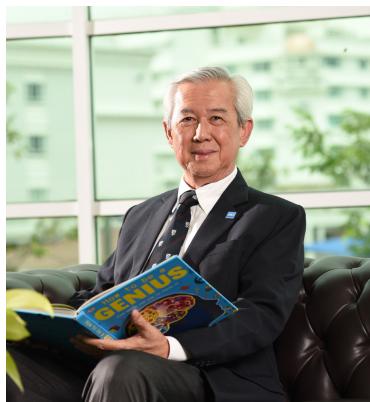


MGS ECHO

Matrix Global Schools Weekly Newsletter

CAMPUS PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



THIS WEEK'S TOPICS

Interpreting Scaled Pictograms

Volunteer to Help! MPS Moral Education

What Type of Plants & Animals live in the Rainforest ?

World Cancer Day Digital Poster

Boarding House News

"Extraordinary people survive under the most terrible circumstances and they become more extraordinary because of it."

William Robertson Davies

(Canadian novelist, playwright, critic, journalist, and professor)

'Learning together even when we are apart.' This is the new norm in education that our generation of students will now face during the COVID-19 pandemic where the date of opening of school seems to be a moving target and keeps getting postponed, the latest being at least until 18th February 2021, when the latest MCO ends.

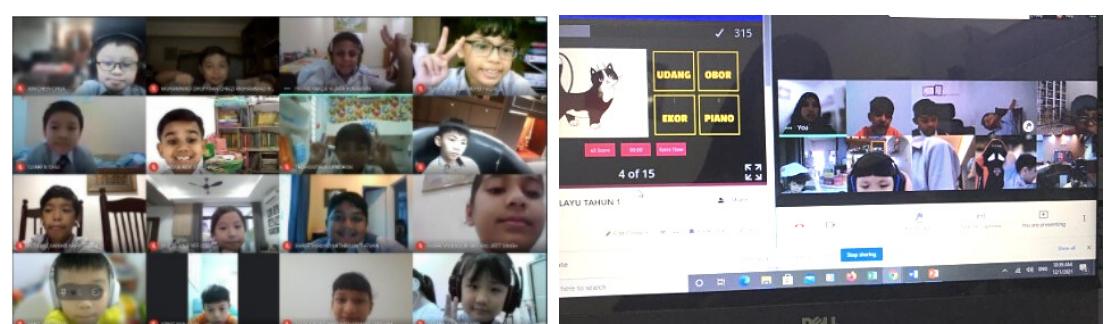
Worldwide, it was estimated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) that at the peak of school closure in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 1.6 billion students in 194 countries were affected. With the shift away from the classroom in many parts of the globe and after students having experienced the benefits of online learning, there is now a debate on whether the adoption of online learning should continue post-pandemic.

Research carried out by The Research Institute of America, in 2016 shows that on average, students retain 25-60% more material when learning online compared to only 8-10% in a classroom. This is mostly due to the students being able to learn faster online; e-learning requires 40-60% less time to learn than in a traditional classroom setting because students have more control of their learning and can learn at their own pace, going back and re-reading, skipping, or accelerating through concepts that they have already mastered.

In his book, 21 Lessons for the 21st Century, published in 2018, Yuval Noah Harari outlines how schools still continue to focus on traditional academic skills and rote learning, rather than on skills such as critical thinking and adaptability, which are more important for success in the future. Could a change in the education delivery system through online learning, using appropriate technology, be the catalyst to create a new, more effective method of educating students? 'When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us' (Helen Keller, American author). When we bemoan what COVID-19 has taken from us, we should rejoice that new doors are being opened to us.

Yes, online learning may be the way forward for us in the future. However, there are many issues that need to be addressed for online learning to be fully effective. The main concerns are the availability of supporting technology, training for students and teachers and the variation in learning amongst different age groups. It has been observed that while older students are more open to online learning, younger children require a structured environment for effective learning as they are more easily distracted.

We, in MGS, will explore the possibility of having hybrid classes to cater for students who like to study on-site or online. It will be challenging but we have a duty to be able to provide the best education for our students in a medium that is most effective for them.



Encouraging attendance during the online classes

CAMPUS PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE TRANSLATED

“即使相隔着距离，我们也可以一起学习。”这是我们这一代学生在新冠肺炎大流行期间将面临的教育新常态，因为开学的日期似乎是一个不断被推迟的目标。如今，学生至少需等到2021年2月18日最新的行动管制令结束后才能返校上课。

由于新冠肺炎大流行，联合国教科文组织估计在全球范围内截至2020年4月学校停课高峰时，全球共有194个国家的16亿学生受到影响。随着全球许多地方远程学习的发展，以及学生体验了在线学习的好处之后，现在人们开始讨论在大流行之后是否应该继续使用在线学习。

