



# QUEENSWAY SECONDARY SCHOOL

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

2 August 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

## **National Day Celebrations – “Together, Our Singapore Spirit”**

Our nation will be celebrating National Day this year with a difference. These are unusual times and though we may not be able to do things as we normally would, it is still important that we commemorate a significant milestone in our Nation's history.

This year's theme song, “The Road Ahead”, has a line that particularly captures my attention – “Did it Before, Do it Again!” When I first heard the song, these words continued to ring in my mind. It is a powerful reminder that we as a Nation have been through many different challenges from our establishment as an independent country on 9 August 1965, but we always found a way to overcome it and grew stronger as a result of the challenge. No doubt it was a different generation of Singaporeans who went through the challenge, but I have every confidence that each generation builds on the former and we become stronger for it. I have a great sense of confidence that as we “did it before” we can “do it again”! TOGETHER, as one people, let's rally as a people, as we daily declare in our pledge, “as one united people” to do all that is necessary to combat COVID-19, and forge a nation “regardless of race, language or religion” to be better and stronger than we were before!

As a school, we will commemorate National Day on Friday, 6 August. School will start at the usual staggered times for the different cohorts and Sec 1 and 3 students will be dismissed at 10.15 am, while Sec 2,4 and 5 students will be dismissed at 10.45am. We have planned the celebrations bearing in mind Safe Management Measures but equally significant to motivate our students towards what they can be! Please note that 9 August is a public holiday and 10 August is a school holiday. Your child/ward need not report to school and do remind him/her to comply with the prevailing SMM should he/she be meeting with friends.

## **Taking Social Responsibility**

Some parents called the school to find out about the positive COVID-19 case that I informed you about last week. As mentioned, MOH advised that we need not follow-up with contact tracing of other students as the student was not in school during the infectious period. Despite this, we carried out the necessary cleaning of our school's premises.

I also want to take this opportunity to remind parents/guardians that should there be anyone in your household who is unwell, required to take a swab test, or served a Home Quarantine Order (HQO), you are to keep your child/ward at home until the swab test indicates a “negative” COVID-19 test result or the HQO rescinded or expired. Our teachers will require a screen-shot of the notice before your child/ward is allowed to return to school. This is necessary for the safety and well-being of all students and staff in school.

I am very grateful for the many parents/guardians who have been most co-operative and responsible over these past months and doing the right thing to keep their child/ward at home when a household member was unwell. Your child/ward may have informed you that some of their classmates were absent for a period of time. It is most likely for this reason as



*Honouring the Past, Inspiring our Future.*



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parents/guardians take responsibility to ensure that they minimise the risks and challenges for other families. This is most commendable and I am very grateful.

## Vaccination Exercise

For students who have yet to register for the vaccination and wish to make appointments, they may now do so by going to <https://preregister.vaccine.gov.sg> and keying in their details. They should receive the SMS within a week. Please also note the following:

- I. Under the national rollout, all students under the age of 18 will need to download, complete, and bring along the parental consent form from <https://go.gov.sg/parcf>.
- II. Students aged 12 will require their parent/legal guardian to accompany them. Other family/household members should not accompany them.
- III. If they still do not receive the SMS within a week, they should call MOH's hotline at 1800-333-9999.

## Strengthening Mental Wellness

Last week was "Mental Wellness Week" in our school. We engaged with students about taking care of their mental wellness and encouraged them to engage with adults, preferably parents or teachers, to talk about concerns or issues that they may have. We have also provided a poster with Helplines to various organizations that can provide support for them. This is readily available in their classrooms and they can take note of the number to call.


As parents/guardians, do be inviting to your child/ward to share with you their thoughts. I understand that we lead busy lives. However, setting aside some "personal time" with each of your children for a few minutes to just listen to them signals your care and concern for them. Do not be disheartened if they do not readily open up especially if you have never done this before. Agree with them on a regular time each week for just 10-minutes and invite them to tell you, for instance, something they are happy with and something they find a challenge. Just listen and do not go into a lecturing mode. Begin to build the relationship with them. Over time, the amount of time spent may increase and you will both find pleasure in the time of engagement. Another suggestion is to take a walk together during that time rather than sitting face-to-face, if that is uncomfortable for you.

Should you need other advice or guidance on building relationships with your child/ward, do feel free to contact our School Counsellors or you can contact me.

## Conclusion

Life will come with its pressures and challenges. The important thing is to face these challenges TOGETHER as a family and a nation. A single chopstick is easily broken into 2. However, when we have a bunch of chopsticks held together, the bundle of chopsticks cannot be easily broken. Forging this sense of unity and togetherness will help us in our families and as a nation stay strong and able to withstand challenges that come our way. We can make things happen as we do it together!

Yours sincerely,

  
Peter Tan Chong Tze  
Principal