



26 March 2020

ICS Parent Update 10

Dear Parents

#togetherathome

Sometimes, I feel like the government is having to speak to the population like we, as parents, might do to our children when their behaviour is inappropriate. However, I am confident that we, as the wider ICS community are following their guidance, and trying to **#stayhome** as much as possible, only leaving the house according to the rules they have shared, and, even then, only on foot and 2 metres apart. I do not say this to condescend to any of you, or to overreach my role as Principal, but to share my own determination that we, as a Kingdom, can return to normality and good health as soon as possible, and that we will only achieve this **#togetherathome**.

My longstanding colleague, and global changemaker, d'Arcy Lunn, whom some of you will have met when he visited ICS, talks of what he calls "**Teaspoons of Change**", in which he argues it is the small things each of us can do that, together, create massive change. (You can also follow his work, even now in this uncertain times, on **Facebook**.) Now, more than ever, we each need to contribute our own teaspoons, whatever small sacrifices that demands for the time being.

#onlinelearning changes - PLEASE READ

We are working hard to ensure that students' experience of the online and home learning environment remains as positive as possible, and that their engagement, achievement and progress are maximised, whilst also keeping their **#wellbeingfirst**. We have collected and collated lots of feedback from parents, students and staff over the past two weeks, and we have used it to design a revised version of our online provision, which will begin from Sunday 29 March 2020.

N.B. A detailed explanation of our revised approach, including the timings of the new school day, are attached to this email, and you can also read the document here. I cannot stress enough how important it is that you and your children are fully informed of all and any changes before Sunday arrives.

A brief summary can be found in the updated appendices to our Contingency plan **here for students**, and **here for parents**.

As always, we continue to welcome feedback, which you may continue to give either through the relevant member of **Academic Leadership** or via **our online feedback survey**. However, we urge you to let this revised approach find its rhythm too, to ensure we can all give it the best chance possible of success. This is all part of our efforts to demonstrate **#themonalisaeffect**, for all ICS stakeholders, in every single thing we do.

#onlinelearning changes - RATIONALE

The main features of our revised approach are as follows:

- Later start for students, in line with **scientific research** and student requests, to maximise both student learning and student wellbeing;
- Reduced, 'taught' lesson length, to give students and staff review, reflection, consolidation and preparation time, and 'brain breaks' in between;



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Principal: Matthew Savage

- More choice for students and families, especially in Primary, to manage parent expectations of themselves and of their children;
- Standardised finish time for all students, in order to help families organise their days and balance their own work obligations;
- Greater time for academic staff to prepare recorded or live video content, whilst safeguarding their own wellbeing and their ability to maintain an effective work-life balance.

We should all be aware that we are now working within a new 'normal' and student and parent expectations may need to be altered slightly. It has been recognised by educators around the world over the last two months that in-class expectations for learning are hard to achieve from a distance, but we will continue to offer opportunities for high quality learning for all our children.

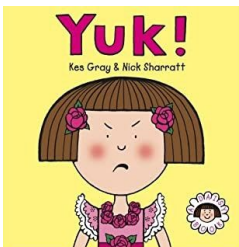
#wellbeingfirst

The Counselling Team have been busy trying to find more and more ways to support you and your family during the period of our remote operation. To this end, they would like to make you aware of 3 things:

- [A Google form will be posted on the Google Classroom of every Primary student](#) to check in with them on how they are doing and asking them if they would like to talk to Ms Sarah (Primary Counsellor). For this to happen, your child will be asked to provide a parent's email address.
- You will notice regular short video clips from the Counselling Team on our Google Classrooms. No work is required for those from the students: they will be tips, encouragement and fun clips to strengthen students' morale during this time.
- If you also have children in the Secondary School, the students received their check in form directly through the student's email on Wednesday 25 March, and a link will also be posted on their Form Tutor's classroom.

Please take a look at our Google site which has lots of information for parents and don't hesitate to contact us at counselling@ics.edu.jo

#reasonstobecheerful



For some of you, the mere fact that my Facebook video for the ICS community today took over 20 takes, due to sounds from local mosques, dogs, cars, delivery vehicles etc, might be enough to cheer you up. If not, and for small and big kids alike, [you can listen to my weekly story here](#), this week a gender-stereotype-busting delight from Kes Gray and Nick Sharratt, Yuk!

Have a lovely, safe, family weekend, and don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour at midnight tonight. It's [summertime](#)!

Best wishes

Matthew Savage
Principal