



iSP
International
Schools
Partnership

SECONDARY

NEWSLETTER

20 September 2024





Our Vision

To be recognised as a leading provider of education that balances academics with holistic human development, rooted in a caring and community-centric environment.

Our Mission

To balance the individual and the collective in everything we do - providing personalised education suited to the needs of each student while emphasising the importance of collaboration and shared growth.

In doing so, to nurture compassionate, well-balanced young adults with the hard and soft skills necessary to succeed wherever life takes them.



NEWSLETTER

Dear Secondary Parents,

We have been speaking a great deal to our secondary students of late about the language of learning in our school. Indeed, you may already have read in this week's CP letter what this means in Straits International School Rawang, namely that we expect all students to be engaging in high levels of spoken English at all times – including during breaks and lunch times. The rationale behind this, I hope, is clear: we want to ensure that the young people in our care become not only highly proficient in the English language but more accurately that they become experts of this field so that their abilities can in turn unlock academic potential in all subjects by the time their IGCSE exams take place at the end of Year 11.

For this approach to be successful, however, we need your support as parents. Firstly, it's vital that you also reiterate the importance of this stance at home and encourage your children to see the benefits of why we are pushing this particular literacy strategy so rigorously in school. Secondary, where possible, we would advise that you do what you can to steer your children towards becoming lovers of literature. Reading for pleasure – once all homework tasks have been completed, of course – plays a huge role in developing literacy skills, especially in students whose first language may not be English. No matter what age your child may currently be, this simple strategy is very likely to lead to academic success further down the line. To this end, our teachers are at present compiling reading lists for all key stages in our school, further information of which will be communicated in due course.



NEWSLETTER

Despite our focus on developing highly-proficient English language users in school (this makes sense as all external exams are in English), we remain a proudly international and multicultural school. Personally, I am a speaker of three languages and I know that the vast majority of both our staff and students are also similarly multilingual, so this love of languages can fit very well alongside our relentless pursuit of excellence in our common tongue.

Next week, in schools across the world, the Day of European Languages will be celebrated. In Straits Rawang, although we don't currently offer any European languages in our curriculum, we will also use this opportunity to highlight and celebrate the wonderful linguistic abilities of our incredible school community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SM'.

Steven Miles.

NEWSLETTER

Dear Year 7 Parents,

I hope this message finds you well. I am excited to inform you about a wonderful initiative our Year 7 students will be undertaking this term: an Upcycling Sales Project!

Students will have the opportunity to bring in unused items from home to sell directly at school, or they can creatively upcycle old items into new treasures –such as transforming a t-shirt into a purse, pencil case, or tote bag. The proceeds from these sales will go toward purchasing food for dogs at an animal shelter in Rawang.

This project not only fosters creativity and resourcefulness but also aims to promote environmental awareness and social responsibility among our students. We believe that engaging in this project will help them understand the impact of their actions on the world around them.

We will share all receipts and photos of the donations with parents to ensure transparency and celebrate the students' efforts.

Your support in this initiative is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please feel free to reach out to me via Dojo. Thank you for encouraging our students to make a positive difference!

Best regards,
Ms. Uma Rani





PARENTAL SUBJECT UPDATES

ENGLISH

Year Group	What was covered this week in secondary lessons
Y7	<p>English First Language - Students examined the ground that links the tenor and vehicle in poetry.</p> <p>English Second Language - students listened to a fictional story entitled 'To Give' and gave their opinion about being generous.</p>
Y8	<p>English First Language - Students acted out a dramatic scene from A Scandal in Bohemia to better understand Doyle's writing.</p> <p>English Second Language - In ESL, students listened to a fictional story entitled 'To Give' and gave their opinion about being generous.</p>
Y9	<p>English First Language - In First Language English, students furthered their analytical skills by using various methods to deepen the analysis of quotations from a text.</p> <p>English Second Language - In ESL, students listened to an autobiography entitled 'My name is Tani' and discussed how a new hobby changes someone's life.</p>
Y10	<p>English First Language - In First Language English, students practised writing to inform and advise by writing a leaflet about an eco-friendly destination. They also discussed the way writers use language in poetry and prose.</p> <p>English Second Language - In English Literature, students read Chapter 4 of 'Things Fall Apart' and answered some comprehension questions.</p> <p>English Literature - In ESL, students explored the different types of food and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of fast food and traditional food.</p>
Y11	<p>English First Language & Literature - In First Language English/Literature, students delved into the key themes of the novel and found evidence for them throughout the first 10 chapters. They also read Chapter 11 and completed some activities to ensure their understanding of the relationships in the chapter.</p> <p>English Second Language - In ESL, students did a research on environmental issues and presented key points on mind maps.</p>

