



# Queensway Secondary School

2A Margaret Drive Singapore 149295 Tel: 6474 1421 / 6476 6416 Fax: 6474 1302 Email: qss@moe.edu.sg

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have come to the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> week of school and am glad to see how well our students have responded to returning to school. It was certainly nice to see their bright smiles as they re-connected with friends and teachers, ready and eager for the year ahead. It was also good to see all students neatly donning their school uniforms and all with a fresh, new attitude ready and eager to embrace the learning and growing they will make this year.

I am grateful to parents/guardians for your support and understanding as we put in place Safe Management Measures (SMM) to ensure the wellbeing of all students and staff in school. Your effort to remind your child/ward about mask wearing, bringing thermometers and Trace-Together Tokens daily has been most helpful. These together with our processes to manage smooth implementation of practise will ensure that teaching and learning can progress without disruptions.

## Secondary 1 Orientation

I am also very pleased to see how quickly our Sec 1 students have adjusted to schooling at QSS. While we could not have students mingling beyond their classes due to SMM, it was heartening to see how well they engaged with each other, their teachers and the Orientation Group Leaders. I take this opportunity to also express my appreciation to all the Orientation Group Leaders who made time during the December holidays to come together to prepare themselves by planning activities for our youngest Queenswayans and spending much time with them over this week. This is the spirit we want in our students, where they care enough to give of themselves to be a blessing to others.

Today, the Sec 1 students will have the opportunity to view the CCA offerings in our school. They would also have had opportunities to try out various CCAs. Over the next week, they will have opportunities to find out more about the CCA as they visit their training sessions and activities. Do note that Sec 1 students will need to **submit their options for CCAs between 17 Jan – 21 Jan.**

## Blended Learning

From this year, all secondary schools in Singapore will implement Blended Learning. The objective of this is to provide a greater opportunity for students to learn to take ownership of their learning. This builds on the values we want to see in our students especially those of Discipline, Responsibility and Excellence. Through Blended Learning, students learn content that is within and outside of the curriculum, have the opportunity to plan their learning within the day and use a range of resources including print and digital resources.

In QSS, most Even Week Fridays have been designated as Home Based Learning (HBL) Days. Thus, the first HBL Day will be Friday 14 January. If you look at our school calendar, also found in your child's/ward's Student Handbook, you will see these days indicated in their diary as HBL.

On HBL Days, students will not report to school. Teachers would have assigned them learning activities to do for the day according to the curriculum plan that has been designed. Students will take their own initiative to carry this out at their own time and pace, though the assignments would have to be submitted within the deadline stipulated.



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Another feature of Blended Learning is the Student Initiated Learning (SIL), that gives an opportunity for students to pursue areas of interest that they would have. As the title describes, this is where students take initiative to learn and develop their interests. Their Class mentors would have taken time over this week to engage their students on the options and approaches they could take. In QSS, we piloted Blended Learning with our Sec 3 students last year and it was heartening to see the initiative students took to manage their own learning. Some interesting examples of SIL includes learning a foreign language, baking a cake, photography and bicycle repair. Parents/Guardians should engage with your child/ward about the SIL they intend to embark on.

A more detailed description of how Blended Learning will happen in QSS has already been sent to all parents/guardians via PG and we will require an acknowledgement from you by **Wednesday 12 January**.

While students do not report to school on HBL Days, we understand that some parents/guardians may have challenges with your child/ward staying at home alone on these days. Please email your child's/ward's Class Mentor concerning this if you need support. These students will then be required to report to school during curriculum time and they will be placed in a classroom to carry out their own learning. Please also note that there will not be any CCAs on these HBL Days.


## Conclusion

Secondary school students are at a pivotal stage of their lives. As parents/guardians, the shaping of their future takes place at this stage. While I acknowledge that raising teenagers can be challenging, they need more than anything for you to be their parent/adult in their lives.

One thing I learnt about children is that they respond best when they feel loved, particularly by their parents and family. For them, love is spelt T-I-M-E! Unfortunately, there is no substitute for time needed to express love to our children. In our busy lives, we often outsource this and after the passage of time, we start to lose connection with our children. All is not lost! I have seen in my years as an educator how teenagers turn around when the parent starts to invest time with their child/children. I have also found that they are not unreasonable in their expectations. So, why not start by taking time to spend some 1-to-1 time with your child/ward. Start with 15-20 minutes at least once a week. Do something they enjoy and that gives you time to converse.

All parents and children want to have success in our lives. It takes diligence to make it happen. So begin early in the year on building your relationship and you will find "Success through Diligence"!

Yours sincerely,



Peter Tan Chong Tze  
Principal