



Queensway Secondary School

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

8 April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students of QSS,

HOME-BASED LEARNING (HBL)

Today is the beginning of HBL in our school and I thought that I want to highlight certain matters that we can all pay attention to. For the majority of you, this will be an extended period where you and your family will all be at home. This would be very different from when your children were having school holidays. Then, they did not have to pay much attention to learning. However, things are different for HBL. The following are suggestions to make things more pleasant.

Students staying at home for HBL

- Have a routine for your child/ward. Our timetable for each day begins at 8 am. Thus, they should wake-up early enough to have breakfast, wash-up and begin his/her lesson time according to the schedule.
- Each day, they would have Class Mentor (CM) Time where they are to report their temperature and also share how they are feeling. Their CMs will also engage with them on other matters.
- All assignments and work should be submitted according to the schedule. If your child/ward fails to do so, the Subject Teacher or the Year Head would be contacting you about this as we don't want your child/ward to fall back on learning.

Students reporting to school

We strongly encourage students that are on Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) to come to school for lessons. To support your family, they can use the \$5 provided for their recess and lunch. In addition, I am looking into funding to provide FAS students with breakfast if they report to school before 7.40 am, so they can have breakfast before lessons begin at 8 am.

- All students studying in school must report by 7.40 am.
- They will be assigned a specific seat in the class each day. This will facilitate any contact tracing should we need to do so.
- There are teachers in the class to support your child/ward in his/her learning should they need any assistance.
- They will have their scheduled breaks and be able to complete their work in the class environment.
- Students will be dismissed by 2 pm.

Circuit Breaker Measures

School is a safe environment. Minister Ong mentioned in the press conference on 3 April 2020 that the transmission rate from student to student is "Nil". Thus, parents/guardians can be assured that processes are in place to support our students for their learning.

The chief reason for HBL together with the Circuit Breaker measure where all Singaporeans and residents work from home is to reduce the chance of transmission outside of the home when commuting to work or school. Thus, all of us must take the social responsibility to stay at home except for essential matters.

Sadly, the enforcement agencies have had to issue 7000 advisory notices yesterday to people who were loitering to chit-chat with friends or neighbours, congregating in groups for activities, etc. This goes against the spirit of the Circuit Breaker measures. Should you not be aware, the law has been passed and the penalty is severe. Forthwith, those found congregating whether in public or at home will be served a severe warning notice





Queensway Secondary School

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

followed by a fine if this is not complied with. The 1st offence carries a fine of \$10, 000 and the 2nd offence a fine of \$20, 000. You can refer to the newspapers or the Ministry of Health website for more details.

Please help your children understand that this Circuit Breaker measures are taken to flatten the curve of transmission of COVID-19 in Singapore. Many other countries are already seeing very high mortality rates and this is something we do not want here. The best preventions are:

- Use a tissue paper to cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. Immediately discard the tissue paper in a trash bin.
- Wash your hands immediately with soap and water. Do wash your hands regularly too with soap and water.
- Do not touch your face with your hands.
- As there is a concern with community spread, the Government has provided everyone with a washable and reusable face mask. All of us should be using this as it prevents the transmission of fluids from our mouth or nose to others.
- Stay at home unless there are essential activities that you or your children need to engage in.
- Should you or your child feel unwell, please consult a doctor immediately. If you do not feel better, please go back to the same clinic. Do not doctor-hop.
- Contact the school immediately should anyone in your family be confirmed as a COVID-19 case.

I have been advising our students not to socialize after school and to return home immediately. Aside from reducing the risk of being infected themselves, they also bear the risk of bringing the virus home to infect their other family members. Some of our students' families are large, with parents or grandparents who may not be in good health. We know that the elderly and those with existing health conditions are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. So please work with your children to be responsible to your family and society.

Conclusion

All of us must do our part to break the chain of COVID-19 transmissions. Let's practice safe distancing and social responsibility.

Meanwhile, make the most of the time that your family is together to build strong bonds. To our students, take responsibility to help your younger siblings with their learning, help to clean the house and even help in preparing meals (if your parents allow it). Offer to help out in other ways that makes the next month a good experience for everyone. I look forward to welcoming our students back when the measures can be lifted and life return to normal.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Tan Chong Tze
Principal

