Awards for Sustainability and Environmental Efforts



In recognition of the school's efforts, New Town Secondary School was presented the Sustainable South West Award 2020 by Minister Grace Fu during the 'Clean Up South West! 2021' event on 23 January 2021. The school also received the Green Schools Gold Award for 2020 and the 5-Year Environmental Champion Award which were part of the South West CDC's Green Schools Programme.

Since 2016, the school has been able to sustain its efforts in promoting environmental awareness by empowering the students to become active contributors. Environmental efforts are sustained year round through school-wide programmes where students delve deeper into key environmental issues and learn how they can contribute to sustainability efforts through hands-on activities and active discussions.





Designing a Dengue Prevention poster

Learning for Life Programme

On 3 February 2021, our Student Leaders embarked on a school-wide leadership training programme. Based on their portfolios, they gathered in the respective venues and were equipped with the knowledge of their roles and responsibilities. Amongst them were the Student Councillors, Peer Support Leaders, Class Chairpersons, as well as the different class ambassadors including Aesthetics Ambassadors, Character and Citizenship Education Representatives, Green Guardians, Information



Training for Student Councillors





and Communications Technology Ambassadors, Physical Education and Sports Ambassadors and National Education (NE) Ambassadors.

The Student Leaders led various hands-on activities and training sessions through which students learnt different skills and ways to enthuse their peers on the various subject matters.

Applied Learning Programme

Our Secondary Two students went through a seven-week Stop Motion Animation workshop in Term One as part of the Art curriculum. Students had a better understanding of animation, frame transitions and storytelling over multiple frames. The experience allowed them to collaborate as they explored creative possibilities to transit from their own animation to their teammates'.

A Procreate Application workshop was also conducted on 23 February 2021 for the Applied Learning Programme Teachers' Community within the school. This is part of an on-going professional development programme to equip teachers with skills and competencies to guide and support students in the Tier 1 and 2 programmes. The workshop focussed on digital painting and image manipulation.



Enhanced Art Programme

The Combined School Milestone Learning Experience provides a learning opportunity for Enhanced Art Programme (EAP) students to acquire basic knowledge, skills and attributes, together with their peers and industry practitioners.

This year's workshop was conducted in the school on 29 January 2021 and students had the opportunity to learn from artist Mr Khairulddin Wahab through a Zoom session. Students from eight other EAP schools also attended the workshop. The session covered fundamentals of drawing and explored the possibilities of combining traditional mediums of art with digital tools.

Digital painting and a collaborative tool (Aggie.io) were introduced during the session and the students had fun exploring how the tool could complement and aid their own artistic process and expression.





CCA Engagement Programmes

In the first two weeks of Term One, our Secondary One students took part in activities to familiarise themselves with the various Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs) offered in school. The Uniformed Group Engagement Programme (UGEP) allowed our students to gain hands-on experiences in UG activities. Students explored drone-flying with the National Cadet Corps, played a modified Nerf gun activity with the National Police Cadet Corps, learnt paracord cobra knot-tying tying from the Scouts and tried their hands at scrunchie-making with the Girl Guides.

Students also signed up for the Sports and Games Engagement Programme (SGEP) to experience a modified version of a regular CCA training. Those who were interested in the Visual and Performing Arts and Clubs and Societies were able to gain more information through the CCA Virtual Open House.

Through these engagement programmes, students were able to understand each CCA programme through their interactions with the respective teachers, coaches and seniors.



Weapon handling led by the NCC senior cadets



Taking a basketball shot during SGEP

Secondary One Orientation Programme

Our Secondary One students were warmly welcomed to the school on 4 January 2021. To ensure that the students experience a smooth transition from primary to secondary school life, various activities were organised to get them acquainted to the school programmes. The activities served to familiarise them with the school's environment, rules, programmes, CCAs as well as to provide them the opportunities to interact with their teachers and peers.

As part of COVID-19 Safe Management Measures, the Secondary One classes were scheduled on different days for the activities.

Here are what some of our Secondary One students have to say:

Eng Rui Min Jazlyn (1E4): "During the orientation, I made new friends and we had fun together as a class. I enjoyed the activities that the seniors planned for us. Through the programme, I felt a sense of belonging to the school."

Banzon Daniel Carlo Dela Cruz (1N5): "Through the Orientation Programme, I felt more comfortable with my classmates. We had the chance to find out about different CCAs and I also tried out different sports."

