



CHITTAGONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Education for Life

29th March 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been an unprecedented few weeks in Bangladesh and indeed across the world due to the evolving coronavirus pandemic. So a few weeks ago, in response, we took a decision to shut the school, being one of the first academic institutions to do so. Since then, we have been trying to balance the need to deliver our academic programme and at the same time ensure the health and safety of our students and indeed of our teachers, admin personnel and staff. Fortunately we have had online teaching experience in the past which many of our students have participated in and we hope to build on this expertise in the weeks and months ahead as we navigate through uncertainty. Most likely it will be a few weeks and even possibly months before things return to normal. In the meantime we are working on engaging students virtually in all classes. We are fast tracking a training programme for teachers so they are ready with online lessons, assignments and eventually tests.

Cambridge Examinations:

International examinations is one big concern and almost all classes, class 2 upwards were scheduled to appear for ICT, Checkpoints, O, AS or A Levels. These have now all been cancelled - and Cambridge is working with schools to find ways to acknowledge students' academic achievements so that they can move onto the next stage of their educational journey seamlessly. We will keep you updated as Cambridge clarifies exactly how they will award certificates or roll out alternative exam sessions.

Virtual engagements:

CGS has never been only about academics and at this time we would like to ensure that students, parents, teachers and indeed everyone in the CGS families are nurturing their Mind-Body-and Soul (MBS). Leaders and IT teams in each school have come up with strategies to nourish all three aspects and you will be receiving an SMS with a password which will lead you to a privacy protected online platform to engage all stakeholders, provide academic content, lessons and other activities to keep our MBS's nourished. Kindly follow instructions to login in and access all that resources and study packs. It also contains details of group online discussions, Zoom and Google Classrooms to make sure students' stay abreast with their syllabuses, and ensure that their physical and mental health stays robust, in these challenging times.

School Calendar:

The school calendar will most likely be impacted so we suggest you do not make any travel plans in the summer. We will release an updated list of key dates and school holidays.



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Looking Ahead:

Global economic downturn that will inevitably follow at the heels of this pandemic, will affect the CGS communities. Therefore, you will be happy to learn that we are freezing fees at current levels for the next academic year. We are also very concerned about our most economically fragile stakeholders - the children and parents of our Community School who are facing unprecedented hardships with many families on daily wages who are without food or basic provisions. We will be giving all Community School students monthly rations and in addition our alumni are galvanizing a movement to reach out to others in need. If you would like to be involved, please contact Raheel Jamal (CGS Alumni) at raheel.cgs.nc@gmail.com or send him an SMS at 01300013258. In addition each of you can be in touch via a hotline number which has already been sent to you or will be sent shortly if it has not yet reached you.

As the pandemic reaches all corners of the globe, Pope Francis in his Friday sermon reminded us, *"We find ourselves afraid and lost. We were caught off-guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented ... all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other."*

As we move Fearlessly Future Forward together in the CGS family boat, let us support each other and be kind and giving to the most vulnerable in our communities.

Wishing you all good health,

Farhat Khan and Shereen Ispahani
CGS Directors



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LOCKDOWN, CARNIVAL CANCELLED

All CGS and CGSD Branches have now shut down to minimize social interactions and thereby reduce risk of exposure to the Coronavirus. Parents will be kept posted of virtual classes and study packs via SMS.

The April Annual CGSD Carnival for Pohela Baishak has also been cancelled.



NINA MUNSHI ART CAMP

CGSD Community School hosted an Art Camp with famous artists working with the students of Community School. Jamal Uddin Ahmed pictured above was amongst the eminent personalities supporting this endeavour. The theme of this year's art camp was 'Bangabandhu', as part of the birth centenary celebration of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The 10 eminent artists were, Farida Zaman, Ahmed Shamsudoha, Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Sheikh Afzal Hossain, Taslima Jahan, Naima Haque, Moloy Bala, Iqbal Ali, Kamal Ahmed and Krishna Rana.

The event was covered by local media and can be viewed at:

<https://www.facebook.com/CGSDprimaryANDsecondary/videos/206394900431810/>



NATIONAL ANTHEM COMPETITION



A team of CGSD Primary students, pictured above, recently participated in the district level of the National Anthem Competition (Shuddho Sboore Jateeyo Songeet Protijogita) and secured the 3rd position among 17 schools at the thana level competition.

Congratulations!

RS CONFERENCE CLASSES 3/4

Our youngest conference participants pictured below and left at the recent in-house conference.



DAILY STAR NATION-BUILDERS

CGSD awardees were joined by their CGS counterparts for the 21st award ceremony. Pictured above are the students at the recent Dhaka ceremony.

EKUSHEY COMMEMORATED

Our Ekushey martyrs were remembered by staff and students, as all came dressed in black and white mufti and laid wreaths on the Ekushey memorial. A Primary group pictured below.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS	DATE
Shab-e-Barat*	8.4.2020
Easter Sunday	12.4.2020
Pohela Baishak	14.4.2020
Ramadan*	24.4.2020