



2nd April 2020

Return to Campus 6th April and Home-Based Learning (HBL)

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

Since the commencement of our two-week holiday, much has changed within Singapore and throughout the world with regards to COVID-19. The Singapore government has taken firmer measures to reduce the chance of infection throughout the country, in the hopes that we may soon 'flatten the curve' here.

The local authorities have determined that schools should remain open and in normal operation as much as possible. As such, Chatsworth will return to school on Monday, 6th April, as regularly scheduled. Before your child can return to school, all parents must have completed the online form for Travel Declaration. Parents have been sent reminders to do so, as well as follow-up phone calls from our offices for any who have still not completed this important form. If you have not completed the form by Friday, April 3rd at 4:00 PM, then your child will not be able to attend school on Monday, 6th April. Our staff will review forms on Monday that may have been completed over the weekend before school returns. The completion of this form is imperative for the health and safety of every member of our school community. We thank you for your attention to this matter.

Recently, MOE schools have implemented a day per week of Home-Based Learning (HBL) in order to prepare students and teachers with the possibility of moving our lessons online, if necessary. Chatsworth will follow this suggestion and will implement a HBL day each week, to take place on **Wednesdays**. This allows our teachers to prepare students each week for one day of home learning and allows for follow-up before the weekend. It also allows our school to perform additional cleaning while the students are off campus, mid-week.

Thus, moving forward, each Wednesday will be a Home-Based Learning day and students will remain at home on that day of the week. This will be the same day for both Primary and Secondary students. Students will be expected to engage with their home learning on that day and will return the following day (Thursday) to school.

Information about HBL had been sent out previously and we have been prepared for this scenario since early February. Teachers will use the first two days back to school to speak with the students and remind them of how to access HBL and what the expectations are for working at home. Additional information will be sent to parents as a reminder as well.

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Senior teachers are meeting this week to discuss plans for the senior IBDP students through to the end of the year, as the IB has recently cancelled Diploma exams. Information specific to those students will be sent out separately.

Though the guidelines for personal distancing do not apply in the same way to schools, Chatsworth is taking the expectations provided by the local authorities and implementing them as extensively as possible. Commencing Monday, the following additional measures will be put into effect for **both campuses**:

- additional spacing in the **canteen** seating area where possible during meals (tables to remain in place but spacing between students to be implemented). Staggered breaks have already been in effect for some time.
- spacing of students within the **classroom**, as much as possible, towards a more traditional approach to seating. While our programme centers on a more collaborative model with students in groups, this will be adjusted for the time being so that there is additional spacing amongst the classmates
- parents are not permitted to remain on campus at any time other than drop-off and pick-up for our youngest students
- all **CCAs** and after-school activities (such as the school musical) are cancelled at this time until further notice. Students should return home promptly after school each day and should not remain on campus to play

Additional Measures for our Orchard Campus

- Parents of Kinder (K1,K2) children can take them to class in the morning
- Parents of children in Years 1-6 are to bring them to the courtyard by the back gate or the basketball court near the main gate in the morning. Children will then make their way directly to their classes with teacher help
- Parents may collect Kinder (K1, K2), Y1 and Y2 children from the class at the end of the day
- Parents may collect students in Years 3-6 at the courtyard or on the basketball court at the end of the day, where they dropped them off in the morning
- families are to leave campus immediately after their child(ren) have been collected

Additional Measures for our Bukit Timah Campus

- Early Years children can be **dropped off** in the Nest area
- parents may **collect** their Early Years children at the Nest at the end of the day but must leave campus immediately following pick-up



- **Shuttle Bus:** we will be implementing a staggered release after school. Primary school will be released first, followed by middle school (Years 7-9), followed by high school (Years 10-13). Timing will be staggered by a few minutes, allowing the previous groups time to board the shuttle buses. For students who need to wait for younger or older siblings for the shuttle bus, they may do so in the Nest. We ask that parents please inform their older children to look in the Nest for their younger siblings at the end of the day. Teachers will also remind students where to go and staff will be on duty in the Nest at the end of the day to assist if necessary.

The school is reviewing our events for the rest of the academic year and a separate letter will be sent home soon with regards to end-of-year activities such as graduation (Primary and Secondary), senior prom, Science Fair, PYP Exhibition and Student-Led Conferences, to name but a few. Where possible, we will endeavour to set these up virtually, as these are very meaningful and integral aspects of our programmes.

Book Week

Book Week was scheduled to take place next week from the 6th through the 9th and this will continue as planned, with the exception of Wednesday as that will be our HBL day. Events were already scheduled with distancing in mind and the activities are being reviewed with additional changes to be made if necessary, with regards to distancing.

BT Primary Swimming

Swimming is planned to commence at BT for primary students the week we return to school. This part of our PE programme will continue as scheduled so BT primary parents please help your child to pack their PE equipment according to the schedules sent home before the break.

This is a challenging time for all of us. International schools around the world have been closed or delivering home-based learning, to varying degrees and lengths of time, since January. We have been fortunate to be able to continue to school our children on campus up to this time and we hope that we will be able to continue on-campus learning as we move forward. The global international school teaching community is a strong one and schools have been sharing resources and experiences with HBL. We are in a good position to be able to deliver continuous HBL if necessary.

The best way to commence HBL is to 'ease into it' and so the teachers will be communicating with your child as to how we will do that during the first two days next week. Please do not



hesitate to connect with the school or your child's teachers should you have any questions or concerns, as your child(ren) will require varying levels of support with HBL depending on their age and learning style.

We realise that some parents may be hesitant to send their child back to school on Monday and while we understand your concerns we believe that the best place for our students remains on campus, learning with their peers. I have two young primary children of my own

and they will be back to campus on Monday as well. The school continues to clean extensively and take firm action if any child or adult on campus presents with any fever or illness. We have had cleaning and distancing protocols implemented on campus for many weeks now and this will continue along with the additional measures noted above.

In the event that a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the school will take similar action as other schools have done recently, which includes a deep cleaning and leave of absence for those affected, depending on the situation (the MOH issues Quarantine Orders). The health and safety of our school community remains at the forefront of school decision-making.

We thank you for your continued patience and understanding during what continues to be new territory for all of us to navigate. We hope that all of our community and their extended families and friends are safe and healthy during this time.

If you have questions about Monday back to school, please direct your emails to the appropriate office/section of the school/campus.

Sincerely,

Tyler Sherwood
Head of Schools