

# COMPASSVALE SECONDARY SCHOOL



## 2024 Start of Year Letter to Parents

**WELCOME** to a new school year in 2024!

Welcome, parents of our 2024 Secondary 1 cohort, to the CVSS community! The Compassvale team is looking forward to partnering with you in your child's educational journey. Together, we will draw out their strengths, and nurture them to be world-ready youths!

Welcome, parents of our current students, to the 2024 Academic Year! We hope your child is well-rested over the holidays, and ready to pursue their interests and build on their strengths with zest!

In this new Academic Year, we have refreshed some of the school's learning experiences and routines to better cater to the changing environment. You will find the details in this Letter.

We look forward to a purposeful year ahead, where all our students - your child - will **Learn** and Excel, **Grow** and Serve, and **Lead** and Impact.

The School Leadership Team,  
Mr Chua Tung Kian, Mr Sukhdev Singh, Mrs Jacqueline Tang

## #RealisingTheStarWithin

A Message from the  
School Leadership Team

Administrative Matters

First Week of School: STAR  
1 Programme

Personalised Digital  
Learning Programme  
(PDLP)

Assessment Matters

Welcome of New Staff

Calendar of Major  
Events/Programmes and  
HBL Days

## Administrative Matters

### School Terms for 2024

Semester 1	Term 1	Tue 2 Jan to Fri 8 Mar
	Term 2	Mon 18 Mar to Fri 24 May
Semester 2	Term 3	Mon 24 Jun to Fri 30 Aug
	Term 4	Mon 9 Sep to Fri 15 Nov (last day of school will be Fri 25 Oct 2024 due to GCE O-Level examinations)

### Arrival and Dismissal Times

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Arrival Time	8.50am	7.30am	7.30am	7.30am	7.30am
Dismissal Time	2.25pm for most classes, except for students with afternoon lessons				12.40pm

### Snack Break Guidelines

Students will have 10-minute in-class snack breaks at 9am and 1.40pm daily. During these snack breaks:

- Only dry finger-food-type snacks are allowed to be consumed, e.g. bread, biscuits, etc and plain water.
- Snacks should be brought from home as students will not be allowed to visit the canteen during this time.
- Students are to remain in their classes for the duration of their snack break.
- Wrappers and plastic bags are to be discarded responsibly at the end of the snack break.

### 2024 School Attire

We want to strike a balance between personal standards of grooming and the comfort and well-being of our students. Therefore:

- Students should **report to school every day in half-uniform or full-uniform**. Other school-sanctioned tops that can be worn include school event organising committee tees (e.g., games day committee, orientation committee, student leadership board tees) and Secondary 1 OAL camp tees.
- Students will change into their PE attire for PE lessons, and for hygiene reasons, change out after.
- Students will be allowed to wear their **CCA T-shirts on their CCA days** in place of their PE top.

### Communication Channels with Parents

Home-school partnership is critical for the success of your child. To facilitate communications, we have provided email addresses of all form teachers and key personnel in [Annex A: Staff Contact List](#). Parents may also contact teachers through the general office during school hours. However, teachers may not be able to respond immediately or may only be able to respond on the next working day. We would like to emphasise that a trusting and respectful relationship between schools and parents includes respecting teachers' time and space. Hence teachers are not expected to respond to parents'/students' queries during weekends except for emergencies. Teachers are also not expected to provide their personal phone numbers to parents. We will be regularly communicating with parents via Parents Gateway.

We have also planned level touchpoints to share more information about programmes and support for your child:

Sec 1 Parents Engagement	Fri 12 Jan, 4.00-6.00pm (via Zoom)
Sec 2 Parents Engagement on Subject Combination	Fri 24 May, 5.00-6.00pm (via Zoom)
Sec 3 Parents Engagement	Fri 1 Mar, 4.00-6.00pm (via Zoom)
Sec 4 Parents Engagement	Fri 8 Mar, 12.00-2.00pm (via Zoom)

You will also have the opportunity to discuss the progress of your child/ward with the form/co-form teachers at the Parent-Teacher Conferences which will be held on Fri, 24 May and Fri, 25 Oct 2023. Details on the various touchpoints will be given nearer the date.

