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FOO CHEE HOCK
SINGAPORE JUDICIAL COLLEGE
DEAN WHO IS ONE OF FOUR
NEW SENIOR COUNSELS B6



Tampines Meridian Junior College students watching as the old flags of Tampines JC and Meridian JC were lowered on the first day of school yesterday.

Merged JCs mark new beginnings

At TMJC, students and staff come together for flag raising, breakfast and football match

Jolene Ang

The first day of school is often filled with a mixed bag of emotions, from apprehension to anticipation.

For the JC2 cohort at Tampines Meridian Junior College (TMJC) yesterday, it was also a day to remember as the new merged school started its first academic year.

When The Straits Times visited during morning assembly, students and staff sang the National Anthem and recited the Pledge with their fists over their hearts.

But there was no singing of the school song, which has not been written.

They watched in silence as the flags bearing the crests of Tampines JC and Meridian JC were lowered, before the new TMJC flag was hoisted.

TMJC principal Pamela Young told the students it was "a reminder to all of us that we carry the her-

itage and culture of two parent colleges".

Aside from TMJC, located at the premises of Meridian JC in Pasir Ris, the other merged JCs are: Anderson Serangoon JC, Jurong Pioneer JC and Yishun Innova JC.

The mergers of the eight colleges, announced by the Ministry of Education (MOE) in April 2017, were due to Singapore's falling birth rate.

MOE also said last January that the merged JCs would bear the original names of both colleges, with the older college's name coming first.

TMJC student Abdul Qayyum Zaki Zulkifli, 17, said he was excited for the year ahead.

"On our first day of school last year, we were introduced to the school facilities and culture - the seniors from both colleges performed a flash-mob dance for us," he said.

But this year, the JC2 students had a "pleasant surprise".



The TMJC flag and state flag being raised. Students will get to shape the college's new culture, with the school song yet to be written. ST PHOTOS: ALPHONSUS CHERN

SHAPE JC CULTURE continued on B2

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