



18th September 2019

MIGS/ADM/T1/PRC/WS/PS/2019-0136

Dear Parents and Guardians,

SCHOOL CLOSURE PROCEDURES DUE TO HAZE

Allow me to share a brief update of our protocol and procedures regarding air quality in our location. Student and staff health remains a constant priority here at the school. Indeed, during the recent meeting of International School Principals and the MOE, the *HAZE* topic was discussed in detail. It is feared that the recent reduction in air quality may well continue for longer than anticipated. We continue to monitor the quality of air on an hourly basis and a number of schools in various areas have utilized the MOE guidelines (APIMS readings of over 200) and recently closed to students.

As a guide for ourselves, the closest reading station for APIMS is located in the Cheras area, I also monitor the AQICN website as a reference point, current readings as I write this letter are 186 for aqicn and 183 with APIMS.

May I refer you to a recent communication, where I wrote: -

We continue to assess the Air Quality using the Air Pollutant Index of Malaysia (APIMS) and the real time Air Quality Index (AQI). For those unfamiliar with the index, five air pollutants are measured (particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and ozone), the concentrations in a community's air are converted to a number on a scale of 0 to 500. Students are reminded to wear a mask if the index reading becomes high, stay hydrated and avoid strenuous outdoor activity. As we monitor the situation, and readings fall between 100-150, certain activities will remain indoors such as PE classes/Break times and CCAs. Taking guidance from the MOE, should the reading rise to above 200, the school will be closed. We will aim to inform parents before 21:00 on the previous evening should this be the case.

Thank you to all parents and students for their continued efforts in coming to school, the statement above will continue to guide us, please assume that we shall remain open unless there is an official communication from myself.

For the coming days, we will ensure students remain indoors as often as possible as we continue to monitor the level of risk. For CCA and other activities an alternative programme will be in place until the air quality returns to acceptable levels.

Closure Procedures

As mentioned should the air quality index reach 200 and a school closure be advised please refer to the procedures below:-

1. Closure for the next day - this will be communicated via email and the parent portal prior to 21:00.
2. Closure before the school day - we aim to send a message to all parents before 06:30.
3. Closure during the school day - this will again be communicated to parents and school will be closed from 12 noon on the day.

As weather conditions may change dramatically within 24 hours, we will not decide to close for more than one day at a time.

To ensure that learning and coverage of the curriculum does not completely come to a halt on those days, students may well be asked to complete work or assignments whilst at home. However: students will not be asked, or required, to come to campus for any assignment or to collect textbooks.

Predominantly for the Senior School IGCSE examination classes, any assignments given earlier in the week (prior to the haze day) and due on the day(s) following the "haze day," may well still be required by the teachers. If there is any doubt, students should clarify with their teachers via email for any updated coursework or assignment deadlines.

Should school be closed or cancelled, we will not require students to make up the attendance later in the Term or the year.

Should parents feel that the conditions are not suitable for their child (children who have asthmas etc), you may choose to keep their child home for the day. We understand that parents and students have different comfort levels in regards to the haze.

This evening, the School will proceed with the Junior School Back to School Night taking place from 1800 to 2000 in the new building. We look forward to welcoming you to an evening with an insight to the Junior School, to meet the teachers and the teachers to meet you.

I will keep parents updated and will carefully review our upcoming Cross Country event in the coming days and advise parents accordingly.

Thanking you all in advance.

Yours sincerely,



JOHN PAUL BIRCH
Principal