## MGS ECHO Matrix Global Schools Weekly Newsletter



#### CAMPUS PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



# THIS WEEK'S TOPICS

Words From A Top SPM 2020 Achiever

A Few Words From The Parents Of Ng Ryu Shen

Happy Father's Day

Physical Education In MPS

Reflections On The Pandemic - MIS Secondary



"If you wish to succeed in life, make perseverance your bosom friend, experience your wise counselor, caution your elder brother, and hope your guardian genius."

- Joseph Addison

(English politician, writer, an accomplished poet and playwright)

It has been more than a year since the MCO was first declared on Wednesday 18 March 2020. Much has happened in the field of education since then. The challenges that we face now are unlike any of the previous challenges and the old pedagogical practices are no longer able to effectively solve the issues arising from the challenges.

Towards the end of the Second World War II, Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, commented that we should "Never let a good crisis go to waste". In education, we have learned three things from this pandemic. It has made us stop and think of the effectiveness of our system; it has tested our traditional ways of teaching and it has required the education system to be more conscious of connecting to students and be more student- driven.

The pandemic has required us to come up with specific solutions and be proactive and adaptive in our leadership both at the Senior Leadership level as well as at the

teachers' level. Looking back, we are proud that in MGS we have risen to the occasion. We shifted quickly from on-site learning to online learning, right from the beginning of the pandemic. The teachers have refined and are still continuously refining their teaching strategies. To support them, we have added extra equipment such as video cameras and remote microphones to facilitate the teaching process. We have also upgraded our school WiFi system at a very high cost because our school is in an area where the infrastructure is still in the developing stage.

The students and parents have adjusted wonderfully well too. Under the watchful eyes of their parents at home and the scrutiny of their teachers in school, our students are able to learn online with more rigour. This pandemic has helped contribute to the building up of a close collaboration between the school and the parents / guardians. This parent-school support and collaboration certainly augers well for the continuous development of the potential of our students in Matrix Global Schools.

# WORDS FROM A TOP SPM 2020 ACHIEVER

"I have been in Matrix Global Schools for almost 7 years since 2015. I am really happy with my results as they are beyond my expectations. They are also an improvement from my trial examination results and therefore I am pretty grateful. The school closure definitely affected my results as it was a major factor for me as well as for all the other students to learn how to cope with online classes. It was difficult at first, but eventually I got used to it.

All my subject teachers had been helpful having and provided major support for me for my SPM. Their hard work and effort to get the best out of me and the rest of the students should be commended. I am very sure the teachers also had a hard time conducting lessons online, but they still gave their best with m to help all the students the best way they could. I couldn't have done it without them.



Head of Student Council, member of football team and MPS Crimson Cadence Band member

Throughout my years at MGS, I felt that having a good environment with supportive friends and encouraging teachers had helped me greatly in my academic performance. Also, having many non-academic activities in school had also helped me to improve my relationship with my schoolmates. With that, I think that I have improved socially too."

- Ng Ryu Shen, 9A's Form 5M 2020

#### **CAMPUS**

#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE TRANSLATED

自 2020 年 3 月 18 日(星期三)我国首次 宣布 MCO 以来,至今已有一年多了。从 那时起,教育领域发生了很多事情。我们 现在面临的挑战不同于以往的任何挑战,旧 的教学实践不再能够有效地解决这些挑战 所带来的问题。 犹记得二战即将结束时,英国首相温斯顿·丘吉尔曾说,我们"永远不要浪费一场好的危机"。在教育方面,我们从这次的疫情中学到了三件事:它让我们停下来思考我们系统的有效性;它考验了我们传统的教学模式;它要求教育系统更加注重与学生的联系并更加以学生为导向。

我们必须针对疫情提出具体的解决方案,同时要保持和考量领导层和教师的积极主动性和他们的适应能力。回顾过去的一年多,我们很自豪地说我校有效地应对这种情况。从疫情开始,我们就迅速地从线下转向线上学习,直到现在,老师们还在持续不断地改善他们的教学策略。为了支持线上教学,我们

为老师们增添了额外的设备,如摄像机和 蓝牙麦克风以改进教学过程。基于我们所 在的地区的基础设施仍处于发展阶段,因 此我们不惜高成本地提升了我们学校的无 线网络系统 (Wi-Fi)。

学生们和家长在这疫情中也适应得非常好。在父母和学校老师的监督下,我们的学生更加严谨地在线学习。这疫情有助于促进学校与家长或监护人之间的密切合作。我们相信在家长与学校的共同协作下一定可以持续地激发我校学生的潜力。

Sudah lebih setahun lamanya sejak PKP mula diisytiharkan pada 18 Mac 2020. Bidang pendidikan telah mengalami banyak perubahan dalam jangka masa ini. Cabaran yang kita hadapi sekarang tidak seperti cabaran sebelumnya dan amalan pedagogi lama tidak lagi dapat menyelesaikan masalah yang timbul dengan berkesan.

Menjelang akhir Perang Dunia Kedua II, Perdana Menteri Britain Winston Churchill, pernah berkata, jangan biarkan sesebuah krisis menjadi sia-sia.

Dalam pendidikan, kita telah mempelajari tiga perkara daripada pandemik ini. Situasi ini telah membuatkan kita berhenti dan memikirkan keberkesanan sistem sedia ada; ia telah menguji cara pengajaran tradisional dan menyedarkan kita tentang kepentingan hubungan dengan pelajar serta sistem pendidikan yang lebih berpusatkan pelajar.

