YISHUN INNOVA JUNIOR COLLEGE
Interest Group Student FAQ

1) **What is an Interest Group?**
An Interest Group is a student-initiated group that provides an opportunity for you to hone your leadership skills and to participate and advocate for causes that you have an interest in.

Interest Groups will draft their own proposals, including the objectives, meeting schedule and agenda. They should meet **for at least a term** to fulfil the objectives proposed.

The proposal should include a **Group Deliverable**:
- Contribution to college,
- Participation in external competition,
- VIA project,
- Product co-creation

2) **How are my leadership competencies developed in an Interest Group?**
In YIJC's Student Leadership framework, we adopt the ARC (Assignments, Relationships, Courses) approach in mentoring student leaders:

Assignments (A): You will draft your own proposal for your Interest Group and implement the activities proposed.

Relationships (R): You will be mentored by a Teacher I/C, who will guide you in drafting your proposal and implementing the activities proposed. You may also approach them to discuss your leadership development.

Courses (C): You may propose certain courses or training that you may need in order to start your Interest Group, e.g. public speaking, skills training, content lectures etc

3) **What are some examples of Interest Groups?**
Types of Interest Groups can vary, depending on what you are interested in!

For example, if you are passionate about current affairs, gather some like-minded friends and set up an interest group to promote awareness about such issues!

Or if you are interested in pursuing your own business in future, why not start now and practise some of your entrepreneurial skills on your peers?

There are many possibilities – be creative!

4) **What is the difference between an Interest Group and CCA?**
You are required to join a CCA, but participation in an Interest Group is voluntary. An Interest Group is entirely student-initiated and planned by students. You will still be required to join a CCA even if you participate in or form your own Interest Group.

A CCA meets at regular times a week throughout the year, but an Interest Group may only meet for a particular term, depending on the proposal. A CCA is likely to have a greater scope as compared to an Interest Group, which may have more specific objectives.

5) How do I sign up to be a part of an Interest Group?

a. Gather a group of friends with the same interest (3 to 20 members maximum).
b. Request for a teacher to be the Teacher I/C for your group.
c. Complete Section (1) of the 'Proposal for Interest Group'. Ensure that your Teacher I/C has vetted the proposal.
d. Send completed Section (1) of the proposal to Ms Steffi Woon (woon_peng_steffi@moe.edu.sg)

If Section (1) is Approved:

e. Complete Sections (2) to (4) of the proposal.
f. Ensure that your Teacher I/C has vetted the proposal.
g. Send completed proposal to Ms Steffi Woon (woon_peng_steffi@moe.edu.sg)
h. Carry out your project and start your Interest Group!

If Section (1) is Not Approved:

- Edit the proposal based on the comments given. Ensure that your Teacher I/C has vetted the edited proposal.
- Send edited Section (1) of the proposal to Ms Steffi Woon (woon_peng_steffi@moe.edu.sg)

6) Who can be a Teacher in-charge for my Interest Group?

Any teaching staff can be a teacher in-charge of your Interest Group. You need to ensure that you obtain your teacher's approval before indicating his / her name as the Teacher I/C.

The Teacher I/C's role is to mainly provide administrative support for the Interest Group. Firstly, students should submit the proposal to the Teacher I/C for first comments and to seek approval for being a Teacher I/C.

As Teacher I/C, he/she will conduct the first checks of the proposal, considering feasibility and whether learning objectives are meaningful for student members. The students should submit the vetted proposal to SH/Student Leadership for official approval.

Upon approval of the interest group's formation, the Teacher I/C's role is to provide administrative support, such as booking of school venues for meetings, informing students of any clashes between Interest Group's meetings with college activities, or support registration for external competitions. Any questions related to the Interest Group can be directed to the SH/Student Leadership for further clarification.

7) Can I still join an Interest Group if I am currently holding leadership positions?

If you are a Subject Council or CCA Exco member, you can still join an Interest Group.

However, if you are in the Students' Council or Class Leaders' Council, or if you are a CCA Leader, it is not recommended for you to join an Interest Group because of the high demands of your leadership position. If you would still like to join an Interest Group, you will need to obtain approval from your SC teacher / CT / CCA teacher.

8) **When do Interest Groups meet?**
It depends on your group's proposal. Interest Groups can request for meetings during the White Space period. You may propose the frequency of meetings, but they should fulfil the proposed objectives of your Interest Group and should last for at least a term.

9) **Is it possible to purchase items for our Interest Group?**
Please propose a budget and the items that you would like to purchase. The proposal will be subject to approval by the Student Leadership Committee.

10) **Will my participation in an Interest Group be recorded in the CCA Certificate or School Graduation Certificate?**
Do note that only the leaders of the Interest Group will have a record in their CCA Certificate. Participating members may not have a CCA Certificate record but they can write and reflect on what they have learnt from the Interest Group

11) **Any other questions?**
Please email your questions to Ms Steffi Woon (woon_peng_steffi@moe.edu.sg).