PARENTAL SUBJECT UPDATES

MATHEMATICS

Year Group	What was covered this week in secondary lessons
Y7	Students learned to understand and draw open inequalities. Together with multiply and divide whole numbers by powers of 10.
Y8	Students learned to understand inequalities and multiply divide numbers by 0.1 and 0.01.
Y9	Students learned to use the correct mathematical terms involving lines, angles and calculating missing angles using angle facts.
Y10	Students learned to recognise independent, mutually exclusive events and calculating the probabilities of combined events
Y11	Students learned to use the sine and cosine rules in trigonometry.
Y10	Y10 Add Math - Students learned to solve simultaneous equations in two unknowns by elimination or substitution.
Y11	Y11 Add Math - Students practiced past year questions on combinations and permutation.



PARENTAL SUBJECT UPDATES

SCIENCE

Year Group	What was covered this week in secondary lessons
Y7	Students explored different types of energy, such as kinetic and thermal, and how energy was stored in objects like fuels and stretched springs.
Y8	Students investigated how gravitational force changes with mass and distance and used the formula to calculate their weight on various planets and explained the differences in weight.
Y9	Students continued learning ionic bonding, lattice, covalent bonding and difference between ionic and covalent bonding.
Y10	<p>Combined Science - Students learned energy transfers, kinetic energy, gravitational potential energy and law of conservation of energy</p> <p>Physics - Students investigated on Hooke's Law, friction and principle of moments.</p> <p>Biology - Students described that cells, tissues, organs and systems represent increasing degrees of organisation in living organisms.</p> <p>Chemistry - Students learned how to work out the formulae for ionic compounds and the formation of covalent bonds.</p>



Y11	<p>Combined Science - Students learned the Ohm's Law, factors affecting resistance, circuit symbols, series circuit and parallel circuit.</p> <p>Physics - Students explored magnetic field around wires & solenoids, relay circuit and force on current carrying conductor.</p> <p>Biology - Students learned the pathway in reflex arc, differentiated voluntary vs involuntary actions and explained pupil reflexes and accommodation in the eye.</p> <p>Chemistry - Students investigated the chemical properties of metals and described the reactivity series.</p>
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PARENTAL SUBJECT UPDATES

HUMANITIES

Year Group	What was covered this week in secondary lessons
Y7	<p>History - Students explored the Akkadian civilization and its impact on Mesopotamia. They also studied the Iron Age within the Mesopotamian era.</p> <p>Enterprise - Students did group presentations on Social Enterprises in Malaysia.</p>
Y8	<p>History - Students examined Henry VIII's problems and solutions with his first marriage.</p> <p>Enterprise - Students learnt about risks involved in an enterprise and discussed about the major risks that they have taken in their life.</p>
Y9	<p>History - Students examined the effects of the Naval Arms Race and if Germany wanted war in 1914 by examining sources.</p> <p>Enterprise - Students did group presentations on Business and Social Enterprises in Malaysia. They also learnt about how aims influence the activities of enterprises.</p>

<p>Y10</p>	<p>History - Students examined the organisation of the League of Nations and its strengths and weaknesses.</p> <p>Travel and Tourism - Students made a timeline of past, present and future events in tourism, and explored trends. They were then introduced to the various tourist types, and matched them up with their wants and needs.</p> <p>Business - Students learnt about Public and Private Limited Companies and attempted some past exam questions.</p> <p>Economics - Students learnt about Market Equilibrium and attempted some past exam questions.</p> <p>Global Perspectives - Students began to explore the topic of Conflict and Peace, and came up with some 'rules for war'.</p>
<p>Y11</p>	<p>History - Students started to examine the causes and events of the Korean War.</p> <p>Global Perspectives - In Global Perspectives, students worked on their individual reports by generating a research question of global issues.</p> <p>Business - Students learnt about Quality Control and Quality Assurance and attempted some past exam questions.</p> <p>Economics - Students learnt about Supply-Side Policy and Economics Growth and attempted some past exam questions.</p> <p>Travel and Tourism - In Travel and Tourism, students continued to look into how customer service can be delivered differently for those with specific needs. They also found out about personal and interpersonal skills and applied these to a case study.</p>



PARENTAL SUBJECT UPDATES

ICT

Year Group	What was covered this week in secondary lessons
Y7	In computing, students learned what a model system is and why they are used.
Y8	In computing, students learned the questions to ask before setting up a network.
Y9	In computing students learned the conversion of binary data to decimal.
Y10	In ICT students learned how to produce report using the query.
Y11	In ICT students learned how nested functions work in data manipulation.



