



June 2, 2020

Dear Parents and Students in DP1 (Year 12),

Re: School-Based Learning for our DP1 class

It was wonderful to see our Year 12 class back at school again today. School isn't the same without students. I am writing to update our DP1 class and parents on the remaining weeks of term, and the potential consequences of choices that parents may make. *While this letter is primarily for those who have remained at home*, the details, in general, are informative for the entire class so we are sending it to the entire year level.

Like many international schools, we are operating the most demanding educational program in the world, the IB Diploma (and respective IB Certificate program), in very challenging times. So far, our teachers and coordinators, and students, have done an amazing job at adapting.

All along, we have followed the Singapore government's guidelines and recommendations. At this point, the Singapore government has formally required that all students return to school unless a doctor has signed off for valid medical reasons that students cannot return. Given that we have only a few weeks left of school, we have not fully adopted this approach, however, there are realities to running the IB Diploma Program.

Students **must** be on campus for:

- **All forms of formal assessment.** We are not able to set multiple exams, nor invigilate different types of exams. It is 100% the students' responsibility to know [their schedule](#) (brief summary indicated, however students must double-check their own assessments due. Note this schedule is subject to change as we adapt to the demands and needs of our students). The risk factor in missing an exam or assessment is significant, as not only will it impact a student's grade, but also could impact their entire IB Diploma. This could include end of semester exams, Group 1 or 2 oral exams, or other assessments.

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- **Required practical work.** Our science classes and arts classes have not met enough face to face, and have not had enough time with our students.
- **Required components of the IBDP** (eg Group 4 Project).
- **Extended Essay preparations** work. Some of our students, especially those doing EE's in sciences, need time in school for experiments. Others need time with their EE supervisors to finish planning.
- **Other work that we determine later.** As we are operating in a dynamic environment, we reserve the right to require students for other work as well. We cannot predict every scenario at this point in writing.

We are unable to offer alternative arrangements for the above situations. Students not on campus (without a valid medical note) will not be able to receive grades. We strongly caution that in some cases, not participating in a required component of the IB Diploma could mean that a student is ineligible to receive the IB Diploma.

Against the educational recommendation of the school, students may remain at home if their parents wish, for:

- **Other / regular classroom lessons.** Teachers will turn on Google Meet, and adapt as best they can. We note that the classes are focused on students in class, and teachers will do their best to accommodate.

We appreciate that families have their own priorities and opinions. It is our strong professional opinion, as well as the opinion of the Singapore Ministry of Education (MOE), that DP1 students should be in school these last weeks to get caught up on face to face learning they have missed. It is an educational risk that parents take by keeping their kids home.

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There are significant demands on students in the IB Diploma / IB Certificate program. We have adapted our deadlines and program in the best way that we can, and cannot simply move all deadlines from now until August / September. There is already pressure on our students for work due in August, we cannot add to that.

The COVID-19 situation is a fluid one and Circuit Breakers/Phases may continue in various stages into the next semester. We must take as much opportunity for face to face instruction and program completion as and when we can, to enable our students to have the highest quality education.

We thank our parents for their understanding of the situation. We have laid out our clear recommendations above, and are unable to engage in separate discussions from here.

Sincerely,

Mark McCallum
Campus Principal
Head of Secondary

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