Amirul Al-Haj Jaffry (1N6): "I appreciate how the seniors took care of us during the orientation. I also enjoyed the Uniformed Groups Engagement Programme as I got a chance to know more about the CCAs."





Knot-tying demonstration



Tour of the school premises led by a Student Leader

Humanities Experiential Learning



As part of the Humanities Department's efforts to promote authentic learning, students embarked on a series of Geographical and Historical Investigation projects in Semester One.

During an integrated Historical-Geographical Investigation at Jurong Lake Gardens, Secondary One students underwent an inquiry to understand the differences in people's lives and experiences under the British rule and in modern Singapore. Students also conducted watertesting experiments to find out the impact of human activities on Jurong Lake.

Using Virtual Reality (VR) technology, Secondary Two students immersed in the sights and sounds of the urban



environment, to investigate if spaces in housing estates have been created with inclusiveness in mind.

Secondary Four and Five students conducted a Geographical Investigation at Chinatown where they explored the impact of tourism on land use and the environment. They also gained a deeper understanding of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism in Singapore.



Showing Gratitude

To encourage Newtowners to express gratitude as part and parcel of their everyday lives, the year started with the 'Gratitude Challenge' as part of the annual Groom-the-Classroom competition. Each class allocated a part of their classroom noticeboard for students to dedicate gratitude messages. Students took up the challenge enthusiastically by writing personal notes of appreciation not only for their peers and teachers but also





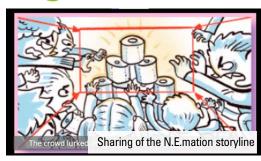
heartfelt messages of gratitude for their parents and even pets! Teachers made use of Form Teacher periods and Character and Citizenship Education lessons to encourage the students to continue writing gratitude messages.

"When I write gratitude messages, I feel that it gives me the opportunity to reflect on my experiences", said Hanisah Binte Mohamad Tahar (3N5). "I am able to understand how these experiences have shaped me to be the person I am today. I am grateful for everything!"

Total Defence Day Commemoration



Discussing the continuation of the storyline







Playing the Guardians of the City card game

On 10 February 2021, Newtowners commemorated Total Defence Day through various in-class activities. Our assembly programme had the N.E.mation team sharing their storyline of how Singaporeans reacted when DORSCON Orange was announced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their sharing ended with a cliffhanger, and students had to work in groups to continue the story. They had to ensure that actions representing Total Defence were included in their stories.

In addition, the Secondary Two and Three students also played Guardians of the City, a card game through which they learnt how the various pillars of defence could be deployed during crises.

National Education Ambassador, Mervyn Yar Hong Yu (4E4), shared on how his training for a National Police Cadet Corps competition built up his resilience. He highlighted that it was crucial for Singaporeans to build up their resilience as part of psychological defence.

Chinese New Year Celebration





In this year of the Ox, Chinese New Year celebrations in our school took on a different form as it was the first time that we celebrated with the Safe Management Measures in place. Instead of the usual mass gathering in the school hall as in previous years, Newtowners spent a joyous morning with their Form Teachers and classmates in class-based celebrations.

The celebration on 11 February 2021 started off with a series of pre-recorded video performances by the various CCA groups such as Chinese Dance, Malay Dance and Guzheng Ensemble. Despite it not being a live performance, the festive dance moves and melodious tunes were still able to set a celebratory mood for all. This was followed by a video and quiz segment facilitated by the Form Teachers. The main



highlight of the celebration was the lantern-making activity where students participated with enthusiasm and were excited to showcase their amazing craftwork thereafter.

It was indeed a great joy to see Newtowners ending the celebration in high spirits!

I'm in Charge! Active Lifestyle for

Life Programme

I'm in Charge! Active Lifestyle for Life Programme (ALL) aims to motivate students to lead a healthy and active lifestyle. The programme provides selected Lower Secondary students with support to make better physical, habitual and theoretical choices for their health development. The programme followed the structure of a menu - appetiser (warm-up activity), entrée (sports and games), dessert (health tips and Plickers checkout activity).

With an emphasis on inclusivity and ownership towards personal development, ALL students looked forward to the sport sessions to forge new friendships and build a network of support through various physical activities such as Captain's Ball, Powerball, Badminton, Frisbee, Captain Rugby and modified Dodgeball. In addition, health tips in the form of infographics were shared to empower students to manage their choices. At the end of each session, students answered a question based on what they had learnt and affirmed themselves for their efforts towards personal development.

