

31 Pasir Ris Street 51, Singapore 518901 Tel: 65831387 Fax: 65836467

Ref. No.: MSS/LTP/003/2026

30 December 2025 Dear Parents/Guardians,

Principal's Message 2026

A warm welcome to Meridian Secondary School!

I am Mr Puah You Kai, the new Principal of Meridian Secondary School. I am deeply humbled to join the Meridian Family as its third Principal and honoured to take over the leadership baton from Mr Mohamad Razali.

Meridian Secondary School was established in April 2016 through the union of two schools in Pasir Ris: Siglap Secondary School and Coral Secondary School. Since our inception, we have been clear-eyed in our mission as a hope-building school for the community – providing all our students with deep care, instilling in them sound values, and developing in them the right mindsets, skillsets and toolsets to thrive long after they leave us.

Every parent and child aspires to find a school that cares deeply, provides an inspiring and meaningful education, and opens doors to future opportunities. At Meridian, we are committed to being that school. We develop Meridians to become Joyful Learners, Creative Thinkers and Compassionate Leaders, anchored on our RICH values of Resilience, Integrity, Compassion and Humility.

Despite our short history, we have made significant strides. Some of our students have been featured in the press for their <u>accomplishments</u>, while countless others continue to make us proud in their own unique ways. Many alumni remain in touch, and their continued development reinforces our holistic education approach – nurturing their character, creativity and resilience alongside their intellectual growth.

Since joining the school, I have connected with students, parents, alumni, SAC members, CCA coaches and various community partners who shared fond memories and a strong belief in what Meridian stands for. At the same time, they also expressed concerns about the challenges facing our youths today – from mental health pressures, to navigating relationships and peer dynamics, to thriving in a digital world increasingly shaped by social media and Al. Their stories have reinforced my conviction that we are building something truly special, but also reminded me that more than ever, we need to work more closely together as a school community to prepare our young for the future.

Our school's 10th anniversary in 2026 will be a meaningful opportunity to do just that – to honour those who have helped us get here, celebrate our achievements, and strengthen our partnerships as we welcome the dreams of past, present and future Meridians. I look forward to connecting more deeply with members of our Meridian Family, as we celebrate and chart the next bound of our growth together.

Wishing all a fruitful 2026 ahead!

Mr. Puah You Kai Principal Meridian Secondary School



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Key School Information & Overview of School Activities for 2026 (Secondary 1)

We have outlined key school information and an overview of school activities for 2026 in this letter, for your easy reference.

- 1. Sec 1 Orientation Programme
- 2. Timetable for AY 2026 and Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) Schedule
- 3. School Calendar
- 4. School-based Assessment
- 5. Independent Learning Days (ILD)
 - 5.1 ILD Activities and Parents' Consent for Proposed SIL
- 6. Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDLP)
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- 10. Student Administration
 - 10.1 Verification of Student Details Report
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- 11. Student Health and Well-being Matters
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 - 11.3 Temperature-Taking Exercise (ATTEx)
 - 11.4 Student Support
- 12. Partnership with Parents
 - 12.1 Sec 1 Parent Engagement Session
 - 12.2 Communication with Parents
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1 Sec 1 Orientation Programme (2, 5, 6, 7 Jan)

On the first day of school on 2 Jan (Fri), students are to report by **8:30am**. There will be four days of orientation, where students will get to know their classmates and Form Teachers as they participate in activities led by our Peer Support Leaders.

Information on the dismissal times during the orientation period and the items to be brought can be found here: Sec 1 Orientation Info Kit.

2 Timetable for AY 2026 and Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) Schedule

The 2026 timetable can be accessed via this link: <u>Student Timetable</u>. Information on our school CCAs and their training schedules can be found here: <u>Co-Curricular Activities</u>.

CCAs, enrichment and remedial lessons are scheduled after school dismissal time. Beyond remedial lessons, students who need additional help in their studies may also seek out their teachers after dismissal time.

3 School Calendar

The school terms for 2026 are summarised below:

	Start	End
Term 1	Fri, 2 Jan 2026	Fri, 13 Mar 2026
Term 2	Tues, 24 Mar 2026*	Fri, 29 May 2026
Term 3	Mon, 29 Jun 2026	Fri, 4 Sep 2026
Term 4	Mon, 14 Se 2026	Fri, 23 Oct 2026

^{*} Mon, 23 Mar 2026 is a day off-in-lieu for schools as Sat, 21 Mar 2026 is a Public Holiday

For our school's calendar of key activities, please refer to Calendar.

4 School-based Assessment

The assessment weightings for 2026 are indicated below. More details regarding the Weighted Assessments will be given to students through the subject teachers.

