

16 January 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

WEIGHTED ASSESSMENT AT BOWEN SECONDARY (2023 Term Assessment 1) – SECONDARY 1

1. Aligned with MOE's Learning for Life movement to provide more time for deep learning and reduce overemphasis on academic results, Bowen Secondary has since introduced an assessment framework that balances alternative and traditional modes of assessment. We would like to share an overview of how assessment at our school supports your child/ward's learning.
2. Assessment Structure and Weightings
 - From 2023, Mid-Year Exams (MYE) have been removed for all secondary levels. (Prior to this, MYE had already been removed for S1 and S3 since 2018.)
 - In Terms 1 to 3, students' learning in each subject is assessed through a Term Assessment (TA). The TAs are carefully spread across a 'TA Window' (Weeks 5-8) to manage the demands on students and enable them to continue enjoying learning during lessons.
 - In Term 4, students will sit for End-of-Year Exams (EYE) (Weeks 3-4).
 - The weightings of the TAs and exams are as follows:

Subjects	Term 1 (TA1)	Term 2 (TA2)	Term 3 (TA3)	Term 4 (EYE)	Overall
All Examinable Subjects <i>(Except for FCE, D&T and Art)</i> <i>Please see Para 3 for details)</i>	15%	15%	15%	55%	100%
Art		15%	15%	CW: 70%	100%

3. Modular Subjects

- To help Lower Secondary students manage curriculum demands as well as ensure resource optimisation, the school adopts a modular approach for Design & Technology (D&T) and Food & Consumer Education (FCE). Under this approach, students will focus on a specific subject for one semester before switching to the other subject in the next semester.
- The assessment for both D&T and FCE consists of 2 Term Assessments (15% each) + Coursework (70%). For the subject taken in Semester 1, the final grade will be reflected under TA2; for the subject taken in Semester 2, the final grade will be reflected under EYE.

Subjects	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Overall
D&T	TA: 15%	TA: 15% CW: 70%			100%
FCE			TA: 15%	TA: 15% CW: 70%	100%

4. Assessment Modes for TAs

- **Alternative Assessments (AAs)** include practical tasks / portfolios / class presentations, etc. These allow students to demonstrate their learning more creatively and holistically. Teachers will brief students on success criteria and provide details through a 'Task Sheet' issued 2-3 weeks before the submission deadline. The deadlines for various AAs are typically spread out over **Weeks 5 and 6** to help students manage their workload/time. AAs in selected subjects may be due in other weeks, based on the scope/sequence of learning.
- **Pen and Paper (PPs)** tests comprise written assessments that are more aligned with examination requirements. These help students to better understand and work towards established national standards. All PPs are spread out throughout **Weeks 7 and 8**. The duration of each PP is typically 50 min long and is conducted in the first two periods of the day. Normal timetabled lessons will resume from 9.00am onwards.

5. Students' learning in each subject will be assessed through either AA or PP (not both). For example, a student offering 7 subjects will have a total of 7 AAs or PPs during each TA Window. About 3-5 subjects will be assessed through AAs while the rest will be assessed through PPs (this proportion may vary across terms).

6. We strongly advise all students to take TAs seriously as these will provide important information about their subject mastery and learning gaps. Any absences **must be** supported by a Medical Certificate or reason deemed valid by the school.

7. Please refer to the **Annex** included at the end of this letter for the **TA1 Schedule**.

8. Progression to Next Level of Study

- The progression of students from one level to the next is based on the year-long assessment of whether students have attained the required foundation to cope with and benefit from the next level. Students who do not meet the promotion criteria may be retained or laterally transferred to a less demanding course. The following table describes the criteria for progression for Secondary 1.

Course	Requirement for Promotion	Lateral Transfer to more demanding stream
Express [EXP]	Pass in English Language and a pass in overall percentage (i.e. 50%) of all subjects combined	-
Normal (Academic) [N(A)]	(a) Pass in English Language and 2 other subjects OR (b) Pass 4 subjects	<u>Sec 1 and 2 students</u> who have met the promotion criteria and attained a minimum of 70% in the overall percentage of all subjects combined may be considered for lateral transfer to EXP Course .
Normal (Technical) [N(T)]	Pass 2 subjects (Grade D or better), one of which should be English Language or Mathematics	<u>Sec 1 students</u> who have met the promotion criteria and attained a minimum of 70% in the overall percentage of all subjects combined may be considered for lateral transfer to N(A) course at Sec 2.

9. Termly result slips will be issued to keep parents/guardians informed of their child's/ward's progress. Form Teachers may meet or speak with parents/guardians of selected students.
10. Should you need any clarification, please feel free to contact your child/ward's Form Teacher. We seek your support in ensuring that your child/ward prepares well for all assessments.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lim Guihao', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MS LIM GUIHAO
VICE-PRINCIPAL

Term Assessment 1						
Secondary 1						
Term/Week	Day	Date	Classes / TGs Involved	Alternative Assessment	Pen and Paper (8-8.50am)	Venue
Term 1 Week 6 (6 - 10 Feb 2023)	Students will submit tasks during lessons		All Classes	D&T - A.A. (Ideation) (DDL)	NIL	
			1TG1, 5	Science - A.A. (Practical)		
			1TG2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8	Science -A.A. (Project)		
Term 1 Week 7 (13-17 Feb 2023)	Students will submit tasks during lessons		1TG2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8	Lit - A.A submission		
	Wed	15 Feb 2023	All Classes		HMT / MT / BMT	TG Venues*
	Thurs	16 Feb 2023	All TGs		EL	TG Venues
	Fri	17 Feb 2023	1TG2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8		Hist	TG Venues
			1TG1, 5		CPA	CPA Lab 1, 2 and 3
Term 1 Week 8 (20 - 24 Feb 2023)	Tue	21 Feb 2023	All TGs		Maths	TG Venues
	Wed	22 Feb 2023	1TG2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8		Geog	TG Venues
Note:						
1. Students will sit for the assessments for Common Curriculum according to their Form Classes and Core Curriculum according to their Teaching Groups						
2. During TA, students exempted from scheduled assessment (e.g. not taking MTL or certain electives) are still expected to report to school by 7.30 am either for self-revision or lesson.						
* Students should check with MT teachers for details						