

## **Annual Speech and Prize-Giving Celebrations 2025 Principal's Address**

1. Guest-of-Honour, Captain Jaffar Hassan;

School Advisory Committee (SAC) Chairperson Mr Lim Song Joo; Vice-Chairperson Mr Clement Yeo

Quest Alumni Association Chairperson Mr Roland Wee; Vice-Chairperson Mr Ronald Goh

Parent Support Group Chairperson Ms Jamie Chua; Vice-Chairperson Ms Lei Ziman

Members of the SAC, Quest Alumni Association, Parent Support Group, Community and Industry Partners

2. A good afternoon to our distinguished guests, colleagues, Queenstownians and parents.
3. It is my pleasure to welcome you to Queenstown Secondary School's 2025 Speech and Prize-Giving Celebrations. Today, we commemorate not only our achievements, but the enduring spirit of growth, resilience, and community in our school.
4. Our theme this year— "Riding the Waves into the Future"— speaks powerfully to the spirit of service, dare, and future orientedness that defines us as a school community. Queenstownians are not merely staying afloat — they are learning to surf the waves of opportunities and challenges with confidence, vision, and resilience through the holistic learning experiences in school.

## **Improvements made to Learning Spaces**

5. Over the past year, we have deepened our efforts to support our students' learning by reimagining the school's learning spaces. Beyond a traditional classroom setting, we want Queenstownians to embrace confidence, collaboration, flexibility, and innovation.
6. One major milestone this year is the reworking of our school library—named the Learning Commons— into a dynamic learning hub. No longer just a quiet space for reading, the Learning Commons now serves as a multifunctional space for teaching, learning, collaborating, and exploring. It has become a space where ideas meet action, and learning is active and student-centred.
7. Another learning space which supports the school's teaching and learning focus of engaged learning is the prototype classroom for three Secondary 2 classrooms. These classrooms harness technology and flexible classroom furniture to encourage students to engage in meaningful discussions through group work. This allows our students to not just learn with, but from one another as well. We will learn quickly from these prototype classrooms and continue to scale further.
8. I am thankful for the SAC's support for the reimagination of the learning commons as well as the establishment of the prototype classrooms.
9. These improvements to learning spaces reflect our commitment to equip Queenstownians with 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies like collaboration, communication skills, and adaptive and critical thinking.

## **Our Student Achievements**

10. In QTSS, our students are not only equipped with strong academic foundations, but are future-oriented — adaptable, curious, and capable of navigating complexity. This readiness shows in their leadership, their CCA achievements, and their ability to apply learning beyond the classroom.
11. I would like to start by congratulating all the students who have excelled in the various domains. Your hard work, perseverance, and commitment have paid off, and we are proud of every Queenstownian. Your achievements inspire us to strive for excellence and remind us of the importance of dreaming big, setting goals, and working towards them.
12. In the academic domain, we continued to achieve outstanding results in the 2024 GCE N and O level National Examinations.
13. For the GCE O levels results, the class of 2024 produced outstanding results and bettered the 2023 cohort's performance. In terms of overall performance, there was a significant increase in the percentage of students who secured passing grades in five or more subjects. There was also an increase in the percentage of students eligible for Junior College/Millenia Institute compared to previous years.
14. The graduating cohort of 2024 from the Secondary 4 Normal stream achieved impressive results in their National Examinations. The Normal (Academic) results saw improvements across multiple subjects, with both pass and distinction rates rising. Notably, the number of subjects achieving 100% pass rates has steadily increased since 2021.

15. The Normal (Technical) results also showed remarkable progress. Every student passed 2 or more subjects, with pass and distinction rates improving. The number of top-performing students is our highest ever, reflecting our collective commitment to excellence.
16. Queenstownians took part in a variety of talent development programmes beyond the classroom. These catered to their interest and strengths in various domains. Selected students took part in various Mathematics competitions this year under the school's Mathematics Ambassadors, High Achievers (MAHA) programme, and achieved commendable outcomes. For the Singapore Math Kangaroo Contest, students were awarded with ten Bronze, three Silver, two Gold awards, and six Honorable Mentions. For the Singapore and Asian Schools Math Olympiad (SASMO), we received six Bronze, one Silver, one Gold, and nine Honorable Mentions. For the Singapore Mathematical Olympiad (SMO), we received seven Honorable Mentions, and for the American Mathematics Olympiad (AMO), we received two Bronze, three Silver awards, and one Honorable Mention.
17. Another group of students who possess a flair for debate represented the school in the Singapore Secondary Schools Debating Championship this year and won one round out of three rounds. One of our speakers was also named a top 20 speaker for Division III.
18. Beyond the classroom, our Queenstownians also gave their best in their Co-Curricular Activities. As there are multiple CCAs offered by our school, I will highlight some of our CCA outcomes for this year.