For Sec 1

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Component	Weighted	Weighted	Weighted	End-of-Year
	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Examination
Weighting	15%	15%	15%	55%

5 Independent Learning Days (ILD)

Since 2021, Blended Learning has become a key feature of the schooling experience to further develop students' ability to be self-directed, passionate and life-long learners.

Through Blended Learning, regularly-scheduled Home-based Learning (HBL) Days will complement teaching and learning in all secondary schools. In Meridian, our HBL Days are called Independent Learning Days (ILDs). On these days, students do not have to come to school. They will manage their own learning and explore their interests from home.



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ILDs will take place on <u>even week Fridays</u>, <u>beginning 16 Jan 2026</u>. There will be a total of 7 ILDs in Semester 1. The schedule of subjects and activities for each ILD can be found here: <u>Student Timetable</u>. The timings in the timetable serve as a guide for students to allocate their time appropriately.

5.1 ILD Activities and Parents' Consent for Proposed SIL

Each ILD comprises curriculum tasks and Student-Initiated Learning (SIL) activities. Details of the curriculum tasks will be provided by subject teachers.

SIL activities are an opportunity for students to engage in learning beyond the formal curriculum. Students have autonomy to decide on an SIL activity that can deepen their personal interests and passions. We will be seeking parents'/guardians' consent for your child/ward's proposed SIL activities through Parents Gateway.

6 Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDLP)

Students' learning during ILDs will be supported by the national Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDLP). Under the PDLP, all secondary students will own a personal learning device (PLD).

Sec 1 students will be issued their devices in the last week of Term 1. More information on the collection will be communicated at a later date.

7 Student Handbook

Our digital Student Handbook outlines additional information on schooling in Meridian Secondary for students' ease of reference. The handbook can be accessed via: <u>2026</u> Student Handbook.

8 Student Management Matters

Character development is the cornerstone of every Meridian's educational experience. Adherence to school rules helps Meridians internalise our values of Resilience, Integrity, Compassion and Humility – shaping them into upright and contributing members of society.

We seek your partnership in reminding your child/ward to adhere to our school rules, which can be found in our digital Student Handbook (<u>2026 Student Handbook</u>). In particular, we would like to highlight the following rules below:

8.1 School Attire

Students are to be in the day's Full/Half School Uniform by Flag Raising Ceremony **every morning.**

The school attire is as follows:

SCHOOL ATTIRE

Students must wear full or half uniform (i.e., White Polo T-shirt with school uniform shorts/pants/culottes) with **shirts/T-shirts tucked in**. No PE shorts to be worn.



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Full Uniform or Half Uniform with White Polo T-shirt with School Uniform Bottoms

Students may wear low-cut sports shoes with laces, provided they are not in flashy colours. Students must wear plain white socks that are **visible and cover the ankle joints**.

8.2 Punctuality

Students must report punctually to school as well as for lessons. Students who are not present with their respective classes at the Flag Raising Ceremony venue by 7.30am will be considered **late** for school.

Students are also required to report to lessons on time when there is a switch of venues between lessons.

8.3 Mobile Phones and Possession of Expensive Items

To provide a conducive learning environment for the students, we strongly discourage students from bringing electronic devices, smart watches or other expensive items to school. In the event of loss of electronic devices or other expensive items due to students' negligence, the school shall not be held responsible.

To help students cultivate healthier screen use habits and better support student well-being in the digital age as part of national Grow Well SG efforts, the use of smart gadgets (e.g. smartphones/smart watches) is **NOT allowed during school hours, including recess, CCA and after school programmes** (e.g. supplementary/enrichment/remedial lesson). Students found to infringe this rule may have their smartphones/smart watches confiscated by the teacher for the day.



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Students are required to place their mobile phones in their lockers before the start of the first lesson. All mobile phones are to be switched off and/or turned to silent mode. Students may collect their phones from their lockers at the end of their last school activity for the day.

Form Teachers will assign each student a locker on the first day of school. The use of lockers is provided free of charge. Students are expected to use the lockers in a responsible manner.

As a welcome gift, Sec 1 students will be presented with a number combination lock to secure the locker assigned to them on the first day of school.

9 Road Safety

For the safety of our students and other road users, we would like to remind parents/guardians who drive into school of the following:

- Do not stop your vehicles directly in front of the school gates or too close to the traffic light when alighting or picking up passengers.
- Cooperate with the security guards and staff who are directing the traffic by following their instructions.
- Slow down your vehicle as the speed limit within the school compound is 10 km/h.
- In light of ongoing roadworks around the vicinity of the school and Pasir Ris, we urge all students and visitors to take extra precautions when using the pedestrian crossings and walkways when coming to school.

