



Queensway Secondary School

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

02 January 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the new school year and a special welcome to all Sec 1 parents/guardians as you join us at Queensway Secondary School (QSS)! I am excited for the year ahead and hope you are looking forward to the year as much as I am.

The year ended with a very successful Open House where we hosted many interested parents and their children who came to find out more about QSS. They certainly went away convinced that we have genuinely caring and dedicated teachers and staff, and students who are confident and proud of their school. Many who spoke with me were glowing in their comments and it certainly made me feel very proud as their Principal and stewarding them towards our Vision, nurturing "Caring Citizens and Life-long Learners in a School of Excellence".

Certainly the enthusiasm of our Queenswayans is infectious, as seen in their broad smiles and animated actions as they spoke proudly of our school. This is another reason why I am so proud of them, and you as parents/guardians can look forward to the year ahead as you see your child/ward develop to be a **confident** learner. With enthusiasm and drive, we can certainly forge ahead.

Secondary 1 cut-off

After the significant increase in the cut-off score in the 2019 cohort, we were pleasantly surprised to see that the Express cut-off again increased from 220 to 222 and the Normal (Technical) cut-off raised from 130 to 131. The Normal (Academic) input remained similar.

We are glad for each and everyone of our Sec 1 students who joined us. As I have often reiterated, the PSLE score is 3 digits that is used for school placement and does not determine our children's ability or reflect their potential. As they join us in Sec 1, as for all our other students, they can choose to determine what their future holds as we give them the support! In QSS, you can be assured that our staff and I will do our best for our charges.

Changes of Key Appointment holders

The new year also brings about changes of key appointment holders in our school. We are grateful for many who have contributed to QSS's development and at the end of the year, we bade farewell to Ms Pauline Chia, Vice-Principal, and Mr Siah Swee Chuan, Year Head, both of whom have moved on to take appointments at MOE HQ. We also thank our long-serving HOD/Mathematics, Ms Soon Geok Lan, for her faithful service to our school as she retires from service.

The following are our new appointees to our school or personnel who have changed their appointments. This can help you in knowing who to contact if you have any queries. Meanwhile, you can find out who the other appointment holders are at our school's website.

Head of Department/English	-	Ms Vani Shankar
Head of Department/Normal Course	-	Mr Chua Kee Eng
Year Head	-	Mr Feroz Ali
Head of Department/Discipline (covering)	-	Ms Jasmine Tay





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Head of Department/Mathematics (covering)	-	Mrs Sheryl Soh
Level Head/English	-	Mr Makoto Kawaguchi
Subject Head/Humanities	-	Mr Santokh Singh Gill
Asst Year Head (covering)	-	Mr Yeo Choon Hwa

Meet-the-Parent Sessions and Breakfast with Principals

I would like to give you a heads-up on the upcoming Meet-the-Parents as well as Breakfast with Principals sessions. The objective of the Meet-the-Parents is to ensure that parents are:

1. Aware of both MOE and QSS programmes and activities regarding your child/ward for the upcoming year. The key programmes and purposes will be explained as your understanding and support is important.
2. Meet with Class Mentors and Key Personnel concerning the academic and developmental programmes for your child/ward. These sessions will be held in the classrooms for a more personal engagement with the teachers.

Breakfast with Principals offer the opportunity for my Vice-Principals and I to engage with parents/guardians on parenting your child/ward particularly for the upcoming year. Teenage years can be turbulent and our children may change quite rapidly due to their developmental growth stage. Knowing and anticipating the issues you may encounter will support the engagement with your child/ward, smoothening the process.

We will provide a simple breakfast for this session.

Please note the dates and timings for your child's/ward's cohort.

	Sec 1	Sec 2	Sec 3	Sec 4/5
Meet The Parent Sessions	10 Jan (3pm)	27 Mar (6pm)	7 Feb (6pm)	17 Jan (6pm)
Breakfast Chat with Principals (7.30 – 8.30am)	101, 102 – 14 Jan 103, 104 – 15 Jan 111, 112, 113 – 16 Jan	201, 202 – 30 Mar 203, 204 – 31 Mar 211, 212, 213 – 1 Apr	301, 302 – 10 Feb 303, 304 – 12 Feb 311, 312, 313 – 13 Feb	401, 402 – 21 Jan 403, 404, 511 – 22 Jan 410, 411, 412, 413 – 23 Jan

Revised Homework Process

Homework is an essential part of the learning process. For our students, it gives them an opportunity to consolidate the learning on the content that has been taught. It also builds self-discipline and responsibility in students to see to the completion of their responsibilities for the various subjects. In this way, they learn time management and critical planning skills. Through the work that is done, teachers also get to find out how well students have understood what is taught and can address learning gaps. Parents/Guardians also play a key role in this process as you will be kept abreast of your child's/ward's effort and can encourage and support his/her effort.

From 2020, all teachers will record the homework given in a designated space on the whiteboard stating the assigned homework, due time and time needed to complete the task. Class Chairpersons will also be recording these at the end of the school day. Students will be able to access the Google site for their class and address the assigned work within the deadline. Parents/Guardians can also access this site to see the assigned work and encourage their effort. Parents/Guardians will receive the link through their Parents Gateway app.





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Student Programmes after timetabled time

To provide additional support for selected students in their academic learning, the days as reflected in the table below are set aside for remedials from 2.30 – 3.30pm. For students who are strong in their English, Mother Tongue, Mathematics or Science, these students also attend the subject Talent Development Programme on Tuesdays from 2.30 – 5pm where they would experience an extended curriculum and are exposed to an array of enrichment activities and courses that broaden their horizons and stretch their potential.

Day	Remedial (2.30 – 3.30pm)	Talent Development Programme (2.30 – 5pm)
Mon	Science	
Tue	English/Mother Tongue Languages	English Language, Mother Tongue, Mathematics, Science
Wed	Craft & Tech subjects (D&T, Food & Nutrition/Food Studies, Art)	
Thu	Humanities (Literature, Social Studies, Geography, History)	
Fri	Mathematics & Additional Mathematics	

Parents Gateway

As mentioned above, we will provide the link for parents/guardians to view the homework assigned for your child/ward. Besides homework, all letters from the school will also be transmitted through Parents Gateway. Should you have difficulty connecting to the Parents Gateway app, please contact our school office and our ICT Manager, Mr Zairee, will contact you to assist you in getting connected.

Conclusion

Your child/ward will by next week (latest) receive his/her student's handbook. It would be good to familiarize yourself with the regulations that will support the conducive learning environment we want to forge. This includes his personal grooming, learning attitude and the calendar of events for the year. Please appraise yourself of the school year. From time to time, we have parents requesting for leave to travel for vacation during the school term. This will affect your child's learning as he/she will miss out on the learning that teachers have prepared for their students. There will then be a need to catch-up after they return and we see students struggle with this.

Do feel free to contact my Vice-Principals or I, if you have queries. We want our students to find fulfilment in their learning and growing process in QSS, as we believe that in working hard together, we will find Success through Diligence!

Yours sincerely

Peter Tan Chong Tze
Principal

