



2 Jan 2026

**Principal's Message - Semester 1 2026**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year!

A distinguishing feature of our school is our caring and enabling environment. Last year, the school audit findings and different survey outcomes conducted by MOE affirmed our strong culture of care. As a further testament to this, we are proud to share that our school was the sole secondary school recipient of MOE's **Lee Hsien Loong Award for Innovations in Uplifting Students** in 2025. This award strongly affirms that our existing programmes have value-added to the holistic development of our Merahans consistently over the years.

As our important ally, we would like to invite you to partner us to build on our strength and nurture our Merahans to embrace opportunities for growth and make informed and responsible choices in life. Together, we can prepare our Merahans for success by guiding them to:

- 1) **Set a goal and review their actions regularly.** This gives our Merahans a purpose and enables them to take responsibility by tracking their own progress.
- 2) **Maintain regular attendance.** Research has shown that missing school by 10% will have a negative impact on learning achievements. Similarly, being late for school will also affect learning progress.
- 3) **Be in control of their technological gadgets.** Technology is a double-edged sword depending on how the user wields it. From 2026, all secondary schools will adjust policy on the use of mobile phones during school hours (see **Annex A** on Mobile Phone Management Policy attached) and the default timing when the sleep mode for the personal learning devices will be activated. With clear boundaries both in school and at home, our Merahans can have a better chance of regulating their gadget use and improve their sleep habits.

Each of our small but concerted actions can turn into a blessing for our Merahans and others around them. If not immediately, then later in life.

As we look forward to the new year, we would like to share our calendar of school events (see **Annex B**) and the shifts in our staff movement in Semester 1. We would like to:

- Thank our colleagues who will be leaving us and embarking on new chapters from Semester 1: Ms Loretta Lee (SSD), Mr Ken Hu (AYH), Mr Tan Tua Choon (AYH), Mdm Chen Jing and Mrs Chang Lai Yee.
- Welcome our colleagues who are appointed to support our Merahans who need us the most: Ms Janelle Tay (AYH/S3), Ms Leung Sin Yung (SH/Social Studies), Ms Chian Yuan Lin (SH/Lower Sec Science), Ms Loke Jia Yi (LH/ PE&CCA), Ms Giselle Rai (LH/Student Management Internal), Mr Jerome Chee (covering HOD/ICT), Mr Gaius Lee and Ms Esther Lui (covering SSD), Mr Yeo Jun Zhong (covering AYH/S2), Ms Ho Shumin (covering LH/ICT).

Yours faithfully,

Mr Darren Chong  
Principal



## **Annex A**

2 Jan 2026

### **Implementation of Mobile Phone Management Policy from 2026**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to inform you of our school's updated mobile phone management policy to be implemented from this year. The policy is aligned with the Ministry of Education's guidelines of **no mobile phone usage during school hours**, and is part of our ongoing efforts to create a caring and enabling environment for all Merahans.

#### **Purpose of the Policy**

The key intent of our policy is to:

1. Encourage students to be respectful and disciplined in their practice.
2. Promote positive peer relationships and focus in learning.
3. Nurture students to make responsible decisions for themselves and others.

#### **Implementation Phases**

Our school has procured mobile phone lockers. But there is a delay in the delivery. To facilitate a smooth transition, the mobile phone management policy will be implemented in two phases:

##### **Phase 1: Interim Class-Based Collection (from 2 January)**

- Phones will be deposited with the Form Teacher at the flag raising ceremony. These will be placed individually in labelled ziplock bags, and stored securely in the conference room during school hours.
- Phones will be returned to students under supervision when they are leaving school.
- Please note that the dismissal timing might be delayed for up to 15-30 minutes, due to the collection of the phones. We thank you for your understanding.

##### **Phase 2: Permanent Centralised Phone Locker System (upon delivery)**

- Students will deposit their mobile phones into designated lockers with number locks before the start of flag raising ceremony.
- Phones will remain in the lockers during school hours.
- Students are to retrieve their phones when they are leaving school.

