



Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

**Greetings from Tanarata International Schools, and welcome to the first day of Academic Year 2026–27!**

It was wonderful to welcome our students back to school this morning and to see our classrooms and corridors filled once again with familiar faces, new friendships and the excitement that comes with the beginning of a new academic year.

Further to the Welcome Note sent last week, I would like to share a few important decisions made by our teaching staff during our Staff Meeting in preparation for the year ahead.

While academic achievement remains an important part of education at Tanarata, we believe equally strongly that our students must learn to be **responsible, respectful and kind members of both the physical and digital communities in which they participate.**

#### **Changes to Google Chat**

Over the school holidays, we received reports from parents concerning inappropriate behaviour and instances of bullying occurring through online student chat groups. These incidents have reinforced the need for us to strengthen the safeguards surrounding the use of school-sanctioned digital platforms.

With immediate effect, **students will no longer be permitted to create Google Chat groups using their school-issued tanarata.net Google accounts.**

**All Google Chat groups involving students must now be created and initiated by a teacher.**

This change is intended to ensure that school-sanctioned digital spaces have a clear educational purpose and appropriate adult oversight.

Students will continue to have access to the digital tools they require for learning and communication. However, we want them to understand an important principle:

**The standards of behaviour we expect in school apply equally online.**

Language or behaviour that would be unacceptable in a classroom, playground or face-to-face conversation does not become acceptable simply because it takes place behind a screen.

We therefore expect students to communicate respectfully, refrain from excluding or humiliating others, and report inappropriate online behaviour to a trusted adult rather than participating in it or forwarding it.

We also ask parents to continue having conversations at home about responsible use of messaging platforms and social media. While the school can regulate its own tanarata.net accounts, keeping our children safe online requires a strong partnership between home and school.

### **Monitoring Student Discussions**

Teachers will provide appropriate oversight of school-sanctioned online discussions and reinforce expectations around respectful digital communication.

Our aim is not simply to monitor children's conversations. It is to **teach them how to communicate responsibly**, recognise when their words may hurt someone, disagree respectfully, and understand that their actions online have real consequences for others.

These expectations complement the guidance set out in our newly revised **Student & Parent Handbook**, which was circulated with last week's Welcome Note. We encourage parents and students to read the sections relating to student conduct, digital citizenship, online safety and respectful behaviour carefully.

### **Introducing the Kindness in Action Award**

While it is important that we address inappropriate behaviour, we believe it is just as important to recognise and celebrate the positive behaviour that we see among our students every day.

For this reason, we are delighted to introduce a new school-wide recognition for AY 2026–27:

### **Kindness in Action Award**

There will be **two awards — one for a Primary student and one for a Secondary student**.

This is not an award for popularity, academic achievement or a single impressive act. It will recognise students who **consistently demonstrate empathy, kindness, inclusion and respect through their everyday actions**.

Throughout the year, teachers will be looking for students who:

- **Understand others' feelings** – notice when someone is upset, struggling or left out and respond with genuine concern.
- **Listen actively** – give others their attention and allow people to feel heard and respected.

- **Put kindness into action** – help classmates, share, encourage others and offer assistance without being asked.
- **Include others** – reach out to new students and those who may feel isolated or excluded.
- **Resolve conflict positively** – approach disagreements calmly, fairly and respectfully.
- **Respect differences** – show sensitivity towards different cultures, abilities, backgrounds, circumstances and opinions.
- **Act selflessly** – help others without expecting praise, reward or recognition.
- **Influence others positively** – encourage kindness among their peers and lead through their own behaviour.
- **Show consistency** – demonstrate these qualities as part of their everyday character rather than through one isolated action.
- **Provide emotional support** – offer encouragement and comfort when classmates experience disappointment, stress or difficult moments.

Most importantly, we want our students to understand that **kindness is not weakness. Empathy is a strength, and respect is a choice we make every day.**

### **A Shared Responsibility**

Schools cannot build a positive culture through rules alone.

It is created through hundreds of small interactions every day — the student who invites someone to sit with them, the friend who refuses to participate in an unkind conversation, the classmate who notices someone struggling, the student who apologises when they have made a mistake, and the person who has the courage to speak up when someone else is being treated unfairly.

**This is the culture we want to strengthen at Tanarata.**

As we begin our **20<sup>th</sup> academic year**, I hope we can make AY 2026–27 memorable not only for what our students achieve, but also for **how they treat one another along the way.**

Parents, teachers and students all have a role to play. I thank you in advance for your partnership and support in helping us create a school community — both offline and online — where every child feels **safe, respected, included and valued.**

Here's to a wonderful first day and a happy, productive and, above all, **kind** year ahead.

*Below are the dates for the activities this term*

## **Calendar**

*Dates to Remember !*

17<sup>th</sup> Aug (Mon)

Teaching Staff resumes

|                             |                                                     |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 18 <sup>th</sup> Aug (Tues) | Orientation and Teachers<br>Workshops/IGCSE Results |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug (Wed)  | First Day of Term I AY 2026-27                      |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> Aug (Tues) | Public Holiday (Prophet's Bday)                     |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> Aug (Mon)  | Public Holiday (Merdeka Day)                        |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept (Mon)  | ECA Commences after school                          |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept (Wed) | Public Holiday (Malaysia Day)                       |

That's all for now...

Thank you.

Barnali Guha



#### TANARATA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

TiS @ Planters Grounds, 3.5 mls Kajang-Serdang Road, 43000 Kajang, Selangor, Malaysia

**Tel:** +60 (03) 8737-7366

**Fax:** +60 (03) 8734-3848

**Email:** admin@tanarata.net

[www.tanarata.net](http://www.tanarata.net)