美国研究院（Institute of America）在2016年进行的研究表明，平均而言，学生在网上学习时掌握的素材比例为25-60%，而在课堂上这比例仅为8-10%。这主要是由于学生在线学习的效果更佳。上网学习所需的学习时间比传统教室少了40-60%，因为学生可以更好地控制自己的学习进度，并可以按照自己的节奏学习，譬如选择回头重新阅读、跳过或对已经掌握的概念加速学习。

尤瓦尔·诺亚·哈拉里（Yuval Noah Harari）在2018年出版的《21 Lessons for the 21st Century》书中概述了学校依旧专注于传统的学术技能，而不是对未来更至关重要的批判性思维、适应能力等技能。使用适当的技术，配合在线学习来改变传统教学系统，是否会创造一种新式、更有效的教育方法的催化剂？海伦·凯勒（Helen Keller，美国作家）说过：“当一扇幸福的门关起的时候，另一扇幸福的窗会因此开启；但是，我们经常看着这扇关闭的大门太久，而没有注意到那扇已经为我们开启的幸福之窗。”当我们为新冠肺炎所夺走的一切感到沮丧时，我们也应该为新敞开的另一扇窗感到欣慰。

是的，在线学习极有可能是未来我们的前进方向。但是，要使在线学习充分有效，许多问题仍有待解决。其中主要需关注的问题是支援技术的存在、针对学生和教师的培训以及不同年龄层的学习差异。事实上，年龄较大的学生在线上学习方面要比年龄小的学生表现得更好，因为年龄较小的孩子比较容易分心，需要一个结构化的环境才能有效学习。

身在金群利环球院校的我们将探索开设混合课程的可能性，以满足喜欢课堂上或在线学习的学生的需求。这将极具挑战性，但我们有责任以最有效的方式为学生提供最优质的教育。

'Belajar bersama walaupun berjauhan'. Inilah norma baharu dalam pendidikan yang perlu dihadapi oleh generasi pelajar-pelajar kita di kala pandemik COVID-19 di mana tarikh pembukaan sekolah seolah-olah seperti sasaran yang tidak tetap dan ditangguhkan, paling lewat sekurang-kurangnya sehingga 18 Februari 2021, apabila MCO yang terkini berakhir.

Di seluruh dunia, Pertubuhan Pendidikan, Sains dan Kebudayaan Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (UNESCO) telah menganggarkan bahawa lebih 1.6 bilion pelajar di 194 negara telah terjejas dengan penutupan sekolah di kemuncak bulan April 2020. Dengan peralihan cara pembelajaran di serata dunia dari bilik darjah ke dalam talian, kini timbul pendapat bahawa pembelajaran dalam talian adalah berfaedah dan harus diteruskan di era pasca-pandemik.

Kajian yang dijalankan oleh The Research Institute of America pada tahun 2016 menunjukkan bahawa secara puratanya, pelajar dapat mengekalkan apa yang dipelajari 25-60% lebih banyak apabila belajar di dalam talian berbanding 8-10% sahaja apabila belajar di dalam kelas. Ini kerana para pelajar dapat belajar dengan lebih pantas; pembelajaran dalam talian memerlukan kurang 40-60% masa pembelajaran berbanding cara biasa di dalam kelas kerana pelajar dapat mengawal sendiri rentak pembelajaran mereka dengan mengulang kembali, melangkau, atau mempercepatkan pembelajaran pada konsep yang telah mereka kuasai.

Dalam bukunya, 21 Lessons for the 21st Century yang diterbitkan pada tahun 2018, Yuval Noah Harari menggariskan bahawa sistem persekolahan masih lagi menumpukan pada kemahiran akademik tradisional dan pembelajaran secara hafalan, dan bukannya pada kemahiran seperti pemikiran kritis dan kemampuan menyesuaikan diri, yang lebih penting untuk berjaya di masa depan. Adakah cara penyampaian ilmu melalui saluran dalam talian, menggunakan teknologi yang bersesuaian, boleh menjadi pemangkin kaedah baru yang lebih berkesan dalam mendidik pelajar? 'Apabila satu pintu ditutup, yang lain akan terbuka. Tetapi kita selalu mengenangkan pintu yang ditutup hingga tidak dapat melihat yang terbuka untuk kita.' (penulis dari Amerika, Helen Keller). Daripada kita terus merungut tentang apa yang telah diambil oleh pandemik COVID-19, adalah lebih baik jika kita menerima peluang baru ini dengan hati yang terbuka.

Ya, pembelajaran di dalam talian mungkin akan menjadi cara baru di masa akan datang. Namun, terdapat pelbagai isu yang harus ditangani sebelum ia menjadi benar-benar berkesan. Antara isu-isu utama adalah ketersediaan teknologi sokongan, latihan bagi para pelajar dan guru serta teknik pembelajaran yang berbeza mengikut peringkat umur. Berdasarkan pemerhatian, pelajar-pelajar kecil memerlukan persekitaran yang lebih berstruktur bagi sesi pembelajaran yang efektif berbanding pelajar-pelajar besar yang mampu berdikari untuk belajar.