##### **Random checks will be conducted during school hours.**

If a student is found in possession of a mobile phone during school hours, the following consequences will be served:

1. A verbal reminder will be given.
2. The phone will be confiscated for the rest of the day. It will be returned to the student at the end of the school day.
3. Parents/guardians will be informed.
4. Incident will be recorded in the disciplinary portal.
5. **Repeated breaches of the policy will result in progressively stronger disciplinary actions**, in line with the school's student management framework of consequences, to help reinforce responsible behaviour and adherence to school routines.

## **Working Together**

We seek your support in:

- Reiterating the key intent of the policy to your child.
- Reminding your child to respect and abide by school expectations on mobile phone usage. They are to switch off their mobile phones and deposit them accordingly during school hours.
- Encouraging them to be responsible in their decision-making process.

At Bukit Merah Secondary School, we believe that **clear boundaries** are essential in a caring and enabling environment to grow our Merahans to be self-directed, respectful and responsible individuals.

Should you have any questions or require clarification, please feel free to contact Mr. Satwant Singh, HOD Student Management and Well Being.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Darren Chong  
Principal

## Annex B

### 2026 BMSS Term 1 Events

DATE	LEVEL	EVENT	REMARKS
<b>January</b>			
2, 5 & 6 Jan	Sec 2 – 5	StartRight Programme	Sec 4G1, Sec 4G3, Sec 5 students will be heading out of school for ECG programmes on 6 Jan.
2 & 5 – 7 Jan	Sec 1	StartRight Programme and Orientation	
8 Jan	Sec 4 & 5	Polytechnic Open House	1045pm to 3pm Students will be dismissed from Singapore Polytechnic directly
	Sec 2	Commencement of Aesthetics Education Programme (AEP)	For all Sec 2 students: every Thursday until 12 March from 2pm to 4pm.  For selected Sec 2 students: in addition to the above, every Thursday until 30 April.
16 Jan	Sec 1	Sec 1 Parent Engagement Day	From 4.45pm onwards
27 Jan	Sec 1	Sec 1 Transition Workshop (PM)	After school, details will be shared with the classes.
	Sec 3	Sec 3 Igniting Passion Workshop 1 (PM)	After school, details will be shared with the classes.
28 Jan	All	Home-Based Learning (HBL) Day	Students do not need to report to school.
<b>February</b>			
2 Feb	Selected students	Global Merahan Programme (GMP) – Hosting of students from Samakkhiwitthayakhom School, Chiang Rai, Thailand	
10 Feb	All	Commemoration of Total Defence Day	
16 Feb	All	Lunar New Year Celebrations	Details will be shared with the classes.
17 & 18 Jan	All	Lunar New Year	Public holiday
19 Feb	All	Home-Based Learning (HBL) Day	Students do not need to report to school.

March			
3 & 4 Mar	Selected S3 students	Global Merahan Programme (GMP) – Hosting of students from Srinagarindra the Princess Mother School, Phayao, Thailand	
4 – 10 Mar	Selected S3 students	Global Merahan Programme (GMP) – Overseas trip to Jiangnan Middle School (JNMS)	
6 Mar	Sec 4G3, Sec 4G2 (SBB) and Sec 5	English Language Oral Communication Workshop	
9 Mar	Sec 1 - 3	Home-Based Learning (HBL) Day	Students do not need to report to school.
	Sec 4&5	South 2 Cluster Education and Career Guidance (ECG) Day	Details will be shared with the classes.
14 – 22 Mar	All	March Holidays	
16 – 18 Mar	Sec 4&5	Sec 4&5 Coursework Session	

### 2026 BMSS Term 2 Events

DATE	LEVEL	EVENT	REMARKS
<b>March</b>			
23 Mar	All	[Tentative] Day-off-in-lieu for Hari Raya Puasa	School holiday
24 – 27 Mar	Sec 2, 4&5	Parent-Teacher Meeting (PM)	After school
27 Mar	Selected students	Festivo combined rehearsal	
30 Mar – 1 Apr	All	English Language Week	
	Sec 4G1	[Tentative] Applied Learning Module at ITE (ApLM@ITE)	Full day
31 Mar	All	Photo-taking for staff and students	

