



Queensway Secondary School

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I welcomed our staff and students back from the March holidays. I was glad that 95% of our students were accounted for, with the rest not back for a variety of reasons. It is good to see that our students are eager to return to school.

While there were some who travelled during the March holidays, I am glad that the large majority of staff and students stayed in Singapore. I commend the good judgement made by parents/guardians not to travel as the COVID-19 situation is an evolving and growing one in the world. Those who travelled have been placed on 14-days Leave of Absence from the day after they return to Singapore. With the greater need to ring-fence Singapore, new approaches are being made to protect our homeland. I thank you for the support.

Meanwhile, teaching and learning will proceed as normal though we are exercising some processes to restrict student interactions. Some of these processes include:

- Seating arrangements are made such that students seat individually and according to the class index numbers. Where there is a particular reason for a need for a seat change, the Class Mentors will make the arrangements.
- All students, in addition to, doing the wipe-down of the place where they ate, will also do a wipe-down of the desk they use in their class, science laboratory, workshop, etc. This will ensure greater safety for others who use the space after them.
- CCAs have been suspended by MOE for the next 2 weeks with the objective of limiting student interactions beyond their classroom. We have advised our students to go home rather than going to interact with their peers from our school or other schools.
- Remedial lessons will continue to be conducted in small groups and students will also be seating apart from each other and wipe-down the desk they use after the session.

Temperature-taking will be conducted daily and a second temperature check will be conducted for all students should they have afternoon activities.

Postponement of Speech Day

In light of the current situation where social distancing is encouraged and large gatherings of people are prohibited, we have decided to postpone our Speech Day Ceremony to July, with the hope that the situation might be better then. In any case, we will still want to recognize our students and staff who will receive their awards and should things not get better, we will arrange for a down-sized programme.

Sec 2 Meet-the-Parents

As advised, the Sec 2 Meet-the-Parents and briefing for Sec 3 Subject Options will be held on Friday, 3 April for parents of Class 201 to 204 and Thursday, 9 April for parents of Class 211, 212 and 213 students. To manage the numbers for temperature-taking and contact tracing documentation, we will only allow 1 parent per student to attend this session.





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Conclusion

This morning, I reminded our students that though they are young, it does not mean they cannot be infected by the COVID-19 virus. Most of them, if infected will likely have mild symptoms and recover without devastating effect, based on what has been seen so far. However, I told them that they have elderly grandparents, some have parents with serious health problems, and should they be infected with the virus, they would carry the virus home and infect their family members. For the more elderly or those with serious health problems, the effects of a COVID-19 infection could be very serious.

Thus, they must practice social responsibility towards their family members too by limiting their social interactions outside of school. Even when they are outside of school, they should practise social distancing and keep at least the 1 – 2 metres space from others. They should avoid crowded places and put their time to more productive use.

We also reminded them about the good habit of coughing or sneezing into a tissue, then discarding the tissue properly in a trash bin after that. They should also wash their hands regularly with soap, especially after they cough or sneeze. We also encouraged our students to see a doctor if they do not feel well and take a complete rest for the full duration of the medical leave. I would appreciate that you reiterate these messages with your children and role model the right attitude and actions.

If any of your household member(s) should return home from overseas within the last 14 days, and they develop flu-like symptoms, they should seek medical attention as soon as possible. While awaiting medical diagnosis, please keep your child/ward at home and inform our school immediately. We will support your child's/ward's learning through home-based learning during the period of absence.

Just before the March holiday break, we went to National University Hospital to present to doctors and nurses our appreciation for the efforts they are making for the patients. Their sacrifice is great, as I know some of them stay away from their family to reduce the chance of spreading the virus to their family members. Let's make their sacrifice worth the while by keeping our families together, preferably at home, so that we reduce the chance of catching and spreading the virus.

Together, we can do our part to keep the COVID-19 virus at bay. Let's do this as Singapore United!

Yours sincerely,

Peter Tan Chong Tze
Principal