Our school's signature STAR Programme provides students with a range of varied and authentic experiences to develop their character, socio-emotional and 21st century competencies. Each level has a specific theme, objectives and learning outcome:

Sec 1: Ready for Discovery (Start Right)

Sec 2: Ready for Responsibility (Choose Wisely)

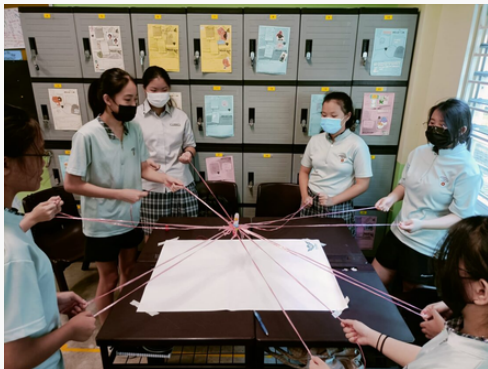
Sec 3: Ready for Community (Step Up)

Sec 4/5: Ready for the World (Emerge Stronger)

We have planned a series of level activities for the first week of school (2-5 January) as part of this programme. The activities will also help ease our students back into school and start the year on the right footing.

Form Teachers will also check in on their well-being, and set expectations and routines for ownership of their learning and growth for the year. Through the programme, we desire for students to build positive student-student and teacher-student relationships, which will support them through the year.

For more details on the level programmes, please refer to the letter sent out earlier via Parents' Gateway.



*Photos from 2023 STAR 1 programme*

### **2024 Sec 1 Cohort: Orientation Programme, CCA Open House and Parents Engagement Session**

Our 2024 Sec 1 students will be inducted into school through an exciting **orientation programme**, fully led by our student leaders. They will learn about the school, the teachers and importantly, make new friends and discover more about themselves.

We will also be holding a **CCA Open House** for students on Fri, 12 Jan from 2 to 4 pm to help them find out more about the different CCAs we offer.

A **Parents Engagement Session** will be held online on Fri, 12 Jan over Zoom from 4 to 6 pm. We will share more about understanding and supporting your child's transition to secondary school, CCA selection and some other important matters with you. Parents will also have a chance to interact with their child's form teachers. More information will be disseminated via Parents' Gateway nearer the date.

## Personalised Digital Learning Programme

Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDLP) is implemented in all secondary schools to support self-directed and collaborative learning as well as the development of digital competencies. Sec 2 to 5 students have been issued with a Personal Learning Device (PLD), which are used alongside educational technologies in and out of the classroom. Our school's Digital and Media Literacy curriculum equips our students with digital literacy and technological skills, to ensure they are well-equipped to thrive in an increasingly technology-saturated future.

It is the students' responsibility to take good care of their PLDs. Your child/ward's PLD is installed with a Device Management Application (DMA) which allows the school to determine settings to control usage of the PLDs and screen time. This helps provide a safer digital learning environment for our students' learning.

Parents/guardians play an active role as partners to help your child/ward navigate the digital environment. MOE and our school will continue to share more digital parenting tips through our communication channels.



## Assessment Matters

Assessments are important for teachers to provide meaningful feedback to students to close learning gaps. We have scheduled termly Weighted Assessments (WAs) for students to obtain feedback, act on them and close learning gaps. Teachers also monitor and provide feedback on students progress throughout the year through various classroom strategies and assignments.

The weighting and schedules of our school-based assessment and examinations are given in [Annex B: School-based Assessment and National Examinations Information 2024](#). Your child's teachers will provide details on the dates and scope of their WAs.

More details on our school's holistic assessments and examination rules and regulations may be found in our 2024 Student Companion, pp. 35 - 47.

