



# Queensway Secondary School

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Dear Parents/Guardians and QSS students

Last Friday, we had a meaningful Speech Day and National Day Celebrations. I am appreciative of the teachers and students who planned and executed the ceremony and programme. Due to COVID-19, the proceedings were beamed via Zoom to the classrooms and though the atmosphere was different, the participation was enthusiastic. I also take this opportunity to thank all student performers for making the effort to make this a memorable celebration.

## Managing COVID-19 and Dengue

As a nation, we have been doing a good job of managing the spread of COVID-19. I, like most of you, monitor the community spread daily and I am always heartened by the low numbers. Taking social responsibility to wear our masks when out of our home and keeping social distancing appears to have worked well for us in containing the spread of the virus.

In school, we will continue the practices of daily temperature taking, wearing of masks, social distancing and wiping down of the places we use. We continue to remind students to wash their hands regularly and especially before and after they consume food. I am glad that our students have been responsible in their actions. I am also appreciative of parents who have kept their children at home, when they are unwell or when informed that someone at home has to serve the HQO.

Over the weekend, we were informed that Margaret Drive is now a Red Zone for dengue fever. This is a new challenge that we have to manage together. The Class Mentors through the Class Chairperson informed their classmates that students could wear track pants to school if they want to. Students have been advised to wear the school T-shirt or PE T-shirt if they are wearing their track pants. They could also wear a long-sleeved shirt if they wish. The track pants or long-sleeved shirt should not be of bright colours or with gawdy/inappropriate designs. In addition, we have also decided to switch on the air-conditioning in the classroom from the time students arrive in school. However, during recess time or when they are out of their classrooms, they should open the windows to allow for air circulation and ventilation.

Since June, our school has engaged our contractors to co-ordinate the fogging of our premises and the construction next to us on a weekly basis. We have also increased the installation of mosquito traps, electric mosquito repellants and sprayed insect repellant in the classrooms after school. We have been working closely with NEA to monitor our school and the surroundings and action is being taken to address areas of concern outside our school premises.





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Furthermore, I have advised all students not to gather after school in the vicinity, as they would expose themselves to mosquito bites. Rather they should go straight home and make good use of their time.

As we take the necessary actions, I have also reminded our students to be responsible in ensuring that they do not litter and also make the effort to remove any receptacles that can be potential mosquito breeding site whether in school or where they live. Together, we can also manage the dengue situation to remove mosquito breeding sites.

## Application for financial assistance

The current economic situation is challenging and many companies are finding it difficult to sustain their employment. It is anticipated that there will be more retrenchments in the coming months. While I hope it does not happen to you, however, should it happen and your family is financially challenged, please approach our school staff, either your child's Class Mentor or the school office staff for assistance to apply for the Financial Assistance for your child or children. You only need to make the application at one of your children's school and all your school-going children will be eligible for the support. In addition, supporting agencies who partner with us provide our students on such support with food packages like rice, cooking oil, etc to reduce household expenses.

## Conclusion

This is a unique year and we have been through much together as a Nation and a school. As adults, many of us have been through other "storms" such as the Financial Crisis in the 1990s, SARS in early 2000 and now the fallout from COVID-19. It has been challenging and may possibly get even more difficult. However, as the saying goes, "Tough times make tough people!" Let's not allow this crisis go to waste for ourselves and our children. It is times like these where we need to buckle-down, trim the less essentials and focus on the necessary and important to get through it all, whether as an individual, a family or a Nation – together, we can make it happen.

I am very grateful for my Queensway colleagues, who have gone the extra mile to ensure the safety and well-being of our students while ensuring that their education continues to clip-on at a steady pace. We want for all our Queenswayans to be able to achieve their best possible learning and outcomes. We will continue to do our best and I hope we will continue to have your co-operation and support, for in QSS, we believe that we will find "SUCCESS THROUGH DILIGENCE!"

Yours sincerely,

Peter Tan Chong Tze  
Principal

