

## **Responses to questions raised at the 2018 Secondary 1 Parent Engagement Session/ CCA Exhibition**

### **School Vision, Mission and Values**

#### **1. What are the school values and education concept?**

We believe in providing a holistic, values-driven education for our students by focusing on developing knowledge and enduring competencies and life skills that will prepare our students for the future. Thus we seek to nurture in our students the following student outcomes: A Reflective Thinker, Confident Advocator, Innovative Creator, Adaptable Collaborator and Passionate Learner, and to develop students who are anchored in the core values of Respect, Resilience, Integrity, Service and Excellence, R<sup>2</sup>ISE. This philosophy translates into the programmes that we planned for our students.

### **Academics**

#### **2. Does the school have successful and on-going programmes to help students strengthen both languages?**

For English Language, in addition to the required curriculum, we conduct programmes to strengthen student's reading and oracy skills, via our Secondary 1 Read@Schools programme (held once a term) and after-school or post-exam enrichment programmes focussed on Speech & Drama. Students with a keen interest in English or Literature will also have the opportunity to compete in various competitions, including the National Schools Debating Championships, National Schools Literature Festival, and the Plain English Speaking Award (PESA).

For Mother Tongue Languages (MTL), we conduct the Interactive Reading Programme and the MTL teachers will provide an interactive platform for students to discuss and debate on the topics facilitated by MTL Teachers. Students will login to online forums to share their viewpoints and takeaways after reading a given piece of article. In addition, students will be doing performance tasks at Semester 1. This provides opportunities for them to use MTL in real world context. They need to apply language skills and other soft skills like communication skills, collaboration skills etc in order to complete the tasks. Such exposure will enhance their MTL learning with joy and meaningfulness.

#### **3. If my son were to take music in the Music Elective Programme (MEP), he would need to travel to other schools for lessons. Will the music class be scheduled such that it will not coincide with his regular school timetable? By when must he decide to choose this subject?**

Secondary 1 lessons will end by 2:10pm every day. Students on Art Elective Programme (AEP) or MEP should have ample time to travel to their lesson venues where the lessons will start at 3:30pm.

The deadline for on-line application is 15 January 2018 and the applicant must seek Principal's endorsement by 17 January 2018.

**4. Why is the art and music elective programme applied only to express student?**

Presently the programme is only offered to students who qualified for the Express Stream, in accordance to MOE's guidelines. Thus our school will support students in the Express Stream applying for this programme.

**5. Are there subject banding in the school – students put in a class to study a subject based on his ability?**

At the school level, we do have SBB whereby students who did well in some subjects at PSLE will be eligible for SBB. We also have Mid-Year and End-Year insertion for students who may not be qualified after PSLE but did well at the school exams. Within a class, there is no banding yet as the students are exposed to more new subjects and may need time to adapt to the academic demands. However, our teachers are equipped with varied pedagogies to engage students of different abilities.

**6. What is the total number of subjects offered to the Secondary 1 students? What are the extra academic help that can be given to students?**

The school adopts a modular curriculum system for the lower secondary students and offers different subjects to the students in different semesters. Subjects that are offered to the Secondary 1 students in both semesters are English Language, Mother Tongue Language, Mathematics, Science, Music, Art, Literature and Physical Education. Food and Consumer Education and Geography are offered in Semester 1, and Design and Technology and History are offered in Semester 2. In our school, the students are encouraged to be more independent in their learning and take ownership of their studies by making arrangements with their subject teachers for consultation when they need clarifications for their studies. For students who require additional academic support for the core subjects (English, Mathematics and Sciences), they will be identified to attend the weekly Structured Remedial Programme from Semester 2 onwards, based on their academic performance in Semester 1.

**Co-Curricular Activities**

**7. How many CCAs are offered in Queenstown Secondary School?**

We have 18 CCAs and 14 are open for selection. 4 CCAs are available only through trials.

**8. Is CCA compulsory for students? What are the benefits for CCA participation? What will happen if my child does not participate in CCA?**

Yes CCA is compulsory. CCA contributes to the final Co-Curricular Attainment Grade. If your child qualifies for Institute of Higher Learning (IHL) after Secondary 4/ Secondary 5, and he/she attain a GOOD Co-Curricular Attainment Grade, he/she will get 1 bonus point off the entry to IHL. An EXCELLENT grade will give them 2 bonus points. CCA build character, team spirit & responsibility. It complements the academic domain and provide for the holistic development of our students.

**9. Can you share how are CCAs allocated to students? What if the CCA of my child's choice is over-subscribed? How many CCAs are allowed per student?**

We have 18 CCAs and 14 are open for selection. 4 CCAs are available only through trials and will only be offered to students that meet the requirements. Students that are not successful in these 4 CCA will be given 5 choices and they will be have to choose a minimum of 1 choice from 3 different groups (Uniformed Groups, Performing Art & Clubs, Sports). The 14 CCA are allocated base on priority of their choice, prior/relevant experience and our teacher's feedback. A student can take on a 2nd CCA provided he/she is talented in the area and he/she can cope. They will need to write in and also be accessed by the teacher/coach/instructor.

**10. What is the day and time of CCA?**

It is available on the school's website. A copy is also pinned on the class notice board.

**11. Will transferring of school affects the student's CCA grades?**

It should not affect the Co-Curriculum grades unless the new school do not offer the CCA that your child is currently in.

**12. Will there be badminton CCA?**

No.

**13. Can my son participate in a sports CCA and performing arts CCA at the same time?**

Yes. A student can take on a second CCA provided he/she is talented in the area can he/she can cope. They will need to write in and also be accessed by the teacher/coach/instructor.

**14. Is there any trial period for CCA?**

CCA trial for basketball, football, volleyball and choir was held on 4 January 2018.

**15. Is there any way the school can support gymnast CCA? My daughter was in this CCA in primary school and now.**

Our school can register the child for the National School Games (Gymnastics). But the child will still be required to do a school-based CCA unless she is with the National Youth team etc. Do speak to the PE HOD if your child is interested in taking Gymnastics.

**16. What are the possibilities to join the choir CCA with choir background in primary school?**

If your child is successful in the choir trial held on 4th Jan, he/she will be informed.

**17. Does the school's choir CCA have any achievements in competitions?**

Yes. They attained the Certificate of Accomplishment for 2017 during the SYF presentation.

### **School Discipline**

**18. How does the school handle bullying cases?**

Our school adopts a zero tolerance policy towards bullying. Secondary 1 students will go through a briefing on bullying and how to react to a bullying incident. Victims or bystanders can report cases through submitting form online (google), or directly reporting to teachers or school counsellors. When confirmed, the bully will face the consequence meted out by discipline committee, followed by a restitution (mediation between bully and victim).

### **Teachers' Deployment and Miscellaneous**

**19. For some classes, there are 3 Form Teachers while some have 2. Will you be able to share the reason for this?**

The Form Teachers allocated to the classes are the Subject Teachers for the classes so that they will have more interaction with students and have a deeper knowledge of the needs and well-being of the students. Depending on student needs, subject deployment and key duties assigned to the teachers, some classes will have two or three Form Teachers.