



INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
مدرسة الجالية الدولية

Patrons: H.R.H. Prince El Hassan Bin Talal
H.R.H. Princess Sarvath El Hassan

Principal: Matthew Savage

24 March 2020

ICS Parent Update 8

Dear Parents

I hope that you have managed to make the most of the first food deliveries today, and this new sustenance has given you and your families a boost of energy during the midweek lull. I have to admit that I have never been prouder to live in Jordan than I am now, seeing with quite how much diligence and care the government is safeguarding the nation, and with how much solidarity the Jordanian people are coming together: would that my own homeland demonstrate an approach this thorough and a spirit this strong. That [The Guardian newspaper led with this story today](#) will give the UK government plenty of food for thought. Meanwhile, I am eagerly awaiting this evening's singing and percussion across the rooftops of Marj Al Hamam.

Parent Communication

Please can we ask parents to limit contact with your children's teachers during the working hours of 7.30am to 5.00pm each day, Sunday to Thursday. By all accounts, our academic staff are doing a brilliant job of responding to student comments in the google classroom, and to parental queries via email, as well as preparing thoroughly for the next day and reviewing the previous one. I am sure you will recognise the importance of the evenings and weekends for staff to rest, relax and look after themselves and their own families. Many thanks for your continued support in helping us all strike that crucial balance between work and life, especially when the curfew can easily blur the two.

Video and Live Streaming

This week, we have begun to trial some prerecorded and live streaming tools with various classes, and early signs are that it is working very well; indeed, further details will follow at the end of this week about how we intend to roll this out, where appropriate and necessary, to the whole school. However, this does create some potential issues for families and teachers alike. Firstly, as an award-winning school in terms of Child Protection and Safeguarding, we insist that all live streaming be one-way (in other words, the students can see the teacher, but the teacher cannot see the students), and, also, that it always be in groups (in other words, 1:1 video, Skype or phone calls between a member of staff and an individual student are not permitted). We thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this.

In addition, we are also aware that different households have different internet providers and bandwidths, and different numbers of devices. Therefore, please rest assured that, as in any physical classroom, teachers will continue to employ a variety of learning and teaching strategies, of which prerecorded or streamed video are but one, in order that #themonalisaeffect be able to stay alive for every single student, regardless of their own circumstances. In order that we can constantly review and enhance our online provision, please do continue to feed back regarding your child's experience of their home learning [via the live google form](#).



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Parenting and the New Normal

Like all of you, I love my own children unconditionally, and I wouldn't want to change anything about them. However, also like you, I would be the first to admit that parenting is not easy. None of us is trained in what is one of the most important jobs anyone can have, and just when we conquer one challenge, another is typically around the corner. Now that families are together 24/7, it is even more important that we, as parents, are able to understand our children, put ourselves in their shoes, and use this empathy to keep them emotionally safe and able to **#thrive**. To this end, our Counselling Team would like to share this article, "[A COVID-19 Survival Guide for Parents of Tweens and Teens](#)". I hope you find it useful in this unusual times.

#reasonstobecheerful

Having set myself the challenge of sharing a new reason to be cheerful with each update, I am determined not to give up. Having started with an article from *The Guardian*, I will finish, maintaining political impartiality, with [an article from The Telegraph](#), full of evidence that the world, whilst bruised and battered, is still brimming, amid the gloom, with hope and happiness.

Have a lovely evening, and enjoy your bread!

Best wishes

Matthew Savage
Principal