



Queensway Secondary School

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

We welcomed our students back for Term 4, the final term for this year, this morning. It is going to be a rather busy term with the GCE N-Levels Written Papers commencing today, the Sec 4 Express Preliminary Examinations resuming also today and the GCE O-Levels to follow in October. The rest of our Sec 1 to 3 students will also be having their End-of-Year Examinations commencing in about 2 weeks. Thus, we had encouraged our students to put the September school holidays to productive use, while taking time for exercise and relaxation in proportion, as they will see the term coming to a close in October. Examinations aside, we will close the year with a range of activities to prepare them for the following year, which I will share with you subsequently in other letters.

Teachers' Day Celebration 2023

To bring Term 3 to a close, we celebrated the commitment and dedication of our Queensway teachers and staff. Our Student Leaders planned an interesting and enjoyable Teachers' Day Concert on Wednesday 30 August with a host of items from a variety of groups of students who auditioned for the opportunity to express their appreciation to their teachers. It was really heartening to see the effort invested by our students as they wanted to do their best for their teachers, to thank them for their dedicated and committed efforts to care for them. This, together with the host of activities including quizzes and impromptu performances, made for a fitting celebratory event to appreciate our dedicated and diligent Queensway teachers and staff. I also want to thank parents and alumni for making the effort to arrange for a "Thank You Gathering" for teachers and staff on 31 August, together with thoughtful gifts that were presented to all teachers and staff.

President's Award for Teachers 2023

Each year, this award is given to a select group of teachers nominated by their students, parents and community. Out of a total of 4837 nominations this year, I am pleased to share with you that Mr Yeo Choon Hwa as among the 17 finalists for this year's award. Mr Yeo, our Assistant Year Head for the graduating Sec 4E/5N cohort, is a dedicated and diligent teacher who goes the extra mile for his students. He makes the special effort to be present each morning at the level where the classrooms of the cohort he oversees, to engage with them. He is fully aware of the challenges and strengths these students have, including those who need additional support, as well as those who thrive on challenges. He makes the effort to create opportunities for students to grow and develop, whether it is in the Basketball CCA or student leaders he works with, helping each student to become better versions of themselves. He is a man who says what he means, and means what he says, and can be counted on to give his best for his charges, while supporting and working closely with colleagues to provide the best opportunity for our students. We are delighted and proud to have Mr Yeo among our teaching staff, leading, guiding and nurturing our students towards becoming the ladies and gentlemen that makes us proud of them. He is certainly a worthy finalist for the President's Award for Teachers 2023.

Over the past 3 years, Queensway Secondary can be very proud of 2 of our teachers who were among the finalists for the President's Award for Teachers, namely, Ms Teo Yong Chin in 2021 and now Mr Yeo Choon Hwa in 2023. In 2022, Ms Grace Lee was one of 6 recipients of the Outstanding Youth in Education Award. Not many schools can lay claim 3 years in a row to



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teachers being recognised and affirmed at the highest national level for the quality of their care, teaching excellence and student development. We are certainly privileged to have such teachers in our midst who live the Teachers' Creed in the quality of work done with our students.

As we marked the Teachers' Day school holiday yesterday, I was intrigued, while also importantly reminded, about the purpose of education in a post to educators. It was written by a World War II survivor addressed to teachers, and it reads:

*Dear teachers,
I am a survivor of a concentration camp. My eyes saw what no man should witness. Gas chambers built by learned engineers, children poisoned by educated physicians, infants killed by trained nurses, women and babies shot and burned by high school college graduates. So, I am suspicious of education. My request is, help your students become human. Your efforts must never produce learned monsters, skilled psychopaths, educated illiterates. Reading, writing, arithmetic are important only if they serve towards making our children more humane.*

How true these words ring about the purpose of education. Teachers teach curriculum and content. We prepare our students to be educated and to contribute effectively to humanity, but more than anything, we must teach our students to be humane and to be able and willing to do good for others. I certainly hope this is an objective and purpose that you, our parents/guardians, can agree with.

Certainly, with national and school examinations, we want them to do their best and give their best efforts to ensuring they do well and that they are able to progress to their next stage of education. However, this is not something to be achieved at all costs. Sadly, over the course of the year, there have been occasions when we have had to void the results of students who sought unfair and wrong methods to achieve better results for themselves through various means of cheating. Please remind your child/ward that the consequence will be severe, and it pays for them to work hard rather than get good results through illicit means.

I am thankful for my Queensway Secondary colleagues who share this belief with me that we want our students to be imbued with the right values and to become young ladies and gentlemen with good character traits. Thus, we continually give focus to our school's values of *Discipline, Respect, Responsibility and Excellence*, believing that if they are grounded in values, they will grow to be more humane and make our world a better place for everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Tan Chong Tze
Principal