

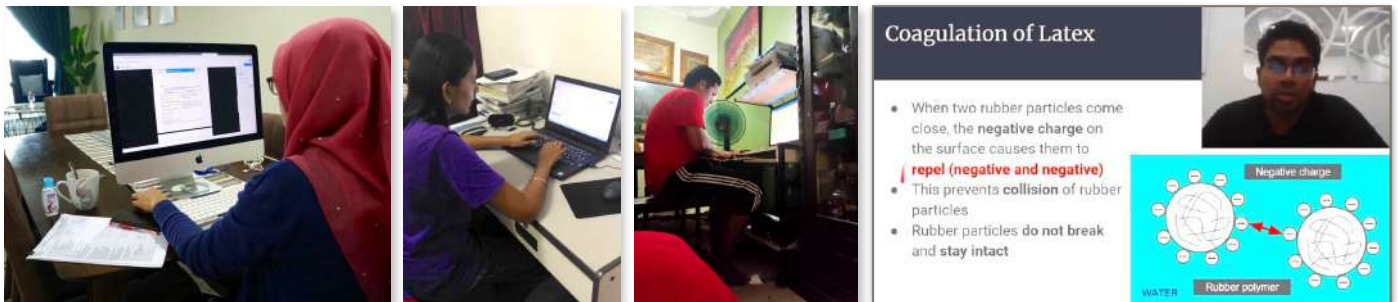
MESSAGE FROM THE CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

It has been 17 days since the Malaysian government has implemented the Movement Control Order (MCO) and we had to close the doors to our school. Countless reports of citizens breaking the MCO regulations, new COVID-19 cases, and related deaths have flooded our homes through the media. I believe it is, therefore, time to make way for a new conversation this week: One of gratitude. Showing gratitude, especially in challenging times, can be a catalyst for happiness and peace of mind, because it allows us to make room for the blessings in our life that we take for granted.

The doors of MGS might be closed to our students in an attempt to keep them out of harm's way, but it is still open to many of our cleaning staff and security guards. Without fail, these individuals continue to leave the safety of their homes and make their way to school to act as custodians to our place of learning, so that it is fully functional for our students upon their return. To those staff members who, even in our absence, continue to keep our school clean and safe - **I thank you.**



Behind other closed doors at various homes are also teachers who put a lot of time and effort into creating work for our students in a format that could be presented to them online. The current COVID-19 situation and subsequent MCO, has had a major impact on the way we view and approach education and has been a learning curve for all students, teachers and managers across schools in Malaysia and the global community. Our teachers, however, have answered to the challenges posed to them and have shown unprecedented flexibility and adaptability during this time, as they continue to be innovative and creative within the boundaries pressed upon them. To all the teachers who, from a distance, are still supporting our students' learning - **I thank you.**



MGS Teachers created learning content and provide feedback to students as a form of collaborative discussion through Google Classroom.
From left: Cikgu Masyuniza, Dr Kalesware, Mr Nasyarul and Mr Ruel

Finally, I think we need to acknowledge to what extent the current COVID-19 situation has rearranged the lives of our young people, and how they have managed to cope relatively well during this time. We have seen many of them rise to the occasion and continue with their learning at home, without so much as skipping a beat. Not only can this be pinned down to students' self-discipline and internal motivation, but also the result of an ever present support system at home. To all the students who are currently showing an exemplary work ethic, along with their family members who have gone to great lengths to encourage their learning at home - **I thank you.**

Expressing gratitude can be a breath of fresh air amidst the negativity surrounding us at this present time. I want to encourage each and every one of you to take a moment and be kind to yourself and to each other by practising thankfulness and gratitude. As soon as the world can close the door on the COVID-19 crisis, hopefully, we can look forward to a more patient, considerate and appreciative society.

Keeping up with MGS Students as they LEARN FROM HOME

To be honest, I really could not put myself in the mood of studying at home during the first few days of this lockdown period. I was so upset that I had to stay home, away from my friends, away from my favourite sport, and away from the rest of the world. But with the fact that my IGCSEs are coming, I couldn't help but study.

At first, I couldn't really focus. But after seeing that our teachers had been putting a lot of effort in looking for learning materials for us and posting them on the Google Classroom, I thought it was time to do my part as a student. At home, I had access to a lot of learning materials, eg. notes online, past papers, and video tutorials. I find it quite interesting and fun also to be studying in this mode.

