



6th March 2020

MIGS/ADM/T2/PRC/WS/PS/2020-0201

Dear Parents/Guardians,

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we approach the mid term break here at the school, allow me to share a number of items. As a first priority, I would like to address some issues regarding the continued health and safety of our school community.

In our interconnected society, unfortunately it was almost inevitable that we experience an increase in the number of cases of the Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19, these have been well documented in the news and media updates. As we approach the end of Term Two we continue to monitor information and guidelines regarding the Coronavirus. In order to protect our community and reduce the risk of the effects of this outbreak, allow me to share some of the guidelines for Mutiara International Grammar School

We continue to take several precautionary measures as we strive to prevent and inhibit the spread of any viruses or infectious diseases at MIGS.

- We continue to disinfect common areas of the school
- We actively encourage hand sanitation
- We screen our students and parents at the school entrance/porch area in the morning for temperature and associated symptoms
- Staff continue to remain alert to possible symptoms from students during the school day
- Our nurse continues to play a vital and active role in school health
- We screen visitors at the main security gate, including temperature, symptoms and a travel declaration.
- We continue to monitor and follow the advice from the relevant Health Authorities.
- As an additional precautionary measure we have also postponed all competitions with other schools until further notice.

The Ministry of Health continues to advise postponement of travel to the following areas, that have been declared as high risk with a COVID-19 outbreak, currently these are (in no particular order):-

People's Republic of China The Republic of Korea Japan Italy Iran

For the continued personal safety of our staff, students and parents, we strongly advise against travel to these high risk regions as well as for the wider health and safety of our community here at the school.

Below is a list of our current precautions that may well be revised as further information becomes available. These will also be our precautions in the event that additional countries are added to the above list.

I do understand that parents may well have already organised travel plans in advance of the outbreak. Please note that should parents travel to these areas the following guidelines will apply:-

- Quarantine for 14 days
- A medical clearance from from a Government hospital or medical practitioner on return to MIGS
- Suitable work will be set by the teachers for students for this period

For everyone remaining Malaysia, or visiting countries that are not on the confirmed list, please remain cautious and observe the latest guidelines to stay safe.

We continue to monitor the situation and follow advice from the relevant authorities, should there be any further information I will update parents and students accordingly.

OTHER NEWS AND RECENT EVENTS

Cross Country

I was extremely pleased with the recent efforts of our students, staff and parents who contributed to an exciting and successful cross country competition earlier this term. Our initial concerns about rain potentially spoiling the day, were soon diminished on what turned out to be a bright, but very warm morning session. Indeed, perhaps the opposite of our somewhat overcast sports day in term one. It's a true testament to the motivation of our parents who once again joined in come whatever the weather! Having consulted parents, perhaps next year will may well remove the 'hill climb' section of the course. I must also mention our very own Mr Nikolai who represented the teachers with great enthusiasm. Sincere thanks to the PE team, Zumba dancers and our student and parent athletes. Ruby House were the overall winners with Topaz, Emerald and Sapphire all coming a very close second, third and fourth.

After reviewing the tug of war competition and consulting our VAR system....I can confirm that the results stand! I am pleased our support staff, teachers and parents (and maybe one or perhaps two students...) enjoyed the contests.

Wellbeing Week

A week focused on many activities for our students, that was enjoyed by all! One could see lots of effort and thought had gone into the Mufti Day outfits as students looked good and felt good! I hope all the students enjoyed the catwalk section of the week. Some excellent costumes on display from the Junior School and some innovative catwalk routines from the Senior School. Thank you for the teachers who also joined in.

A close contest in the Nerf Challenge from our Senior School teams, with our Year Ten group coming out as eventual winners.

The Creative Art Poster competition concludes next week and student's work will be displayed in the school hall.

And finally all week students were able to write and record their thoughts in a feelings box, a somewhat overwhelming response, our school counselor is spending time looking over the entries as I write.

Assessments

Assessment and feedback in an ongoing process and we encourage learners to take risks and challenge their ability in a variety of assignments, quizzes and tests.

This week the Senior school took important Mid Year assessments to gain feedback on their progress this term. These results will create a formative assessment score featuring on their upcoming school report cards.

Our year 6 students also took the opportunity to experience their first Cambridge Checkpoint trial papers. Teachers will provide feedback in the coming weeks as we plan for the real assessments in late April. Our Year 11 students are now finalising preparations for the IGCSE examinations and will go on structured study leave from the end of March. I must thank our staff in advance as they have prepared a structured workshop and revision sessions over the holiday.

Cambridge AS & A Level programmes

I am very pleased to also announce the start of our admissions for the sixth form here at MIGS, following approval from the Ministry of Education and the Cambridge Assessment International Education group. I invite our current **Year 11 students and parents** to join me on the **18th and 19th of March** for an individual discussion of the courses on offer and study options beyond MIGS. An online booking system will be available shortly. I have also recently met with a number of universities as we prepare students for their next phases of education.

Poetry

Last week I had the privilege to be invited to join the year 8 English group (and of course Mr Bradfield) to experience some poetry. A thoroughly enjoyable lesson with some budding poets in the group! For those interested in poetry, The Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra featuring Mikhail Pletnev on piano and Fabio Mechettias conductor, are performing this weekend.



SAT 7 MAR 2020 8:30PM
Mikhail Pletnev, piano Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS
Level Two, Tower Two, PETRONAS Twin Towers

Dates for your Diary

- Year 11 Leavers Assembly 13th March
- Senior Camps 18th-20th March
- Junior Learning Celebration 20th March
- Parent Teacher Conference 26th March
- School Closed 27th March
- School Re Opens 13th April

Please continue to follow us @migskl #migskl on our social media platforms on IG, FB, Twitter, Youtube to see the teaching and learning updates happening within our school campus and community this year.

Allow me this time to sign off with a quotation from J.R.R. Tolkien

*"Still round the corner there may wait
A new road or a secret gate
And though I oft have passed them by
A day will come at last when I
Shall take the hidden paths that run
West of the Moon, East of the Sun."*

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JP Birch".

JOHN P BIRCH
Principal