



QUEENSWAY SECONDARY SCHOOL

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

23 June 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Preparations for start of Term 3 on 28 June 2021

I trust that you have had a good school holiday break with your child/ward despite the current COVID-19 situation. I am sure that you would have been keeping pace of the ups and downs of the various restrictions to more greatly enhance protection and safety for the majority as efforts are made by everyone to reduce the spread of the virus. To help you and your child/ward prepare for school re-opening in Term 3 on 28 June 2021, this letter highlights areas to attend to.

Staggered Re-Opening of School

As announced earlier by MOE during the school holidays, all Sec 3 to 5 students will report back to school on 28 June at the usual reporting time for their cohort. Sec 1 and 2 students will be engaged in Home-Based Learning (HBL) from 28 - 30 June. They should be familiar with the processes as it will be the same as the HBL processes before the June holidays. Sec 1 and 2 students will report back to school from 1 July at the usual reporting times.

Face Masks, Thermometers and Trace Together Tokens

Though these items should be the norm for all students by now, I would like to ask all parents/guardians to remind your child/ward to have all these items with them when they report to school on the 1st day of Term 3.

From what we have heard concerning the current variant of COVID-19, there is higher transmissibility and we should do all we can to protect ourselves and others. Wearing face masks reduces risks, so please urge your child/ward to wear their face masks properly from the time they leave home till they return home. The mask should cover their nose and mouth and be comfortably fitted.

Thermometers will be used at the start of the school day and again if your child/ward has CCAs or activities in the afternoon. Each child should have their personal oral digital thermometer and should check their temperature before they leave their home. A temperature at 37.6 degrees or higher indicates a fever and your child/ward should seek medical attention.

Trace Together (TT) tokens were issued to all students who had yet to collect them from the community centres. As this is the most effective means for contact tracing, all students should be carrying their tokens from the time they leave their home until they return home. While commuting to and from school or in other activities they have, your child/ward may be identified as a close contact of a person with the virus. This ensures that you and your family can be alerted early. Should your child's/ward's token be defective or the battery is no longer operating, they can seek assistance at the community centre nearest your home. Each morning, when teachers check students' temperatures in the classroom, they will also ask all students to place their tokens on the table.

I have taken length to go through these matters with you as we want to ensure that QSS is a safe environment for all students and staff to learn and grow in. Your co-operation in ensuring your child/ward is properly equipped with the above items is essential to this effort.



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Term 3 Timetable

The timetable for Term 3 will be sent via Parents Gateway (PG) and Student Learning Space (SLS) this Friday. I would like to point out that from Term 3 onwards, the timetable will run on an odd and even week structure. The key reason for this is that our school is progressing into Blended Learning Curriculum for our students, although we are starting in Term 3 only with Sec 3 students. This phase gives time for all students and staff to adjust to a new timetable routine, especially as the whole school will progress into Blended Learning from 2022 onwards.

Recess Break

As we have been practising since last year, we will continue to have half the cohort eat in their classrooms during recess time, while the other half of the cohort eats in the canteen on a rotational basis. However, with the effort to reduce the number of students in class during recess time, we will rotate between the odd numbered and even numbered students on the class index list to be in class during recess. This way, only half the class each day will have recess in their classroom, thus reducing the number of students who will have their masks-off when eating or drinking.

To further support environmental efforts to reduce the use of Styrofoam and plastic containers, can I urge parents/guardians to provide your child/ward with reusable containers to pack their food purchases back to class. They can use the paper towels to wipe out gravy or food remnants when they dispose of these items in the trash bags provided for students. They could then bring the containers home to wash, thus not have to wait for their turn to wash their containers. We are also asking students not to wash their containers in the toilets as food particles could cause chokes in the pipes.

Please help us explain to your child/ward the reason for this arrangement during their recess time. We will also be reminding students not to speak with each other when they are eating or drinking, as mask-off activities pose a greater risk to others.

60th Anniversary Speech Day – 2 July 2021

We launched our 60 million steps challenge to mark our 60th Anniversary this year. We were hoping that the COVID-19 situation would ease so that we can have a memorable Speech Day. We will still have a memorable Speech Day, though done virtually. Unlike previous years when this was held in the evening, we have decided to hold it at lunchtime from 12 noon to 1 pm. This way, all our students can participate in the festivities and all alumni and parents can also join us in the celebrations.

We are greatly honoured to have a former teacher, Senior Assistant, Vice-Principal and Principal as our Guest-of-Honour. Mr Wong Lok Oon has served in each of these roles over the different periods that he was at Queensway Secondary School. Many alumni would have interacted with him over the course of his years, starting in 1978 as a teacher, holding the various roles in our school before going to be a Vice-Principal in another school. In 1994, he was appointed Vice-Principal of QSS and then became the Principal the following year until the end of 1998. He then went on to head other secondary schools. Mr Wong has a deep love for QSS where he began his teaching career and continues to keep in touch with our school.

The link for the proceedings of the Speech Day will be placed on the 60th Anniversary Celebrations page at our school's website and I look forward to your joining us for this virtual celebrations!



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Conclusion

We want to ensure that students and staff can return to a safe learning environment, thus I am writing to you before the start of Term 3. I am hoping that explaining the rationale for some of these processes will assure you that thought has been given to support measures that will support a safe environment during the heightened alert phase of COVID-19 management processes.

Our Prime Minister, Mr Lee Hsien Loong has mentioned that COVID-19 will eventually become endemic, meaning we will have to learn to live with this virus and manage our processes as we move along. With vaccination and testing, we can more quickly reach herd immunity and be able to ring-fence cases as they appear. I am heartened at the good response by our students to vaccination and will have our PE and CCA teachers check with their students to remind them not to engage in vigorous physical activities within the week of their vaccination.

Ultimately, everyone in our society needs to take social responsibility to avert the spread of the virus. Thus, if you or your children feel unwell with fever or flu-like symptoms, you should consult a doctor immediately. Also, during that period you should avoid contact with other people, including wearing a face mask, even at home. This variant of COVID-19 seems to be more transmissible, noting that family members can get infected quite quickly as it is possibly also air-borne.

Let's all do our part to be personally and socially responsible so that we do not have to go into phases of heightened alerts, which affects the livelihoods of many and affects engagements with people. Let's keep healthy and help our nation stay healthy! Take care and keep safe.

Yours sincerely,


Peter Tan Chong Tze
Principal



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