

## Cambridge Assessment International Education Cambridge International School



## NINGBO BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter 2 September 5th, 2025



## Confidence, Courage, and Championships

## Tiffany's Double Win

This August, our Year 7A student Tiffany Zhuo achieved an incredible milestone —winning both the National High School Debate League of China (NHSDLC) Championship and WeSchool Speech & Debate Association (WSDA) National Finals.







The NHSDLC National Championship is one of China's most prestigious English debate competitions for secondary students, focusing on critical thinking, logical argumentation, and public speaking.

WSDA focuses on fostering academic speech and debate through a wide range of events and exchange activities, fully harnessing the educational value of public speaking and debate.



Among strong competitors from top schools in Shanghai, Beijing, and beyond, Tiffany stood out with exceptional poise and confidence.

This double victory represents far more than just two trophies. It reflects Tiffany's determination to step out of her comfort zone and shine on a national stage.

In preparation, she devoted herself to both prepared and impromptu speaking, constantly refining her body language, emotional delivery, gestures, and voice control. Although she had a strong English foundation, she pushed herself further—improving pronunciation, expanding vocabulary through news reading, and building comprehensive language fluency





Her mother, Ada Wang, shared:

"When Tiffany first joined NBIS in Year 4, she could hardly understand English. Just two years later, she outperformed students from international schools in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou. The moment we saw NBIS on the winners' list, we were overwhelmed with pride. Even other Ningbo students, though technically competitors, were moved to tears, cheering for her. NBIS has created such a warm and immersive English environment—it's become like home for our whole family!"

Congratulations, Tiffany! Your journey is a true inspiration, and we are incredibly proud of your achievement and spirit.







## **NURSERY A**

By Dana Michelle Carnemolla, Mia Li, and Michelle Xie

We love working with malleable materials including play dough and kinetic sand. Children have been displaying increasing control and coordination over a variety of movements involving their arms, hands and fingers e.g. pounding, squeezing or rolling the dough. In addition, they have been using their thumb and forefinger to add flour and glitter to their designs.















We enjoy participating in imaginary play scenarios in our role play area! Children have been pretending to grill food and make a variety of dishes for both peers and teachers. In addition, the children have been making cakes and singing, "Happy Birthday!"

We love to invent and design using a variety of tools, such as LEGO bricks, train sets, and widgets.













Children have been doing a lovely job during our "Morning Meetings", telling the teachers how they feel (sad, sleepy, happy) using simple sentences. To choose a song each child gets LEGO brick and puts it on the song card, whichever card has the tallest tower is the song we sing. Great job, friends!







## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

——Stacey Rochelle Vosloo

On Monday, September 1, 2025, the entrance of NBIS was filled with excitement as students arrived for the first day of school. The staff team was ready bright and early, warmly welcoming each child with big smiles and helping them settle in. Teachers greeted families, offered guidance, and lent a hand with bags to make sure everyone could easily find their classrooms. It was a cheerful and smooth start to the new school year!



We greeted students in a cozy classroom designed to be calm and organized, with engaging activities tailored to various learning styles. The children had fun with building challenges and teamwork, making our first day exciting and memorable.

orinary Section

## Welcome Back to School!



Year 1A, started the new school year with lots of excitement and bright smiles as everyone reconnected with both old and new friends and met their new teachers. We shared fun stories about our holidays and quickly settled back into our routines. To help everyone feel comfortable and get to know each other, we played some fun welcome games and icebreaker activities. In this happy and relaxed setting, my students introduced themselves, shared what makes them unique, and made new friends. These activities helped us learn to work together and communicate, so each child could begin their learning adventure with confidence and a positive attitude.

# THE SECONDARY ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

#### **EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

At our school, the English Department plays a vital role in shaping well-rounded, confident learners. It is more than just teaching language skills; it's about fostering critical thinking, cultural awareness, and a love for literature.