<b>April</b>			
1 Apr	Selected students	Festivo combined rehearsal	
3 Apr	All	Good Friday	Public Holiday
6 – 8 Apr	All	<b>GROW Week</b> Sec 1 and 3 – Camp at external venues Sec 2 and 4&5 – Activities in school <i>Students may have activities outside of school during GROW Week</i>	Parent notification on GROW Week will be sent via Parents Gateway. Details will also be shared with the classes.
9 Apr	All	Home-Based Learning (HBL) Day	Students do not need to report to school.
10 Apr	Sec 1 – 3, Sec 4G1 & Sec 4G2	Home-Based Learning (HBL) Day	Students do not need to report to school.
	Sec 4G3 & Sec 5	Mother Tongue Language Timed Practice	
13 – 24 Apr	All	Mother Tongue Language Fortnight	
13 & 14 Apr	Sec 1 & 2 girls	[Tentative] Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination	
14 Apr	All	Commemoration of International Friendship Day (IFD)	
	Sec 1G3	Water testing curricular activity	
15 – 23 Apr	Sec 1 & 2	[Tentative] Heath Promotion Board (HPB) student health check	
15 Apr	Sec 3 and those who	NRIC registration	

	turn 15 in 2026		
16 Apr	Sec 1G3	Water testing curricular activity	
17 Apr	Selected students	Festivo combined rehearsal	
22 Apr	All	Merahan Heart & Sole Challenge (cross- country event)	
23 & 28 Apr	Sec 1G2	Water testing curricular activity	
23 Apr	Selected students	Festivo full dress rehearsal	
29 Apr	All except those involved in Festivo	Home-Based Learning (HBL) Days	Students do not need to report to school.
	Selected students	Festivo final rehearsal	
30 Apr	All	Festivo at University Cultural Centre	

May			
1 May	All	Labour Day	Public holiday
5 May	All	Earth Day Awareness Day	
6 May	Sec 2G1	Experience ITE Programme at ITE College West	Full day
6, 7 & 11 May	Sec 4 & 5	Preliminary English Language oral examination	After school
7 May	Sec 4 & 5	Preliminary Mother Tongue Language oral examination	After school
8 May	Sec 2	Upper Sec Subject Combination Briefing (PM)	After school
12 May	All	Student Leaders' Investiture	
13 May	Sec 3G2	Experience ITE Programme at ITE College West	Full day
	Sec 4 & 5	Equipping for the Future Programme - Interview Workshop (PM)	After school
14 May	Sec 3G2	Learning Journey for Principles of Accounts	After school
15 May	Sec 4G3 & 5	Timed practice for combined science practical	After school
18 May	Sec 1 - 3	Home-Based Learning (HBL) Day	Students do not need to report to school.
	Sec 4&5	Preliminary English Language or Mother Tongue Language oral examinations	
19 - 21 May	Sec 3G1 & Sec 3G2	Applied Learning Module at Schools (ApLM@Schools)	
20 May	Sec 4&5	Make up preliminary English Language or Mother Tongue Language oral examinations	
21 May	Sec 2	Uncovering Strengths & Empowering Selves Workshop	After school
25, 26 and 28	Sec 4 & 5	Mother Tongue Language Intensive Programme	
26 May	Sec 1	Performing Arts-Based Learning (PABL) by Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO) (PM)	After school
27 May	All	[Tentative] Hari Raya Haji	Public holiday
28 May	All	Last day of semester 1	
28 & 29 May	Sec 1 & 3	Parent-Teacher Meeting	29 May afternoon and 30 May full day.

29 May	Selected students	Model United Nation (MUN) conference	
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June			
1 June	All	Day-off-in-lieu for Vesak Day	Public holiday
2 June	Sec 4 & 5	GCE O-Level Mother Tongue Language examination	
2 – 6 June	Sec 4&5	Sec 4&5 Study Programme (Part 1)	
22 – 26 June	Sec 4&5	Sec 4&5 Study Programme (Part 2)	