Pandemik ini memerlukan kami untuk memikirkan jalan penyelesaian yang spesifik, bertindak dengan lebih proaktif dan bijak mengadaptasi dalam pimpinan sekolah pada peringkat

pengurusan mahupun di peringkat guru. Kami berbangga dengan warga MGS yang telah menyahut cabaran ini dengan hati terbuka. Kita telah beralih daripada pembelajaran bersemuka ke pembelajaran atas talian dengan pantas, sejak dari awal pandemik lagi. Para guru telah menambah baik strategi pengajaran secara berterusan. Bagi menyokong usaha mereka, pihak sekolah telah menyediakan kelengkapan kamera video dan mikrofon mudah alih. Kami juga telah menaiktaraf sistem WiFi di kampus yang telah menelan belanja yang tinggi atas sebab infrastruktur di kawasan persekitaran kampus yang masih dalam fasa pembangunan.

Para pelajar dan ibu bapa juga telah menyesuaikan diri dengan baik. Di bawah pantauan ibu bapa di rumah serta tunjuk ajar para guru di sekolah, pelajar MGS dapat belajar atas talian dengan lebih tabah. Pandemik ini telah mendorong kolaborasi di antara pihak sekolah dan ibu bapa / penjaga; seterusnya menjadi pemangkin perkembangan potensi pelajar secara berterusan di Matrix Global Schools.

"Due to the many uncertainties arising from the COVID pandemic and the examinations being postponed 3 times, we were actually very concerned about how he would be able to perform in the SPM. One of the major concerns was whether online lessons could be effective and whether the revision and preparation would be thorough. So judging from his results we are indeed quite happy.

We believe his results could have been better (in one or two subjects) if ample time and face to face classes were being conducted. At one point nearer to the actual examination, we were hoping the school would be opened just to cater for SPM students' revision. However due to safety precautions, it was not opened, thus all the students had to solely rely on their own motivation to prepare for the examinations.

We believe that the teachers have done their best in helping, guiding and encouraging all the Form 5 students. We realised that conducting online lessons was quite new to many teachers but they coped well. We believe many teachers really did show personal interest in him and gave him moral support and were always ready to answer and explain difficult questions.

During the Awards Day ceremony he was given the chance to speak on behalf of all the Form 5 students. This shows that the school, teachers and his peers have confidence and trust in him. For that reason, we as parents are quite happy to see that the school has given him the opportunity to mould his leadership qualities".

- Mr. Ng Kang Hoo & Mrs. Fong Wai Fan

#### A FEW WORDS FROM THE PARENTS OF NG RYU SHEN



Performances at events and school activities helped him to be involved ir more diverse and healthy activities



Father's Day, celebrated worldwide on the 20th June this year, is a great opportunity to appreciate the love and effort of our fathers. It was celebrated virtually in MGS where our children shared their love and bonding with their beloved fathers.

#### MATRIX EARLY YEARS

Father's Day is a perfect opportunity to make our dad feel special and to thank him for his endless sacrifices and hard work. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, MISEY celebrated this special day with a picnic and fun games. The school had planned ahead and provided a fun picnic basket to the students before the closure of the school. The bags were filled with picnic mats, cups, plates, tissues and games.

The Day started with a simple lockdown picnic with healthy food and drinks prepared by the kids for their dads. continued enthusiasm with games such as water balloons and ping pong ball games. On Father's day, the kids knew that it was a special day and they enjoyed the fun moments with their family. The feedback from parents was positive with some parents even acknowledging that if the school had not organised it, they would not have thought about planning an interesting activity for their children and their father on that day.



Having a picnic and playing games with their fathers and grandfathers

Watch Here



Watch Here

Giving presents,

preparing craftwork and giving wishes to their fathers













### PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN MPS

Students in MPS Primary and Secondary attend one PE lesson a week online, with a PE teacher delivering live sessions via google meet. Each session is designed to accommodate the potential limitations of space and equipment which students will face while working in their own homes. The teacher-led sessions are predominantly high tempo fitness-based activities. All updates and weekly details of sessions are posted on their google classrooms.







The kids are kept active with their virtual PE lessons



After one or two months I am getting used to everything like the amount of work we had to do, logging in to my classes on time and many more. It helped me realise that I can overcome challenges when I put my mind to it.

- Nilesh, Year 7M



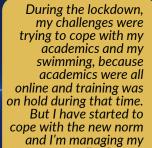
It has helped me learn new things like using different ways to communicate with others, how our imagination is the key to creativity and painting pictures that capture nature from a perspective that we have never seen before.

- Eva Grousson, Year 6M



I appreciate getting to spend more time with my family and having our bonds grow stronger by being together.

- Emily, Year 7A



studies better. - Parvin, Year 8M



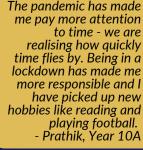
#### REFLECTIONS ON THE PANDEMIC -MIS SECONDARY



The COVID-19 has caused massive, rapid and abrupt changes to our daily lives. We adjusted to these situations with new strategies and emotions. These transitions may at times be smooth and at other times be bumpy. One of the ways to ease the tension is to share and console each other. Here are some of the feelings that our students shared.



The lockdown has helped me to become more independent and creative in my work. I have improved at using technology and I am better at using my phone and computer now.
- Isaac, Year 7M





The good point of learning online is being able to use technology and applications to complete homework and assignments.
- Jayna, Year 7M



The lockdown has also pushed us to learn new things. For instance, finding a new way to deal with stress, learning how to cook and picking up a new language.
- Anya, Year 9M