

23 October 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

END OF TERM 4 2018 LETTER (SECONDARY THREE)

As we reach the end of the academic year 2018, we would like to thank you for all your support during the year and to wish you well for the year-end holidays (**Sat 27 Oct to Mon 31 Dec**).

A. Travel Declaration

1. Please inform us of your child's/ward's travel plans during the Nov-Dec period via MC Online <https://www.mconline.sg> by **Mon 29 Oct. Oct** if you intend to travel (no need to do so if your child/ward is not travelling). If you have not done so or require additional assistance, please visit the school's website at <http://bowensec.moe.edu.sg/> for the step-by-step guide.

B. Secondary 3 Extended Curriculum

2. In order to better prepare the Sec 3 students for next year, the annual Extended Curriculum period will be conducted from **Mon 29 Oct to Fri 2 Nov** and takes priority over CCA activities. Lessons begin at 8am and will end in the early / mid-afternoon. The school canteen will be open for the students to have their break and lunch.
3. Please note that attendance is compulsory for all Sec 3 Express and 3 Normal (Academic) students and parents will be informed if the students are absent without valid reasons. The timetable for the Extended Curriculum will be available on the school website, and a copy will be placed on the class' noticeboard.

C. Issue of Report Books and 2019 Booklist

4. Sec 3 report books will be issued by Form Teachers (FTs) on **Fri 2 Nov** from **11.00am to 12noon**. Students are to collect their report books together with the 2019 booklist from their FTs at their respective classrooms in school attire. Parents are not be required to meet the FTs; but if you would like to speak with the FTs, please contact them directly.
5. If your child/ward is unable to collect his/her report book and booklist on **Fri 2 Nov**, he/she may collect the report book at the school's General Office from **Mon 5 Nov** during office hours (8.00am – 5.00pm).

D. CCA Activities during School Holidays and Student Protected Time

6. Teachers may ask students to return to school for CCA activities during the school holidays and they will be notified by their CCA teachers. To allow our students more time and space to rest and recharge, **Student Protected Time will be from Sun 25 Nov to Sun 16 Dec** (both dates inclusive) during which there will not be any school activities (e.g. no CCA activities).

E. Learning for Life – MOE's recent announcements

7. A few weeks ago, MOE announced that schools will no longer conduct mid-year examinations for Pri 3 and 5, and for Sec 1 and 3, over the next three years. In addition, to stress the message that learning is not a competition, report books will no longer include the class and level rankings at both primary and secondary levels. Aggregate scores, used for admissions at post N-level and O-level, will not be reflected at the lower secondary level to avoid preoccupation with grades.

8. **These are MOE's latest set of efforts to help children discover the joy of learning and move away from a narrow focus on grades.** These changes will give teachers more space to explore new ways of making learning more enjoyable and meaningful. By early next year, we will share details of how we intend to capitalise on these policy changes to help Bowenians "learn for life".

F. Keeping Safe and Fit during the School Holidays

9. With the start of the school holidays, we have reminded students to utilise their time effectively and meaningfully, keep safe and stay away from undesirable influences or activities (eg, long hours on the Internet). Your guidance and involvement can create joyous memories and ensure he/she makes the best use of the holidays. Feel free to ride on the school values (Responsibility, Resilience, Excellence, Compassion, Respect and Teamwork) as you nurture and discipline your child.

10. We encourage parents to be supportive partners by reinforcing Cyber Wellness education at home. Parents can set a good example with the use of technology and actively guide your child/ward to navigate cyberspace safely. Tips from the MOE Cyber Wellness Team about strategies parents can use to help your children be cybersafe can be found at <https://ictconnection.moe.edu.sg/cyber-wellness/for-parents>.

11. Physical activity helps children develop and grow, maintain a healthy weight and have fun. Many of our students signed up for the National Steps Challenge with the aim to clock 10,000 steps in a day to keep fit, and parents can join them too! For more ideas on how to help your family eat healthily, get active and reduce screen time, please visit <https://www.healthhub.sg/live-healthy>.

G. First Day of School and Bowen FIESTA 2019

12. The first day of 2019 Term 1 is **Wed 2 Jan**. Students will be expected to report to the school by 7.25am appropriately attired in full school uniform. The first day of school will consist of Assembly Talks and Form Teacher Time to prepare students for the new year. Students are required to bring their stationery, water and money for recess.

13. The 2019 Timetable will be available on the school website by **Mon 31 Dec 2018**. Students are to pack their materials for lessons, which will begin on **Thu 3 Jan**.

14. School will dismiss at **12.30pm** from **Wed 2 Jan** to **Thur 3 Jan**. There will be no afternoon activities on those two days. This is to help all levels ease into the term at a good pace and the school to welcome the new Sec 1 students into the Bowen family.

15. For a reinvigorated start to 2019, you can look forward to our **annual Bowen FIESTA** (Fun, Interactive, Educational and STructured Activities) which will be conducted in the first and second week of school. More details will be provided in the Term 1 2019 Letter to Parents.

We hope that you will have a meaningful and well-spent end of year holidays with your child/ward.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Liu Earnler
Principal