



29th May 2020

## **Additional Information Before our Return to Campus + Summer Information**

Dear Chatsworth Community,

A few updates and further information for everyone as we near the reopening of the campuses.

Return to Campus Declaration Form - similar to the travel declarations we were updating leading up to the Circuit Breaker, we will need all parents to complete the linked form before their child can return to school. The form will take you less than two minutes to complete (per child). You can find the form [HERE](#) and we ask you to complete it today so that you do not forget.

We held our celebrations for our Graduating Class of 2020 senior students on Thursday, broadcast through our school YouTube channel and followed by a Google Meet with staff, students and parents to congratulate all. Of course, it was not the way any of us would have wanted to celebrate the achievements of our Class of 2020 but it was a wonderful moment all the same. Our graduates move on from here to further pursuits around the world and we wish them nothing short of all the success life has to offer.

On the same evening, the Year 6 students at the Bukit Timah campus celebrated their IBPYP Exhibition through a virtual format. Congratulations to our senior primary students for the completion of this important capstone of their journey through the primary years. Our Orchard Year 6 students will be celebrating their Exhibition soon as well.

Our leadership team and all of our early years teachers (both campuses) underwent a COVID-19 nasal swab test this week as we prepare for our students to return. I shared a little bit about that experience on the recent ChatsNews channel this week - slightly uncomfortable but incredibly organised and efficient, as one would expect here in Singapore.

Letters have gone home to both of the campuses outlining our return to school. If you have a child in the early years section of the school, you will note that our youngest children will need to wait an additional week before they are allowed to return. This is

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set by the local authorities and one which we must comply with, unfortunately. For clarity, the restriction is done through age and not the naming of the year groups. The various international schools name their cohorts based on their own system and the local schools do the same. K1 and K2 in the local system is equivalent, in age, to our Year 1 and Year 2 students. Thus, our K1 and K2 children fall into the age category of nursery students in the local system, by age, which means they cannot commence school until the 8th of June. We apologise if this was unclear and for any confusion this may have caused some of our families.

A reminder that everyone needs to use the **SafeEntry** system to come onto the campus. Information about secondary and primary students using SafeEntry is contained within the previous letters but please note that if a parent needs to bring a younger child with them to pick-up or drop-off their Chatsworth student then they will need the identity card for that child (as you would need for entry while shopping) so they can be scanned into the system. The authorities have said that a birth certificate can be scanned if the child does not have an identity card (eg DP pass).

As we prepare for the return of our students, I am sure that there are varying levels of anxiety amongst our community about coming back. This is completely understandable and expected. We have all been home for a couple of months, watching social media and the news and being inundated with facts and figures about community infection, dormitory infections, the 'new normal', and every celebrity sharing an opinion on how the world should 're-open'. We need to have faith in the health and science experts who are advising our local authorities in Singapore and guiding us towards getting back to some form of normalcy. There is no one, global rule to reopening. Our community infection numbers now are far fewer than they were a month before we went on this Circuit Breaker and even as we reopen we will continue with stricter measures in place across the island.

Though we only have a short time left before the end of the academic year, it is important that we return to bring our students back to their campus, teachers and friends for closure to the year, to consolidate what was being learned through HBL and to set the stage for the next academic year to come, no matter where the children will be studying.

Our school counsellors recently sent home a letter about assisting our students with their return to campus. Please have a look at the articles that were shared in that letter if



you require some assistance with having a conversation with your child.

In our letter dated 28th April it was mentioned that the school was looking at options for our annual **Summer School**, normally held for a period of six weeks on the Orchard Campus each year. While it would not be possible to hold summer school at the Orchard campus, as we are expected to return the site to the Singapore Land Authority (SLA) and it requires reinstatement works, we had hoped to find some space amongst the renovations to be completed at the Bukit Timah campus or using the sporting facilities. Unfortunately, this will not be possible as every block at the Bukit Timah campus is scheduled for different forms of renovation and the Swiss Club is continuing with their own site renovations, making the use of our sporting facilities impossible due to safety concerns. We know that some of our families will be disappointed to hear this final decision.

As we move through this Phase 1 period of reopening we look forward to starting the numerous renovation projects at the Bukit Timah campus. Of course, much depends on the availability of the work crews of our contractors but the plans for renovations include the redesign of the main block and development of a new Early Years center, the reinstatement of the Main Hall above the canteen (the previous school had changed this space to classrooms), the extension of our library to absorb the numerous books from the Orchard campus as well as our Bukit Timah Garden Library, completion of the new primary Forest Playground, water play area and massive new covered sandpit, numerous classroom upgrades, canteen redevelopment and shifting of some secondary classes to allow for the large number of students coming over from our Orchard campus. The renovations are ambitious given the current virus situation but anything that cannot be completed through the summer break will be moved to the October and December breaks. We're excited to bring our community together at Bukit Timah for August 2020.

As the current COVID-19 situation remains fluid, the school will continue to send home updates to keep everyone informed. We look forward to seeing everyone back after the weekend.

Sincerely,  
Tyler Sherwood  
Head of Schools

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