



16 January 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

WEIGHTED ASSESSMENT AT BOWEN SECONDARY (2023 Term Assessment 1) – SECONDARY 3

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). TAs are carefully spread across a 'TA Window' (Weeks 6-8) 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	15%	15%	15%	55%	100%

3. 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 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.

4. 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).
5. 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.
6. Please refer to the **Annex** included at the end of this letter for the **TA1 Schedule**.
7. 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 3.

Course	Requirement for Promotion	Lateral Transfer to more demanding stream
Express [EXP]	Pass in English Language and 2 other subjects	-
Normal (Academic) [N(A)]	(a) Pass in English Language and 2 other subjects <u>OR</u> (b) Pass 4 subjects	-
Normal (Technical) [N(T)]	Pass 2 subjects (Grade D or better), one of which should be English Language or Mathematics	<u>Sec 3 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 the same level (e.g. Sec 3) .

8. 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.
9. 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,



MS LIM GUIHAO
VICE-PRINCIPAL

Annex

Term Assessment 1					
Secondary 3					
Term/Week	Day	Date	Classes Involved	Alternative Assessment	Pen and Paper (8-8.50am)
Term 1 Week 6 (6 - 10 Feb 2023)	Students will submit tasks during lessons		3 Sapphire, 3 Ruby, 3 Larimar	DT - A.A. (Formulating SBS) (DDL)	
			3 Sapphire, 3 Kunzite	Art - A.A (Art Tells Story - Sketches + Artist Research Presentation) (DDL)	
			3 Larimar	NFS - A.A (Vitamins & Minerals Presentation) (DDL)	
			3 Emerald	Science - AA Project (DDL)	
Term 1 Week 7 (13-17 Feb 2023)	Fri	10 Feb 2023	3 Topaz, 3 Sapphire, 3 Peridot, 3 Amethyst, 3 Larimar (OOS), 3 Kunzite (OOS)		"O" EL
			3 Ruby, 3 Larimar, 3 Kunzite, 3 Emerald (OOS)		"NA" EL
			3 Emerald		"NT" EL
Term 1 Week 7 (13-17 Feb 2023)	Tues	14 Feb 2023	3 Topaz, 3 Sapphire, 3 Peridot, 3 Amethyst		HMT (HCL, HML, HTL)
			3 Topaz, 3 Sapphire, 3 Peridot, 3 Amethyst, 3 Ruby (OOS), 3 Kunzite (OOS), 3 Larimar (OOS)		Exp MTL (CL, ML, TL)
			3 Ruby, 3 Kunzite, 3 Larimar, 3 Emerald (OOS)		NA MT (CL, ML, TL)
			3 Emerald		BMT (BCL, BML, BTL)
			3 Topaz, 3 Sapphire, 3 Peridot, 3 Amethyst, 3 Ruby, 3 Kunzite, 3 Larimar		Social Studies
	Wed	15 Feb 2023	3 Emerald		CPA (Venue: Comp Lab 1&2)
			3 Topaz, 3 Sapphire, 3 Peridot, 3 Amethyst, 3 Ruby, 3 Kunzite, 3 Larimar		Geog Elect / Hist Elect / Lit elect
	Thu	16 Feb 2023	3 Emerald		EBS
			3 Peridot, 3 Topaz		"O" Chemistry
	Fri	17 Feb 2023	3 Amethyst, 3 Sapphire, 3 Ruby (OOS)		"O" Sc (Phy/Chem)
			3 Sapphire		"O" Sc (Bio/Chem)
			3 Ruby, 3 Kunzite		"N" Sc (Phy/Chem)
3 Larimar, 3 Kunzite			"N" Sc (Bio/Chem)		