Students reflected and shared their key learning points, showing appreciation to their peers and teachers.







Launching our ALL pocket sized card 2021

Using Plickers to apply learning from their health bites

Eng Rui Min Jazlyn (1E4) reflected, "I love the different game experiences and the opportunity to interact with my schoolmates from other classes. I have learnt that exercising can be very engaging and every session has been a remarkable experience!"

International Friendship Day

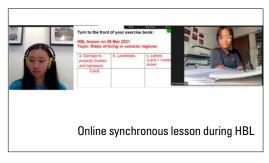




This year, Newtowners commemorated International Friendship Day on 7 April 2021. In line with the theme of "Singapore in the World", students were led to discover the significance of Singapore's position in the world, especially as a member of ASEAN. Students explored three case studies that highlighted the movement of labour in the region and the importance of the interdependent relationship Singapore shares with our neighbouring countries.

Franchesca Ira Odtuhan Panes, National Education Ambassador of 2N6, shared her family's experiences of living in Singapore, after moving from the Philippines when she was still young. Her sharing reinforced the importance of appreciating the flow of skills and ideas, as well as the need for mutual respect and understanding in such a diverse society. The event concluded with students creating a WordArt piece that encapsulated their hopes for the relationship Singapore shares with the world.

Blended Learning in NTSS











Conducting a live online lesson in school

Blended Learning aims to provide a seamless blend of different modes of learning, including the integration of Home-Based Learning (HBL) as a regular feature of the schooling experience.

Four weeks in 2021 were designated as Blended Learning Experience weeks. During these weeks, teachers designed and implemented lessons which allowed students to learn independently and collaboratively, through a variety of ICT tools. Students were exposed to concepts from both within and outside of the curriculum.

Through Blended Learning, our students were able to see clear and coherent connections between what they have learnt before, during and after HBL. They grew to be self-directed learners with dispositions, skills and knowledge to succeed in a digital age.

On every HBL day, one hour was set aside for Student-Initiated Learning (SIL) activities for different subjects. Students participated in various interesting experiences such as creating home videos, e-portfolios as well as Whatsapp stickers.

Commendation Day

Our school celebrated its 56th Commendation Day on 28 April 2021. The theme for this year's celebration was 'To Forge a Better Life', which is also our school motto. This evergreen theme serves as a reminder to Newtowners to envision a better future and to have the courage, tenacity and resilience to weather all challenges and obstacles in achieving their desired goals.

We were honoured to have an alumni, Ms Fun Siew Leng (Chief Urban Designer, Urban Redevelopment Authority), to grace the event as the Guest-of-Honour. In her pre-recorded inspirational speech, she shared how the school motto had played an important part in her life. She highlighted how, through her career and daily interactions, she had not only forged a better life for herself but also for the society at large. She stressed the importance of being leaders capable of changing the world and mentioned that she was confident that Newtowners would have the ability and skills to face the challenges of a digitally fast-paced world.

Following her speech, Newtowners watched a video showcasing the holistic development of students through various activities conducted in 2020. Thereafter, the Form Teachers presented awards to deserving students for their achievements in the academic domain.

To commemorate this special day, all staff and students received a special Commendation Day souvenir – our very own NTSS reusable mask. With the motto printed on the side, it will indeed serve as a reminder for Newtowners to take on the challenges of 2021 in stride and forge a better life ahead.





Valedictorian of the year, Mr Luqman Nurhakim Abdol Rahim Yassin, 4E3 (2020)



1E2's interpretation of our school motto, 'To Forge a Better Life'

Release of Results for GCE 'N' and 'O' Levels

The following Newtowners have achieved excellent results in the 2020 GCE 'N' and 'O' Level Examinations. The school wishes them all the best in their future endeavours!







An exhibition on mental health by 4E2



Putting up an exhibition board which focussed on identifying children in need

Advocacy Service Learning

Due to the COVID-19 Safe Management Measures, Values in Action (VIA) Service Learning (SL) projects by the Secondary Four and Five students took on a different form.

