



Queensway Secondary School

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13 March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Indeed it has been an eventful start to the year and much of our attention has been focussed on staying healthy and being socially responsible to support the effort to keep COVID-19 at bay, for our families, school and our Nation.

I want to express my appreciation to my staff who have had to step-up to taking on additional duties to keep our students and staff safe. Teachers have taken on duties to man the entrances to our school compound before the start of the school day, being there as early as 6.30 am to screen out students who look unwell. All Class Mentors also go into class before assembly begins in class to ensure that students in class look healthy and then to conduct daily temperature-taking. Should there be afternoon activities like CCA and remedials, they conduct a 2nd temperature-taking of all students present. Thus, teaching and learning can continue without interruptions.

I am also very pleased with the sense of responsibility that Queenswayans have demonstrated. The large majority of students bring their oral-digital thermometers with them daily for the temperature-taking exercise. We have supported students who need replacement of the batteries in their thermometers and provided a free thermometer to all students on the MOE Financial-Assistance Scheme (FAS). Our students have also been responsible to clean-up after themselves when they eat/drink in the canteen, doing the wipe-down of the place where they ate or drink. Do encourage these good habits at home or when you eat-out, especially at the hawker centres or fast-food outlets. We should take the opportunity to develop good social habits, not only because of COVID-19, but even after it is over. I would also advise that for all families who are travelling overseas to continue the good practise of daily temperature-taking even when you are away. This will also alert you to seek medical attention for your children, if needed.

Travel Declaration

Aside from supporting us in the various processes to keep our school safe, I am glad that you responded to the need to collect information on travels during the March holidays for our students. Should there be any change of plans, you can always go back to the Travel Declaration notification and re-submit information of your new travel plans. Alternatively, you can call the school office to provide us details of the changes. Please be mindful of the countries/cities that the Ministry of Health (MOH) has placed a travel restriction on. Should your family travel to these destinations, you will be served with a Stay Home Notice (SHN) and all who are involved have to stay at home during the specified period.

Sec 2 Meet-the-Parents

A number of parents have been asking if we will be meeting with parents/guardians of Sec 2 students. In the light of COVID-19 and the need to ensure social distancing to keep everyone safe, we will have a different process for this meeting. The meetings will be held on 2 separate days for Express and Normal students' parents/guardian. Parents/Guardians attending the sessions will have to submit their Travel Declaration at the registration point and have your temperature taken. Parents will also be seated in your child's/ward's classrooms. The meetings are scheduled as follows at 6 pm.

Parents/Guardians of Express students	-	Friday, 3 April 2020
Parents/Guardians of Normal students	-	Thursday, 9 April 2020





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We will brief your child/ward the same week before the session for parents/guardians. Thus the Sec 2 Meet-the-Parents will only be attended by parents/guardians. Though you are in different rooms, your queries about your child's/ward's subject options for Sec 3 will still be addressed.

Parents Gateway (PG)

In conducting the exercise for Travel Declaration, we note that some parents are not on PG. I strongly encourage that you obtain the app to facilitate the fast and easy reception of notifications for all your school-going children. This is a one-stop portal where you will also receive consent forms for activities and any changes in programmes such as CCAs. If you have not downloaded the app, ask your child/ward or you can also call our school for assistance. It is important that you switch on the notifications so that information from MOE and school that relates to your child/ward will be automatically sent to you.

Being Socially Responsible

It was disappointing to read that 20% of people who were sick and had contracted the COVID-19 virus continued to socialize and go about their usual activities such as going to work.

The advice given to all by medical professionals is to put on a surgical mask and seek medical attention immediately. When unwell, one should stay at home to recuperate. The person should seek further medical attention if they are not better by going to the same clinic and not doctor-hop. We read of many COVID-19 patients who were socially responsible and have done the right thing to protect others.

Other socially-responsible actions we have given to our students are to:

- Cover their mouth and nose with a tissue paper when they sneeze or cough. They should immediately discard the used tissue paper and then wash their hands.
- Wipe down the place where they eat or drink with the paper napkin and sanitizer. Return their plates, cups and utensils and discard any napkins or tissue paper.
- Clean-up after themselves should they bring any disposable bottles or utensils so that others, like cleaners, especially at hawker centres or food outlets do not have to handle these.
- When eating together with communal dishes, do not double-dip your utensils into the dish. Make use of serving spoons to take food to your plate

As we enjoy the March holidays, let's continue to practise good health habits and continue to practise social distancing, especially when you feel unwell. It is best to see a doctor if unwell and then stay at home to rest and not to socialize with others. I am confident that together we will get over this challenge as long as all of us act responsibly.

Yours sincerely,


Peter Tan Chong Tze
Principal

