



# Queensway Secondary School

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

20 June 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I trust that you and your children / wards are enjoying the June school holidays and may be a little surprised to receive this letter. I am also sure that your child/ward would have informed you that on the last day of Term 2, I informed them that there will be a change to the starting time for school and I told them I will also be writing to you about it.

## Change of School Start and End Time

Over the past 2 years of Safe Management Measures (SMM), we have practised staggered reporting times for our students to reduce congestion at both arrival and dismissal times. Now that SMM has eased and there is no need for staggered timings for students, we are also taking advantage of what we learnt during the process. We had fewer students arriving late to school, particularly among those levels that were required to report by 8 a.m., and these students also reported that they had more sleep time.

Thus, **from Semester 2, all students are to report to school before 8 a.m. every day.** With this change, we hope to see your child/ward turn up punctually for school and also get more sleep, and be ready and fresh for school. Those arriving after 8 a.m. will be considered late for school.

At the Breakfast Chats I have had in Semester 1 with parents/guardians, I shared that research shows that there is an increased build-up of toxins in our bodies when we sleep after 11 p.m. and these toxins cause the body to be lethargic and tired over time, thus affecting students' ability to pay attention during lesson time. So, while school will start later, it should not mean that your child/ward goes to bed later.

Another scientific fact that I shared is the use of digital devices, especially smartphones, before bedtime. These devices emit a 'blue light' when used and signals to our brain that it is day-time. Thus, your children/wards will often say that they cannot sleep when they use their digital devices before going to bed. If you allow your children/wards to place their smartphones next to their bed, they will inevitably use it, since they cannot sleep, ultimately making the problem worse. It is also for this reason that our school mandates a block-off time for Chromebooks from 10.30 p.m. We want our students to wind down without their digital devices and hopefully have time with their family members.

**As the school start time is later, do note that dismissal time will also be later.** As we are still working to resolve some issues with generating the timetable for all students, I will inform you about the finalised dismissal time by this Friday 25 Jun 2022.

## Adjusted Curriculum Timings and Morning Routines

To better support our students, we will also take advantage of what we learnt during COVID-19, to adjust our curriculum timings and morning routines. I informed students that from Semester 2, they will **report to the school hall for morning assembly before 8 a.m. on Mondays and Fridays**, and they will **report to their classrooms from Tuesdays to Thursdays before 8 a.m.** This will facilitate more class time for Teacher-Student conferencing and class-related activities.



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As Semester 2 is generally a shorter semester, we will also be looking to fine-tuning our processes after this semester, in preparation for 2023. We will solicit feedback from students and their parents and our staff to make these adjustments, but I ask that you give time for everyone to adjust and have a better feel of these changes.

## **Aesthetics Night: Friday 1 Jul 2022**

I wrote to you earlier to share about this event to be held at ACS (Barker Road) at the Mrs Lee Choon Guan Concert Hall. Given the COVID-19 outbreak, It has been a few years since our school has been able to hold such an event. This is a fine way to celebrate the talents of our students in the Performing Arts. It is a chance for our students and parents/guardians to enjoy a wholly QSS-created musical production. Most tickets have been purchased and if you and your child/ward or their siblings wish to join us, please ask your child/ward to purchase tickets early in the first week of Term 3 to avoid disappointment.

Please note that **Home-Based Learning day (HBL) for this period will be held on Fri 1 July instead of Fri 8 Jul 2022**. Aesthetics Night will also be the highlight of a week of special activities to celebrate the energy and vibrancy of our youths. With Youth Day falling on Sun 3 Jul 2022, **Mon 4 July will also be a school holiday**, a fitting end to a very special week celebrating our students and the Queenswayan spirit!

Meanwhile, do enjoy the rest of the school holidays. Your children/wards would receive their new timetable before the new term begins.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Tan Chong Tze  
*Principal*