



**“The lamps are different, but the Light is the same.”**

*Rumi, a 13th-century Persian poet*

27<sup>th</sup> September 2019

MIGS/ADM/T1/PRC/WS/PS/2019-0139

Dear Parents/Guardians,

## MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

Allow me to begin with the quotation above which is certainly a firm favourite of mine and I feel accurately describes both the unity and diversity of our students. As I begin to get to know more and more of our students, I must report how pleasant and polite they are, admirable qualities indeed.

I am extremely pleased that Air Quality has certainly improved and the Haze has finally diminished. Thank you all for your support as we monitored conditions and made some necessary decisions. I hope everyone is feeling better as we can see the blue skies once more.

An additional thank you to all the parents who were able to join us for the Junior back to school night and the Senior School curriculum evening this month. Planning a time when everyone is able to attend is often difficult with many parents with busy schedules. For future events, we will try and rotate the timing to involve as many parents as possible. I must also thank our teachers for some great insights into our school, our curriculum topics, our lessons and the ways they in which engage with our students.

### **School Routines**

#### **Morning drop-off to school**

It is very pleasing to see the students continue to become independent during the morning drop off. We are now in our fourth week of school and we would like to encourage our students to make their own way to class from October. Our Security Personnel will be on duty to assist with the drop-off and the traffic flow; a thank you to parents who continue to be considerate whilst parking the cars. As a brief reminder

Reception and Year 1	Parents may lead students to the School Hall and may remain with them until just before their Class Teachers take them to their class which is at 7.45 am.  All parents are advised to leave the premise by 8 am to allow our teachers to start the day's activities and lessons.
Other students from Year 2 to Year 6	Students will proceed on their own from the porch to the School Hall. The Class Teachers will accompany students to their classrooms from 7.45 am

From next week onwards, all students (with the exception of Reception) should be dropped off in the Porch.

## ***Cross Country, CCA & EA***

CCA sessions are back, with many activities taking place in both the Junior and Senior sections. However; the recent conditions have not allowed us to train or practise for the cross country event, we have therefore postponed the school cross country and are looking at a date in Term 2. EA activities will start next week, payments are to be made through the account office here at the school, for further activity details and updates please contact Mr. Charlie our CCA and EA coordinator.

I also recently received notice of an Art and Craft event on Saturday. Albeit very short notice it may well be worth dropping by if you have a moment. For further details, please see the website at :- [www.mia.edu.my](http://www.mia.edu.my)

## **JUNIOR SCHOOL UPDATES**

### ***No hat, no play rule***

With the skies and haze clearing up, children are playing outside. We would like to remind the children to have their hats during playtime. We have a '*no hat, no play*' rule and children without their school caps, will have to sit in the shade. School caps can be purchased in the book shop. For the time being, other hats from home will be allowed during play. We aim to have all school caps at play by the 15<sup>th</sup> of October. By the time the children head off for the Humanities Trail in later October, all children will be expected to have their school hats. Kindly please label the hats with their name.

### **School Books**

Could you please check and see that the children have their learner books and exercise books purchased for them. Thank you to parents who have looked into this.

### **EA Swimming**

Junior swimmers to meet Mr Charlie at the KDE poolside at 2:30<sup>pm</sup> on Fridays.

### **Pick up time**

Thank you to parents who continue to pick up their son/daughter on time, it really does ease the traffic flow for senior students.

## **SENIOR SCHOOL UPDATES**

### ***Senior School Camp***

Preparations continue for the Senior School Camps, the PE Department and the Camp Providers will come in to talk to the students this week. The revised date for Senior Camp will be **November the 20<sup>th</sup> until the 22<sup>nd</sup>** for students in Years 7-11. Following the presentation to students, parents will also have the opportunity to connect with the organisers. A letter with all the details will be sent by the PE department shortly to parents. Further details will be available shortly. Details of the providers can be found at: -<http://wildernessmalaysia.com/>

### **Year 7 - Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT) 4**

As mentioned in the recent curriculum evening part of our assessment framework for our Year 7 students features the online Cognitive Abilities Test. The results will provide an insight and a rounded student profile to enable us to: -

- Target support
- Create appropriate challenges
- Provides a unique profile of strengths and weaknesses across four aspects
  1. *Verbal Reasoning* – the ability to express ideas and reason through language
  2. *Non-verbal Reasoning* – problem-solving using pictures and diagrams; skills which are important in a wide range of school subjects, including maths and science-based subjects.
  3. *Spatial Reasoning* – the capacity to think and draw conclusions in three dimensions, needed for many STEAM subjects, but not easily measured by other datasets.
  4. *Quantitative Reasoning* – the ability to use numerical skills to solve problems, applicable well beyond mathematics.

These tests can be taken at any time and we have rescheduled these tests for the 21<sup>st</sup> of October. A separate letter will be sent to year 7 parents shortly.

### **Dates for your Diary**

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| ● <b>MIGS Cross Country (postponed to Term 2)</b> | 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2019                     |
| ● <b>Awareness Week</b>                           | 7 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> October 2019   |
| ● <b>CAT 4 testing Year 7 (rescheduled)</b>       | 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2019                    |
| ● <b>Junior School Humanities Trail</b>           | 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2019 |
| ● <b>Deepavali &amp; Term Break</b>               | 27 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> October 2019  |
| ● <b>Senior School Inter House Debate</b>         | 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2019                   |
| ● <b>Senior School Camp - Langkawi</b>            | 20 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2019 |

Best regards,



**JOHN P BIRCH**  
Principal