But I really do hope that this pandemic ends soon so that I can go back to my favourite place again, with my favourite people. Prayers to all who are suffering now from this contagious virus outbreak.

- Oscar Loh, Year 11

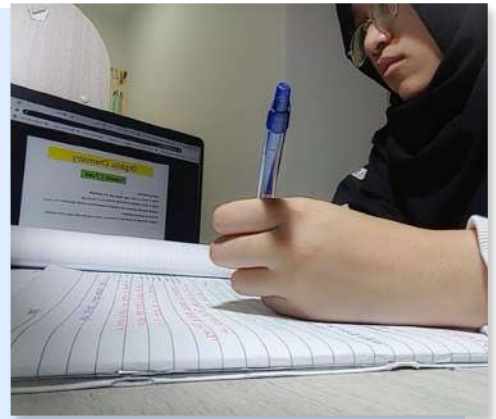


During this school closure, my family and I just stay at home isolating and social distancing ourselves from others. There is nothing much going on at our home.

All of us are doing our own work and our own thing. I have been studying by looking through all of my notes, completing the homework given to me by the teachers before the school break and practice through past papers for my upcoming IGCSE.

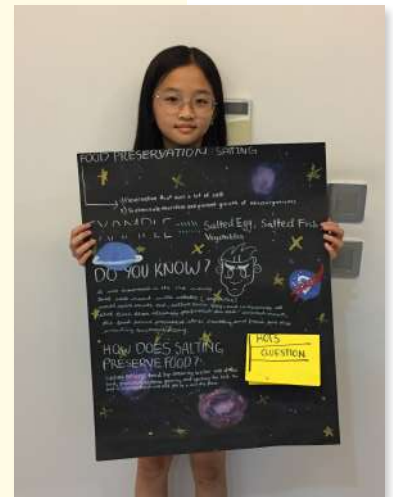
Google Classroom helps me a lot with my studying. A lot of notes on the subjects I am taking are posted there by the teachers. The teachers also assigned us tasks for us to do via Google Classroom while we're under this restriction order. Initially the students are supposed to take a second mock exam for our predicted grade, but due to what is currently happening we are unable to do so. With Google Classroom, the teachers created an online test for us to do instead where there will be a limited time.

- Quarratun Aina Sakinah, Year 11



I did my science work during the school closure. It was a lot of fun and I am happy to have the extra time to focus on the project. Not being rushed enabled me to read over the points again so I truly understand the content before putting on a poster. I feel very proud of the end result and what I had accomplished during this break!

- Carol Lim, Standard 6



When I first heard that Checkpoint was cancelled, I felt relief. Not that I am hoping for this to happen as all of us will eventually face it. Besides having more time for revision, it's more critical for us to stay at home and apply social distancing to keep safe and healthy. Looking forward to the checkpoint

examination later in the year.

- Chloe Aristella Lee, Year 6

I am enjoying the task given by my teachers. They make my brain remain active; otherwise I would be bored watching TV all day. The online games assigned really help me to understand where I am making mistakes, so I can revise and correct myself. My favourite is Bug Club where I can spend time reading stories on my gadget, such as Matilda. The ebooks pointed out new words to expand my vocabulary. For example, previously I only know of the word 'vomit'. But now I learned two words that can describe the same thing, vomit and barf.

- Jarred, Year 4



Bug Club



My main activity during this school closure is praying to God for COVID-19 to go away and let the whole world be safe and healthy. Besides that, I am having quality time bonding with my family by helping my parents do some house chores, playing games together, watching television and baking tasty cakes and cookies. I also teach my little sister and play games with her.

During the school closure, my mother and I cleaned our home using homemade sanitizer to prevent any infection from virus and bacteria.

Every morning, my mother will give me a clean cloth and a homemade sanitizer. I will spray the sanitizer on the door handle, table, remote control, electric switch and chairs to make sure all the places are clean.

From this activity, I learn the importance of keeping our surroundings clean in order to maintain our health. This will also increase our life span. A healthy environment will keep us safe and happy.

