



Queensway Secondary School

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

23 October 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students of QSS,

Today we come to the close of a busy but interesting school year not like any we have known, and hopefully will ever experience for a long time to come. COVID-19 has certainly changed much of our lives, not least with the face mask as the fashion symbol of the year. That said, I think that as a school and nation, we have weathered this pandemic rather well, though the end is still not near.

I take this opportunity to thank our Queensway teachers and staff for their dedication and hard work to ensure the safety and well-being of all students in our school. Each morning, you will see a teacher manning one of the entrances to our school to screen students arriving for school and each day, the Class Mentors will be in their classes to ensure temperature-taking and that students are healthy. Earlier in the year, they had to quickly adapt to online teaching and conducting lessons via Zoom and other internet affordances to ensure that students keep pace with the syllabus. They also tracked the well-being and emotional state of students by engaging with them creatively and providing necessary support and encouragement. Teaching with a face mask or face shield was not easy, but our teachers took it all in their stride and learning went off almost painlessly that students and parents did not feel the difference. My grateful thanks to our teachers and staff for dedication in doing such a marvellous job.

I am also very proud of our students as they responded well to the changes that were needed. Indeed, wearing the face mask for the whole school day was not the most comfortable thing but they did well to be responsible, though a minority needed reminder to wear their masks properly. Whether it was online lesson or regular lessons, effort was made by the majority of students to keep pace with learning and the year-end results indicate that our students performed as well as previous cohorts, thus not suffering any set-backs from COVID-19. I was glad they responded positively to a change of canteen routine for recess, wipe-down processes and were mostly responsible to see the doctor if they were not feeling well.

All these responsible actions by teachers, staff and students demonstrate our practice of our school's values of Discipline, Respect, Responsibility and Excellence. I am personally very proud of each one who contributed to keeping our school COVID-19 free by your actions, and in that process ensuring that Singapore is one of a few countries that did not lose a schooling year to COVID-19. When we all pull together, we can make the difference. Thank you and let us keep up the effort and vigilance through the rest of the year.

Celebrating our 60th Birthday!

When we return to school in 2021, it also heralds the beginning of our celebrations for QSS's 60th Birthday. Our school was established in 1961, before Singapore gained independence and our school is one of the rare government secondary schools that remains on the very grounds the school was founded, albeit with many rebuilding processes over the years. With the declining birth-rate in Singapore, which saw the merger and closure of schools, Queensway Sec has remained a school of choice for parents and students all these years! We are certainly distinctive in our achievements and successes over the



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years in providing a holistic education for all Queenswayans that prepares them for life, not to mention our distinctive purple colour as part of our uniform.

A number of events are being planned for next year to commemorate and celebrate this special occasion. The events are planned to be COVID-19- proofed, meaning that if the situation remains unchanged, we will still be able to proceed with the planned activities. The scale of some events would be adjusted, depending on the status of the situation in our nation. I will not spill the beans here but you know you can look forward to a memorable year – next year. This includes our graduating students and alumni.

To give everyone a chance to be involved, we are launching the logo design today for all staff, students and alumni. Aside from being the proud designer of our 60th anniversary logo, there will also be attractive prizes. Your design of the logo must take into consideration the theme for our celebrations, which is “Honouring the Past, Inspiring Our Future”. All designs must be submitted by 5 November 2020 and this logo will feature in all celebrations materials including House T-shirts for next year. Designs can be submitted in hard copy to our General Office or emailed to qss@moe.edu.sg. Looking forward to seeing your contribution!

Holiday Homework and CCAs

The school holidays are long for our Sec 1 – 3 students. I will strongly encourage that you get your child/ward to spend time in reading for pleasure as well as keeping touch with their learning. A good command of language is acquired through reading, so please do encourage them to read widely from the range of suggested books, as well as others that can be borrowed from the National Library, including e-books. For the Sec 1 and 3 students, they should refer to the class HBL link for information on the homework. The class HBL link is go.gov.sg/qssAAA-hbl where AAA stands for the class number. For example, class 101 will access go.gov.sg/qss101-hbl while class 313 will access go.gov.sg/qss313-hbl. Your child may also have CCA sessions during the school holidays, so please refer to Parents’ Gateway for updates.

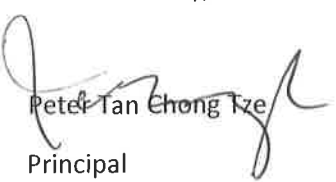
Staying in touch through the school holidays

I would want to encourage all parents/guardians to ensure that your Parents’ Gateway app stays activated throughout the school holiday period. You can be sure that I will be updating you on various matters that will affect our students for 2021.

Conclusion

Your child/ward was provided with the booklist for next year. This was also sent through Parents’ Gateway. Please do purchase the required books for your child/ward. A gentle reminder that should your child travel overseas, a travel declaration needs to be submitted (please refer to the previous letter) though I trust most of you will remain in Singapore. I take this opportunity to wish you and your family good health and a pleasant and meaningful school vacation.

Yours sincerely,


Peter Tan Chong Tze

Principal

