



26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021

Dear Parents and Students,

It's been about 3 weeks that our secondary students have been back in school. Most of the students have settled in well with their lessons and revision is ongoing at all levels as we prepare for our Term I Examinations.

### **Online Social Media Presence of our teenagers**

The Covid-19 pandemic saw the usage of online communications tools, social media sites and gaming activities increasing manifold as we battled loneliness and needed to maintain connectivity when face to face communication was limited to family members. Parents too would have allowed and given in when their children spent hours online – some addictively so. But now that we are back to face to face lessons, the need now is to reduce spending too much time on our smart phones or devices.

The last few days, we have had a few disciplinary issues being brought to our attention, many related to the inappropriate usage and wrong content being shared on social media by students. Tasteless and unbecoming WhatsApp stickers have been made of teachers and have been shared publicly.

Educators firmly believe that children need to learn how to manage their own online presence — what to say, share, download, upload, and what not to say, share, and upload. As parents, we have a duty to teach our kids how to be good digital citizens, just like we're responsible for showing them how to behave appropriately offline. Net Nanny Apps can help but we should build an open, honest, and trusting relationship with our children, which will lead them to us when they experience something inappropriate online. That's what we expect them to do in their offline life, and it should be no different in their online life.

### **Policy on usage of Phones/Smart Watches in school**

We have noticed that the number of students bringing smart phones/smart watches to school has increased tremendously post pandemic return to school. To ensure that addictive device usage is controlled, I have pasted the school rules about using them below.

Anyone seen making calls from these devices or taking photos during school hours and without permission of teachers will be flouting school rules. Their smart watch will be confiscated immediately. If you need to have such a device on your child, please advise them on its usage within school hours.

### **Mobile Phone Usage**

Cellular / mobile phones are allowed on campus. However, in order to control its usage, all calls made with cell phones must be made from the school office or in the presence of a teacher. Cells phones must remain turned off and kept in the school office /or with class teacher throughout the school day. All calls placed by students must be done from the school office.

### **Telephone Use in School**

Telephones in the school office are intended for the business use of Tanarata International Schools. Students are not permitted to use office phones to contact parents in the event of forgotten books, homework, or field trip permission slips. Students will only be permitted to make emergency calls. If as a parent you need to get a message to your child during the school day, please call the office and the message will be relayed to your child. If you wish to get in touch with your child's teacher, please call the school office and leave a message or email the school's admin office at [admin@tanarata.net](mailto:admin@tanarata.net) to make an appointment to meet the teacher. The teacher will return your call at his/her earliest convenience.

Failure to adhere to this policy can result in the cell phone being confiscated and held in the office until a parent or guardian can pick it up.

I do hope that parents will be more understanding and help us in following the school rules.

### **Vaccination Records for 12+**

Many parents are yet to fill out the Vaccination record form that had been sent out earlier. We need to update our records too and inform MOE accordingly. Kindly fill out the google form below.

<https://forms.gle/qz4egBYNfmtUH3m47>

That is all for today.

Below are the dates for the activities this term.

## **Calendar**

	<i>Dates to Remember !</i>
1-7 Dec	Term I Exams
8-10 Dec	Inter-House Games (Badminton – Table Tennis)
10 Dec	Christmas Dress up day/Last Day of School

Thank you.

**Barnali Guha**



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