Focussing on advocacy, all students of the cohort did VIA-SL projects that centred on creating awareness amongst Newtowners on a cause and organisation of their choice. The project spanned over two months starting in January 2021, where students did extensive research on their chosen topics. The research covered issues related to migrant workers and ex-convicts as well as issues affecting youths such as mental health and bullying. The students' work eventually culminated in an exhibition at the school canteen on 9 and 12 March 2021.

In order to make the exhibition even more exciting, there were quizzes and online puzzles with attractive prizes. In addition, some classes encouraged participants to take a pledge to support their cause in the form of a video entry submission. Indeed, it was a good platform that showed the creativity of our Newtowners!

N.E.mation! 2021



The N.E.mation! Top ten trophy

A group of four Newtowners accomplished the impressive feat of being one of the top ten groups in N.E.mation! 2021. The team attended virtual storyboarding workshops conducted by industry experts where they learnt how to generate ideas and craft storyboards. Our students captivated the judging panel with a witty slogan of "In Toilet Paper We Trust" and an impactful story about the importance of staying psychologically resilient amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.







The team pitching their idea to the judges over Zoom

Multi-Level Activities Week

The Multi-Level Activities Week (MLAW) is a school-wide programme that caters to the holistic development of Newtowners. Held over four days in the last week of Term One, students engaged in a myriad of activities designed to nurture them in the cognitive, aesthetic, physical, moral and social domains. Each programme was designed and customised to meet the needs of our students, while making sure that the Safe Management Measures were adhered to. Read on to find out how our students have benefited from their MLAW experience.

Poetry Enrichment Programme





The Secondary One students participated in a Spoken Word Poetry Enrichment workshop on 9 March 2021.

The programme provided students with the opportunity to creatively construct and perform their poetries in front of their peers. Led by a group of dynamic facilitators, the students engaged in play before learning writing and performing techniques through active participation. The programme also opened avenues for imaginative self-expression and collaborative learning. Drawing inspiration from a variety of spoken word poets, students were encouraged to express their thoughts and feelings in a candid manner. In addition, they explored a range of choral recitation styles as well as public speaking skills.

Wong Xin Ning Estelle (1E3) shared that she enjoyed the Spoken Word Poetry workshop because she found it useful. "I have learnt how to project my voice better and how to walk into a room with confidence."

Drama Enrichment Programme

On 10 and 11 March 2021, our Secondary Two students attended a Drama Enrichment programme where they worked on dramatising scenes from the novel, The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas. The programme aimed to engage the students through Process Drama and Improvisation as they built an appreciation, deepened their understanding and developed their ability to respond to the novel.



Expressing the emotion felt by the protagonist



During the workshop, students explored the novel through discussions, and finally, made the text come alive through a dramatic presentation. Beside boosting their appreciation for Literature, students learned to develop their oral confidence, explored movement and experimented with various drama tools such as tableau, storytelling and movement. Such an impactful programme encouraged holistic learning and nurtured the budding talents of New Town.

Oral Communication Workshop







Our Secondary Four Express and Five Normal Academic attended an Oral Communication Workshop on 12 March 2021 that focussed on teaching students to think critically and speak convincingly. Students gained greater clarity on how to study visual stimuli by looking for contextual clues that inform them of related societal issues. By exploring varied perspectives to generate ideas, the students were able to elaborate on their oral responses and sustain an interaction.

On 9 March 2021, the Secondary Four Normal Academic students learned how to respond to questions in a relevant and coherent manner, which aided them tremendously in their oral communication. Each group was given the same text and they had to tap on their creativity to present different interpretations. Overall, it was an engaging and enjoyable session with students coming up with interesting presentations.

Debating Workshop





On 10 March 2021, the Secondary Three students were introduced to concepts and terms of debating and learnt how to present their arguments confidently and convincingly. Having a better grasp of good presentation skills required, the students proceeded to brainstorm in groups to prepare for an informal intra-class debate where they pitted against one another in a battle of reasons and persuasions. Besides fostering critical thinking skills, students gained a deeper understanding of logical fallacies and learned how to structure well-organised arguments into a speech. In addition, they learned how to add a good dose of emotion into their presentation while bearing in mind the importance of speaking skills like speed, tone, volume and fluency.

The workshop offered useful insights on how the students could put forth their points clearly which proved to be really helpful for writing argumentative essays. We hope our students continue to be effective communicators who are discerning and succinct.