19. Our 'B' Division Volleyball Girls finished as champions in the South Zone National School Games and qualified for the Nationals where they played the top teams from other zones. Similarly, our 'B' Division Volleyball Boys finished fourth in the South Zone NSG and qualified for the Nationals.
20. Our 'B' Division Basketball Boys and Girls, Football Boys, Wushu, and Table-Tennis Boys and Girls teams put on a good fight against stronger teams. Notably, the Table Tennis Girls team was promoted from league two to league one this year and tried their best against tough competition. . Our 'C' Basketball Girls, established last year, won their first game just 2 weeks ago. We celebrate their progress and their efforts is a testament of the students' resilient drive to excel.
21. Our Uniformed Groups CCAs achieved distinguished outcomes. The National Cadet Corps and National Police Cadet Corps retained their respective pinnacle awards since 2019 while the Sea Scouts retained the Frank Cooper Award since 2010, an incredible feat. Red Cross regained the Gold award this year while the Girl Guides attained the Bronze award. These awards reflects the Uniformed Group Cadets' commitment to character and leadership development.
22. Our Performing Arts CCAs took part in the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation this year and brought home impressive results. This is no mean feat, as many Queenstownians enter the school with little to no prior experience in the performing arts. It is through sheer determination, self-discipline, and strong support from teachers, parents, seniors, peers, and instructors that the students can gain confidence in themselves as performers.

23. The spirit of excellence resides strongly in the psyche of students in our performing arts CCAs. They take deep pride in putting in their best effort, and Concert Band has consistently been awarded the Certificate of Distinction. This year, the Malay Dance CCA and Chinese Dance CCA joined this club as well, achieving the Certificate of Distinction through their hard work and dedication.
24. The English Drama CCA students wrote their own script for the SYF, and their great sense of ownership over their CCA journey and bouncing back from setbacks they experienced during the previous SYF presentation is impressive. I am also impressed by the growth shown by our Choir CCA, who have come a long way since the previous SYF arts presentation. Our Choir CCA been selected by MOE to perform at SYF celebrates in July. Their efforts are embodiments of the school's spirit of daring to serve; not just others, but also in leading themselves to betterment.
25. Powerful learning experiences often put us through discomfort and challenges, but these are precisely what enable students to grow into themselves. And we are proud of every Queenstownian who chooses to learn, do, and reflect, both in and beyond the classroom.

### **Our Staff Affirmation**

26. Our school fosters a culture of continual and collaborative professional learning, teacher ownership, and leadership many ways. The redesigned staff room has allowed increased interactions among staff, and has strengthened the bonds within the departments. As a school, we reap positive returns from increased and regular professional conversations to help our students learn better.

27. Additionally, we are continuing our key programmes and platforms such as Professional Learning Circles and Open Classrooms to allow our teachers to leverage each others' knowledge and feedback to build professional, social, and human capital.
28. I am thankful for my colleagues' dedication. They have not only delivered lessons, but nurtured growth, character, and confidence in our students. Today, we will also affirm the staff who have dedicated many years of service to the Ministry of Education through the long service awards.

## **Closing**

29. In this age of rapid change and fluidity, interconnectedness is more important than ever. QTSS (or fondly referred as Quest) is fortunate to have the strong support of partners like our SAC, Quest Alumni Association, and PSG, who have been extremely generous in contributing their time and resources to enrich the schooling experience of our students. Their continued engagement — whether through ECG talks, mentorship, or generous donations — inspires our current students and reminds them that the Queenstown spirit endures well beyond graduation. Today, we are also grateful of the 20K donation from our Alumni Association and the establishment of the Quest Alumni Association prize awards.
30. I would like to express my gratitude to Captain Jaffar Hassan (Class of 1979), our GOH for gracing today's occasion despite his busy schedule. He has kindly agreed to my request to be decked out in his pilot uniform so as to send a strong visual signal on how he overcame his challenges to soar high in life, while embodying our school motto – Berani Berkhidmat! He has also organised a Quest

Aviation Learning Journey on 28 May for interested Queenstownians to tour the Airbus and experience the flight simulator. This Learning Journey is only exclusive for our Queenstownians. Thank you Mr Hassan and welcome home!

31. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all of you, who are part of the village for our Queenstownians, ensuring their success, now and tomorrow.
32. To our award recipients, today we celebrate your achievements — not just in terms of grades or awards, but in how you have persevered, supported one another, and stepped up to lead and serve. Continue to ride the waves — even the unpredictable ones — with courage, heart, and purpose.
33. Please take the time to show your appreciation to those who have supported and encouraged you. Let's give a round of applause to thank your parents and loved ones, and of course, your teachers.
34. I am confident that all of you will continue to live up to our school's motto, Berani Berkhidmat - Dare to Serve.
35. Thank you.