

2 September 2010

Dear Parents/Guardian

JOINT INTEGRATED PROGRAMME TO BE OFFERED BY SINGAPORE CHINESE GIRLS' SCHOOL, CHIJ ST. NICHOLAS GIRLS' SCHOOL, CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND A NEWLY ESTABLISHED JUNIOR COLLEGE

At the National Day Rally last Sunday night, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced the expansion of the Integrated Programme¹ (IP) to benefit Express pupils given the success of the IP since it was introduced in 2004. Seven new schools will offer the Dual Track, both IP and non-IP tracks. This will allow pupils who do not get into IP based on their Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) results to do so at a later stage if they perform very well.

2 Singapore Chinese Girls' School (SCGS), CHIJ St. Nicholas Girls' School (CHIJ SNGS) and Catholic High School (CHS) will collaborate to offer the IP for selected Secondary One pupils beginning 2013. From Year One to Four, the IP will be offered in the respective schools but these IP pupils will progress to a newly established Government junior college for Year Five and Six. The six-year IP will be collaboratively designed so as to allow pupils from SCGS, CHIJ SNGS and CHS to progress seamlessly into Year Five and Six, leading to the GCE A-level examination in the new Government junior college.

3 SCGS, CHIJ SNGS and CHS share many commonalities, including a culture of academic excellence, strong emphasis on character development and rich heritage supported by strong networks. This IP collaboration will therefore leverage and build on the key strengths or niche programmes that are specific to each school. The partnership will also allow for more learning opportunities for pupils from the three schools to engage in areas of exploration and specialisation in the respective schools.

4 Programmes that are common to the schools, such as overseas immersion trips and service learning programmes, will be directed to enhance pupil appreciation of the cultural diversity and empathy for others. This collaborative planning will create a more enriched educational experience for pupils while ensuring optimal leverage across the schools as resources and facilities are better coordinated and shared. While pupils from each school will benefit from joint school programmes offered by the schools, SCGS will continue to offer its unique school-based programmes that will help to sustain the school culture and ethos.

5 The overarching aim of the SCGS IP will be to develop a new generation of leaders, women of character and relevance who will maximise their potential to set visions and energize their peers with confidence and conviction. To build a substantive IP, we will draw widely on our distinguished alumni who are leaders across a wide range of sectors. An SCGS IP Advisory Committee is currently being set up.

6 Admission into the IP at Secondary One will be based on merit (i.e. performance at the PSLE). There will be no priority admission for affiliated schools. There will be opportunities for pupils, including those from other schools, to join our IP at Year Three. Pupils can also apply for entry into the Year Five programme via the Annual Joint Admission Exercise and admission will likewise be based on merit. There will not be priority admission for pupils from affiliated secondary schools into the IP at Year Five.

7 We are confident that the Dual Track model will continue to celebrate the diverse talents and strengths of pupils to benefit fully from the holistic SCGS education. Our girls have done well in the GCE O-levels and it will continue to be an excellent option for the best of our girls just as it remains a mainstay of Singapore education.

8 We look forward to your strong support and partnership for a successful Dual Track education in SCGS.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Low Ay Nar
Principal

¹ IP allows pupils to take the GCE A-levels or International Baccalaureate (IB) directly without sitting the GCE O-levels.