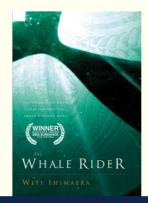
#### **OUR CURRICULUM**

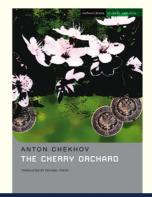
The English curriculum is designed to meet a variety of learning needs through the Cambridge framework. In lower secondary, students have the opportunity to study English as a First Language or English as a Second Language, helping them develop foundational skills. As they progress to IGCSE, we introduce courses such as World Literature and English as an Additional Language, ensuring that both high-achieving students and those requiring extra support can thrive and effectively develop their language abilities. For senior students in AS and A-level, we offer options including English Literature and English Language, depending on whether students decide to take the courses at this level.

#### FOSTERING A LOVE OF LITERATURE

A highlight of the English Department is its focus on literature. Through engaging with diverse texts from various cultures and eras, students gain valuable insights into human experiences and society's values. This exposure helps cultivate empathy and cultural understanding—a crucial attribute in today's global society. We take pride in offering a diverse range of literary works. Notably, in our World Literature classes, students explore texts such as:

- A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry, a pioneering African American playwright and contemporary writer addressing issues of race and family.
- Whalerider by Witi Ihimaera, a New Zealand Maori contemporary writer exploring Maori culture and identity.
- The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekhov, a Russian classic play examining social change and the decline of the aristocracy in early 20th-century Russia.





#### READING INITIATIVE

This year, the English Department are introducing a new reading initiative. The books listed below have been carefully selected to reflect the expected reading level of each year group. While some titles may present a greater challenge than others, the intention is to expose students to a wide range of ideas, authors, and genres.

Each first-language English student is required to select four books from their year group's list to read over the course of the academic year. Reading progress will be monitored at the end of each semester, with students expected to complete two books per semester. In addition, students will submit a personal response for each book, reflecting on their thoughts and feelings, making connections to real life, and drawing comparisons with other works they have read.

During class library sessions, students are also encouraged to form book clubs in order to share ideas and engage in meaningful discussions about their reading.

#### **Year 10 Reading List**

- 1. The Alchemist Paulo Coelho
- 2. Oliver Twist Charles Dickens
- 3. *Hamlet* (Graphic Novel) William Shakespeare
- 4. Fever Dream Samanta Schweblin
- 5. In the Sea There Are Crocodiles Fabio Geda
- 6. Atonement Ian McEwan
- 7. The Outsiders S. E. Hinton
- 8. Petals of Blood Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

#### **Year 9 Reading List**

- 1. Of Mice and Men John Steinbeck
- 2. King of Nothing Nathanael Lessore
- 3. Future Hopes: Hopeful Stories in a Time of Climate Change (ed. Lauren James)
- 4. Every Line of You Naomi Gibson
- 5. To Kill a Mockingbird Harper Lee
- 6. Lord of the Flies William Golding
- 7.1 Am Malala Malala Yousafzai
- 8. The House on Mango Street Sandra Cisneros

#### Year 8 Reading List

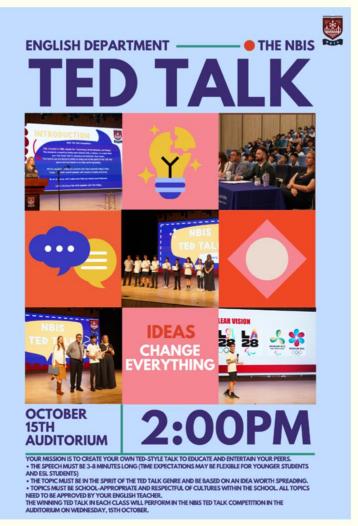
- 1. *Hatchet* Gary Paulsen
- 2. The Teenage Guide to Digital Wellbeing Tanya Goodin
- 3. Wink Rob Harrell
- 4. Refugee Boy Benjamin Zephaniah
- 5. Z for Zachariah Robert C. O'Brien
- 6. Walkabout James Vance Marshall
- 7. The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Sue Townsend
- 8. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* Mildred D. Taylor

#### **Year 7 Reading List**

- 1. The Call of the Wild Jack London
- 2. *The Cay* Theodore Taylor
- 3. Flour Babies Anne Fine
- 4. The Giver Lois Lowry
- 5. *The Secret Garden* Frances Hodgson Burnett
- 6. Can You See Me? Libby Scott & Rebecca Westcott
- 7. Glowrushes Roberto Piumini
- 8. Freedom (1783) Catherine Johnson



The English Department also hosts a variety of engaging events throughout the year. Upcoming activities include the exciting TED Talk competition, where students can develop their public speaking and presentation skills; the poetry competition, which encourages artistic expression and a love for literary art; Read-a-Thon, motivating students to deepen their reading habits and explore new genres; the Battle of the Books, a fun and competitive quiz that tests students' knowledge of literature; and the annual Spelling Bee, which sharpens spelling skills and promotes healthy competition. These events provide valuable opportunities for students to showcase their talents outside the classroom and celebrate their achievements in English.



