



# Queensway Secondary School

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

30 April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students of QSS,

We are coming almost to the end of Term 2 and we have navigated through a month of Full Home-based Learning. I must commend all teachers, students and parents for this effort to engage in learning despite the very new and challenging process. However, we all grit our teeth and got down to doing it and we can be justifiably proud of ourselves. The majority of students were engaged in the learning processes using video conferencing and completing and submitting work through SLS. I was also very pleased with students who needed the support of the school environment to foster their learning. These students came daily to learn in their class with guidance of the Key Personnel who were supporting them.

I appreciate that the adjustment was not easy for parents/guardians, having to work from home and keeping an eye on your child/ward in the learning process. You did it! Together, we have supported our Queenswayans and Monday, 4 May, would be the last day of HBL. Then our students have their May holiday break.

## Maintaining the discipline of Circuit Breaker Measures

While it may have been challenging, having HBL gave students and their families a structure to work with. This May school holidays will be quite different. Normally, students have opportunities to travel for short vacations or have family outings. This school holidays will be different.

Firstly, with circuit breaker measures in place, we all must make the effort to Stay-at-Home unless we have essential matters to attend to. For students, this will be limited and I would suggest you engage your child/ward in planning his/her time meaningfully to stay home during this period. I have suggested borrowing e-books and magazines from our National Library. There are also a number of free plays or musicals they could watch online. Some with a passion to help others could be involved in social projects that are hosted by a number of VWOs. Some of these projects could be something for your whole family to be involved in.

Let's all do our part and Stay-At-Home so that we can crush this curve and allow life to return to normalcy with measures to keep everyone safe in Singapore. Let's practice safe distancing measures and not visit relatives who do not live in the same household. My extended family, for instance, have had virtual family gatherings where everyone comes together on Zoom and enjoy chatting and snacking with each other and staying connected.

All students should not be meeting up with their friends during this school holidays and/or visiting each other's homes. We know that there are symptomatic COVID-19 cases in the community, so anyone who visits our home who does not live with us is a potential carrier and this is a risk we must not subject our family members to. Let's do our part!

## Travelling Overseas

As mentioned previously, those who choose to travel overseas during this period will create much inconvenience for themselves and others. Firstly, you carry the risk of contracting COVID-19 overseas and bringing it back to Singapore. This will spark another round of imported cases that needs to be managed by a very stretched medical force.

All international students and non-SPR will need to apply for re-entry permit and because of the situation, there may not be a guarantee that the request will be granted. This will affect the continuation of your studies in Singapore.

After returning back to Singapore, there would be the 14-day Stay Home Notice (SHN) to fulfill and those who have to be treated for COVID-19 will not be receiving any subsidized treatment, meaning they will bear the full-cost of the





# Queensway Secondary School

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

treatment. I had a friend who was discharged only after 42 days and you can imagine the cost he would have had to bear if he was someone who chose to travel when Singaporeans were being told not to do so.

Similarly, should anyone in your household travel overseas, you and your family members will be served 14-days Leave of Absence (LOA). For school-going children, this will affect their learning after school reopens. So, let's stay put where we are and be socially responsible.

## Managing Screen Time

With HBL, I am aware that many students use the need to work on their computing devices as reason to be on screen. My greater concern is always with cyber addiction and gaming. We will separately send you information and resources on Cyber-wellness support activities that you can use to engage your child/ward. You can expect these from the school by next week. Our School Counsellors are also available for consultations on such matters should you need support. Please call the school office and we will get you connected to them.

## Support for Graduating Students

I know that graduating students and their parents/guardians are concerned about their upcoming GCE examinations. For students doing course work subjects, our teachers have communicated with students involved the reduced scope for their course work assessment. When students can return to school, they will get started on the necessary work, though they can do their planning now.

Some parents/guardians have asked about supplementary lessons. We are only just completing the 1<sup>st</sup> month of circuit breaker measures with another month ahead. We will have to wait on decisions made by our Government about movement measures and then decide how we can support our students. Please stay connected through Parents Gateway so that we can inform you about any May holiday programmes that could happen should the situation improve in Singapore.

## Conclusion

Once again, I want to express my appreciation to our Queensway teachers and staff who worked extremely hard over this period of HBL to ensure that effective learning could still proceed. Timely feedback on students' learning strengthened understanding.

In difficult times, determination and strong character is forged. We all have a choice. We can grumble and complain about things we don't have or we can choose to do the best with what we have. As a parent myself, I am very mindful that "what I say" and "how I say it" makes a difference with my family. For me, I choose to face challenges with a positive attitude because it gives me greater strength to get through things.

Some of you may say 'I don't understand' and you are right. I have shared with you that I am legally blind and have lived with my condition with increasing challenges the last 15 years. By God's grace, the support of my family and colleagues, I know that I am still able to do my best for my students. Whatever our challenges, let's choose to face it with fortitude, seek the support and be willing to accept assistance, then make the best of the situation.

I wish all of you well. Stay strong, stay safe and stay healthy!

Yours sincerely,

Peter Tan Chong Tze  
Principal

