



Queensway Secondary School

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Dear Parents/Guardians

Most of us would have followed the amazing rescue of the 12 boys and their coach from the cave in Chiangrai, Thailand. I am sure in the days ahead, we will continue to read about these boys, their coach and the determined and courageous team of divers that kept the world waiting with bated breath as many prayed and hope for their safe rescue.

On Monday morning, I drew an analogy for our students that I would like to share with you. I told our students that some of them were like the boys trapped in a cave. They first started off on an adventure, out of fun and pleasure and eventually found themselves in a cave because the routes out were blocked. They became trapped and things seemed hopeless. They are frightened and in despair wondering if anyone cares for them. Little did they know that their parents were outside the cave, worrying for them but there were no means of communication. The parents might have been initially angry that the incident happened, but that soon gave way to worry and fear that there was no way to rescue them. Worse still, more imminent dangers were in the horizon. Thankfully, help came in the form of rescuers, particularly divers, who were able to find their way to the trapped children and bring them resources and encouragement. To get out, they would have to trust their rescuers. I urged our students to maintain their lines of communication with their parents. True, some of them may wander off and get lost and trapped in a cave. They may think that their parents do not care, but the truth is their parents do love them but do not know how to reach them. Fortunately, there are teachers and counsellors in school who are also looking to find and help them. They would, likewise, have to trust their teachers and/or counsellors to guide and help them out of their trapped situation to safety and reconciliation with their parents. I urged them to trust the professionals around them who could help them and hoped that they too could look at this incident and learn from the grit and determination of the young Thai boys. I also hope you will take time to talk with your children and share your personal reflections on the incident and invite your child/ward to share his/her thoughts with you.

Early Dismissal for GCE O-Level Mother Tongue Listening Comprehension - Tuesday, 17 July 2018

Please note that the Mother Tongue Listening Comprehension examinations will be held next Tuesday. All Sec 1 to 3 except the Sec 2 students involved in the Scaffold Programme will be dismissed at 1pm. This is to facilitate the arrangements for teachers to be able to report to their examination centres and for us to prepare the school for the students who are taking the examination.

School Lockdown and Emergency Evacuation Exercise – Monday, 23 July 2018

As part of the process to sensitize our students to be able to respond in case of an emergency, our school will be conducting a full-scale lockdown and emergency evacuation exercise with all our students and staff on 23 July 2018. In this exercise, unlike regular drills we conduct, the Police, SCDF and emergency vehicles will be involved, giving much realism to it. As the exercise will take about 2.5 hours, we would like to urge parents/guardians to remind your child/ward to have a good breakfast that morning as their recess break will be pushed back.

Our staff have been through drills to prepare for this and we look forward to this exercise to help us to be even more prepared in case of a real emergency.





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With the guidance of safety and security officials, and the support of the leadership and management of the Church of Our Saviour, we will be evacuating our students to the covered carpark and atrium of the premises. In case of an actual emergency, this will also be our evacuation site. We sought other evacuation sites but they are either too far to evacuate the whole school population to safely or their owners would not grant us the permission to use their site.

This would be a very good learning experience for both our students and staff, ensuring that we are able to respond appropriately in case of an emergency that requires the whole school population to evacuate.

Boys' Brigade Founder's Badge

I would like to congratulate WO Nixen Samuel Gonzali from 411 from our school's 61st BB Company, for attaining the Founder's Badge. This is the highest award that any secondary school student can attain and we are very proud of him for his display of determination, dedication and leadership to be conferred this award by Boys' Brigade Singapore.

Congratulations to our Volleyball C-Division Boys and Girls teams

I would like to congratulate our Volleyball C-Division boys' and girls' teams for qualifying for the semi-finals of the South Zone Volleyball Championships. They will play in the semi-finals tomorrow and we wish them well. Their achievement means that this year, after a long while, all our 4 volleyball teams would have finished in the top of the South Zone Championships.

Parents Gateway

On Monday this week, all Sec 1 and 2 students were given letters to inform parents/guardians that Queensway Sec is among the schools that are part of MOE's pilot programme to support electronic communication between parents and schools using smartphones. Parents/Guardians would have to create your account to access the Parents Gateway. Should you have children in other schools, eventually this will become a platform where communication with the various schools will land on, making it easier for you to respond and monitor your child's/ward's activities. Please note that this is the first rollout of this programme and improvements and refinements will continue to be made. By next year we will have the whole school on this platform.

Preliminary Examinations for Graduating Students

Finally, parents/guardians of Sec 4 and 5 students should note that your child/ward will receive his/her Preliminary Examinations timetable in the next few days. Please advise him/her to use this as a gauge of his/her readiness for the GCE "O" and "N" Levels and plan to close the learning gaps.

Yours sincerely

Peter Tan Chong Tze
Principal

