



Thursday, April 30th, 2020

Dear Year 12 Parents and Guardians,

## Re: Update on coverage of IB Diploma syllabi

I hope you are all staying safe and healthy. I wanted to take this opportunity to connect with you all during this challenging time. I understand you may be concerned about the DP1 learning and Diploma syllabus coverage, and we have noted some comments on the Parent Surveys. Behind the scenes, our teachers are working incredibly hard to create the support for DP1 and the situation is still evolving and we are adapting as appropriate. As you are aware, the IB Diploma / Certificate is a two-year program with the key components having submissions over the two years, and at present, we are looking at the following considerations:

Every IBDP/Certificate subject comes with a two-year pacing guide. We have done an internal audit with DP1 teachers and according to all subject teachers, all the subjects are *relatively* on track for this point in the program as of now, to an acceptable level of variance. Teachers are continuing to teach, and students are continuing to learn. The pace has been appropriately adjusted to ensure that the material taught is sufficiently learned (not just 'covered'). While it is slower, it is still efficient and appropriate. We are fortunate to be in a good position at Chatsworth relative to many schools in the region that have been closed for weeks without continuous learning. Currently, teachers are prioritizing topics strategically, rearranging units of study in order to best leverage the online delivery model. Teachers are balancing direct instruction with independent work. Our year 12 staff are working with Mrs Saxena (IBDP Coordinator) in order to monitor and balance student workload, while at the same time, comply with curriculum requirements. *This may mean some aspects of the curriculum taught now will be addressed next year.* However, teachers are aware of this and will adjust for the 'amount' of content and the time in which they have to teach it. As dictated by the IB 'SL' classes require less time. We are examining our 'HL' classes in order to sufficiently assess the time required to effectively and appropriately teach the curriculum.

We will not outline all of the changes, as things continue to change, but instead want to write to let you know that things are as under control as possible, at this point. We are actively adapting our approach to work completion, exams, Internal Assessments as the situation changes and are keeping students in the loop as we make changes. We do not know what the future will hold, but things are progressing at the moment.

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**Chatsworth International School Pte Ltd**  
UEN: 199405288W | GST Reg No.: M2-0126395-6

[www.chatsworth.com.sg](http://www.chatsworth.com.sg)

**Bukit Timah Campus (K1 - Y13)**  
72 Bukit Tinggi Road, Singapore 289760  
Tel: (65) 6463 3201 | Fax: (65) 6463 3202 | Email: [information.bt@chatsworth.com.sg](mailto:information.bt@chatsworth.com.sg)

**Orchard Campus (K1 - Y6)**  
37 Emerald Hill Road, Singapore 229313  
Tel: (65) 6737 5955 | Fax: (65) 6737 5655 | Email: [information.orchard@chatsworth.com.sg](mailto:information.orchard@chatsworth.com.sg)



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Validity: 12-11-2016 to 11-11-2020

At the moment, we are looking at finding some extra time for practical subjects like Science and Arts. We will update you more when we have a plan worked out.

Extended Essays are relatively on track and additional time will be allocated for completion of fieldwork and experiments based essays.

As of today, the IB still has not released any communication specific to next year. We continue to remain in contact with the IB organization, and we will follow and communicate any guidance that they send our way. Presently, all updates from IB on their [Covid-19 FAQ webpage](#).

As this is a worldwide problem and a worldwide program, the IBO will most certainly make decisions about what this means for the class of 2021. Currently, and understandably, the IBO is focused on the Class of 2020, after which, our speculation is, they will turn their attention to the class of 2021. Teachers and coordinators around the world will likely be advocating for an appropriate and student-centred response from the IBO.

Mr Hudson, our new IBDP Coordinator from August, is participating in all planning meetings and is an active member of the process. This will ensure a smooth transition into the next academic year.

I hope this message and information answers many of your most pressing questions right now. **These are unusual and unpredictable times educationally, and while things are not perfect, we are adapting as needed.** Please do not hesitate to email me should you have more questions.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in school soon.

Kind regards,

**Harpash Saxena**

IB Diploma Coordinator

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