



Community Update

(12 May 2020)

Extended Circuit Breaker and School Term Dates

- 1. Two Weeks Until the End of Term.** We are all mindful of the difficulties and stresses caused by Covid-19. Hang in there, the end of term is just around the corner! Hopefully a relaxing of the circuit breaker restrictions soon will enable parents and students to enjoy some relaxation time in and around Singapore during the June holidays. In the meantime, can you identify with the following positive aspects of C19?
 - More time with family (young children especially will no doubt have appreciated time with busy parents?!)
 - Improved IT skills
 - No travel time to work, saving 1 hour + each day?!
 - More efficient use of time (less 'water cooler time'...)
 - Improvement to the environment – eg blue skies in China, fish in the Grand Canals in Venice, otters outside Mustaffa's, birds singing etc
 - More sleep?
 - ???
- 2. Tuition Fees Rebate** – as previously advised the Board of Management has agreed to a 5% reduction of the Semester I tuition fee (January - June) in recognition of the financial impact of Covid-19 on individual families. The 5% rebate for Semester I will be applied to the Semester II fees. The Board has also had an increase in costs this year due to the impact of Covid-19 but wanted to acknowledge the strong support that the school receives from its community by way of this rebate.
- 3. No Small Group Gatherings on the Last Week of the Term** – whilst the local MoE schools are allowing some small groups of graduating cohorts (Years 4 and 6) to return to school from 19 May we will not be doing so, but will continue with HBL. We have decided that it is too difficult logistically to supervise this activity as we will still be operating our regular HBL timetable.
- 4. No PTM Next Friday 22 May:** A reminder that the last day of term is a 'normal' HBL day. We have postponed the PTM until Term 3 when we can meet face-to-face.
- 5. General Homework / Revision for Holidays:** All teachers have been reminded that they may allocate homework or revision work over the holidays as per normal. Some subjects will also be offering revision lessons over the holidays (either online or at school depending on circuit breaker restrictions). These include preparation for O Levels Language examinations held in June. Students will receive the details from their teachers plus the revision classes will be published in the next newsletter. Teachers have also been reminded to consider students' workload after a demanding term on Home Based Learning and balance that against the advantages of giving the students a focus and help towards skill acquisition and understanding over the holidays.
- 6. Safe Entry to School During the Holidays** – in line with the government's directive to implement the Safe Entry QR Code, all staff, students and visitors arriving at school over the holidays (once school is open and staff are allowed back) will need to check in using this code. For the school's records, additionally all staff and student arrivals will also need to sign in using the school's bar code found on staff / student ID.

For this reason only the Main Gate will be open for access over the holidays. In general, **students will not be allowed back to school over the holidays** unless they have approval to attend school for revision classes. This is to reduce the risk of infection as Covid-19 numbers reduce and stabilise.

7. **Year 6 Testimonials:** We are starting the testimonial production process slightly earlier this year by getting Year 6 House Tutors to send out the Testimonial Self-Referral Guide to their tutees for completion before the end of this term. Testimonials are issued at Graduation. Year 4 students who have left school are also eligible for a testimonial. All other leaving students are able to apply for a transcript only.
8. **Higher Education:** For university application advice and matters, please contact the Higher Education Department or Ms Rita Kaur on rita.kaur@acsinternational.edu.sg
For university news and information, you can follow ACS Intl Higher Education Instagram -higheredu_accintl.
9. **Open House:** Due to the cancellation of the traditional Open House in Term 2 we are proceeding with a virtual online Open House to be published on our website by the end of term. Additionally we will hold two Saturday 2021 Admissions Days on 11 and 18 July (similar to our PSLE and O Levels Information Sessions) hosted by SLT and Admissions with school tours led by our Student Leaders.
10. **Term 3 Start and Preliminary Examinations:** The Year 4 and 6 Prelim examinations have been rescheduled for Weeks 3 and 4 (13 – 24 July). The delayed start is to give teachers and students a full two weeks of face-to-face teaching and learning in school in order to reconnect, check that all students are up-to-date with work, and that they are well prepared for the Prelim examinations. In order to release the full two weeks for teaching and learning SLT has agreed to cancel the two Staff Only Training days on 29 and 30 June. All students will therefore be in regular classes from the start of Term 3. The term will start with a full school assembly at 8.00am on Monday 29 June (subject to Covid-19 regulations of course).
11. **Term 2 Reports:** All students will receive the usual full Term 2 report with grades and comments. The reports are due to be published on 1 June.
12. **June Newsletter:** The final newsletter for the term will be published next Friday 22 May.

Best wishes to all for a productive and safe conclusion to Term 2.

Rob Burrough
Principal