9.1 Advisory for Cyclists

If your child/ward is cycling to school, he/she should wear a protective helmet, demonstrate competency in safe cycling and be aware of the cycling rules.

10 Student Administrative Matters

10.1 <u>Verification of Student Details Report</u>

A PG message will be sent to you at the start of the year requesting your assistance to verify the information of your child/ward in the online Student Details Report (SDR). We seek your help to respond by **16 Jan (Fri) 2025**.

If there are any changes (e.g. medical, contact info) to be made after the submission, please approach the Form Teacher for assistance.

10.2 Submission of Medical Certificates and Parents' Letters through PG

The new Student Absence feature on Parents Gateway (PG) will be made available with effect from Jan 2026. We strongly encourage all parents/guardians to use this feature to inform us of your child/ward's absence. You can attach medical certificates and relevant documents when using this feature.

Please find the user guide & FAQ here: User Guide, FAQ



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10.3 School Smart Card (SCC)

Sec 1 students will receive their Secondary level School Smart Card (SCC) latest by March 2025 from their Form Teachers. Meanwhile, they can continue to use their Primary level SSCs for concessionary travel till end Apr 2026. Students can still purchase the Bus Concession Pass (BCP) using their Primary level SSCs, but they would need to purchase the BCP for Secondary School students.

10.4 Photo-Taking Session for Sec 1 on 28 Jan (Wed)

We have arranged for your child/ward's portrait photo (passport size) to be taken on 28 Jan (Wed) 2025. We kindly seek your support in ensuring that your child/ward wears the full school uniform on that day. Boys should have their hair neatly combed and girls should have their hair tied up or pinned back neatly.

10.5 <u>Use of Photos/Videos for Publicity Purposes</u>

Throughout your child/ward's journey at Meridian, photographs or video images of your child/ward may be taken during school activities and events such as classroom lessons, CCAs, school camps, or school concerts. The school may use and publish such photographs or video recordings in school publications, the school's website, social media channels, or other communication channels. If you object to your child/ward's photo/video being used for publicity by the school, please email us at meridian sec@moe.edu.sq.

11 Student Health and Well-being Matters

11.1 Annual Health Screening

The annual health screening, conducted by Health Promotion Board, will be held at the school for Sec 1 students. More details will be sent via PG nearer the date.

11.2 HPV Vaccinations for Girls

The HPV vaccine helps to protect females against cervical cancer, which is caused by HPV infection. HPV vaccination is now offered as a school-based programme for our female students and is free of charge. Consent from parents/guardians is required for this vaccination. More details will be sent via PG nearer the date.

11.3 Temperature-Taking Exercise (ATTEx) – 1 Apr (Wed)

The ATTEx is conducted yearly and aims to:

- a. maintain schools' preparedness to re-activate the attendance and temperature-taking regime should the need arise; and
- b. educate students on personal responsibility for their own health and social responsibility.

The ATTEx will be conducted on 1 Apr immediately after the morning flag-raising ceremony. All students are to bring their own *working* Oral Digital Thermometers (ODT) on that day.



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11.4 Student Support

Our school counselors are available to support your child/ward's emotional, social, and academic well-being. If your child ever needs someone to talk to besides their Form Teachers, they can reach out to:

General Counselling: Mr Shu Shi Rong and Ms Wendy Lauw

Education and Career Guidance: Ms Cheryl Low

12 Partnership with Parents

12.1 Sec 1 Parent Engagement Session

We would like to invite all Sec 1 parents/guardians to attend an in-person Parent Engagement Session on **7 Jan (Wed)**, **5.30 pm to 7 pm** in school, to foster stronger homeschool partnerships.

Agenda:

- (a) Meeting with your child/ward's Form Teachers
- (b) Introduction by Year Head
- (c) Address by Principal
- (d) Briefing on CCAs by HOD CCA

12.2 Communication with Parents

Parents Gateway (PG) will be the school's main communication platform with parents. If there is a change in your contact number or email address in the course of the year, please promptly update the information in PG.

If you wish to communicate on school matters with your child/ward's teachers, you can do so by calling the school at 65831387 or by emailing them directly (email details available on our school website).

For emergencies, parents/guardians may call the school's General Office at 65831387.

12.3 Parent Support Group (PSG)

The Meridian Parent Support Group (PSG) warmly welcomes all parents to join the PSG. As a PSG member, you will have the opportunity to play an active role in your child's education by participating in school activities, programmes and events with fellow parents. There will also be opportunities to engage in conversations with school personnel through the PSG's termly meetings. You can sign up for activities that suit your schedule and you do not have to devote long hours in the PSG to be fully engaged in your child's education.

You can register to be a member of the Meridian PSG through the following link: https://forms.gle/BL2VH631Fy1cGrby7.