



2 Jan 2024

### **Principal's Message - Semester 1 2024**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Last year, as part of the school's efforts to strengthen self-directedness, Merahans were encouraged to see themselves as individuals capable of making responsible decisions at home, in school and in the community. Some of the key messages shared include:

1. Choices have consequences. Their decisions and actions impact not just themselves but others.
2. Small is beautiful. Each of them can make a difference.
3. Invest in themselves. Begin each day with gratitude and develop high performance habits.

This year, while our school remains unwavering in nurturing our Merahans to be responsible decision-makers. I would like to encourage parents and guardians to also play a more deliberate role in supporting us to develop this competency. Instead of wishing and telling Merahans to be responsible for their decisions, could we summon the faith and patience to give them authentic opportunities to practise and hone it?

Creating these opportunities takes faith, time and thought to plan and execute. But the impact is potentially more enduring. Instead of judging, nagging and taking over when our Merahans did not carry out their responsibilities, would the outcome be different if we:

1. Keep the faith that they, like us, can learn from mistakes and want to be better;
2. Hear them out, share our intentions, and together, establish clear and mutually agreed expectations and consequences;
3. Give them realistic options they can choose from to do better; and
4. Provide them with space to make their choices, learn from their mistakes and do better the next time?

The school alone cannot enable our Merahans to realise their potential. But if our parents and guardians are supportive and willing to reinforce what we do concertedly, then the day our Merahans become responsible contributing member of society will not be a matter of if but when.

Please refer to the Annex for list of school events in Semester 1.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Darren Chong  
Principal  
Bukit Merah Secondary School



Annex

2024 BMSS Term 1 Events

DATE	LEVEL	EVENT	REMARKS
<b>January</b>			
2 – 4 Jan	Sec 2 – 5	StartRight Programme	
2 – 5 Jan	Sec 1	StartRight Programme and Orientation	
12 Jan	Sec 1  Selected Sec 4 students	Secondary 1 Parent Engagement Day  Sustainability Design Award Training (PM)	From 4.45pm onwards  After school
15 – 17 Jan	All	<b>GROW WEEK</b>  Sec 1 and 3 – Camp at external venue  Sec 2 and 4&5 – Activities in school <i>Sec 4&amp;5 students may have activities outside of school on 16 Jan</i>	Parent notification on GROW Week will be sent via Parents Gateway.
18 & 19 Jan	All	Home-Based Learning (HBL) Days	Students do not need to report to school.
24 Jan	Sec 1	Sec 1 Transition Workshop (PM)	After school, details will be shared with the classes.
25 Jan	Sec 2	Commencement of Aesthetics Education Programme	For all Sec 2 students: every Thursday until 28 March.  For selected Sec 2 students: in addition to the above, every Thursday until 25 April.
<b>February</b>			
5 - 9 Feb	Sec 3, 4&5	Mother Tongue Language Fortnight (Part 1)	
6 & 7 Feb	Sec 4E5N	English Language Workshop (PM)	After school
9 Feb	All	Lunar New Year Celebrations	Details will be shared with the classes.
12 Feb	All	Designated Day Off-in-Lieu for Lunar New Year	Public holiday
13 Feb	All	School Holiday for Lunar New Year	School holiday
15 Feb	All	Total Defence 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary (TD40) Exercise	
20 Feb	All	Commemoration of Total Defence Day	
27 & 28 Feb	Sec 2NT	Experience ITE Programme (EIP)	
27 Feb	Sec 4E Biology students	Learning Journey to Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum (PM)	After school

**March**

5 – 12 Mar	Selected Sec 3 students	Global Merahan Programme – Overseas trip to Jiangnan Middle School (JNMS) in Wuxi, China	
5 Mar	Sec 4&5	Education and Career Guidance Concurrent Workshops (PM)	After school
9 – 17 Mar	All	March Holidays	
11 – 13 Mar	Sec 4&5	Sec 4&5 Coursework Session	

