

Dear Parents,

I sincerely hope that every member of the NIS school community remains in good health and that you had a pleasant summer vacation.

As you are all aware, the situation regarding Coronavirus (COVID 19) has changed significantly during the previous months, with recorded global infections exceeding twenty million and a recorded death toll of over seven hundred and fifty thousand. This has caused immense problems for many countries around the world. Like many countries, Saudi Arabia is still grappling with the pandemic.

This situation caused The Ministry of Education to announce the closure of all schools throughout Saudi Arabia on March 8th 2020, which took effect on March 9th, 2020. Since this time, we have received no instruction from the MOE to reopen the school. Unfortunately, we have received no information from the MOE at all regarding what is happening at the start of the forthcoming academic year, despite the fact that all schools in KSA are due to open in just over two weeks.

As a result of the above, NIS can only make the assumption that we are still closed and that the only logical educational provision in such cases is to continue with online learning. However, this is an assumption, it is not a fact. In the event that the MOE confirm online learning during the remaining days, which we expect, the following will take place;

GRADE LEVEL	ONLINE CLASSES	TOOLS	ENHANCEMENTS and IMPROVEMENTS - FROM LAST YEAR
NURSERY & PREK	NO – they are too young		
KG1 / KG2	YES	Class Dojo	NIS will include voice notes, video notes, activities through portfolios, worksheets for students through the portfolio, students creating and uploading photos, videos, drawing and journal entries, assignments for students in the 'To Do's' facility of Dojo, checking to see if children have done activities and giving students / parents feedback via 'likes or comments'.
G1 – 12	YES	SMHWK And MS TEAMS*	<p>MS Teams allows the upgrade of SMHWK. The two will be linked. MS Teams will allow NIS teachers to include live class teaching, as per student schedule. This allows for teaching, question and answer sessions, live interactions, students can ask questions, student feedback from teachers, concept review and student clarifications.</p> <p>Other tools / techniques include the use of digital whiteboard and mini – teams to create collaborative or cooperative group work, to stimulate engagement and discussion.</p> <p>MS Teams will allow teachers and students to integrate other MS 365 applications such as One Note / Sway / Publisher and Word, Excel PowerPoint. All students will have MS Outlook email accounts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All live classes will be recorded to allow children to review.</p>

*Show My Homework / Microsoft Teams

We look forward to providing enrolled parents with further details during the forthcoming days. Parents will be able to access a comprehensive 24 page MS Teams Student User Guide, created by Mr. Zuko. This will be made available to all parents via the school website.

On 11th June, 2020 a letter was sent to all parents, via the website. This stated parents must pay the deposit before 10th August. If you have not done this, you have until Monday 17th to complete. Otherwise, your child will not be able to access the online learning that we expect to start on 30th August, 2020 (subject to MOE confirmation).

Failure to complete the above within the above timeframe will lead to significant delays in your child / children being able to access any online learning. This could be up to two weeks as it requires the input of at least two external companies, outside NIS in order to grant your child access.

Parents should be mindful of the fact that NIS is a Cambridge International School. As such, we are required to follow the CAIE Primary, Lower Secondary, IGCSE and AS / A level curriculum. We cannot simply abandon traditional learning and engage children with fun activities online. This is not possible if we want our children to be able to fully engage with the CAIE system and ultimately be successful with the IGCSE / AS / A level examinations. Simply speaking, Cambridge issues a series of learning objectives, which they expect all student around the world to cover. This is our task, which is not comparable with wasting time with 'fun activities' simply to keep children occupied, happy or to please parents. Our teaching model works, which is proved by our examination results from CAIE. This year, despite the global pandemic and the difficulties of a unique grading system for students, NIS achieved some terrific results. Some of these are

ADVANCED LEVEL {A LEVEL - GRADE 12} – Top 5 students – Highest Grade = A*

AISHWARYA GIRISH KUMAR	A*A*A*A*
AHMAD MOHAMMAD WAJEEH KAYED	A*A*A
HANI BOUZGUENDA	A*A*A
SARAH MOHAMED MOHAMED BASSIOUNY ELGERGAWY	A*A*A
SHADI EBAA KADDAH	A*A*A

All of the above students are eligible to apply for any undergraduate university discipline in 95% of all universities in the world. Aishwarya is the highest achieving student in the history of NIS. She could apply to any university, including Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Yale, MIT and stand an excellent chance of acceptance in any undergraduate discipline.

ADVANCED SUPPLEMENTARY LEVEL {AS LEVEL – GRADE 11} – Top 5 students– Highest Grade = A

LAKSHMIPRIYA RAGUPATHI	AAAA
MUHAMMAD TALAL FAIZ	AAAA
LUJAIN HASAN Y ALKHALIFA	AAA
FAIROUZ MAGED EL SAYED MOHAMED MOHAMED	AAA
EISAR BABIKER BAKHEIT MAHGOUB SULIMAN	AAA

IGCSE LEVEL {GRADE 10} – Top 5 students – Highest Grade = A*

MARWA MOHAMMED AWADELKARIEM MOHAMMED	A*A*A*A* A*A*A*
MARIAM AHMED SAYED SAID	A*A*A*A* A*A*A A
YOUSSEF HUSSEIN MOHAMED ELHASSANIN AFAN	A*A*A*A* A*A*
ABDULRAHMAN CHALABI	A*A*A*A* A*A A
MOHAMED AYMAN FAWZY ELSAFTY ELSHIKH	A*A*A*A* A A A

We look forward to receiving clarification from the MOE. Upon receipt the relevant details will be posted on the NIS Website.

Please note that as the school is officially still closed limited access to the school remains in place. Only parents who are paying school fees should visit the school. There is no facility for meeting staff or management. If you wish to speak to anyone, please do so via telephone. The NIS Parent Handbook, located on the NIS Website, contains all the contact details of staff.

Hopefully, NIS will be resuming normal operations as and when it is deemed safe and appropriate by the authorities. However, personally, although I have no concrete evidence from the authorities I feel that this is not likely for some months.

Sincerely,

Mr. Tony