

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Secondary Parents,

As you are aware, due to school closure ISZN Secondary will now be switching to online learning platforms to ensure that our students have continued access to teaching and learning during these difficult times. Your support in this process is vital to ensuring that this transition is as seamless as possible and that your children can truly benefit from the resources and teaching provided.

We have spent the past weeks finalising our online programme and learning as much as possible from other Cognita schools around the world who have already experienced closure for some time. Their advice has enabled us to plan a programme that will most benefit our students.

How will our online learning programme work?

- A-Level and IGCSE students will begin online learning from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March, with lower Secondary (Grades 6 – 8) joining the online learning platforms from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. This delayed time is to allow staff to fully prepare to roll out the new learning systems effectively throughout the school.
- A multidimensional approach to the online learning experience has been taken to ensure variety and a balance between live, interactive lessons and independent work. We will primarily use Edmodo and Skype for Business as our learning platforms.
- Subject teachers will upload lesson material daily to Edmodo, which will be meaningful and designed to fill the lesson time. IGCSE and A –Level students are required to continue with their own examination preparation in addition to regular school learning, as normal.
- All students will follow their normal school timetable, lesson to lesson, and including breaks. This structure will allow them to mimic their normal school day and work through their subject material as they would during a standard school day.
- Work/tests completed during lessons and given for assignments can be photographed or scanned and emailed back to the respective subject teachers for feedback.

How can you best support your children during this period of uncertainty?

- Help your children to maintain a routine throughout the day and to follow their lesson timetable closely. This structure will make it easier for them to complete work assignments and not be distracted by the comforts of their home environment.
- Log onto Edmodo and familiarise yourselves with the work that they are being assigned. This will allow you to provide assistance as necessary and help them to remain accountable as they study.
- Set aside a designated work area to help them to differentiate between work and leisure times. This area should be comfortable and free of distractions, allowing them to focus on the work at hand.
- Give them the opportunity to 'switch off' completely during break and lunch periods to recharge their minds. Encourage them to engage in periods of physical activity during the day and where possible, spend time outdoors which will allow for a change of scenery and some fresh air.
- Maintaining social contact with peers is vital for emotional and social wellbeing. Setting aside specific time for them to chat with friends will be beneficial in maintaining this.
- Ensure that they Skype into any Homeroom meetings that teachers have organised. Seeing familiar faces and discussing their learning experiences will maintain their connection with their school family.
- Remind them to ask for help whenever they need it. As ever, our team of teachers is ready to support each of them as needed and ensure that they thrive during their home learning experience.
- Encourage them to take ownership of their learning and to use this opportunity to seek out new information and develop their knowledge as much as possible.



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This is a new and unique learning experience for the whole school community and we realise that there may be certain challenges along the way. Communication is key as we work together to ensure we continue to deliver the best education possible via these online platforms.

Thank you for your assistance in supporting the school and your child at home.

Kind regards,

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