



QUEENSWAY SECONDARY SCHOOL

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

28 June 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that you and your child/ward had a good school vacation break and managed to find some quality time together.

Today is the beginning of a new Semester. We welcomed the Sec 3 – 5s back to school while Sec 1s and 2s will continue to have Home-Based Learning (HBL) and return to school on Thursday, 1 July 2021. Their Class Mentors (CMs) would have spent time with them during the 1st period of today to reorientate them to school expectations and also the new processes expected of our students, particularly to ensure we can continue to keep our school safe and healthy for all students and staff. I will reiterate these below and would appreciate your support.

Daily Temperature Checks and Trace Together Token (TTT)

I would urge that you get your child/ward to check their temperature each morning before they leave for school. MOH has advised that students with a temperature of 38 degrees or higher should see a doctor. Please ensure that your child/ward does so and not come to school.

Teachers will conduct temperature checks at Assembly, so your child/ward should have their Oral Digital Thermometer (ODT) with them daily. We will contact you to bring your child/ward to a doctor if he/she has a temperature 38 degrees or higher. Should your child/ward have remedial or CCA activities after school, another temperature check will be taken.

In my last letter during the holidays, I advised that your child/ward must carry their TTT with them. This ensures that you can be identified should your child/ward be in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case, which could happen anytime throughout the day, especially in their commute to and from school.

Wearing of face masks

Though this has been a practise since last year, sadly we continue to hear of people who are fined or charged in court for not wearing their face masks. Face masks should be worn at all times from the time they leave their homes till they return home. Their face mask should cover their nose and mouth. As there is a high likelihood that the virus can be spread through the air, it is for the safety of your child/ward and also for others, including your family members that they wear their face masks properly.

No talking when eating and drinking

When your child/ward is eating or drinking, they must not talk as their masks are off. Please emphasize this with your child/ward. For this reason, we are also having only half the class to eat in their classrooms during recess, reducing the number of students whose masks would be off to eat and drink.

Hand washing and wipe-down

Do emphasize the importance of hand-washing with soap with your child/ward. We also require our students to wipe-down the place they use when they are vacating it, whether in the classroom or canteen.

60th Anniversary Speech Day – Friday, 2 July 2021

Ceremonies and commemorative occasions must still be commemorated, as it is important for students and staff to maintain as much as possible a sense of normalcy. We will, of course, ensure Safe Management Measures (SMM), thus we can only have a small number of guests.



Honouring the Past, Inspiring our Future.



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The celebrations will be held virtually beginning from 12 noon and ending by 1.30 pm. Students and staff will be participating in this celebration from their classrooms while parents and alumni can join us by logging into the link at our 60th Anniversary page. We are honoured that Mr Wong Lok Oon, a former teacher, Senior Assistant, Vice-Principal and Principal at different junctures of his education career from 1978 to 1998, will be gracing the occasion as our Guest-of-Honour. This would very much be in line with our theme of "Honouring the Past, Inspiring our Future"! I hope that you can join us for this, particularly parents/guardians of students who will be receiving awards.

Youth Day Celebrations – Monday, 5 July 2021

Please note that 5 July is a school holiday and your child/ward need not report to school. Do remind him/her to comply with the prevailing SMM should he/she be meeting with friends.

GCE O-Level Mother Tongue Listening Comprehension – Tuesday, 6 July 2021

Please note that the national O-level Mother Tongue Listening Comprehension will be held on 6 July. We will dismiss all students by 1.45 pm and will require all students who are not taking the examinations to vacate the school. They should be returning home after dismissal.

Conclusion

It was good to engage with students this morning and to hear that they were eager to return to school. As I walked by the classrooms, it was heartening to hear the conversations between students and their teachers. It would be important that we all maintain SMM requirements so that we all play our part to keep our school open for our students.

Your child/ward would have received their timetable through SLS while you would have received it via Parents Gateway. As mentioned, we are piloting Blended Learning for our Sec 3 students this Semester, which will become a whole school practice from next year. In order to facilitate the schedule for Blended Learning, the school will be following a timetable with odd and even weeks which would be most efficient and effective. It will take a while for students to get used to this structure, but they will adapt. Many of us as educators have worked in schools where such a timetable structure operates and after the initial teething issues, everyone adapts.

Being able to adapt to changes is key to us becoming a resilient person. Many of us would prefer the status quo, but that is not true in life. From the time a baby is born, they are adapting from the comforts of being in the mother's womb to life in the real world. Learning to feed through their mouth and breathing through their nose ensures they survive. Refusing to accept this adaptation would be disastrous. Similarly, when COVID-19 happened, not only individuals but everyone in the world had to adapt and manage the changes required. Generally, those who are more adaptable responded better. Helping our children to be adaptable also builds resilience in them.

Ironically, we can learn from the COVID-19 virus. The latest I heard on the news last night was that we could be seeing a Delta-plus variant of the virus. This demonstrates to us how determined this virus is to survive and thrive. If we can sit back and see that a microscopic virus can adapt in order to thrive, we too can do the same. It builds resilience and thrive till it finds a challenge to its survival and then it adapts. So do talk to your child/ward to learn resilience even when this virus has turned the world topsy-turvy. We can always take something good out of a difficult situation and it is my hope that all of us as Queenswayans grow in resilience and diligence. In this way, we will find success and live true to our motto of "Success through Diligence"!

Yours sincerely,

Peter Tan Chong Tze
Principal