



# SWISS COTTAGE SECONDARY SCHOOL

[www.swisscottagesec.moe.edu.sg](http://www.swisscottagesec.moe.edu.sg)



Swiss students on an immersion trip to Japan and enjoying the cultural experiences offered

## LEARNING FOR LIFE PROGRAMME (LLP):

### The World is Our Classroom

At Swiss Cottage, you may find students role-playing as world leaders, defending their country's immigration policies. They decide if they want to isolate their country or open their doors wide. After learning about each country's needs, they debate the pros and cons of immigration.

Through this, they learn why some countries are so resistant to immigrants. They also learn why some risk their lives to leave their homelands.

This takes place during our Glocal Perspectives (GP) Programme, which introduces global and local issues to the students. Immigration has a Singaporean context, too. Students learn about why people, including migrant workers, migrate to Singapore. At the end of the year, they visit local worker dormitories

to gain a deeper understanding about the challenges migrant workers face.

Takeaways? Our students learn about global issues and how they affect us locally.

The learning continues in the real world too.

Secondary 2 students get to pick a country of their choice to broaden their perspectives about the country. Some choose Bangkok, Thailand to find out more about their cultural heritage, while others choose Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam to serve community needs.

Selected students have the opportunity to learn about technological advancements in Osaka. Geography students get hands-on with coastal fieldwork investigations in Sedili. Others embark on a trip to Shanghai

to learn about their sophisticated SMART and green technology, while appreciating their rich history.

These global experiences widen students' perspectives of what's going on around them. At the same time, they grow confidence in navigating in our increasingly interconnected world.

“Through Glocal Perspective, I have learnt to take multiple perspectives and have a better understanding of the world around me.”

Semanti Bandyopadhyay, Sec 2 (2019)





#### APPLIED LEARNING PROGRAMME (ALP):

## Science to Save Our Planet

*How can we meet the needs of today, without depleting our resources?*

*How can we use science to secure the future of our planet?*

If you think that such big conundrums are only for scientists and environmentalists, think again.

At Swiss Cottage, our students explore such questions through their Science lessons and Applied Sciences programme.

When students enter at Secondary 1, they are introduced to Applied Sciences concepts infused in normal lessons. They learn about material and environmental science, and how it can be applied in the real world.

For example, in the Paper Towel research project, our students experimented on different brands of paper towels to find out how durable and value for money they are. This leads to the learning of filtration concepts and how filters are used to create clean water. They brainstorm ways to bring

clean water to vulnerable communities who don't have access to it.

To introduce the Secondary Two students to the world of engineering, they are tasked to create a wind-powered mobile. Following which, our students use the Design Thinking Process to make further improvements to their prototype. They learn about renewable energy, and use recycled materials.

For our students with a greater interest in the sciences, they get to join our Science



Students checking measurements from the data logger

Talent Development Programme, enhancing their knowledge of science and technology beyond the classroom.

They take on investigative projects and join competitions to challenge themselves. They also become science ambassadors to fellow Swiss students and students from overseas.

Equipped with the knowledge and will to act, these students are well on their way to saving our planet!

“Exploring science through knowledge of sustainable development helps me to see the world differently and not take it for granted.”

Insyirah Nabillah Bte Mohd Faizal, Sec 2 (2019)



Scan for video on the Thoughtful Leadership Programme in Swiss Cottage

#### TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

## Imagination, Ideas, Solution!

“Of course we should allow extra-terrestrial beings to live amongst us. To deny friendship with ultra-intelligent beings is a danger to us and our survival!”

Such ideas may sound odd, but considering unlikely events has helped to expand students' worldview beyond their immediate knowledge and encouraged them to think creatively.

To prepare the students in the Talent Development Programme (TDP), they research on various topics, from marginalised communities, to smart technology and even unsolved mysteries. But the motion could be anything—and they have to think on their feet, and out of the box.

“The programme is tough, because we have to learn things outside the curriculum. But we get to learn fascinating facts like black markets and untold histories. It's general knowledge that we have never thought about.”

