



QUEENSWAY SECONDARY SCHOOL

• Address: 2A Margaret Drive, Singapore 149295 • Office: 6474 1421 • Fax: 6479 1302 • Email: qss@moe.edu.sg

9 March 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are in the last week of Term 1 and staff and students will be looking forward to a short vacation break. While there has been heartening news of the low rate of community spread of COVID-19, it does not mean that it is time to lower our efforts in Safe Management Measures (SMM). You would also have heard that MOE will be starting the vaccination programme for teaching and non-teaching staff in schools, thus providing another level of safeguard for our students.

I am heartened that our students have generally been keeping to the expectations of ensuring the proper wearing of face masks and adhering to safe distance measures in school. Even with vaccination, these measures will continue, so I ask that you continue to remind your child/ward of his/her personal responsibility as well as his responsibility to others.

Thank you Mr Ng Hock Soon, Vice-Principal

I wish to inform all parents that our Vice-Principal, Mr Ng Hock Soon will be leaving our school from 19 March 2020. He has been selected by MOE to attend the Leaders in Education Programme, a programme that develops Vice-Principals towards higher leadership roles in MOE.

We are very grateful for the contributions in his short, but impactful time with us. Mr Ng joined QSS on 15 December 2018 and has played a critical role in helping our school move ahead in various areas. His involvement and work with the School Management Committee and teachers has ensured a broader base of support for our students in their various learning domains. Putting together the GREAT routine helped to ensure that lessons start with a good structure and preparation by both students and teachers. With Home-based learning, the GREAT routine was adapted for use by all as students engaged in learning using technology from home. We are looking forward to transforming this process when our students get their laptops.

In working with the HODs, he helped ensure the rigour of our QSS curriculum of learning that would ensure that students are able to progress at a steady pace yet with sufficient challenge to engage and stretch their learning. The hands-on engagement in the many detailed processes has contributed to the tone and texture of learning, facilitating the very good GCE "N" and "O" Level results for the 2020 cohort despite a very challenging year. They produced our best results in the last 10 years and we are confident that as we press forward, succeeding cohorts will do as well.

Mr Ng personally engages with students, whether they are doing well or struggling. He makes the time for our students as his heart is always for students. His creed as he has often said, "I do not teach subjects, I teach students" is a truism in his vocation. A hands-on leader, he worked with teachers to create the unique QSS experience for our Gear-Up Programme to ensure students who do not have activities to do after school can find a place to build friendships. A very humble yet generous man, we are indeed very grateful for these and many other contributions. He will leave for the Leaders in Education Programme immediately after the March school holidays. Should you wish to engage with him, please take this opportunity in the next 2 weeks to do so.

School Programmes and Travel during March School Holidays

We would want our teachers and students to have a break during this March school holidays. However, there will be some supplementary and remedial programmes organized for some of our students. Likewise, some CCAs will have training and activities for our students. Parents/Guardians will be informed of these activities for your child/ward via Parents Gateway.



Honouring the Past, Inspiring our Future.



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We expect that most, if not all our students, will not be travelling overseas during this short break. Should you be considering this for your child/ward, you need to bear in mind the requirements for Stay Home Notice (SHN), which will generally be 14 days, and depending on the country travelled to, an additional 7 days. The costs for such SHN of \$2,000 and the COVID-19 test of \$200 will have to be borne by the individual. As we have seen in the past months, countries can be included at short notice. Should your child/ward travel overseas, these requirements would have an impact on his/her learning. Please inform your child's/ward's Class mentor should any travels be planned for this coming March holidays.

Term 1 Report

Our students were involved in taking their Weighted Assessments (WAs) over the past weeks. Your child/ward would have taken the WAs and received his/her answer scripts. It would be good to review your child's/ward's performance against the time and effort made in the learning of each of the subjects taken. Teachers would have taken time to go through the answer key and engaged their students in how they can close the learning gap. I would encourage that you make time to help your child/ward process how his/her effort to engage in learning in class and to study for 2 – 3 hours after school can make a difference for his/her learning outcomes. The result slips will be issued to students at the beginning of Term 2.

Conclusion

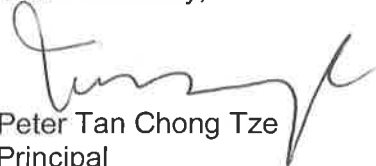
Over the past months, many of us have gone through many transitions because of COVID-19. For some of us, our lives have become more challenging and difficult, possibly with loss of job opportunities and income. We may also come to realize that we actually do not know our family members as much as we thought. Working from home and more restrained outings either create the opportunity for families to engage more, or for some of us to hide in the "caves" of our rooms or smartphones. For some of us, these months has either seen more isolation or engagement with our loved ones.

With our Government's effort to ramp-up vaccination in Singapore, we could soon be going through yet another transition. Before you and your family step into the upcoming changes in yours and your family's life, may I encourage you to take some time to reflect personally and as a family. Talk about what you liked or disliked about things in the past year. Discuss what you would all like to see together as a family as to how you will transit moving forward. How can your family communication be strengthened and what indicators are there that will inform you that things need to be checked?

Parents have often shared that it is difficult to communicate with their children especially in their teenage years. Interestingly, when I engage with students, they say that they wished their parents will take time to listen to them. May I encourage you and your family to begin, if you have not already started, to make time to listen to each other in an unhurried manner and without distractions. Set aside an agreed time of half-an-hour to an hour for a start. It takes time from all of us.

As our school's motto goes, I hope that in your family life, you can also find "Success through Diligence" as your family works to strengthen communication and relationships.

Yours sincerely,


Peter Tan Chong Tze
Principal



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