



Dear Parents,

I hope this bulletin finds you safe and healthy as we all continue to practice isolation. One thing that I prefer not to do is add more to your inbox as you receive emails, Teams notices, Yammer, WhatsApp messages and SMS notifications. I prefer to speak to you directly via video and I will aim to do that each week. As you are aware, we received notice that the UAE government has implemented distance learning until the end of the 2019-20 Academic Year. This changes the mindset for all of us. However, there is nothing as a community that we cannot overcome to defeat the impact of the virus.

We are now well into the second week of our distance learning plan and are far more settled than this time last week. Lessons learned are about work expectations, having effective differentiation strategies in place for distance learning and a greater understanding of the challenges that this type of teaching has. We continue to be amazed by the resilience of some of our younger learners (and their parents). This model of learning has placed you well outside your comfort zone and the way in which parents are stepping up to the plate to ensure their children are engaged in quality learning has been inspiring.

Late last week we sent a survey to students on their experience of Distance Learning to gain feedback so we could refine and evolve what we are providing. We had a fantastic response with over 1500 surveys completed. The initial analysis of the feedback is overwhelmingly positive and generous. We have already started to implement some of the suggestions made this week, largely as they were recognised by our teachers as changes that needed to be made as well.

This feedback is vital to us continuing to improve the provision to your children, so this week we have a survey for you to complete please. We appreciate that parents may have more than one child at CIS so please feel free to complete the survey for each child. We will be closing the survey tomorrow morning so please complete if possible. The link is [HERE](#).

I know that this is a delicate subject but I would remind parents that the due date for the payment of Term 3 fees is Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April which is rapidly approaching. Additionally, you will be receiving calls from our admissions team regarding reenrolment. I am aware that during this uncertain time it may be difficult to make a final call on reenrolment. However, if you could let us know, we may be able to extend the deadline for you.

Everyone is trying their best during this time of uncertainty. We are, in many ways, navigating uncharted waters and I reach out to my WhatsApp friends to refrain from publicly scrutinising their children's teachers for the way they are teaching or the lessons they are assigned. #weareallinthisogether. Speak to us if you have concerns, this is the best way for us to improve. Please be patient and please be kind.

I share with you an excerpt which I read recently that made me stop and take a breath.

*"And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. And the people began to think differently. And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live."*

**Kitty O'Meara**

Sincerely,

Lachlan MacKinnon  
CEO/Principal