PARENTAL SUBJECT UPDATES

MUSIC

Year Group	What was covered this week in secondary lessons
Y7	This week, the students worked on differentiating between diegetic, non-diegetic, and mickey mousing.
Y8	This week, the students developed an understanding of riffs in reggae music.
Y9	This week, the students worked on composing jingles for their own brand.
Y10	This week, students practiced their listening skills while playing in an ensemble to ensure the tempo was aligned.
Y11	No lesson

PARENTAL SUBJECT UPDATES

ART

Year Group	What was covered this week in secondary lessons
Y7	Students are tasked with creating an image of a tree inspired by Gustav Klimt's art style.
Y8	Students are tasked with creating an image of a cat inspired by Gustav Klimt's art style.
Y9	Students are tasked with creating an image of a lady with fan inspired by Gustav Klimt's art style.
Y10	Students explored mixed media and techniques by using a single image as a foundation to develop their skills and understanding. Through this process, they learned how to combine different materials, textures, and methods, gaining insights into the possibilities of mixed media art and expanding their creative abilities.
Y11	Students preparing their preparatory work for Component 1, refining their skills, techniques, and ideas to ensure their coursework meets the assessment criteria and showcases their creative development.



PARENTAL SUBJECT UPDATES

MANDARIN

Year Group	What was covered this week in secondary lessons
Y7	<p>This week, the Year7 Advanced Mandarin class studied the benefits of vegetarianism and its impact on human life. The students also learned grammar and vocabulary related to vegetarianism. In Year 7 Mandarin Beginner Class, building on last week's learning, students completed additional exercises related to telling time in Mandarin, reinforcing their understanding and mastery of the topic.</p>
Y8	<p>This week in Year 8 Mandarin Advanced Class, students focused on the unit "Holidays and Travel." They read the text "国庆长假出国游," engaged in discussions about the pros and cons of traveling during long holidays, and completed comprehension exercises to enhance their understanding of the topic. This week, Year 8 Mandarin Beginner Class students began the topic of Leisure "休闲活动", learning key vocabulary such as 休闲活动 (leisure activities), 看电影 (watching movies), and 逛街 (shopping). They practised discussing their favourite leisure activities using sentences like 你周末喜欢做什么? (What do you like to do on weekends?)</p>
Y9	<p>This week, the Year 9 Advanced Mandarin class studied the topic of community. The students read about the importance of volunteer work, and they also learned the grammar and vocabulary from the article. This week, Year 9 Mandarin Beginner Class students were introduced to the topic of sickness, learning key vocabulary such as 发烧 (fever), 感冒 (cold), and 头痛 (headache). They practised describing common illnesses and symptoms using phrases like 我喉咙痛 (I have a sore throat).</p>

Year Group	What was covered this week in secondary lessons
Y10	<p>This past week, the Year 10 Chinese First Language, students explored the text "新加坡的CMIO政策" and engaged in a discussion about issues surrounding cultural identity. To deepen their understanding, they completed a directed writing assignment reflecting on the topic. The Year 10 Second Language Mandarin class studied the topic of future education and planning. The students read about the importance of further education and learned the grammar and vocabulary in the article. The Year 10 Mandarin as a Foreign Language class studied the topic of "My Home." The students read and learned about rooms in the house, focusing on the grammar and vocabulary in the article.</p>
Y11	<p>This week in Year 11 Chinese First Language, students practiced their Classical Chinese skills by reading the text "记李歌" and completing comprehension exercises. Additionally, they engaged in a lively discussion on whether middle school students should engage in early romantic relationships (中学生应不应该早恋) and expressed their views through essay writing. This week, Year 11 Chinese Foreign Language students began studying Chinese Festivals, focusing on understanding key festivals and their cultural importance. They learned vocabulary related to major festivals such as 春节 (Spring Festival), 元宵节 (Lantern Festival), and 清明节 (Tomb Sweeping Festival). Students explored the origins and traditional customs of these celebrations, such as family gatherings, eating special foods like 饺子 (dumplings) during Spring Festival, and lighting lanterns for the Lantern Festival. They practised discussing how these festivals are celebrated, using phrases like 你怎么庆祝春节? (How do you celebrate Spring Festival?) This week, Year 11 Chinese Second Language students began exploring Chinese customs and culinary traditions. They learned key vocabulary related to regional dishes and dining etiquette, such as 饺子 (dumplings), 火锅 (hotpot), and 筷子 (chopsticks). In class, students discussed the significance of food in Chinese culture, including how certain dishes are associated with festivals and family gatherings.</p>

