



SWISS COTTAGE SECONDARY SCHOOL

www.swisscottagesec.moe.edu.sg

Learning for Life Programme (LLP)

Thoughtful Leadership – Looking Out From Within

How can we learn more about a person from a different cultural background? Why ask questions to know more about people from different cultures? How can curiosity be communicated with warmth – without being misunderstood as nosy or insensitive?

Through a 'Chat in the Lift', small groups of students meet and strike up conversations with a Buddhist monk, an African expatriate or a Hindu lady. These attempts at casual talk are recorded and reviewed in a "safe" environment. The 'thinking' behind word choices becomes visible through fun exploration and meaningful learning for both teachers and students alike. Thinking routines help them stop and consider enabling communication options. These lesson experiences unpack and deepen an appreciation of the range of cross-communication skills that prepare students for a culturally diverse world. After all, should we not consider the impact that our words, tone and body language can have on others?

In a lesson called "Diff-ability", students explore tasks in the shoes of a person with a disability through simple simulation activities. Here, students take on the roles of the disabled, the powerless or the bullied to empathise with people on the fringe. They then go on to question xenophobia and debate the pros and cons of immigration, shifting through the perspectives of the layman, stakeholders and the government.



Students having "A Chat in the Lift" during a GP lesson

These experiences, part of the school's Glocal Perspectives Programme, offer students a framework for thinking – to empower them to respond confidently to contemporary issues. Students get to reflect on ways to adjust their attitudes and dispositions, in response to heightened awareness of relevant concerns. The real-world scenarios that the students explore transcend the local context into global examples. The global examples invite them to look further and understand the world in context, so that they can grow in confidence when navigating our increasingly interconnected world.

I learnt that we should respect other cultures and ask questions after thinking through whether what we are going to ask will be hurtful or insulting to others. If not, we are only going to have inter-racial tensions and distrust.

Emily Goh, 2S4 (2023)



Swiss – Home of Thoughtful Leaders



Applied Learning Programme (ALP)

Swiss Thoughtful Leaders Creating a Sustainable World



Setting up the Raised Bed Garden



Playing a part to recycle plastic bottles

Sustainable development is very important, especially when faced with climate change. That's why this is a great opportunity to apply what we have learnt to slow down climate change and make Singapore a sustainable place to live in.

Divyesh Govindraj Kumar, Sec 4 (2022)

Click [here](#) to learn more about our Applied Learning Programme



Swiss ALP provides our students opportunities to become change agents to serve the community and beyond.

Our Sustainability Focused Curriculum introduces our students to material and environmental sciences and their application in the real world while our Specialisation Programme includes special projects such as investigations on soil and water qualities for deeper insights into our impact on the environment and vice versa as well as block coding using M5GO to create a prototype to address real world problems.

There are various campaigns to support our Zero Waste movement in school. For instance, we have composting bins situated at the canteen to allow us to use the waste as fertiliser for our vegetables planted at the Raised Bed Garden. To inject fun and excitement into recycling, our students created a technology enabled recycling cart which provides students a chance to win prizes when they drop their washed bottles into the cart.

Under the Science Talent Development Programme, our Science Ambassadors and Maker Education Leaders (MEL) play a part in helping Singapore achieve its SG Green Plan 2030 and advocate for what matters to them. Besides taking part in competitions, they undergo training sessions to understand the science behind growing vegetables and plants and learn to conduct simple soil test (NPK) to gain a deeper understanding of how to increase the yield.

The Science Ambassadors and MEL work in tandem to advocate for change to benefit our community and beyond and rise up to the global call in playing a part in healing our planet.

Talent Development Programme

Learning is Borderless!

At Swiss Cottage, students who want to explore what is beyond the classroom get to do just that.

Under the Talent Development Programme (TDP), a group of Upper Secondary students got a first-hand experience in watching a Parliament Sitting - live. The group returned after their Budget Day 2023 experience to share their learning during Morning Assembly. After all, shouldn't every citizen appreciate the need for budgeting - at the personal & government levels?

And then there are issues like Food Security and Digital Citizenship that are best understood through an immersive experience. The TDP student leaders designed a 2-day Conference for the Sec 3 student cohort - the Swiss Social Action Forum, which was inspired by the Model United Nations. Here, 'ministerial-level' discussions were facilitated by student Chairpersons. Every student got to confront and negotiate the multiple perspectives that plague decision-making and problem-solving at the community or national level. They crafted position papers that proposed multi-faceted solutions and pitched them to persuade their varied audiences.

The TDP provides platforms that stretch the intellectual capacity of the talented students from all levels, so that they can explore more complex problem-solving via competitions, conferences, workshops and project management.

While there will always be uncertainty in outcomes, the journey of growth is always gratifying.

The Swiss Social Action Forum (SSAF) was a rather unique and more accessible adaptation of the Model United Nations. Having chaired both the conference and a MUN, the SSAF is more authentic in that it allows all students to have some fun with responding to issues directly relevant to us. My class did Food Security which is quite crucial because of the current state of the country in 2022; we are highly dependent on others for our food sources. Shortly after the SSAF, Malaysia announced the ban on fresh chicken exports to Singapore!

Dorine Wu, 4S3 (2023)



Swiss Social Action Forum: Stakeholder Discussions on the needs and challenges of the various stakeholders involved in Food Security.



