



24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

MIGS/ADM/T2/PRC/WS/PS/2020-0206

Dear Parents/Guardians,

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL – LATEST UPDATE 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020

As many of you would have followed in the news (and also experienced) the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak is both evident and far reaching. Some countries have already made the difficult decision to extend school closures into April and May. This has led the Cambridge Assessment International Examinations group rethink their examination seasons for 2020.

A continued priority for ourselves and for CAIE is the protection, safety and wellbeing of our students, our teachers and our community. Many other examination boards have postponed their examinations for this May/June series. In order to ensure fairness for all students and support them in continuing with their education, CAIE will also postpone the May/June series 2020.

So in effect, today they have taken the difficult decision **not to run** the international examinations in the May/June 2020 series in any country. This includes **Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge Checkpoint**, Cambridge O Level, Cambridge International AS & A Level, Cambridge AICE Diploma and Cambridge Pre-U.

Many MIGS students have been working very hard towards these exams, I can truly understand the disappointment and frustration this decision may bring. It will also raise some questions for how they award exams and certificates for this year.

Although this is a difficult decision from the examination board, it is indeed the correct one, not only for the safety of our students, but as a 'level playing field'. It would be very unfair if a student receives an International Baccalaureate award or a UK GCSE award from predicted grades and assessments, whilst the International IGCSE students suffer from the restrictions of the COVID-19 outbreak; and have to risk their safety to sit examinations.

This week additional guidance from the examination board will be given to schools on how to assess students' achievements for IGCSE using the best available evidence.

Students will receive a grade and a certificate from Cambridge International for IGCSE exams (but not for checkpoint) given the knowledge and skills they have acquired in their programmes of study. This will ensure students do not face disadvantage as a result of these extraordinary circumstances.

The Cambridge University Group are also talking to universities worldwide, and they are factoring these unprecedented circumstances into admissions decisions, so students can continue with their education journeys as soon as possible. This formula will also be utilised at college level for students wishing to pursue A level and IB courses.

When I receive the clearer guidance I will share this with parents. Until this time, I hope everyone remains safe and continues to follow the guidance for the Ministry of Health.

Yours sincerely,  
**JOHN PAUL BIRCH**  
Principal