### 2024 BMSS Term 2 Events

DATE	LEVEL	EVENT	REMARKS
<b>March</b>			
18 – 22 Mar	Sec 2, 4&5	Parent-Teacher Meeting (PM)	After school
19 & 20 Mar	All	Photo-taking for staff and students	
22 Mar	All	Home-Based Learning (HBL) Day	Students do not need to report to school.
26 - 28 Mar	All	English Language Week	
26 & 28 Mar	Sec 1	Science and Geography Learning Journey for G3 students (PM)	After school
27 Mar	Sec 3	NRIC Registration	
29 Mar	All	Good Friday	Public holiday
<b>April</b>			
2 Apr	All	Commemoration of International Friendship Day	
2 Apr	Sec 1 G2	Science and Geography Learning Journey for G2 students (PM)	After school
3 Apr	Selected students	FESTIVO VII Combined Rehearsal (PM)	After school
4 Apr	Sec 1 – 3 & 4N  Sec 4E5N	Home-Based Learning (HBL) Day  Mother Tongue Language Mock Papers	Students do not need to report to school.
10 Apr	All	Hari Raya Puasa	Public holiday
12 Apr	Selected students	FESTIVO VII Combined Rehearsal (PM)	After school
15 & 17 Apr	Sec 1 & 2 girls	Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination	
15 & 19 Apr	Sec 4&5	Mother Tongue Language Oral Exam (PM)	After school
16 Apr	Sec 1 – 3  Sec 4&5	Home-Based Learning (HBL) Day  English Language and Mother Tongue Language Oral Exam	Students do not need to report to school.
17 Apr	Selected students	FESTIVO VII Combined Rehearsal (PM)	After school
18 – 25 Apr	Sec 1 & 2	Annual Health Screening	
22 Apr	Sec 4&5	Mother Tongue Language Make-up Oral Exam (PM)	After school
23 & 25 Apr	Sec 4&5	English Language Oral Exam (PM)	After school

24 Apr	Selected students	FESTIVO VII Full Dress Rehearsal (PM)	After school
26 Apr	All	BMSS Cross Country	Details will be shared with the classes.
30 Apr	Sec 4&5	English Language Make-up Oral Exam (PM)	After school
<b>May</b>			
1 May	All	Labour Day	Public holiday
2 May	All except selected students Selected students	Home-Based Learning (HBL) Day FESTIVO VII Rehearsal at University Cultural Centre	Students do not need to report to school.
3 May	Selected students	FESTIVO VII at University Cultural Centre	
6 & 13 May	Sec 3	Self-Management Workshop (PM)	After school
7 – 9 May	Sec 2	English Language Oral Exam (PM)	After school
10 May	Sec 4E5N	Combined Science Practical Exam (PM)	After school
14 May	Sec 2 Sec 3NA	English Language Make-up Oral Exam (PM) Experience ITE Programme (EIP)	After school
15 May	Sec 4&5	Sec 4&5 Interview Skills Workshop (PM)	After school
16 – 20 May	Sec 4&5	Mother Tongue Language Intensive Programme	
16 May	Sec 2	Uncovering Strengths and Empowering Selves Workshop (PM)	After school
21 May	All	Merahan Olympic Day	Details will be shared with the classes.
22 May	All	Vesak Day	Public holiday
23 & 24 May	Sec 2 & 3	Parent-Teacher Meeting	23 May PM and 24 May full day
25 May – 23 June	All	June Holidays	
27 – 30 May	Sec 4&5	Sec 4&5 Study Programme (Part 1)	June Holidays
29 May	Sec 4&5	Pure Chemistry Practical Exam (PM)	June Holidays
30 May	Sec 4&5	Pure Physics Practical Exam (PM)	June Holidays
<b>June</b>			
17 June	All	Hari Raya Haji	Public Holiday
18 – 21 June	Sec 4&5	Sec 4&5 Study Programme (Part 2)	June Holidays