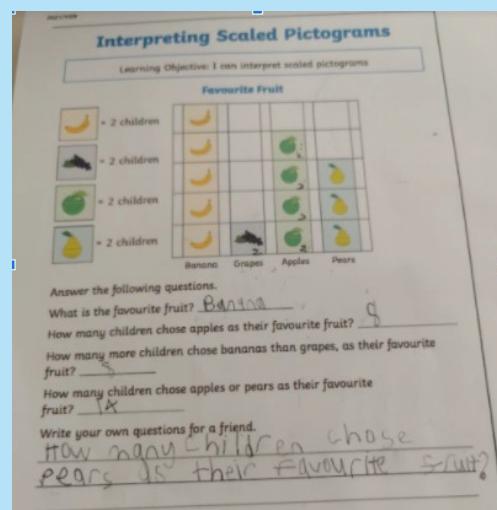
Kami di MGS sedang meneroka kemungkinan untuk menjalankan kelas hibrid bagi kemudahan pelajar-pelajar di dalam kelas mahupun di dalam talian. Ini adalah usaha yang mencabar, tetapi kita mempunyai kewajipan untuk memberikan pendidikan yang terbaik menggunakan medium yang paling berkesan bagi pelajar-pelajar kita.

INTERPRETING SCALED PICTOGRAMS

At MIS, our Year 1 learned how pictogram works. A pictogram is a chart or graph which uses pictures to represent data. It is set out the same way as a bar chart but uses pictures instead of bars. Students learned that each picture could represent one item or more than one item. It's a way of handling and interpreting data which makes understanding easier as it is visual. Children simply count the objects to find out how many each object represents.

"I understand that each image represents 2 counts."

- Titan Ang, Year 1



VOLUNTEER TO HELP! MPS MORAL EDUCATION



"I enjoy helping my brother learn to read."
- Fam Jun Ran, Standard 1



"Helping to make soup is fun."
- Jeivan Chua, Standard 1



"To make my house tidy, I help to keep the toys."
- Lee Jayvee, Standard 1



"Vroom, vroom, I am helping to vacuum my living room."
- Chloe Aristella, Form 1

WHAT TYPE OF PLANTS & ANIMALS LIVE IN THE RAINFOREST?



"Look at the eagle and butterfly at an emergent layer."
- Hoo Kai Zhen, Year 3



"Fish and frogs are at the forest floor layer."
- Althea Reinielle, Year 3



"There are 4 layers in the rainforest."
- Joshua Wong, Year 3



"Let's spread the awareness."
- Lee Jia Zheng, Year 7



"Stay strong."
- Nilesh Shan Nair, Year 7

Volunteering can help you gain confidence by giving you the chance to try something new and build a real sense of achievement. The Moral Studies Department's task for last week was for students to offer their help around their homes.

WORLD CANCER DAY DIGITAL POSTER

In conjunction with the celebration of World Cancer Day on 4th February 2021, our MIS Year 7M have been assigned to make posters in their Digital Art class to create awareness of the disease and show their support. They gain the skills to make effective posters by using a few digital tools like Canva and Adobe Photoshop. The students managed to come up with impressive artwork by applying some of the tips shared with them.

BOARDING HOUSE NEWS

We are really happy to welcome our boarders of Form 5, Cohort 2020 and Year 11 back to the Boarding House (BH) after the long closure. Our BH staff will always try their best to guide boarders to follow the strict SOP on health. Many measures have been taken by our BH staff to ensure the safety of our boarders whilst they assist them to prepare for the examination in the most conducive way possible.

Before the BH reopened, the BH team had attended a Environmental and Terminal Cleaning workshop which was done virtually. It was organised by Nexus Health Solution with Dr. Harpreet as the speaker. The session was very informative as our BH staff were given insight on the latest updated COVID -19 issues and how the effective prevention measures should be carried out.



Environmental and Terminal Cleaning workshop



Pasting SOP at the common areas for easier reference

NEW SOP Implemented at the Boarding House



One boarder per room with preparatory time inside his/her own room



Individual seating arrangement during meal time



Students' body temperatures are checked 3 times daily

Reflections of a Boarder - Muhammad Hafiq, MPS Form 5

2020 was not the good year that everyone had wished. COVID-19 has been really getting out of hand for me and my batch mates. It was hard for us because the online classes really wore us out. When the school and the boarding house reopened, I was very happy. Living in a boarding house is not that hard as all the SOPs have been well defined by the school, and we have been practising them everywhere.

On the first day in the boarding house, the house parent gave us a warm welcome and explained the SOPs to us. For me, it's easier to study in a boarding house as there are less distractions because we are all alone in the room. Although I cannot chit chat with my friends in the room, we have the common area to spend time with them. So far it has been good to stay in the boarding house and I hope it will be the same for the rest of my stay here.



"I can concentrate better studying in the BH."
- Muhammad Hafiq, Form 5