



Communication Update

24 March 2006

Dear Parents/Guardians of Secondary School classes,

UPDATES TO TIME TABLES & ACADEMIC INTEGRATION IN CHONG BOON

Thank you for the positive assurance that you will partner with the school to raise your children. The changes from primary to secondary school education are tremendous:

- Many students are undergoing puberty and responses can be different from when they were younger
- The workload has increased from 2 to 3 subjects to 6 or more subjects. The style of teaching and learning must shift from one that is very teacher-directed to more and more student-initiated. Students must learn to study on their own after core content is covered during school hours. As parents and educators, we need to learn to adjust and balance our styles to match this change even if we continue to be autism-friendly.

The changes in secondary school education is a fertile ground for possible mismatch of expectations and misunderstanding so let us do our best to prevent it. Please work with us closely and constructively as we make these adjustments.

In areas we can improve, speak to the teachers, track heads and myself and we will solve the issues together. If the teachers have done something right, please show your appreciation and encourage them. It is not easy to get a team of dedicated teachers who are competent and care; and will stay with us.

These are some important updates for you:

1. We are working with ARC's psychologist team to use this term's Social Skills periods to run **"Autism Awareness – Accepting Myself (Strengths and Weaknesses)"** and **"Sexuality Awareness"** programs. **This will be helpful for all the teenagers in our secondary classes.**
2. **Duration** of most periods in the secondary Class Time Tables will be adjusted by 5 minutes to be in line with Chong Boon Secondary School. The new timetable is with them. I have personally briefed them and teachers will continue to assure them.

3. **8 students in Sec 2/ 3** have been assessed and accepted by our buddy Chong Boon to join in **subjects such as Geography/Social Studies and Pure Chemistry. Students who are affected have been informed. A teacher will accompany them until they can become independent in the receiving mainstream class. They will also go through a period of catch-up for Term 1 lessons. There will be teething issues but we must work through them together.**

It is not an easy process to ensure academic integration as both sides have to be ready and deemed suitable. We will continue to work with Chong Boon 's great team to put in more students if found suitable. Any parent who object to integration can speak to me and I will respect your final decision.

Let's adopt an attitude of gratitude and joy as we take these little steps of integration. If you have any issues, please feel free to contact anyone from the leadership team or the teachers.

Many thanks and I look forward to your continued partnership to walk this journey of helping our students get more and more ready for eventually life after Pathlight.

Best regards,

Denise Phua
School Supervisor/Acting Principal
denisephua@pathlight.org.sg

Anne Chew
Head, Student Affairs
queries@pathlight.org.sg

cc: Ms Loy Sheau Mei, Track 2 Head
Ms Annie Tan, Tracks 1 and 3 head
Dr Lam Chee Meng
Ms Alina Chua
All Secondary School Teachers
Mrs Saras Menon, Principal, Chong Boon Secondary School