



School Year 2019 -20

Meet the Director (online) - April



Topics for the virtual meeting today

1. Distance Learning Feedback/Action
2. IB Diploma related questions
3. Finance related questions
4. Adjusted school calendar
5. Remaining questions

Distance Learning Survey

| QUESTION | | WHOLE SCHOOL | | | PRIMARY | | | SECONDARY | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|--------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|---------|----------|
| | | faculty | parents | students | faculty | parents | students | faculty | parents | students |
| 1 | Overall | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Health | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Enjoying activities | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Balance | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Learning: understanding | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Learning: independence | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Learning: balance in tasks types | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Support: feedback | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Support: access | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Structure: timetable | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Attendance | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Workload | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Screen time | | | | | | | | | |

Feedback and Experience - Primary School

| Issues Identified | Proposed Actions |
|---|--|
| Reduce screen time | Teachers will identify active/passive screen-related tasks with an aim to reduce screen time where possible |
| Ensure a sustainable workload for students/families | Guidelines for teacher and parents to be provided |
| Students need to stay connected to each other | Establish routines for student contact, perhaps led by parents and also the School Counselors |
| Greater face-to-face contact between teachers and students | Every teacher will use Google Meets each week and regular Morning Meetings are encouraged |
| Consider a timetable to support a shared lunch with the Secondary School | Agreed - No teaching will take place from 12:15 - 13:00 for Primary School and Middle School students to have lunch |
| Build in time for consolidation and completion of work | Time built in at the end of each day for students to consolidate learning |
| Consolidate and streamline tasks into one message on fewer platforms and stop sending message at 9:00 | Friday afternoon message will be sent to parents from the Grade Level via ManageBac with the learning plan for following week including links to platforms (Sites, Seesaw, Google Classroom, etc). |
| Ensure instructions for tasks are clear | Teachers to consider sending instructions in more than one way to ensure understanding |

Primary School Timetable from 20th April

- **Shared lunchtime** for Primary and Middle School students
- **Grade Level timetables** will be shared:
 - Literacy, Mathematics and Unit of Inquiry lessons at the start of each day
 - PE, German, Music, Art and Drama (Grades 3-5) lessons later each day (see schedule on next slide)
- **Consolidation & Preparation** time scheduled at the end of each day

Timetable - Primary School (Single-Subject Lessons)

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|
| ELC | PE | Music | Art | | German |
| GP | German | PE | Music | Art | |
| G1 | Drama | German | PE | Music | Art |
| G2 | Art | Drama | German | PE | Music |
| G3 | Music | Art | Drama | German | PE |
| G4 | PE | Music | Art | Drama | German |
| G5 | German | PE | Music | Art | Drama |

Action arising from the feedback - Secondary

Summary of Analysis

From the Secondary School perspective, this is a very positive set of feedback overall. The main challenge is to reduce screen time and workload without compromising the overall structure of the working week or monitoring of attendance.

Analysis of feedback - Secondary

1. Overall: Positive feedback regarding Distance Learning. We need to refine our practices.
2. Student health: Most students are coping well, though teachers and parents need to continue to monitor this.
3. Most students enjoy the learning activities provided, but comment that they are too heavily screen-based.
4. Most students are maintaining other activities to balance work.
5. Most students understand what is required of them.
6. Most students are able to work independently.
7. There is balance in the types of activities set, but still heavily screen-based.
8. Most students are happy with the feedback they are receiving.
9. Most students and parents feel well supported. Learning Support is a development area.
10. The structure of applying the school timetable received positive feedback.
11. Most stakeholders affirm lesson by lesson attendance.
12. Distance Learning has led to an increased workload during the school day.
13. All constituents agree that screen time is much increased, and generally too high. The vast majority of student comments were concerned with too much screen time.

Action Points - Secondary School

| Theme arising from Surveys | Action Points for current Distance Learning model |
|---|--|
| Timetable Structure | No major change - but increased breaks between some lessons. |
| Attendance | Attendance taking continues as usual; please continue to submit excusals through ManageBac. |
| Screen time | Increase off-screen activities and dedicated off-screen times. |
| Student Workload | Reduce where possible to reflect added challenge of distance learning. Consider Learning Support and ELA students in particular. |
| Assessment | Proceed with assessments as normal in most cases. Some departments may require additional adaptations |
| Homework | Should not be set unless absolutely necessary. |
| Reports | As normal. Tailoring of Approaches to Learning skills to reflect the distance learning environment. |
| Differentiation: Students needing support | Reach out to Learning Support students each week to check if they are managing the work set. |

Is Distance Learning Working?

- From the chart above the large areas of blue would indicate that it is.
- Assessments are going ahead as planned
- We will definitely be able to assess the Approaches to Learning and knowledge aspects of our programmes
- Students will continue to be asked to work with integrity - we will continue to assume good intent.
- PYP exhibition yesterday was a great example of adjusting to meet the current needs
- Distance learning amplifies the needs of students who have English language acquisition (ELA) or learning support needs. We will work to try and provide more support after the break.

It is hard for families, particularly families of young children, as the support needed from parents creates an extra burden.

