

# Canadian International School of Hong Kong

## Head of School



July 22, 2020

Dear CDNIS community,

I hope this finds you safe, well, and enjoying the last well-deserved weeks of summer vacation, wherever you may be. The Senior Leadership Team has remained in Hong Kong to plan a strong start to the new school year. Unfortunately, as many of you may know, on Monday, all schools were formally directed by EDB not to bring students back on campus before August 17, as part of the recent increased government measures initiated to alleviate and control the "third wave" of COVID 19.



This morning, we joined other international schools across Hong Kong at a Zoom conference with Priscilla To, Deputy Secretary for Education, to learn more about a likely timeline for resumption of face-to-face classes on campus. We were simply advised that new announcements will be made by the end of July or early August, dependent upon the success of new controls of the virus. Ms. To invited us to develop and propose a class resumption plan much as we did in May, to include a proposal for the staggered return to campus, starting with the oldest students, in socially distanced groups, and including all the health and safety measures required by Centre for Health Protection (CHP). We are ready and proactive with this.

Although we are not able to offer the return to school we had dearly hoped for, we knew we would need to be agile and quickly adapt to a "new normal" consisting of a mix of online, blended/hybrid, and face to face learning for the months ahead. We may need to shift quickly from one mode of instruction to another. Whatever the mode, we would like to reassure you of the following guiding principles:

- We will follow our published 2020-21 academic calendar, beginning with the return to classes, fully online, of Upper School on August 13, and of Lower School on August 17; in other words, there will be no delay to the start of school;
- We will closely and synchronously follow where possible all the published schedules of classes;
- We will provide close monitoring of student attendance and engagement;
- We will continue to offer after school and co-curricular opportunities to students online;
- We will provide regular feedback to parents as to their students' progress.

We are pleased to inform you that all our newly hired staff, including our Lower School Principal, Lief Erickson, have arrived safely in Hong Kong and are either in quarantine or are safely through it. All returning staff have been requested to be in Hong Kong having undergone quarantine in time for the various teacher orientations that take place ahead of class resumption. Obviously, our first duty of care is for the safety and welfare of our staff and students; the school campus has been undergoing and will continue to undergo deep cleaning and sanitization at the highest levels; upon resumption of face-to-face classes, measures of social distancing and temperature-taking will be strictly implemented and enforced as before.

At CDNIS, we sincerely pledge to provide a rigorous and engaging learning experience, whatever the mode of delivery, and we are committed to doing so in an inclusive environment which supports every single student. In the days to come, you'll be receiving much more detailed information from the Principals and their teams as to the specifics of the first days of school. I will be in touch as soon as we learn more from EDB. We are all grateful for the support and patience of the community as we navigate these unprecedented times together.

Warmly,  
祝安康



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