National Education Learning Journey









Our Secondary Four and Five students embarked on a National Education Learning Journey to the Singapore Discovery Centre on 9 and 11 March 2021 to learn about Singapore's contemporary issues. Different classes participated in customised programmes with a myriad of activities such as a bus tour at the SAFTI Military Institute, playing a life-sized board game to learn about Economic Defence and being exposed to the negative impacts of cyber-attacks and fake news.

Tan Yong Sheng (4E2) reflected that in the fight against terrorism, everyone has a part to play, no matter how small it may be, while I Han Riezqy Bin Muhamad Fadzly (5N2) shared that he was reminded to be more discerning with online information and to verify facts whenever possible. Newtowners became more aware of the opportunities and threats facing Singapore and were led to consider their role in the unfolding of the Singapore Story.

Dance Enrichment Programme





Rehearsing their dance moves in preparation for their performance

Our Secondary One students participated in a two-day Hip Hop Dance workshop in Term One as part of the school's Aesthetics experience programme, where students get the opportunity to learn and participate in a variety of art forms.

Through the workshop, students gained a better understanding of body movements and learned about Hip Hop dance. They also learnt techniques which helped them synchronise with their peers as they practised together to put up a performance at the end of the programme.

Mother Tongue Fortnight







It was an exciting week for Newtowners as the Mother Tongue Language (MTL) Department carried out a range of activities for the three language groups during the Mother Tongue Fortnight Programme in Term One. This year's focus was on traditional crafts and art forms.

For our Chinese Language students, learning stations were set up where they were engaged in activities such as creating wooden bookmarks as well as playing 'chapteh'. Students were thrilled to be able to revisit their childhood games. Our Malay Language students took part in a Batik Painting workshop while our Tamil Language students took part in a Rangoli painting workshop. Students had the opportunity to demonstrate their creativity through the activities.

From these learning experiences, students were able to better appreciate their own cultures, which enabled them to develop a lifelong interest in MTL learning.

Financial Literacy Workshop

All Secondary Two and Three students attended a two-hour Financial Literacy workshop over three days in Term One. This workshop aimed to highlight the importance of lifelong learning. Students were introduced to different education and career pathways, economic literacy concepts and the concept of income tax as well as retirement funds through a board game. The game encapsulated relevant current affairs and even took students through the impacts of different economic cycles.

Students shared that they enjoyed the session because it allowed them to learn about finance while having fun and competing with their peers.







Digital Literacy Training

To better prepare Newtowners to be future-ready and self-directed learners, a series of Digital Literacy training sessions were organised for all students in Term One. This training focussed on Basic ICT Competencies for the Lower Secondary Levels and New Media Literacies for Upper Secondary Levels.

Students were visibly engaged as they navigated through the Digital Literacy self-learning modules on Student Learning Space (SLS). They were also challenged to think critically and work collaboratively in small teams as they applied their newfound skills on unique case studies and role-playing scenarios.



Working together in pairs to solve issues in case studies



Education and Career Guidance Fair

The annual Education and Career Guidance (ECG) Fair took on a different form in 2021. Following the success of the inaugural virtual ECG Conference in 2020, a full-scale ECG Fair was planned for all Upper Secondary students on 11 March 2021 using an e-conference format. A team of teachers, together with our ECG Counsellor, worked tirelessly behind the scenes to run two separate programmes for the Secondary Three students and the Secondary Four and Five students.

All Secondary Four and Five students had the opportunity to listen to speakers from Institutes of Higher Learning like the polytechnics and ITE, while the Secondary Three students listened to speakers from the aviation, construction and video production industries. Students were able to choose the sharing they were interested in attending by signing up online.

During the event, students submitted their questions live, which were then addressed by the speakers during a special thirty-minute panel discussion. Many students were keen to know about the qualifications needed to get started in specific industries and after the session, they developed a better understanding of how the industries have been adapting to the changes and challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.





Sports Education Programme





On 9 and 10 March 2021, our Secondary Two students took part in a team-building programme, where they took on simple yet challenging activities. The programme aimed to help students build teamwork, trust and communication and to acquire problem-solving skills through collaborative work.

Yew Wen Xuan, Lycia (2E1) enjoyed the Tent-Pitching challenge the most, where she learnt the importance of good communication, teamwork and to be resourceful as she and her team had to improvise to build a tent with limited space, knowledge and resources.

