



# Queensway Secondary School

2A Margaret Drive Singapore 149295 Tel: 6474 1421 / 6476 6416 Fax: 6474 1302 Email: qss@moe.edu.sg

3 January 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This morning I had the pleasure of welcoming our new Sec 1 students to our school. It was the first time they are interacting with their Class Mentors and classmates. There were a few parents/guardians watching their child/ward settling into the routine of getting into their classes for the assembly, and they left after seeing that all was well and in order. The Sec 1 students can look forward to orientation programmes with their seniors over the next few days.

I also had the pleasure of welcoming back our Sec 2 to 5 students at the school hall and it was heartening to see them excited to be back in school and interacting with their friends and teachers. I took some time to stress also on what being a Queenswayan is, with a focus on our school's values – Discipline, Respect, Responsibility and Excellence and the school motto, "Success through Diligence," which urges us towards the success we want to see in our lives.

## **Enjoying the parenting journey in QSS**

As we begin a new school year, I thought to share some good practices that can help ensure that your engagement with your child/ward is more pleasurable. So I encourage your engaging with them in the next few days. You could choose any aspect, but I suggest a conversation around the 2 topics below.

*Respect* – Respect is gained, not demanded. As you engage with your child/ward, do help him/her to understand that it is a 2-way street, and the more respect is given, the more is gained. As your child/ward grows as a teenager, parent-child conversations and agreement on house rules are important. Curfew rules, for instance, should be explained and as your child/ward shows the ability to abide by what is agreed on, he/she should be affirmed, as this reflects your respect in turn.

*Responsibility* – Again, you want your child/ward to take responsibility for what is agreed on rather than to nag or police him/her. Similarly, discussions on their responsibilities such as keeping to their bedtime, computer use etc can be agreed on. As they show greater responsibility for keeping to the arrangements, you both can look at other areas of responsibility your child/ward will take on. Positive encouragement goes a long way to reinforce this quality.

These are just 2 areas you can begin to look at. What is important is that as parents, you take time to engage your child regularly, preferably at an agreed time, and have 10 – 15 minutes of daily check-ins to find out how he/she is doing in school, with friends, etc. This time to build and strengthen the parent-child relationship will go a long way to making your relationship stronger.

## **Orientating back to schooling**

You would have received a welcome letter from your child's/ward's Year Head or Assistant Year Head sharing with you the programme that has been planned for them over these next 4 days. The intent is to strengthen their foundation for learning through interactions and experiential engagements that would also foster stronger class bonding as they engage with the Class



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Mentors. I would encourage that you also begin to engage with them about their learning experiences as they go through school.

## **Full Subject Based Banding (FSBB).**

As mentioned to you last year, all MOE secondary schools will be implementing FSBB from 2024. This phased implementation allows smoother implementation and this year, our school has implemented FSBB for our Sec 1 cohort. With this, we are implementing changes in the timetable structure that will allow us to maximise curriculum time and effectiveness for everyone. We culled these processes from best practices implemented by schools that have already been on the FSBB journey.

Some changes you will notice is that 1 period is now 20 minutes' duration, although all lessons will be in blocks of 40 minutes, 1 hour or 1 hour 20 minutes. This arrangement helps us to keep closer to MOE's recommended timings for the various subjects and your child/ward will continue to be well supported in their learning processes.

Also, recess will now be 40 minutes long, giving students more time for meals and interaction with their peers. However, unlike the past, the recess period will vary over the different days of the 2-week timetable. This will require a new routine, but I am confident our students, like those in other schools, will quickly adapt to this arrangement.

## **Assembly and Dismissal Time**

Students will continue to arrive in school before 8 am and we will have Assembly in the school hall on Mondays and Fridays, and Assembly in the classrooms on Tuesdays to Thursdays. The class assembly programme will incorporate our reading programme for your child/ward. I have always stressed the importance of reading as language ability affects all curricular subjects your child/ward takes. Their ability to read and comprehend the subject matter they learn, and also their ability to comprehend questions they will attempt in Weighted Assessments and Examinations, is impacted by their language ability and comprehension.

As responsible Queenswayans, we expect all our students to report punctually each morning for school and subsequently for their lessons, which can be at alternative venues. Consequences will be meted out to students who are late for school/class.

The Dismissal Time for Monday to Thursday is 2.40 pm or 3 pm, depending on their timetable, and on Fridays at 12.40 pm.

## **School Calendar and Home-Based Learning Days**

Parents/Guardians can refer to the school handbook to take note of the various special school days and programmes we have this year. Do note that your child's/ward's participation in all the lessons and programmes planned for our students is crucial for their development. I also want to remind parents/guardians that you should not be taking your child/ward out of school to extend your holiday, especially when there are long weekends. Your child/ward will have to catch up on learning that they would miss and it also sends the wrong message to them, considering that there are regular school holidays after every 10 weeks.



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For 2023, Home-Based Learning (HBL) will be held once every 2 weeks. This year, it is not fixed on a particular day, and it will not fall on the same day each term. For parents/guardians of students who are new to the school (Sec 1 students especially), please note that your child/ward does not report to school on HBL days, unless it is specified, for example, Sports Day in April.

## **Taking Responsibility - Temperature taking Exercise – Wednesday, 11 January 23**

Please ensure that your child/ward has a working Oral Digital Thermometer (ODT) for this exercise for all students in Singapore schools to ensure our preparedness in responding to health-risk emergencies. Class Mentors will support your child/ward by checking they have working ODTs from early next week.

## **School Upgrading**

We began the General Renovation & Repainting of the school last year and the contractors are completing their work. The school has a new coat of paint and is certainly looking fresher and brighter. Meanwhile we have also taken the opportunity during the school holidays to make changes to various facilities.

For instance, to introduce the concept of Food Sustainability through an **Edible Garden programme** in our Applied Learning Programme, vertical gardening stacks have been installed at the top floor of our Special Rooms Block, and students will soon be introduced to the activities. Students who are interested in developing their fitness and strength can look forward to the new **Fitness Gym** that is undergoing renovations. This new expanded facility will have 2 Universal Weight Station stacks instead of just the one we had, and also a much larger space so that more students can be accommodated in the gym at one time.

Work is also in progress to convert under-utilised mini-computer labs into classrooms and create learning spaces in our Design & Technology Rooms for more effective timetabling and class groupings.

## **Conclusion**

I am looking forward to engaging with you over the months ahead. Please visit our school's website for more information about our calendar, programmes and activities. Our school's electronic 2022 School Magazine can also be found on our website. Do Visit it at <https://www.queenswaysec.moe.edu.sg/about-us/yearbook-archive/> to check out the photographs of activities your child/ward may have been involved in and also to get a sense of the range of activities your child/ward can look forward to participating in.

Once again, I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy new year for 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Tan Chong Tze  
*Principal*