

Friday August 29th 2025,

Dear parents,

Next week, from Tuesday September 2nd, students will be invited to put forward their applications to become members of our primary & secondary councils. It is a shorter than usual week next week – we have public holidays on both Monday September 1st & Friday September 5th – so students will have only three days to seek to convince both their peers and their teachers that they would be able to contribute positively to our regular council meetings and that they could help to make a difference to our school's ongoing journey of continuous improvements in all areas.

How to apply is very deliberately straightforward. Students simply need to tell either their primary class teacher or secondary form tutor that they want to join the council, and they will be given a slot in which they can present to their peers. If students want to create presentations or any other visual means of getting their point across, then that's very much up to them, but they don't have to. If someone simply wants to use their verbal skills to persuade others that they'd be a great fit for this particular student leadership team, then that's also fine.

Once all presentations have been made, primary class teachers & secondary form tutors will speak to our Head of Primary (Ms. Katherine) & our Head of Secondary (Mr. Simon) about who has applied and how they performed during their presentations. Once we have a full picture of how everything went, we will form our primary & secondary councils for the academic year ahead & hold our first meetings during term 1.1.

Our primary council & secondary council meetings will be chaired by Ms. Katherine & Mr. Simon – because that's how important these meetings are! There will be six meetings over the course of the academic year (one per half-term) with agendas published in advance and elected councillors held to account for the progress of any tasks. Last year, our councils performed superbly and led to positive change in many areas, including the creation of signs around expected behviours at break & lunch time, & our support for multilingualism; the development of our ESG strategies; the creation

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of videos to support student understanding of our safeguarding strategies; and the organisation of our Street Child United fair on the final day of the academic year.

The final agenda point of the first primary & secondary council meetings will be the election of our school council, which will be comprised of four primary & four secondary councillors. Everyone present at the first primary & secondary council meetings will be asked to cast two votes for who they think would be best suited to also serve at a school council level (without voting for themselves, of course!) The school council will then always meet the week after the two primary & secondary councils have met with the purpose of seeking alignment across the whole school in terms of actions arising from the phase-specific meetings.

Clearly, we take student leadership very seriously at Straits International School Rawang. We seek to empower the young people in our care so that they can develop as confident, resilient and impactful members of their community, and not just as highly effective academic achievers (although that it also very important to us!) Our councils are but one facet of our student leadership strategy, and over the coming weeks you will also be updated about other initiatives such as the secondary Directors programme, our Friendly Faces teams, the primary Student Leaders plan, to name but some.

As always, if any parents would like to contact me about any of the points above, or indeed about any other issues, then you are always welcome to do so via the email address below.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Miles.

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