## CREATING A SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

We are committed to providing an inclusive atmosphere where every student feels valued and inspired to participate. Our dedicated ESL support (Ms. Fay Mi, Mr. Sean Armstrong, Ms. Olia Efremova, and Mr. Paul Du) offer extra support through after-school and lunchtime sessions tailored to individual needs.

Furthermore, some teachers work closely with students during content-heavy lessons, such as science classes, helping students to deepen their understanding and improve their skills. This collaborative effort ensures that students can succeed academically and are more capable of expressing their ideas clearly across all subjects.

In a world that's more connected than ever, the English Department does much more than teach language - it shapes confident, compassionate thinkers. We're committed to preparing students not just for exams, but for life as curious, openminded individuals.

#### **MEET OUR TEAM:**



Y10 & Y11 English as a Second Language, Y11 English as an Additional Language, Y12 & Y13 Further English

Paul.du@nbis.net.cn

Room 1-406



MR YASSINE KHAYA

Y7 ESL

Yassine.khaya@nbis.net.cn

The Think Tank



MR IVAN MUHOV

Y9A English, Y11 First Language English, Year 11 World Literature, Y13 English Literature & English Language

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Room 1-402



MS OLIA EFREMOVA

Y7 & Y8 English, Y10 & 11 Travel & Tourism, ESL Support

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MR CHRIS BLACK

Y7 English

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Room 1-406



MR SEAN ARMSTRONG

Y8 & 9 ESL, Y13 Language, ESL support

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Room 1-402



#### MS ALICIA FROOME

Head of English, Student Council Advisor, Y10 World Literature, Y12 & 13 Travel & Tourism.

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Room 1-408



Y8 & 9 English, Y10 & 11 English First Language English

Rachel.kirk@nbis.net.cn

Room 1-416



MS FAY MI

Y10 English as an Addtional Language, ESL Support

Fay.mi@nbis.net.cn

Room 1-416

## ART OF THE WEEK

#### Welcome Back to a New School Year

We are delighted to welcome all parents and NBIS families back to another exciting school year. In the Art class, we are eager to see the creativity, curiosity, and imagination our students will bring to their work. This year promises to be full of bold ideas and artistic discoveries, and we are especially looking forward to celebrating these achievements together at our end of year Art Exhibition.

#### **Congratulations to Year 10**

We are incredibly proud of our Year 10 students for their outstanding success in the IGCSE Art and Design examinations. Achieving A grades in the Cambridge assessments is a remarkable accomplishment and reflects not only their talent, but also their dedication and perseverance. Their achievements are a source of pride for the entire NBIS community, and we look forward to seeing how they will continue to grow, inspire, and shine as young artists in the years ahead.

#### Ms.Sam, Secondary Art & Design Teacher







<u>Yingqi Long - IGCSE Art & Design: A\*</u>



Alyssa Bellotti - IGCSE Art & Design: A



Elenor Smith - IGCSE Art & Design: A



<u>Gabi Pauletti - IGCSE Art & Design: A</u>

#### <u>Looking Ahead</u>

As we begin this school year, our focus will be on encouraging students to take creative risks, explore new materials, and develop their own artistic voices. From sketching and painting to printmaking and sculpture, students will have the opportunity to experiment widely and find what inspires them most. We are excited to see how each student will grow, and we look forward to sharing their journey with you throughout the year.

Ms.Sam, Secondary Art & Design Teacher

### Meet our new staff!



Name: Adeel Ali
Department: Secondary School
Position: Art Teacher

Adeel graduated from the University of Salford with a BA (Hons) in Fashion Design and a PGCE from the University of Cumbria. He has 8 years of teaching experience in art and design at Zhenjiang Fashion Institute of Technology and has recently been working at Huamao International School as the BTEC lead internal verifier for the past 4 years. In his spare time, he likes reading books, cooking, traveling with friends and family, and enjoying a good cup of coffee.