The students train hard in preparation for the World Scholar's Cup (WSC), and set their eyes on the Global Round. Each year, the qualified teams get to compete in places like Hanoi and Beijing.

And they enjoy the process too.

“We are very close to our teammates because we work so hard together. It was also fun to make friends with people from all over the world.”



Students simulate challenges faced by the elderly

At the Global Round, they go against scholars near and far, from Vietnam, to Australia, to Abu Dhabi. It was eye-opening to interact with people from such diverse backgrounds.

Besides the WSC, TDP students get to choose from a variety of programmes that suit their interests.

Some take part in the Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS) Programme. They go deep into a pressing world issue, such as Education Disparity or Climate Change, and come up with possible solutions. They evaluate the effectiveness of a solution, a skill they have found useful in everyday life.

Others take part in Destination Imagination. Here they hone their creative thinking to solve challenges. The competition also has a performance element too. For some, dramatisation is a step out of their comfort

zone. But it has helped them grow more confident of themselves. Last year, the team flew to Tennessee in the U.S. to compete on the world stage.

The programmes in the TDP focus on developing students' critical and inventive thinking. Those in the programme enjoy the intellectual challenge and the unique experiences offered. For students who want to expand their horizons, the sky is the limit.

“If it doesn't say you can't, it means you can. You've got to be imaginative in solving the problems. That's the fun part.”

Isabelle Hakim, Sec 4 (2019)



#### ALP (DREAM MAKERS):

## Excited to Invent!

Have you seen a vending machine that dispenses goodies when a correct answer is given for a Math question? How about a basketball hoop that lights up with each shot? These are some of the toys you will find presented by Swiss students during the ALP showcase.

One is the "Piano Spinner", with rainbow panels and a wheel that can spin to attract young children's attention. It comes with instructions to teach children dancing and jumping actions.

These products are some of the prototypes designed and produced by the Swiss Cottage students as part of their six-month interdisciplinary project. The products are then exhibited to their peers and juniors who are curious to learn the mechanisms behind the automated toys.

The students embark on a series of programmes which include lessons on Design Thinking, technology-infused lessons to learn Arduino or a Micro:bit board programming. They then attend Design and Technology lessons to produce the outer casing, culminating in an attractive casing for their toy.



Swiss students brainstorming their toy invention

With what they have learned, they have free play to create a product; from an aid for the elderly, tools to protect the environment, to even carnival toys! The possibilities are as endless as their imagination.



Scan for video on  
Dream Makers

**"I really enjoyed this entire project. It was interesting to be able to programme my own toy."**

Bernyce Goh, Sec 3 (2019)



Planning activities for their peers at D'Hangout



Students playing pool at D'Hangout

#### STUDENT DEVELOPMENT:

## Let's Hang Out

Head down the quiet stairwell behind the canteen, and you may be surprised to discover a spacious room with a pool table, plush sofas, board games and even a Nintendo Wii!

Students manage the space themselves and also plan afternoon activities for their peers. Those looking for a comfortable place to play games with friends often make their way here. It is a fun way to learn leadership and organisational skills as they take ownership of this space.

#### STUDENT LEADERSHIP:

## To Walk in the Shoes of Others

*What is the best way to empathise with someone who is different from you?*

You walk in their shoes, of course. Or, for us Swiss, we wear their gloves. It is hard to feel much with thick gloves on. Just imagine the difficulty you will have losing your sense of touch. That is exactly what the student councillors wanted their peers to experience!

In order to help their peers understand the challenges many elderly folks have, Swiss Cottage student councillors started the Eldercare Project.

One tool they designed is a pair of blurred spectacles that participants wear in order to experience what limited vision feels like. With the blurred spectacles on, participants find their way through a simulated clinic and go through an eye test.

Through these experiential activities, the participants experience first-hand, the challenges that the elderly may experience.



Students simulate challenges faced by the elderly





### STUDENT-INITIATED PROJECTS:

## What new initiative will you start?

It started out as a hobby.

