



# Queensway Secondary School

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Though short, I trust that you together with your child/ward managed to get some time away from the routine and were able to make time to bond with each other during the March school holidays. I often remind students that there is a time for everything. When it is the school term, they should work hard at doing their best in their studies and CCAs. However, they should make time for rest, family and friends during the school holidays.

I was very proud of our students when we held our school X-Country Championships on the last day of Term 1. There was a MRT train fault and the delay was as much as 30 minutes. However, all our students made their way to the Chinese & Japanese Gardens, even though they were severely held up by the rail problem. This commitment to doing the right thing is a hallmark we want to see in all our students and they demonstrated it very well that day, especially when it came to the time to close the event with the singing of our School Song. Our students sang with such gusto that it surprised the teachers, many of whom told me that they had never heard such passionate singing from our students. Let's press forward in this to fulfil our vision of developing Caring citizens and Life-long learners in a School of excellence.

## Weighted Assessments using Performance Tasks

This year, our school would be using a wider range of assessments beyond the typical paper-and-pen format that most students and parents are familiar with. These assessments are more authentic in preparing our students for the attitudes and attributes they must possess in order to be effective and contributing in working life. Developing these habits early in life would prepare them for their future.

For each of the subjects they take, they will be given a different timeline based on the specifications and demands of the assessment. Students will be given clear guidelines on the expectations of their work and be evaluated on their effort and output.

One of our school's values is "Discipline" and this is a very necessary quality you would want to see in your employees if you are managing a team. Thus, we will be stressing to students the importance of meeting the deadline. There will not be any extension given beyond the deadline as we want to emphasize the importance of this habit early. Our students in developing this value will be much appreciated and treasured because they will plan their time well, work according to their specified timelines to be prepared and ready in advance of the deadline, rather than doing shoddy work because they did not plan and have to rush at the last moment to complete their task.

In doing this, we are also emphasizing the value of giving their best in what they do. Just as they, or you, would like to receive a well-completed piece of work, they must take pride in completing their work well. Recently, I was travelling in a country where grilled mushrooms were commonly sold, whether at restaurants or hawker stalls. I was particularly impressed by a hawker who took care, time and effort to ensure that the grilled mushrooms he sold were of the right texture, chewiness and taste according to the request of customers. It was no wonder that the queue for his stall was very long, but like his other customers, I was very satisfied. It was not an expensive dish, but the effort and attitude he displayed was impressive. Where possible, do affirm your child/ward for the effort that he/she puts in to do his/her task well. It





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does not matter how big the task is, but it does matter when we put in big effort even for small tasks. Your affirmation would also reinforce the right attitude and behaviour you hope to see.

## Meet-the-Parents of Sec 2 and 3 students

As mentioned earlier, we will be meeting parents/guardians of Sec 3 students this Friday, 29 March 2019 and those of Sec 2 students on Friday, 5 April 2019. Letters were given to your child/ward for those in Sec 3 to indicate your attendance. Parents/Guardians of Sec 2 students will receive your letter of invitation this week. We look forward to engaging you as a larger group and this would be followed by the smaller group engagements with parents who attend the Breakfast with Principals, the week following the Meet-the-Parents sessions. Again, I will give attention to the topic on "What does the brain have to do with learning?" Knowing this can help you guide your child/ward in their development.

## Parents Gateway and access rights

I am encouraged that the response from our parents/guardians to the Parents Gateway has been good. If you have not linked yourself through this app, I urge that you wait no longer. This app will provide you information and the ability to grant consent to your child's/ward's participation in school activities. Besides your child/ward in QSS, should you have children in other schools, this is a one-stop platform for all the information from the schools your children attend.

At the same time, we recognize that some parents have been divorced from their spouse. To ensure that the access to give consent is accorded to the right parent according to the separation documents, your child's/ward's Class Mentor will be contacting you to ask for a copy of the documents for the school's records.

## Conclusion

Except for Sec 1 students who will not have a Mid-Year Examinations, all other levels will have theirs. While the results are important for various reasons, examinations are indications of what your child/ward is able to apply in the learning of the subject area that he/she has spent time to learn in Semester 1. Thus, it is important for your child/ward to spend time daily in going through the work that teachers have instructed them in. Again, building the right habits in your child/ward early will make a significant difference

This is a particularly important stage of your child's/ward's development and the time you make to engage them and build strong relationships with them is important. Thus in our school, we organise various parent-child bonding events that supports and encourages this. Most recently, we held the Father-Child Badminton Fiesta and I was heartened by the good response as there were students participating with their fathers from the various Sec 1 to 4 levels. Mums were also present to support their spouse and child. The next "Dads for Life" event to be organised is the Father-Child Bowling Fiesta, so do keep a look out for it!

Thank you for your partnership in the development of our Queenswayans! We want to see each of them develop to be the young man or lady who is disciplined, respectful, responsible and strives for excellence, living to our school's motto of "Success through Diligence".

Yours sincerely,

Peter Tan Chong Ze  
Principal