Primary School - Reports/Assessment

- Continue assessing and reporting on **Approaches to Learning and the Learner Profile** in a narrative comment
- Continue to indicate achievement (Beginning/Developing/Consolidating/Established) for **Maths, Language, UOI**
- Continue to indicate Levels of achievement for **German and ELA**
- Provide Engagement/Participation indicator for **Art, Music and PE**

Secondary School - Reports/Assessment

Assessment

Assessment practices will continue as normal wherever possible. Some assessment tasks will be adapted to reflect the conditions of distance learning.

Reports

Report writing will go ahead as normal. Students and parents can expect End of Year reports this year as in previous years. ATL will be tailored to reflect distance learning.

IB DP Results and related questions

- IB has cancelled the May examinations.
- A grade will be determined based on the data that the IB has about each student (coursework, predicted grades and historical data). IB have collected this information in FAQs on their website (www.ibo.org).
- Students will receive a numerical grade (score out of 45) as usual.
- Grades will be awarded on 6th July as usual - despite request for earlier awarding.
- Students will be supported, as they are every year, by VIS staff after the results are published.
- University advisors are working closely with the universities in an unprecedented period of uncertainty.
- Our hope is that we will be able to run Grade 11 examinations in June, if not, we will have to review alternatives.
- The Grade 10 DP choice process has been extended to the end of May.

Finance related questions

School Fees

There are no plans to reimburse the school fees. Under the Terms and Conditions 2019-20

5. FORCE MAJEURE

There is no refund of the Tuition Fee for instructional days lost due to reasons beyond the School's control. This particularly applies to school closure due to weather conditions, fire, flood, strikes, epidemics, pandemics or other similar events.

The school is operating, teaching continues and we all look forward to a return to school as normal

Sportbox

The company will review what funds ot be reimbursed at the end of the crisis. If parents stay at VIS they will receive a voucher. If they leave then they need to request a reimbursement

Eurest

The catering company have agreed to reimburse families in full for the unused fees already paid, based on an individual request being made. They currently have EUR 10k of unpaid costs

VISMA

Families have a private arrangement with VISMA they should contact the teacher

Blagus

Awaiting a response

Remaining questions

1. Decisions from the December 2019 GA - Please refer to the Board
2. When will this end - It is unclear, but Chancellor Kurz said two things earlier this week:
 - a. 'We are at the beginning of a marathon not a sprint'
 - b. 'What we now experience is the calm before the storm'
 - c. Education Minister has told schools to assume no return before 30th April at the earliest.
- 3.

What decision has been made about the Spring break?

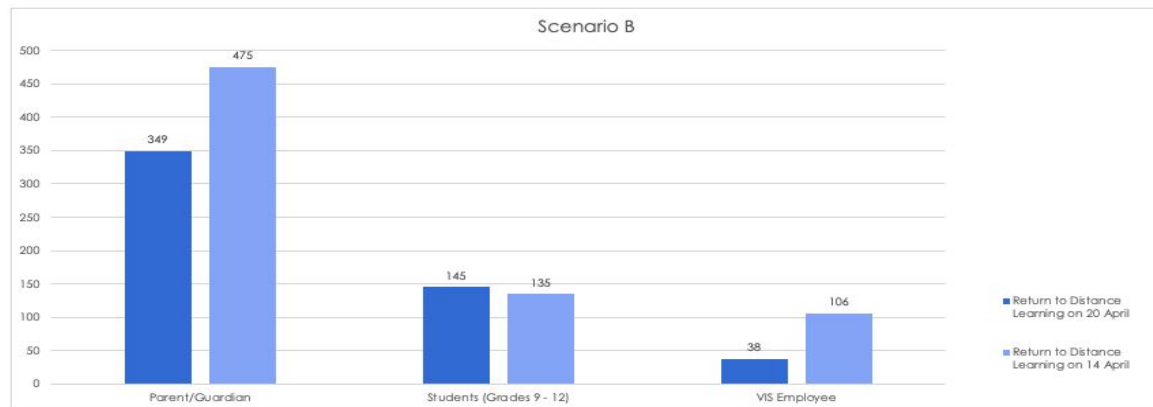
I have made the decision to re-convene school on **Tuesday 14th April** and finish the school year on **19th June**. The total number of school days remains

This decision is based on:

- the results of the survey,
- the fact that schools will remain closed until at least the end of April
- The fact that students will be best served by having structure in their days when they are forced to remain in isolation
- The evidence from Asia that re-engaging young people with Distance Learning after a long break is hard for them.

Scenario B: If the Austrian government decides that businesses and schools must remain closed beyond 13th April - the most likely expectation, meaning that all families have a second holiday week in lockdown.

| Role as a community member | Return to Distance Learning on 20 April | | Return to Distance Learning on 14 April | | Total Votes | Total Percentage |
|----------------------------|---|------------|---|------------|-------------|------------------|
| | Votes | Percentage | Votes | Percentage | | |
| Parent/Guardian | 349 | 42% | 475 | 58% | 824 | 100% |
| Students (Grades 9 - 12) | 145 | 52% | 135 | 48% | 280 | 100% |
| VIS Employee | 38 | 26% | 106 | 74% | 144 | 100% |
| Grand Total | 532 | 43% | 716 | 57% | 1248 | 100% |



Take a photo of this ..

<https://bit.ly/3bMlgCQ>

Thank you