

St. Joseph's College Support Measures

In order to help new S1 students adapt to the English environment of the school and to help students continue to learn in English and improve their English proficiency, our school has the following support measures:

A. Administrative measures:

1. In order to recruit more experienced English teachers, the school has been trying to offer GM instead of CM positions since 2014. In 2017-2018, 1 newly employed English teacher is a GM teacher. In 2018-2019, 1 additional English teacher is employed. Starting from 2019-2020, all employed English teachers (under EDB establishment and contract) are GM teachers.
2. All work is shared equally among all English teachers according to their interests, expertise and experience. It is hoped that while students' learning can be enhanced, teachers also enjoy a sense of achievement and job satisfaction at work. All teachers are encouraged to take professional courses during the year.

B. Enrichment programmes:

1. After-school creative writing classes have been organized for S1-4 since 2014.
2. Regular debating classes have been organized for students from S1 and above since 2011.
3. Elite writing classes for S5 and S6 have been introduced since 2019 with an aim to help potential students attain a higher level (5**) in the English Subject in DSE.
4. Regular and formal exam paper drillings are held among S6 in the school hall. Students will be shown their ranking among the whole form after each formal practice.

C. Remedial measures:

1. Since 2011, summer bridging courses have been made compulsory to students not coming from our primary school (SJPS) and optional to those from SJPS.
2. Since 2011, summer classes have been made compulsory to students who fail the English subject in the final examination.
3. Small class teaching is adopted in S1 and S2 to cater for learners' diversity.
4. Starting from 2017 September, S4 students who rank bottom 20-25 in the English final examination will have to attend the Saturday remedial English class.
5. Teachers of the lower forms will be meeting the weakest students in their classes once a month to monitor their learning progress.

6. S1-3 students who rank bottom 20-25 will have to attend an after-school English class. This class was introduced in 2020 and conducted in an online mode because of the pandemic.

D. Increased exposure:

1. Students are encouraged to participate in various internal and external competitions, e.g. writing, public speaking, and debate.
2. “Student Mentorship Scheme” has been introduced by the school to offer assistance to academically weak students – senior form students are invited to help junior form students with their academic work.
3. Different organizations and guests are invited to give talks on different topics and issues during the year to students. Intellectual exchange is expected.
4. The English Department is dedicated to creating a reading culture within the school. A reading award scheme has been introduced to award students who read extensively.
5. The English Department aims to hold library book exhibition regularly in the school during lunch hour so that students are more exposed to books available in school. A small class library is set up in each S4 classroom so that a reading culture can also be established in the new campus and students can enjoy the opportunity to borrow books from school.
6. English magazine and e-reading platform will be subscribed.
7. Guest speakers will be invited to school.
8. Outings or excursions will be arranged if possible.