Dashiell Chia Rong En (2N6) was proud of his team for persevering through tough activities such as the Tower Card, while Rean Farel Bin Mohamed Tauffil (2E4) felt more confident of himself as he managed to get opportunities to step up and lead during the activities. Overall, the students enjoyed the activities and felt more connected with their classmates.

Science Enrichment Programme

As part of their Blended Learning package in Term One, all Secondary One students embarked on a challenge to design an effective water purification device. The students had to plan in groups and purchase resources using mock-up currency to build a filtration model to obtain clean water from a sample of muddy water.

Through an authentic learning experience, students could better comprehend the importance of filtration in their daily lives and the need for water conservation.

Students revisited this concept in Term Two and reflected on possible improvements for their model after further discussions on the principles behind filtration.



Planning the design of their filtration system



Proud of their filtration system

Leadership Training





During the leadership training on 12 March 2021, our Secondary One students learnt about self-leadership and how to work with peers of different strengths and personalities, while the Secondary Two students learnt about peer leadership and how to challenge the peer leading process. Not only was it a fun and engaging time for the students, they also gained a deeper appreciation of their peers and learnt how to relate to each other better.

Overall, it was an encouraging and enlightening time as students discovered that they were all learning together with no fixed formula for being a leader.

Staff Learning Day: 'Learn for Life'



Facilitating the conversation during the Professional Learning Team sharing

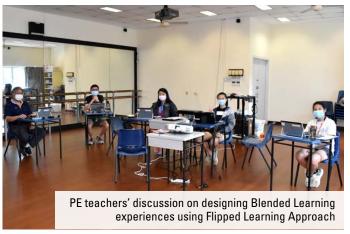
learn more about different pedagogical practices that have had significant impacts on student learning. The

Our school continues to provide opportunities for staff to embrace the 'Learn for Life' value and embody the spirit of teacher ownership and teacher leadership. Apart from staff professional development workshops conducted during term time, we also conducted our Staff Learning Day on 17 November 2020. Staff came together to share innovative pedagogical practices that have contributed to a better teaching and learning environment for our students. All staff also had an enjoyable session continuing the conversation on providing students with a holistic Blended Learning experience.

The school has established itself as a Professional Learning Community, seeking to enhance student learning through teacher collaboration. All staff attended sharing sessions by various Professional Learning Teams to learn more about different pedagogical practices that have had significant impacts on student learning. The sharing sessions also allowed the teams to make timely refinements based on the feedback given.

Following the announcement of the National Digital Literacy Programme at the 2020 Work Plan Seminar, the school set up a Blended Learning Task Force to review the existing models of teaching and learning since August 2020. The task force provided the context for the implementation of Blended Learning experiences. All teaching staff were engaged in designing Blended Learning experiences to further develop our students' ability to be self-directed, passionate and life-long learners.







Gearing up for CCE 2021

In preparation for the implementation of the new Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) 2021 syllabus, all teachers attended a training session on 18 November 2020. With the tagline, "Every School Experience a CCE Lesson, Every Teacher a CCE Teacher," the training focussed on sharing the foundation of CCE 2021. Teachers acquired skills on the setting of clear CCE outcomes which incorporated values, socio-emotional competencies and citizenship dispositions.

The sharing during the workshop underscored that CCE involved explicit teaching as well as reinforcement and application of learning with the use of multiple learning platforms such as CCE Lessons, Student Development Experiences (SDEs) and school-based initiatives.

The teachers also looked into the design of key SDEs such as CCA activities, National Education learning journeys and level-wide programmes. The designs encapsulated the three principles of student-centricity, intentionality and coherence. With this integration, CCE would have a lasting impact on our students and would contribute to their growth as individuals contributing to our nation and the world.





Ministry of Education Service Excellence Award

Congratulations to our officers for receiving the Ministry of Education Service Excellence Award (MSEA)!

The MSEA recognises staff who show passion in their service delivery, consistently serve internal and external customers with Courtesy, Accessibility, Responsiveness and Effectiveness (C.A.R.E), and inspire their colleagues to do likewise.

GOLD





GOLD

New Staff

From left to right:
Ms Koh Wendy (Subject Head/Chemistry)
Mrs Tan Yi Lin (Subject Head/Biology)
Mr Sng Chee Hien Gary (Head of Department/Mathematics)
Mr Tan Soon Teck Leonard (Vice-Principal)
Ms Wee Shu Ying
Miss Teng Shumin