsory to provide students with well-rounded learning foundation in Music. Information on LSMP assessment is appended below.

S/N	Objectives of Assessment	Additional Information	Percentage of total music Marks
1.	Semester 1: Songwriting Students will be equipped to listen, create, and perform through these tasks:	Students can bring their own ukulele to perform.	50%





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform a cover song as an ensemble/band • Write and perform an original song • Basic Cajon Drumming Patterns • Ensembleship – Listening and playing music with each other 	Reflection at the start and end of semester will be collated.	
2.	<p>Semester 2: Soundscapes & Singapore Arts Scene</p> <p>Students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soundscape • Sounds In the South-East Asian Music • Sounds in the Local Music Scene • Singapore Arts Scenes (Concert venues, arts schools, etc) 	Students will be assessed by reflection, class work and project work to encourage thinking, journalling and creating through performance.	50%

With these learning objectives in mind, we would like to work closely with you and seek your support to ensure that your child/ward is present for every Common Curriculum lesson. If you wish to find out more about the subject or your child's/ward's progress, you may contact his/her Common Curriculum subject teacher during school hours.

Thank you.