Sharon Govender holds a PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand and has 27 years of experience teaching primary and middle school in South Africa. She has worked from mathematics teacher/HOD to homeroom teacher in both public and private schools. Recently, she spent two years teaching in China, embracing new cultures and teaching methods.

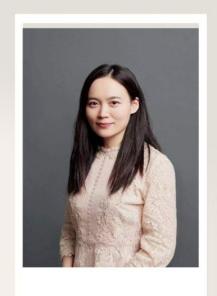
Sharon has taught various grades and subjects, adapting her approach to meet students' needs and create inclusive, engaging classrooms. She is also experienced in curriculum development, mentorship, and cross-cultural collaboration, all based on a student-centered philosophy.

Passionate about lifelong learning, she actively pursues educational research and professional growth. Sharon is excited to join the team, share her insights, and learn from colleagues to inspire and empower students.



Name: Sharon Govender Department: Primary School Position: Homeroom Teacher

Jill is a local from Ningbo. She graduated with an MSc in Finance and Management from Loughborough University, UK. She has been teaching Economics for ten years, previously at HD Ningbo School and most recently at Wenzhou Semir United International School, where she has also been the Director of University Counselling Center for the past two years. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, painting and traveling.



Name: Jill Lu
Department: Secondary School
Position: University Counsellor and
Secondary Economics Teacher



Name: Racheal Thelaumbalam Department: Primary School Position: Primary Teacher

Originally from Malaysia, Racheal brings with her over 12 years of experience in international education, having taught in both Malaysia and Indonesia. She holds a Bachelor's degree Education from the University of Roehampton and a Master's in Teaching and Learning from Taylor's University. Throughout her career, Racheal has taken on a range of leadership responsibilities, serving Department including Head of as (Mathematics). She is deeply passionate about both teaching and educational leadership, and is committed to lifelong learning to continuously enhance her practice. Her goal is to contribute meaningfully to the development of global citizens through engaging, purposeful learning experiences. Outside of school, Racheal enjoys travelling, reading, and volunteering-particularly in animal shelters and environmental initiatives. She is excited to share her expertise and looks forward to a wonderful experience at NBIS filled with learning, growth, and development.



Hello! I'm Ayswaria, originally from Malaysia, and I'm honored to be joining the NBIS community as an Inclusion Support Teacher. With over a decade of experience in international schools across Malaysia, Japan, and China, I've had the privilege of working with diverse learners and helping them discover their strengths. I hold a degree in Psychology, a Master's in Counselling, and I'm currently completing my PGCE to deepen my teaching practice.

My passion lies in inclusive education—creating safe, supportive spaces where every child can thrive emotionally, socially, and academically. I love working closely with teachers, families, and students to build strong relationships and tailor learning support to each child's needs.

Outside of work, I enjoy travelling, reading, cooking, and dancing. I look forward to contributing to the vibrant life at NBIS and working together with students, families, and colleagues

Name: Ayswaria Kumar Department: Primary/Whole School Position: Inclusion Lead/SEN Teacher

Petroné is a South African national. She graduated with a B.Ed teaching degree from the University of the Free State in South Africa, with Psychology as a major. She is currently completing an MA in Special Education. She has been teaching mainly Mathematics and Science for the past 12 years, working specifically with students with learning barriers and difficulties. For the past year she has been teaching in Ningbo, familiarizing herself with the environment and culture. In her free time, she enjoys travelling, reading and spending time with loved ones.



Name: Petroné Gaitskill Department: Primary School Position: SEN Teacher

## READY, SET, GO! NEW ECAS ARE HERE!

Enrolling your child in after-school extracurricular activities—such as tennis, baseball, golf—offers benefits well beyond physical fitness. These activities help children develop teamwork, discipline, and perseverance, while also providing a fun way to unwind after school. They build confidence, improve focus, and can even support academic growth.

We are pleased to share that the new semester will also feature several exciting new ECAs, including hockey. Sign-ups will open soon in September—please stay tuned!

