



# Queensway Secondary School

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

9 January 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We had a very good start to the new school year with a range of activities going on throughout the week. The intent was to build good relationships between teachers and students, as well as between the students themselves. It was heartening to see the relationships forged and I am sure they will strengthen in the year to come. As teachers, we want the best for our students, and though they are at different stages of their lives, we look forward to nurturing them to be the best they can be.

## **Secondary 1 Orientation**

It was a joy to welcome the enthusiastic Sec 1 students to our school. It was equally satisfying to see the enthusiasm and warmth exuded by our Orientation Committee and Orientation Group Leaders. Their efforts certainly helped our newest students understand our school and how they can progress in the years ahead.

Capping off the Orientation was the Initiation of Sec 1 students, CCA Fair and Orientation Campfire last Friday. I was very glad to see the large number of parents/guardians who were present to engage with their child's/ward's Class Mentors and also participate in initiating their child/ward into QSS. As Sec 1 parents, by pinning on the school badge of your child/ward, you are affirming your decision for him/her to become a Queenswayan and your support for his/her development over the next 4 years. This is an important milestone for each student as the school badge and tie are gifts from the school to our newest students and this initiation affirms a common commitment to upholding the values of our school, as students, parents and staff.

I am also grateful for the various CCA leaders who reached out enthusiastically to share the various CCA options for the Sec 1 students. After a hiatus of 2 years due to COVID-19, it was certainly nice to see the vibrancy and enthusiasm of the CCA leaders and members engaging and sharing about their development through the CCA and what it has done for them.

The evening was capped off with the Orientation Campfire and it got off to a rousing start, with enthusiastic cheers and chants. Just as the 1<sup>st</sup> group finished their performance, dark clouds started rolling in and I wondered if we had to activate the 'wet weather programme'. Smiles broke out as students spontaneously broke out in chorusing, "Rain, rain, go away!!" Though some raindrops were felt, these stopped and the rainclouds moved off in a different direction, much to everyone's relief. The student leaders took the initiative to adjust the programme to ensure that every group would get to perform that evening and just as the last group completed their performance, raindrops started again. It was fortuitous that the repeated chants seemed to work and everyone was able to clear out safely before any rain, and enjoy a good evening with family and friends.

I extend my sincere appreciation to Ms Tan Wei Yi, Year Head/Sec 1, as well as Ms Grace Lee and Mrs Joanne Chan, the teachers-in-charge of Student Leaders and the Orientation Programme, together with many other colleagues who made Orientation 2023 a great success. As our Sec 1 students adjust to secondary school education, I wish them the very best of learning and development besides making many good friends through their years in QSS.



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## Sec 1 Parents/Guardians Breakfast with Principal – Tuesday 10 January 2023

This is a reminder for Sec 1 parents/guardians to join me for a parenting session and interaction tomorrow morning. Most of you would have signed up already. This 'virtual breakfast', you with your kaya toast and coffee and me with mine will give us opportunity to grow in parenting your teen and also engage on any queries you may have. We will begin the session at 7.30am and wrap-up about 9.00am. The zoom details are as follow:

Meeting ID: 885 6898 6287

Passcode: QSS101

## 1st Home-Based Learning (HBL) Day – Friday, 13 January 2023

This Friday will be our 1<sup>st</sup> HBL Day. All students except Sec 1 students will be familiar with this programme. To reiterate, students **do not need to report** to school that day. Work that students need to engage in for that day would have been shared with students via Google Classroom, at least one day before. Your child/ward would also be considering the Student Initiated Learning (SIL) activity they want to work on that day and I would encourage parents/guardians to be aware of what your child is doing each HBL for the SIL. He/she gets to choose the SIL based on a personal area of interest, and spends time developing a skill and deepening knowledge in the chosen area. SIL is a wonderful opportunity for your child/ward to extend his/her learning interest beyond what is taught in the curriculum/classroom.

## Catch You doing GREAT!

We launched this programme this morning and for Term 1, we want to "catch" our students, and have our students catching each other in 2 of our school values – Discipline and Respect. To be more specific, all can catch our students demonstrating Discipline and Respect through their Actions, Behaviour or Conversations. In our school, we call these the 'A-B-C'. I would encourage parents/guardians to work with us to encourage your child/ward to be mindful of the A-B-C as they work on being disciplined and showing respect, whether in school or at home. You may want to do this also as a family so that positivity is created in the family too.

## Conclusion

An axiom we often hear is, 'It takes a village to raise a child.' In QSS, we have our teachers, administrative and operations support staff, our vendors including canteen stall holders and instructors. The next wider ring is our alumni and you, our students' parents and guardians. I know every parent/guardian want their child/ward to be the best they can be and achieve their very best. This is the same for all of us in the QSS Village. Let's keep an eye out for all our students and do engage with us if there are areas of concern that you may have about any of our students.

Our school's motto is 'Success through Diligence', and this is something we frequently remind our students about. Last week, I shared a short Youtube clip by John Maxwell sharing what Diligence is. I would encourage you to watch this with your child/ward and have a conversation with him/her on what areas of success they would want to see for themselves this year and how they would find this Success through Diligence they will practise. The link to the clip is [https://youtu.be/0DLN\\_6XjWOM](https://youtu.be/0DLN_6XjWOM)

Yours sincerely,

  
Peter Tan Chong Tze  
Principal