



22nd May 2020

Pre-Information for June Return to School

Dear Chatsworth Community,

We hope that everyone in our community is keeping healthy and well during this Circuit Breaker period in Singapore. I am pleased to inform you all that our Chatsworth staff have remained healthy and free from virus complications and that we are looking forward to returning to campus in the coming short weeks.

This week the Ministry of Education (MOE) announced their plans for return to campus. While private education institutions (PEIs) often follow closely with what MOE is rolling out, they must wait for the Committee for Private Education (CPE) to advise them on what actions need to be taken. This information usually follows soon after the MOE announcements and we received this Wednesday evening. Thursday and Friday have been spent seeking clarification and preparing the submission of documents to CPE for approval of our return to campus on June 2nd. We now must wait for CPE approval of our submission. Once we have our approval from CPE, with any modifications that may be imposed on us, we will then inform the wider community on how we will return to campus. We do not want to roll out plans to the wider community until we have CPE approval, to avoid confusion.

We appreciate your patience as we await approval.

Earlier this week we were informed by CPE that all of our Early Years staff would need to undergo COVID-19 swab tests before being able to return to campus. This is in line with what the local preschool education system (ECDA) has also imposed. All of the teachers, teaching assistants, single subject teachers, leadership team and cleaning team will undergo testing from weekend through to the 28th. We had applied to CPE to also include our bus drivers and bus aunties but were told that this was unnecessary because their exposure was limited.

Similar to the plans rolled out by the MOE, not all students will be able to return to campus at the same time and so this will be a mixture of school-based and HBL learning. There are requirements from CPE that all international schools have to comply with as well as situations that may be unique to our campus and classes. We will share more information as soon as we have approval from CPE.

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Validity: 12-11-2016 to 11-2-2021



While we are eagerly looking forward to seeing the children again, and we know the children are equally as eager to see their friends, student and staff health and safety take top priority. This will mean fewer students on campus at one time, less movement amongst different year levels and student groups, and more segregation of school sections (ie early years, primary and secondary). While we are certain that students, especially our senior students, will want to return to have close contact with one another, this is strictly prohibited by the local authorities. Again, health and safety needs to take top priority and we thank parents and students for their understanding.

While we cannot yet share with you the student return schedule, we can share some general information now:

- all students and teachers **must wear masks or face shields** while on campus; any parent/domestic helper entering the campus for pick-up must wear a mask/face shield; masks/face shields must be provided by the student (Singapore issued reusable masks previously and they are reissuing additional masks from next week); having your child come to school with spare masks is a good idea.
- **temperature taking** will continue as previously, with temperatures taken on entry and again during the day for all students and staff
- visitor access to campuses is limited to deliveries and essential services; school tours for prospective parents continue to be postponed for now. Parent meetings should be done virtually
- parents are only permitted on campus for pick-up and must leave the school grounds immediately after collecting their child (unless special permission is granted)
- hand sanitizer (child friendly) continues to be placed in all classrooms and key areas around the school; student handwashing is encouraged by all staff in Secondary school and primary teachers will take students to wash their hands at various points throughout the day (e.g. arrival, before and after eating, after play)
- **everyone** (including our youngest children) entering the campus must use the local authorities' **SafeEntry** application that is found at all shops now on the island. This can be done by QR scanning before entering the campus, or via barcode on locally-issued identification cards (DP pass, NRIC). You will find the QR codes at the school entrances. Parents/visitors must scan on entry and be sure to 'exit' via the application when they depart.



- **Secondary** students will scan the QR code for **SafeEntry** or use their ID at the front gate before entry. Primary students will be scanned into SafeEntry via barcodes generated by the school in their homerooms
- students not scheduled to be on campus on certain days **may not** come to campus. We are required to strictly control our student population and cannot have extra students on days they are not scheduled.
- after school activities (CCAs/ECAs) remain cancelled and students must depart school immediately at the end of the day/session
- school shuttle for Bukit Timah between the MRT station and the campus will resume as normal but students will be limited to one student per double seat on the bus
- Tong Tar transport will resume for both campuses and will arrive on the days that your child is attending school; we advise parents to reach out to Tong Tar Transport once we have provided you with the schedule (we will provide Tong Tar with the same schedule) to confirm the dates
- a **health declaration** form will be sent home next week for parents to complete before their child can return to school

Local authorities via the MOE and Ministry of Health (MOH) have recently published articles stating that adults and students may choose to wear a face shield in place of a mask, may choose to wear only a mask, or may choose to wear both. This is up to parents to decide for their child. Face shields allow for people to see one another better and we know that this may be preferred. If you do purchase a face shield for your child to wear, please be sure to follow the guidelines on size and fitting (see image attached to this email).

Information about the reissuing of free reusable masks by the government can be found [HERE](#). Masks can be collected from next Tuesday onwards.

** An infographic from the Straits Times regarding the proper use of masks and face shields is attached to the email with this letter. You may need to enlarge the size in order to read it comfortably. Please refer back to the email.

Sincerely,

Tyler Sherwood
Head of Schools

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