Whenever they could, they would make their way to the field to play Ultimate Frisbee. Then it became regular sessions. And as their desire to see improvements grew stronger, they started to organise weekly trainings.

Today, Ultimate Frisbee is a thriving interest group. Besides taking part in (and winning!) tournaments, they have also started to organise their own tournaments.



Swiss Ultimate Team in action

Over the years, self-initiated projects have gained traction in Swiss Cottage.

In 2017, a group of Secondary 3 students from the Publication and Media Club (PMC) produced a video to commemorate all the Secondary 4 leaders for their contributions to the school. They called it the Memory Lane Project.

A conversation about poor handwriting among peers became the catalyst for an initiative to teach good penmanship. The Secondary 4 students spent several afternoons conducting Calligraphy workshops.

Share-a-tot was a project to spread positivity. With a blackboard and some chalks, this group of students encouraged their peers to share words of kindness with one another. By the end of the project, the blank slate became a rainbow canvas of encouraging words.

These initiatives show an independent spirit that has been ignited. What will ignite your spirit today?

### CCA – MILITARY BAND:

## Marching to a New Beat!

Walk past the military band room at Swiss Cottage, and you might stop in your tracks – because they're listening to Adele.

"We aren't taking a break!" says Sabrina Rifqah, the Secondary Three Cornet sectional leader, "we are learning our next performance piece."

They've already learned "Hello" by Adele and "Counting Stars" by One Republic and are looking out for the latest hits for future showpieces.

This does not mean that Swiss Winds cannot be serious. They have participated in the Military Tattoo in SEA Games 2015 and are seasoned participants in the National Day Parade almost yearly.

As the only National Cadet Corps Command Band in Singapore, Swiss Winds also performs at World War II Commemoration ceremonies organised by the SAF Veterans League and the annual Remembrance Day.

In 2016, the band marched around the Istana grounds during the Chinese New Year Open House, entertaining the public.

With the many accolades under their belt, what do they feel most proud of?

"Our military cadet corps uniform!" says Danielle Goh, a Secondary Two clarinettist, "And being able to dance and groove along to the music while we are performing!"



Swiss Winds at the Istana

## AT A GLANCE

### Address

3 Bukit Batok Street 34,  
Singapore 659322

### Phone Number

6563 7173

### School Website

www.swisscottagesec.moe.edu.sg

### School Vision

Thoughtful Leaders

### How to get there

#### Nearest MRT Stations

Bukit Batok, Bukit Gombak

#### Bus Services

187, 188, 985, 945

### Distinctive Programmes

#### Applied Learning Programme:

Applied Sciences for Sustainable Development

#### Learning for Life Programme:

Thoughtful Leadership Programme (Global Perspectives, Values in Action, Student Leadership)

### Subjects Offered

Additional Mathematics, Art, Biology, Chemistry, Chinese, Chinese Literature, Computer Application, Design and Technology, English, Food and Nutrition, Food Studies, Geography, Humanities (Social Studies, Geography), Humanities (Social Studies, History), Humanities (Social Studies, Literature in English, Literature in Malay, Literature in Chinese), Higher Art, Higher Chinese, Higher Malay, Higher Tamil, History, Literature in English, Literature in Malay, Malay, Mathematics, Music, Nutrition and Food Science, Physics, Science, Science (Chemistry, Biology), Science (Physics, Chemistry), Principles of Account, Smart Electrical Technology, Tamil

### CCAs

#### Physical Sports:

Badminton (Girls), Basketball, Bowling (Boys), Floorball, Football (Boys)

#### Uniformed Groups:

Boys' Brigade, Girl Guides, National Cadet Corps (Air), National Police Cadet Corps (Boys), Scouts, National Civil Defence Cadet Corps

#### Visual and Performing Arts:

Dance, Chinese Orchestra, Choir, Drama, Malay Dance, National Cadet Corps Command Band

#### Clubs and Societies:

Publications and Media Club, Science and Technology