TDP students sharing what they learnt about governance through the Budget Day Parliament Sitting

Student Leadership

Student Leaders Participating in Policymaking @ Swiss



Student Leaders facilitating a Town Hall Conference



Sports Leader briefing the students before the Outdoor Navigation activity

Being a part of the SMC meetings is an enriching experience as my team and I broadened our perspectives on the approaches to improve the school. This can help us create a more conducive and safer environment for both students and staff. During the process, the experience has led us to discover how we could be more open minded and receptive to assimilate new ideas to make a more informed decision.

Johnathon Yeo,
Student Council President, 4S6 (2023)

Our Student Leaders play a key role in enabling the voices of our students to be heard as part of the policymaking process at Swiss.

Student Councillors organise Town Hall Conferences where they facilitate discussions on how the school can provide students with a better learning environment. This is followed by an engagement session with different groups of students in Focus Group Discussions to understand their individual needs and brainstorm possible solutions. The Student Councillors then make recommendations to the School Management Committee (SMC) on matters such as the Revised School Mobile Phone Policy, school shoes policy and the Personal Learning Device Usage Policy.

In response to students' requests and suggestions, Sports Councillors initiate various student initiatives to promote physical and mental well-being of the student population. These initiatives include a free-play student management system for the booking of different venues at different time-slots for sporting activities, outdoor activities in preparation for Sec 3 OBS camp and the annual Swiss Olympics to promote class and school bonding.

Our students' involvement in the policymaking process extends to them sitting in for SMC meetings and meetings with School Leaders to give the school management their insights on initiatives such as the implementation of HBL and academic consultations.

In Swiss, your opinion matters!

Click [here](#) to learn more about our SCSS Open House



CCA

Marching to the beat is no mean feat!



Swiss NCC Command Band in NDP

I am proud to be a cadet of the NCC Command Band. It gives me an immense sense of pride to be able to conduct the Band at so many national events and this makes me motivated to give my best at every training session.

Cadet Bandmaster, Master Sergeant Ang Wei Jun,
4S3 (2023)

Click [here](#) to learn more about CCAs @ Swiss



If you ever find yourself at Swiss Cottage, you may be surprised by a unique sight in the quadrangle – a group of students dressed in the National Cadet Corps (NCC) uniform, marching and playing the latest pop hits on their musical instruments. This is none other than the Singapore NCC Command Band!

What sets this CCA apart from others? According to Drum Major, Master Sergeant Oengus Voon, the Band's unique experiences of representing the NCC and Swiss Cottage, and providing musical support for various uniformed organizations, enhance the cadets' resilience and give the males a head start before National Service.

Beyond their exceptional training in music and leadership, the Band also has a strong commitment to serving the greater community. In addition to performing at various NCC events, the Singapore NCC Command Band has provided musical support for the Singapore Armed Forces, Singapore Civil Defence Force, and the British High Commission.

Through their musical performances and community service, the Band exemplifies the values of teamwork, discipline, and service, making it an inspiration to all young Singaporeans. The Band's dedication to representing their school and country through music is truly remarkable and shows the importance of character development in CCA.



Did You Know?

iCreate @ Swiss, Beyond The Four Walls



Using 3D printer for model creation

iCreate is a specially designed learning space for creativity and innovation to allow our students to tinker and materialise their ideas. It is well-equipped with advanced equipment like 3D printers, 3D pens and specialised cutting tools to support our students and staff in their journey of transforming their ideas into reality. Students are also given the opportunity to augment their learning of theoretical concepts through model creation such as creating volcano models to deepen the concepts learnt in Geography lessons. The centre is manned by students under the Maker Education Leader programme that helps to strengthen a culture of innovation at Swiss.

Student Initiated Projects

Change Making Starts with Us

Student-initiated projects (SIP) illustrate the power of individuals to give back to our community and the world at large.

SIP#1 - After going through the Swiss Social Action Forum, exploring the topic of Food Shortage, an inspired group of students from Class 4S1 initiated an awareness building campaign about the issue of food shortage in Singapore. They rallied their class to organise a food donation drive for the social organization, Food from the Heart. The collected food items were then distributed to families in need.

SIP#2 - A group of Sec 4 students, upon realizing that there was a



Student-initiated project video to promote wellbeing

general sense of stress and anxiety among peers, decided to bring some good cheer and positivity to the community. They created videos based on interviews with staff and students, sharing real narratives and encouragement to promote student wellbeing.

SIP#3 - A group of like-minded Sec 2 students shared their passion for coding by conducting mini-coding workshops for interested fellow schoolmates. Their SIP was in response



SIP Food Donation Drive

to a growing popularity in Swiss for coding, and they wanted to help more students to be equipped with the knowledge and skills of coding on the Arduino platform.

These SIP provide a glimpse of the brand of leadership encouraged in Swiss Cottage - the drive to care through action and advocacy!

Click [here](#) to learn more about Swiss Hand Sanitiser Project 2020



Internationalisation Programme



Our Vietnamese visitors from Hanoi



Forging friendships beyond borders

Hosting our first group of visitors from Vietnam in March 2023 kickstarted our internationalisation programme, which was put on hold for 3 years due to COVID-19.

Our Sec 3 Student Leaders took the lead to plan an engaging and meaningful 2-day experience for the students and staff from Ngô Gia Tự Middle School from Hanoi. Strong friendships were built and our Student Leaders look forward to visiting their new-found friends when they embark on their Overseas Student Leadership Trip to Vietnam in May 2023.

In Swiss, we push boundaries to forge meaningful relationships!

Click [here](#) to learn more about CCAs @ Swiss