## Field hockey





Field hockey is a dynamic team sport that demands speed, skill, and physical endurance. It enhances overall fitness, agility, coordination, and mental sharpness through rapid decision-making. Players develop resilience, self-discipline, teamwork, and leadership qualities. The sport instills a strong sense of perseverance and the ability to perform under pressure. Beyond physical health, it fosters camaraderie, belonging, and transferable life skills. Choosing field hockey promotes an active, passionate, and disciplined lifestyle.

Lead Coach: Ms Sun Xingyu

Ms Sun brings nearly a decade of professional experience from the Shanghai Field Hockey Team. A certified national sports master and youth coach, she has served as head coach across multiple Shanghai schools, demonstrating strong practical and teaching expertise.

Partner Institution: Yibo Sports

Ningbo Yibo Sports is an innovative field hockey service provider, recognized by the Yongjiang Talent Program. Founded by Zhang Lei—an international athlete, referee, and provincial field hockey ambassador—the company employs professional coaches and retired athletes. In 2022, it partnered with the Ningbo Education Bureau to promote sports-education integration.



This ballet class will introduce pupils to the beauty of ballet and provide an opportunity to have fun dancing among friends. All of the beginner and intermediate dancers are welcome to join us. Ballet has been one of the popular training programs for dancers and athletes around the world. The foundation training helps them strengthen their core muscles and improve body flexibility to enhance performance and prevent injury. In this session, we will utilize the Progression Ballet Technique and the Royal Ballet Junior program to support the development of greater strength, control, and refinement in the class material. In addition to classical ballet, students have the opportunity to explore contemporary dance in the variation section. Through ballet, pupils can explore their uniqueness and strength and confidently shine on the dance floor.

Ms Esther

### GOLF



Golf is a sport that connects you with nature and teaches you to appreciate it. It offers participants a chance to find peace in a natural setting while fostering qualities such as confidence, decisiveness, honesty, patience, self-awareness, and self-discipline in children. Each training session provides ideal challenges for kids, helping them manage their emotions, overcome setbacks, and build strong mental resilience. These skills will benefit them throughout their lives.

Ningbo Huixing Sports is proud to be the first golf teaching institution in China to collaborate with Carl Rabito, a PGA Master Certified Teaching Professional and one of the leading master-level teaching experts of the PGA in the United States. This partnership ensures that students receive world-class training, blending professional expertise with a holistic approach to personal growth through golf.

Mr Jia Li

Golf Coach

## Baseball



Baseball is a kind of team ball game with bat as the main characteristic and strong antagonism. Baseball maximizes the primal instincts of human beings to run, hit, catch and throw, supplemented by experience, judgment, wisdom, determination and action to "conquer the city and seize the land." It is called "chess on the grass".

Potato Sports focuses on the field of baseball and is a sports training institution specializing in baseball youth training, event operations, and peripheral product sales. The company has several elite professional baseball coaches who have been in the industry for over 20 years, and has successfully formed multiple local Ningbo youth baseball teams, winning the championship of provincial youth events for two consecutive years.

Mr Feng

Baseball Coach

## Football

The program is designed to introduce children to the fundamentals of football in a fun, engaging, and supportive environment. Whether your child is a beginner or looking to sharpen their skills, they are all welcome.



#### What to Expect

Skill Development: Dribbling, passing, shooting, and defending; Understanding teamwork and game strategies.

Game Play: Small-sided games to apply skills in real situations.

Fitness and Fun: Exercises to improve coordination, endurance, and balance; Emphasis on sportsmanship and having fun!

Experienced Coach: Our trainings will be led by coach Yannis. [certified football coach with more than 5 years of experience in youth development, and football Head coach of the University of Nottingham Ningbo].

What to Bring

Comfortable sports clothing and football shoes/cleats. Shin guards (recommended for safety).

A water bottle. A positive attitude and a willingness to learn

Mr Yannis Football Coach

### **Tennis**



Astra Tennis is a teaching and research institution specialising in youth tennis training with a proven track record of delivering quality tennis programs in schools.

Students who join tennis for the first time will learn foundational skills of tennis:

basic techniques of the main 5 strokes; court positioning; simple tactics; and movement patterns. Those with previous experience will further improve their tennis skills that allow them to maintain rallies and play with each other, refine stroke techniques, develop tactical knowledge of the game, and use basic game rules.

