

**Queenstown Secondary School Celebrates Its 70th Anniversary** (Originally published by [Tamil Murasu](#) on 28 May 2026)



More than 500 alumni, former staff and well-wishers gathered to celebrate the school's 70th anniversary. (Photo by K. Karthikeyan)

Queenstown Secondary School has a history older than independent Singapore itself. The school was established in 1956.

Originally founded as a pioneering technical school to support the nation's industrialisation, it has, over the past seventy years, evolved into an institution known for fostering community bonds and providing holistic education.

A grand gala dinner to commemorate the school's 70th anniversary was held on Saturday, 23 May 2026. More than 500 former students, staff, and guests attended the event.

The Guest of Honour was Mr Desmond Tan, an alumnus of the school and Senior Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office. He unveiled a new mural, alongside a reimagined heritage gallery, to mark the school's 70th anniversary.

Having graduated from the school in 1986, Mr Tan reflected on the many transformations the school has undergone.

Although the school has continuously adapted to changing times, he said its core values have remained steadfast, and these values continue to guide him to this day.

He also encouraged current students and alumni to continue contributing to the community.

In his speech, the school principal, Mr Sim How Chong, emphasised the importance of helping younger generations understand the school's historical roots. As part of this effort, Secondary Two students interviewed alumni, documented the school's history, and contributed to designing the reimagined heritage gallery.

Mr Sim also commended the service of long-serving teachers and called upon the audience to work together towards the school's next milestone — its centenary.

Teachers who had served the school for many years were honoured during the event and were recognised by the school's alumni association with retirement awards.

Among those recognised were Tamil Language teacher Dr Vijayarani Govindasamy, 66, and English Language and Literature teacher Sakunthalai Surian, 62, for their years of dedicated service.

Tamil Language teacher Dr Vijayarani Govindasamy, 66, who has served in education for 50 years, continues teaching at Queenstown Secondary School even though she officially retired four years ago.

She shared that the visionary leadership of the school's new management has motivated her to continue serving. She also pointed out that many students from ordinary families come to the school carrying a thousand dreams.

"I take pride in helping students realise their dreams and guiding them onto the right path. My aim is to meaningfully impart cultural values to the younger generation," she said.

English Language and Literature teacher Mdm Sakunthalai Surian, 62, who served at Queenstown Secondary School for nearly 23 years, was also recognised with an award. She had overseen the Girl Guides co-curricular activity for 17 years before retiring in 2025.

"My greatest achievement has been instilling confidence in hesitant students and helping them become strong leaders. Although this may be considered an ordinary heartland school, the students here possess extraordinary potential," she said.

The school's strong community bond continues across generations.

Mr Manikandan Shivaji, 26, who graduated in 2016 and now serves on the executive committee of the alumni association, has been volunteering at the school for the past ten

years through the National Cadet Corps. He is currently involved in bringing more alumni back to reconnect with the school through the alumni association.

“Returning to serve the school is my duty because the school developed my leadership qualities and gave me the confidence to step onto the right platforms when I was once too shy even to speak,” said the hospitality industry professional.

Secondary Three student councillor, Aayesha Raihana, 14, a student leader, said that students play and interact together regardless of gender or age differences.

“Through the school’s history project, I learnt that during the difficult period after the Second World War, the school’s technical education provided many people with employment opportunities.”

“When we see how much our predecessors achieved through their hard work, it motivates us to think about how much more we can still accomplish,” said Aayesha.

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Translated by Aayesha Raihana (3 Care, 2026)

Vetted by Ms Bhavana Rajaram and Mrs Murthi