## Welcome to the CVSS Family

We welcome the following staff to our CVSS family:

- Mr Kelvin Chee (Biology)
- Ms Koh Yi Ming (Chinese Language)
- Mr Chen Changjin (CPA)
- Ms Ang Si Min (English Language)
- Mr Leong Kok Wai (Chemistry)
- Mr Reuben Goh Wenjie (Geography, Social Studies)
- Ms Jin Chan (Chinese Language)



# School Calendar of Major Events/Programmes and Home-based Learning (HBL) Days

(Accurate as of Dec 2023. Subjected to changes)

Term	Date	Date	Day	Major School Programmes, Events and HBL Days
TERM 1	1	2-5 Jan	Tue-Fri	Sec 1 Orientation Sec 2-5 STAR 1
	2	12 Jan	Fri	Sec 1 Parents' Engagement (Online) CCA Open House
	5	5 Feb	Mon	HBL Day
	6	9 Feb	Fri	Chinese New Year Celebration (Students will be dismissed at 10.30am)
	8	20 Feb	Tue	HBL Day
	9	1 Mar	Fri	Sec 3 Parents Engagement (Online)
	10	4 Mar	Mon	HBL Day
8 Mar		Fri	Sec 1-5 Annual Race Sec 4 Parents Engagement (Online)	
TERM 2	3	5 Apr	Fri	HBL Day
	6	23 Apr	Tue	HBL Day
		26 Apr	Fri	Sec 4-5 Annual Awards Day
	7	3 May	Fri	HBL Day
	9	15-17 May	Wed-Fri	Sec 1 Outdoor Adventure Learning Programme Sec 2-5 STAR 2
	10	20-21 May	Mon-Tue	Full Day CCA/ <u>Experiences@CVSS</u>
		23 May	<u>Thur</u>	Sec 1-5 STAR2
24 May		Fri	Sec 1-5 Parent-Teacher Conference Sec 2 Parents Engagement on Subject Combination (Online)	

On HBL days, students need not report to school (unless otherwise stated).  
Instructions for students on HBL Days will be provided later.

# School Calendar of Major Events/Programmes and Home-based Learning (HBL) Days

(Accurate as of Dec 2023. Subjected to changes)

Term	Date	Date	Day	Major School Programmes, Events and HBL Days
<b>TERM 3</b>	2	1 Jul	Mon	<i>School Holiday for Youth Day</i>
		2 Jul	Tue	HBL Day (Sec 1-2 only)
		1-5 Jul	Mon-Fri	Sec 3 OBS
	5	23-25 Jul	Tue-Thu	HBL Days (Sec 1-3 only)
	6-7	29 Jul-7 Aug	Mon-Wed	Sec 4 N-Level Preliminary Examinations
	7	8 Aug	Thu	National Day Celebrations (Students will be dismissed at 10.30am)
	9	19 Aug	Mon	HBL Day (Sec 1-3 only)
		19-28 Aug	Mon-Wed	Sec 4/5 O-Level Preliminary Examinations
	10	29 Aug	Thu	Teachers' Day Celebration (Students will be dismissed at 10.30am)
		30 Aug	Fri	<i>School Holiday for Teachers' Day</i>
<b>TERM 4</b>	1	10 Sep	Tue	HBL Day (Sec 1-3 only)
	3-5	26 Sep-8 Oct	Thu-Tue	Sec 1-3 End-of-Year Examinations
	5	9 Oct	Mon	Marking Day (Students need not report to school)
	6	18 Oct	Fri	Results Management Day (Students need not report to school)
	6-7	16-17, 21-24 Oct	Wed-Thu, Mon-Thu	Sec 1-3 STAR 3 (Last Day of School on 24 Oct, Thu)
	7	25 Oct	Fri	Sec 1-3 Parent Teacher Conference
	10	16 Nov	Sat	Open House for P6 pupils / parents