PARENTAL SUBJECT UPDATES

BAHASA

Year Group	What was covered this week in secondary lessons
Y7	The Year 7 students continued their exploration of Unit 2: Ungkapan Masa, focusing on grammar, specifically Kata Nama Am dan Khas. They began revising for minor assessments to gain a better understanding of the topic.
Y8	Year 8 continued their exploration of Unit 8: Makanan dan Minuman dari Serata Dunia. They started reading and answering comprehension questions while also beginning to revise for minor assessments to gain a better understanding of the topic.
Y9	The Year 9 students continued their exploration of Unit 13: Perayaan dan Majlis Istimewa, focusing on speaking. In preparation for minor assessments, they began revising their writing, particularly on the topic of festivals.
Y10	The Year 10 students continued their last section of Unit 19: Alam Semula Jadi. Building on this, the focus will now shift to developing their speaking skills, centered around the topic of water pollution.
Y11	The Year 11 students continued with Unit 27: Pendidikan dan Latihan Lepas Sekolah, focusing on practicing the structure of informal letter writing using a template and developing their own content.



PARENTAL SUBJECT UPDATES

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Year Group	What was covered this week in secondary lessons
Y7	Students completed their assessments this week. 7S played multiple badminton matches against different opponents and 7R displayed their running, jumping and throwing talents.
Y8	Students completed their assessments this week. 8S played multiple badminton matches against different opponents and 8R displayed their running, jumping and throwing talents.
Y9	Students completed their assessments this week. 9S played multiple badminton matches against different opponents and 9R displayed their running, jumping and throwing talents.
Y10 & Y11	Students completed their assessments this week. Team sports students showed their teamwork and skills by playing dodgeball matches against different teams, Individual sports students displayed their running, jumping and throwing talents, and healthy living students showed their communication, spatial awareness and fitness components through mini games.



PARENTAL SUBJECT UPDATES

EAL (ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE)

Year Group	What was covered this week in secondary lessons
Y7	Students compared a school day routine to a weekend routine and created a timetable using this information.
Y8	Students learnt the techniques of writing an informal e-mail.
Y9	Students learnt the techniques of writing an informal e-mail
Y10	Students learnt to write sentences describing themselves using coordinating conjunctions.
Y11	Students learnt the techniques of answering exam style multiple choice reading comprehension questions..



EXAMS - IMPORTANT DATES 2024/2025

Date	Events
30th Sept - 4th Oct 2024	TERM 1 MINOR ASSESSMENTS
25th - 29th Nov 2024	END OF TERM 1 ASSESSMENTS
8th - 21st Jan 2025	IGCSE MOCK
3rd - 7th Feb 2025	TERM 2 MINOR ASSESSMENTS
24th - 28th Mar 2025	END OF TERM 2 ASSESSMENTS
13th - 19th May 2025	TERM 3 MINOR ASSESSMENTS
16th - 26th June 2025	END OF TERM 3 ASSESSMEN

SUBJECTS STAR OF THE WEEK

20 SEPTEMBER 2024

English	Lee Qing Roy (7R)
Maths	How Kim (7S)
Science	Louis Wong Chi Hong (Y10R)
Humanities	Baek Seung Hyeon (Year 7R)
ICT	Charlotte(Y10)
Music	Yoo Rue Earn (Year 9)
Art	Isabelle Tan (Year 7R)
Mandarin	Lucas Heng Zhi Jian (Year 8)
Bahasa	Neha (Year 7)
Physical Education	Li Zhuoxiu (Hewzen) - 9S



WE ARE A
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SCHOOL

Thank you for your
cooperation in keeping
all our students safe





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THANK

YOU!