



Queensway Secondary School

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2 January 2019

Parents/Guardians

Wishing you and your family a happy and blessed 2019! I had the pleasure of welcoming your child/ward this morning. For our newest students, this will be the beginning of a new adventure as they grow and discover their talents and abilities. For our Sec 4s and 5s, I am confident that they will strive towards meeting their fullest potential in their holistic growth as they will be leading QSS forward in our 58th year!

We are pleased to welcome another Vice-Principal, Mr Ng Hock Soon, who joined our school on 15 December and has a wealth of experience. He started his teaching career at Anderson Junior College and was appointed a HOD and Vice-Principal. The last 2 years, Mr Ng has been at the Curriculum Planning Office as one of the Deputy Directors. We welcome him to our leadership team as we support your child/ward in their development.

Your child/ward was briefed as to the school processes that will help them achieve our school's Vision of "Caring citizens and lifelong learners in a school of excellence". I will highlight some of these changes so that you can support him/her in developing towards the young lady/gentleman we hope to see. To this end, he/she has also received the Student's Handbook, which covers the school's expectations of our students, including the calendar of school events and activities that our students will be involved in. We look forward to your support in guiding your child/ward to participate fully in all that we offer to our students as this will support their holistic development and prepare them for the next phase of learning, as well as the challenges that life will throw along the way.

School Hours for 2019

Each school day will commence with Assembly. All students are to be seated at the Assembly Area at 7:30am. Students not at the Assembly Area at that time will be considered late for school and actions will be taken by the Disciplinary Committee to help them develop the value of "Discipline", one of our school's values. Students who choose to have breakfast in the school canteen will be required to leave the canteen by 7.30am and proceed to the Assembly Area. School will end by 2 pm from Mondays to Thursdays, and end at 1 pm on Fridays. The earlier Friday dismissal allows our Muslim students to fulfil their responsibility to be present at the mosque.

Remedials and supplementary lessons will be held from 2.30 to 3.30 pm. The following days are set aside for the various subjects, and if your child/ward requires additional assistance to support his/her learning in that subject area, it is imperative for them to be present.

Day	Remedial schedule	Subject-based Banding Bridging Programme (Lower Sec Only)
Monday	English/Mother Tongue Languages	English
Tuesday	Humanities (Literature, Social Studies, Geography, History)	Mother Tongue Languages
Wednesday	Craft & Tech (Upper Sec D&T, Food & Nutrition/Food Studies, Art)	Nil
Thursday	Mathematics and Additional Mathematics	Science
Friday	Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics	Mathematics

CCAs will commence after 3.30 pm and end between 6 to 6.30 pm, depending on the CCA.

Students will have a half-hour recess, but unlike the past when recess was 35 minutes with 2 cohorts of students, recess will only be for 1 cohort per recess time. Please ask your child/ward for his/her class timetable if you wish to look at it. It is also accessible on our website.

Temperature Taking Exercise on Monday, 7 January 2019

To ensure that students and staff are healthy after long school vacations, we will conduct the Temperature Taking Exercise on 7 January 2019. Prior to this, your child/ward will be required to bring his/her Oral Digital Thermometer (ODT) to school to ensure that it is working. Students will not be allowed to share the use of the thermometer as this bad practice can cause infections to spread. Each student must have his/her own ODT and all students have been issued one from the school previously. Sec 1 students will be issued their ODTs before the exercise.





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Safekeeping of mobile devices

Our teachers have observed that students are frequently distracted by their mobile devices, even during curriculum time. Parents have spoken with me concerning their challenges in managing their child's/ward's use of devices at home. Frequently, teachers have to stop lesson to deal with recalcitrant students and this disrupts the flow of the lesson and learning for the rest of the class. To address this, we installed a cabinet to store the students' handphones during curriculum hours. We have begun implementing this process today. I assure parents that the school does not require students to have handphones. Should they need to contact you, the school staff will have them use the school's telephones to call you. Likewise, should you need to contact your child/ward, please call the school office at 64746416. We would much prefer our students do not bring mobile devices and would advise you to monitor screen time at home.

Generally, our students are respectful of school rules and regulations, and are disciplined and responsible. However, should they not comply with this process, disciplinary actions will be taken as spelt out in the Student's Handbook.

Parents Gateway

We introduced this to all parents/guardians last year and I hope you have gotten yourself the app. This will facilitate your receipt of all notifications for your children studying in MOE schools. You only need your Singpass and password to have this app in your Apple or Android smartphone. More details can be found in our school website. As I will communicate with you regularly, and our teachers will also communicate with you, this app would be very useful.

GCE N-Level 2018 Results

I am pleased to share with you that our students did well at this National examination. Our Normal (Academic) students exceeded the National Average and the 2017 cohort's attainment for students qualifying for Sec 5, with 79.9% doing so. Also, 14 of them qualified for the Polytechnic Foundation Programme and 48 qualified for the Direct Progression to Polytechnic Programme. All Normal (Technical) students qualified for admission to the Institute of Technical Education. For both these courses, 5 subjects achieved 100% passes and 7 subjects for Normal (Academic) and 8 subjects for Normal (Technical) had pass rates above the National Average. We congratulate our students on their achievements and wish them well as they progress to the next stage of learning.

Secondary 1 Posting

I am pleased to share with you the improved cut-offs for our newest students compared to the 2017 cohort. The cut-off for the Express course is 220, an improvement of 6 points, while the cut-off for Normal (Academic) was 168 an improvement of 16 points. The Normal (Technical) cut-off also improved by 4 points to 130. It is heartening to see the confidence parents and students have of what QSS is able to do for their children, and it is especially heartening to see QSS alumni wanting their child to have the experience they had. I thank the teachers and staff of QSS for their dedication and effort to strive towards excellence so as to provide the best educational opportunity for our students. They are often the unsung heroes of the school but they will press on because educating our students is the calling and vocation.

Conclusion

As we begin the new year, let us collaborate as parents and staff to support your child's/ward's development. Do visit our school's website for a greater understanding of our programmes. Should you need to contact your child's/ward's teachers, their emails can be found in the school's website, and generally teachers will respond within 3 working days. Trying to call teachers can be frustrating as I expect them to be in the class teaching their students, something I know you would also want to see happen, rather than for teachers speaking to a parent on the telephone during lessons.

In this letter, I have highlighted our school's Vision and also 3 of our 4 school's values. We want each Queenswayan to display the values of Discipline, Respect, Responsibility and Excellence in all that they do. The school has done well over the years in developing our students in these values that has resulted in our students achieving academically and in the CCAs. This belies our belief and school's motto that we find "Success through Diligence".

Yours sincerely

Peter Tan Chong Tze
Principal