- Rammyasre a/p Kumaravel, Standard 3

I offer my gratitude to God and my parents for having food during this critical time. I learned to be more responsible and not to waste food. I realise it is important to take care of our hygiene, especially by washing our hands often. I am using this time to do revision and to improve myself

- Devidarshini a/p Ulaganathan, Standard 4



This is me bonding with my family during the COVID-19 Movement Restriction Order. Since we cannot really go anywhere, my mom and dad joined me in my favourite activity: customising my Hot Wheels car collection.

- Harith Rafiq, Form 1



Since our Prime Minister announced the Movement Control Order (MCO), our father does not let us play outside to reduce the risk of us getting infected. But the best thing is we all get to spend time in the house together! Things could be quite boring sometimes, so my father made up a game for us called 'Focus Game'. It is so much fun!

- Jad Thaqif, Standard 4 & Had Thaqif, Standard 1



Dhia Sofaa of Standard 1 submitted her Music homework by recording herself singing the song 'CaCaCapan' assigned by Ms Carmen.

Ru Khai Soon, our PE intern, earned his certificate from UK Athletics. Congratulations!



Megat Rashidi of Year 6 submitted his homework via Google Classroom by attaching a video of himself balancing, as assigned by Mr Ashish. Year 6 is in the middle of their Gymnastics topic for PE.

MGS Teacher Insight: Ms Raja Nazatul Akhma

The past two weeks have been a roller coaster experience as our minds have not come to terms with the fact that the world has already changed. Everyone of us is fighting for a sense of normalcy, pressuring ourselves to stay productive while building the discipline needed to do it all on our own.

But as a teacher and a parent, I believe that despite all this pressure to stay productive, we must make ample room to allow for a mental adjustment. We need to accept that things have changed, and the journey to embrace this new way of life is a marathon, not a sprint. We do not want to overwhelm ourselves right at the start, and give up by the end of the month.

I would encourage students to use this time to work on skills beyond the academics. It may be physical (taking up juggling), artistic (focus on a particular type of art such as marker doodle), musical (take up digital music using apps like GarageBand) or something technical (coding or learning a new language) and even domestic skills (cooking or sewing). While the world is on a 'great pause', use this time wisely by focusing on skills that we would not have time to work on otherwise.



Ms Naza teaches ICT and Robotics in MPS Primary; the two subjects were introduced into the school's timetable to encourage the learning of technology and engineering.

For us teachers, we are also taking this time to work on our selves. Not only are we polishing our skills on using digital medium to teach - ensuring the tools assigned are aligned with given learning goals - the school Management is also encouraging us to sit for online certifications such as Google Educator or subject related CPD courses during the school closure, all at our own pace. This would better equip us to guide students to become digitally literate lifelong learners who are ready to adapt to this rapidly changing world. This period gave us the time to reflect on how the method we use to teach impacted how much the students are learning, which is even more crucial now as they learn from home.

Now more than ever must we be creative to find light in all the nooks and crannies. We must support each other and

have faith that in time, this crisis will open opportunities that we cannot imagine today and inspire us to come up with innovative ways to make the world 'normal' again.

UPDATE ON PUBLIC EXAMINATION DATES

After reviewing the current situation and to ensure that all curriculum areas are completed within the specified time frame, the Malaysian Ministry of Education has recently announced the revised schedule for the Malaysian public examinations as below:

EXAMINATION	SUBJECT	REMARKS
UPSR	All subjects	NO CHANGE 1 - 3 and 7 - 8 Sept 2020
PT3	Bahasa Melayu and English Language	NO CHANGE 28 - 29 Sept 2020
	Other Subjects (School Based)	RESCHEDULED Date to be confirmed
SPM	Phase 1: 5-14 Oct 2020	CHANGED to 16 Nov – 7 Dec 2020
	Phase 2: 2-19 Nov 2020	

Should there be any concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the Head of MPS, Datin Norlela Meon at norlela.m@matrixschools.edu.my

MGS ECHO invites members of the MGS community (parents, students and staff) to share your thoughts and stories on the silver linings that you have personally found during this pandemic so we can raise each other's spirit in these dire times.

Send your content contribution (in 80 - 100 words with related photos) to rajanazatul.r@matrixschools.edu.my

Selected contributions will be featured in coming issues of MGS Echo. Note that the content dateline for each issue is Wednesday at 12pm.

Seeking Knowledge ; Opening Minds