**Boxing** 



Old-school boxing is a very advanced combat sport.

Practice boxing can exercise physical fitness, improve responsiveness, improve coordination, but also exercise courage to become more courageous and confident.

Boxing is the most characteristic of its confrontation ability, in the course we will teach children how to defend and attack, thin to bully how to fight back self-defense, this is the fundamental significance of learning boxing.

Mr Davin Tennis Coach Mr Kim Boxing Coach

## 

Latin dance, a kind of energetic and enthusiastic dance art, can not only let the students get physical exercise, but also improve the psychological quality of students. The movement of Latin dance pays attention to the coordination and flexibility of the body, which helps to shape the body and enhance the beauty of the body's lines. Long-term practice of Latin dance can cultivate students' temperament and stage presence, thereby enhancing self-confidence.



Latin Dance Coach Ms Zeng

# Traffic Safety Notice to Parents

#### 1.Proper Use of Helmets and Seat Belts

- Parents and students <u>riding electric bicycles must wear safety</u> <u>helmets at all times</u>. All students riding bicycles or electric bicycles to school must wear a helmet at all times. Helmets should be properly fastened—ensure the chin strap is securely buckled. Avoid loosely wearing or removing the helmet while riding.
- Passengers must wear seat belts at all times when riding in a car.
   Parents are expected to lead by example and remind children to fasten their seat belts properly.

#### 2. Observe Age Restrictions and Safe Riding Practices

- Children under the age of 12 are not allowed to ride bicycles on public roads. Parents must provide personal supervision or choose a safe mode of transport.
- Students under the age of 16 are not permitted to ride electric bicycles on public roads.

#### 3. Riding Guidelines for Eligible Students

- Students who meet the age requirement must ride in designated non-motorised lanes. If no such lane is available, ride along the right edge of the road (within 1.5 metres of the curb). Use of motor vehicle lanes is strictly prohibited.
- Dangerous behaviours such as riding against traffic, riding side by side, carrying passengers, riding with one hand, or listening to music with headphones are strictly forbidden. Riders must stay alert, slow down when approaching intersections, and signal with hand gestures in advance.



Lunch Menu

Snack Menu

Teddy Bear Biscuit

小熊饼干

Butter Cookie

黄油曲奇

t Curry Shrimp 香咖喱虾 with Potatoes 豆牛肉 egetable 砂青菜 ded Chicken 手撕鸡 ea Lotus Root 豆炒藕片
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油花蛤
Eel
鲳鱼
Purple Potato
蒸紫薯
ngpo Pork
东坡肉
Potato Soup
土豆浓汤
Fruit
水果
gg Roll
蛋卷饼
Apple
苹果 ter Waffle
油 E 鲳 PI 蒸 SF 东 PO 土 FI 水 SE 蛋A 苹

Egg Waffle

鸡蛋仔

Cake

港荣蛋糕

Butter Waffle

黄油华夫饼



### **CONNECT WITH US**



WECHAT ACCOUNT



XIAOHONGSHU ACCOUNT



FACEBOOK ACCOUNT



INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT



ADMISSIONS ENQUIRY



0086-574-87611005 / 83888071



nbis.admin@nbis.net.cn





No. 365 Guanghua Road, National Hi-Tech Zone, Ningbo





#### **NBIS School Calendar**

#### 2025 to 2026

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#### 2025-26 Semester 1 (School Days-90 Days) 01/09/2025 Semester 1 Begins, 30/01/2026 Semester 1 Ends Holidays in Semester 1

- 01/10/2025 to 08/10/2025 Chinese National/Mid-Autumn Holiday
- 21/11/2025 PD Day
- 17/12/2025 to 04/01/2026 Winter Holiday

#### 2025-26 Semester 2 (School Days-90 Days) 02/02/2026 Semester 2 Begins, 03/07/2026 Semester 2 Ends Holidays in Semester 2

- 09/02/2026 to 01/03/2026 Spring Festival Holiday
- 04/04/2026 to 06/04/2026 Qingming Holiday
- 01/05/2026 to 05/05/2026 Labour Day Holiday
- 19/06/2026 to 21/06/2026 Dragon Boat Holiday

