



# QUEENSWAY SECONDARY SCHOOL

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29 October 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today is the last school day for most of our students. It has been a challenging yet fulfilling year of working with and developing our Queenswayans in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running of managing COVID-19. I am very heartened to see how our students have developed as responsible Queenswayans over the year and I have much to thank our teachers and staff for the hard work and time they invested to help make a challenging year better than it could have been.

This year, QSS celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Despite COVID-19, we successfully launched our 60 million Step Challenge and all our staff and students plunged headlong into not just meeting, but exceeding the step count. This effort has resulted in our goal of raising 60,000 kg of rice for needy residents in the Queenstown district. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we have not been able to carry out the rice distribution and will endeavour to do this next year.

We also had a successful 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Speech Day celebrations, again conducted under Safe Management Measures (SMM) but one that was significant and memorable for alumni and students. We are grateful that the QSS Alumni Association also launched their effort to raise \$200,000 to support our students through scholarships, awards and provide for our needy students. Their love for their alma mater and concern for the well-being of Queenswayans present is certainly heart-warming and also an inspiration for our current students.

The only planned event for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary that could not be realised is our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Dinner due to prevailing SMM restrictions. I am encouraged that the alumni still wants to commemorate our school's milestone and are looking at a gathering of Queenswayans when it is possible to do so safely.

Despite COVID-19, our students continued to engage in their CCAs and I am proud of our students who distinguished themselves at the Singapore Youth Festival Presentations with our Chinese Dance attaining the Certificate of Distinction while our Concert Band and Drama were awarded the Certificate of Accomplishment. Our sports teams also did well at the National Schools Games, with our Sepak Takraw team and our Volleyball Boys team attaining 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers, while our Volleyball Girls team finished 2nd in the competition.

We are very proud of our students, teachers and their coaches/instructors, training and performing despite challenging situations and conditions. The determination of our Queenswayans to persevere and triumph despite having to surmount the challenges and conditions they have to work with shows how well our students demonstrated the value of Excellence as Queenswayans.

We were also very delighted for our graduating cohort of 2020, despite having to study and work hard despite circuit-breaker and Home-based Learning. This cohort got our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations off to a great start when they turned in the best O-Level performance in the last 10 years. This reflects the steely determination of our students and the commitment of our teachers to do their best for their charges despite difficult situations. It shows what we can all do, when we pull together for each other!

## **Trace-Together Token**

Your child/ward would know that we have been emphasizing the necessity for every student to bring their tokens to school daily. As a routine, students will also check-in using the readers their Class Mentors have with them. This ensures that your child's/ward's token is working. In this way, in the



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event that he/she is a close contact with a COVID-19 positive person, you will be informed by the Ministry of Health for the necessary follow-up actions.

At QSS, all our students are required to place their handphones in the “phone hotel” during curriculum hours. This has served our students well as it prevents distractions from the use of their handphones during lessons. The tokens become very necessary, as I am aware that parents may not want their children to have a data plan to manage their screen time and their tokens are the only means of tracking close contacts with COVID-19 positive persons.

Again, I am very pleased with the responsibility that our students are displaying. After the initial phase of enforcing the habit, we see only 2 students over the last few days who have either forgotten their tokens or their tokens are out of power and need to replace the battery. During the upcoming school holidays, all students entering our school will be required to use their tokens to check-in at the security posts. When students return to school in 2022, we will require every student to have their tokens with them. We look forward to your support to ensure that your child/ward carries the token.

## Reminders on Travel Declaration

Some of you may be making plans to travel overseas during this upcoming school holidays. You should be mindful about the travel advisory concerning various countries and should bear this in mind when making plans. You can refer to this website for the latest advisory (<https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg/departing/overview>). International students (IS) who are travelling out of Singapore have to apply for entry approval to return to Singapore via the Safe Travel Office (STO) online portal (<https://eservices.ica.gov.sg/STO>). IS could apply at least 2 weeks to 5 weeks before the planned date of entry.

## Purchase of school books and School Uniform for 2022

Our school bookshop is finalizing the details for book purchase and this will be sent to parents/guardians via PG when it is ready. We are also making arrangements with the school uniform provider to make arrangements for collection/purchase of school uniform on the same day. For this purpose, there will be a schedule date and time for collection and only 1 parent/guardian will be allowed to accompany their child/ward for this on the day of collection.

The bookshop and uniform suppliers will also be making arrangements for home delivery. Please note that there will be a charge for this service if you wish to have this service.

## Wearing of full school uniform

In Singapore, we are learning to live with COVID-19 as endemic. Life needs to return to as much normalcy as possible. We have allowed students to be in PE attire and we noticed quite a number of them were wearing sweaters or track tops in their classes.

From 2022, we will revert to our students wearing our Queensway school uniform and only wearing their PE attire during PE lessons or for CCA. The proper wearing of uniform also builds discipline in our students, another school value that Queenswayans are to uphold. Please ensure that your child/ward has the school uniform ready for next year.

## Making good use of time during the school holidays

The school holidays for secondary school students is rather long. It will be good for you to engage with your child/ward as to what he/she would be doing during the school holidays.

Reading has been shown to be a very beneficial lifestyle habit and cultivating this at a young age will ensure that it continues to reap its rewards. For instance, good academic results has been shown to strongly co-relate with those who have a healthy reading habit. A research study of Nobel Prize winners revealed that they not only read a lot but also read widely. Being exposed to various genre of reading materials contributed to their nimbleness in thinking and ability to expound on their theories to



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discover the understandings they were able to develop. Thus, encouraging your child/ward to spend at least an hour a day to read, beginning with books he/she is interested in and growing to reading other genre would be helpful. Our school has also provided suggested reading materials that your child/ward could consider. The National Library provides e-books that your child/ward can loan so they do not have to travel for the purpose of borrowing books.

Exercising and keeping healthy is necessary even in endemic Singapore. Encourage your child/ward to exercise regularly as this will keep them healthy and fit. Doing so sensibly by keeping to SMM processes would be the right thing to do. Being healthy would also ensure that they have a robust immune system that will keep infections away.

Maintaining regular sleep habits even during the school holidays is important. We find that when sleeping routines are changed particularly during a long school holiday break, when students engage particularly in gaming or excessive watching of movies, etc they have a difficult time settling back into school routines when the school term begins. Usually, they become cranky and can become defiant and challenging for parents to engage and maintain the care and control over their child/ward. Engage with your child/ward so they will be able to resume schooling with less stress and tension in 2022.

I wish you and your family a meaningful and good break. I am grateful for the support and co-operation from our parents and guardians. We look forward to a better 2022 when schooling resumes. Hopefully, the COVID-19 situation in Singapore would have improved and your child/ward can look forward to a fuller school experience.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Tan Chong Tze  
Principal



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