



CGS-Dhaka Newsletter

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MAY 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Team CGSD,

So much has happened in just the last one month! While the global pandemic of COVID-19 has swamped the world over, humanity has greatly evolved universally across the globe. Having taken human contacts and this earth for granted for so long, each of us have started appreciating nature as well as humans way more. I hope we are all maintaining the social distancing formula to contribute our own bits to the remedy to this virus. By doing so, it's helping the earth to heal as well.

Belonging to a team that has always felt encouraged to embrace changes, Team CGSD has taken this newest challenge forward by engaging with our learners through virtual and remote learning sessions. Although some might feel that this may not seem like the best option in an ideal world as it still leaves us craving for the human touch, it is indeed the best out of our available options right now to remain connected with one another. The heart warming response of our learners of all ages upon seeing each other as well the teachers was overwhelming to say the least. Soldiers of Team CGSD are marching ahead by looking into the well-being of all our learners through the Mind / Body / Soul sessions. Going forward, we shall also be engaging into fun activities involving family members at home.

It is the challenging moments in life which teach us important and unforgettable life lessons. You might want to preserve your memories in history by collecting notes of your quarantine days. Engage into your remote learning sessions, develop some hands-on new hobbies and interests and practise those, spend quality time with family members by playing games, watching movies, reading, cooking, dancing, singing, doing crafts, making crazy videos and by having lots of fun! Spend some "me time" to do some self-reflection of your past priorities and how you feel your current situation has conditioned you for the better. Appreciate the people around you, develop and increase your tolerance threshold by accepting everyone without coming across as being judgmental. Practise your self-care and self-hygiene routines thoroughly to keep all deadly viruses at bay and let's all hold hands together from a socially safe distance in prayers for a healed and better world soon.

Asia Chowdhury
Head of School

"We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return. We will be with our friends again. We will be with our families again. We will meet again".

Queen Elizabeth II
Address to the Nation, 5th April 2020

SHOBO NOBO BORSHO

The Bangla New Year came and went and we were unable to host our annual charity carnival. However, class groups got together virtually to sing our National Anthem to show solidarity to our great nation. A group pictured below.



CGS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Our most economically fragile stakeholders - the Community School families have been worst affected by the economic downturn that the current lockdowns bring with them. Across our 6 Community Schools monthly rations will be distributed until the crisis comes to an end. A CS parent pictured below collecting his goods.



RE-THINKING ASSESSMENTS

Cambridge Examinations has allowed 'O' Level candidates to postpone the May-June examinations to the following session in October-November or go for internal grading. Internally, we will be assessing students on a range of criteria as we will be unable to hold traditional face-to-face exams.

- ◆ Autumn and Winter Term results
- ◆ Virtual Assessments (Assignments, Google Classroom/ Online, Offline Assessments)
- ◆ Virtual Interviews (one on one)
- ◆ Presentations / Individual or Group
- ◆ Project / Presentation / Research
- ◆ Communication via email
- ◆ Attendance, Punctuality and Participation in online sessions

It is therefore imperative that all students attend all the virtual sessions as well as complete the assignments and projects.

THE RISE OF VIRTUAL EDUCATION

'Across the globe more than 1.5 billion students, or more than 90% of the world's learners, are stuck at home due to school closures in about 190 countries, according to UNESCO estimates'.

Educators across the globe are scrambling to find best ways to engage students with appropriate and safe platforms. Lockdowns have propelled the education industry into a new era of learning and teaching. And there is no going back! Even after things return to normal, elements of virtual school will remain with us going forward.

Since schools could possibly remain closed until September this will no doubt put a strain on families as they cope with the frustration of home confinement for extended periods of time. To help uplift students' mood during these challenging times we will be undertaking several measures which are:

- ◆ Daily social 'downtimes' online with your classmate and class teacher
- ◆ Engaging group activities including quizzes, sing-alongs, games, discussions, art
- ◆ Assigning a teacher to each and every student to keep up with his / her frame of mind
- ◆ Gym and online physical workouts
- ◆ Counsellor group and individual sessions

This has been a time of frantic learning for teachers, for students and even for parents. We ran a short survey to try and understand parents' and students' needs, your feedback is listed below:

We will keep you all abreast of how we are planning online and send regular updates as we move forward together.

Parents Feedback

Are you happy with the online classes?



Do they keep your children engaged?



Is your child/children enjoying the classes?



ONLINE ADMISSION OPEN!

Online admission for 2020/21 is now open, forms can be completed online at :

<https://cgs.com.bd/content.php?GID=3&MID=44>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	DATE
May Day	1.5.2020
Buddha Purnima	7.5.2020
Online classes run until	11.5.2020
Eid-ul-Fitr*	19.5.2020
Virtual School Reopens	31.5.2020