



CAMPION SCHOOL
ATHENS, GREECE
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26th March 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that this email finds you and your families well. This is email one out of two that I will be sending out within close succession. This email focuses on Campion's plans for educating pupils up until Easter (The date the ministry has declared all schools are closed until). The second email will focus on answering some of the questions that you raised following on from last week's email.

Given the country's lockdown, teachers are no longer allowed to work in the school building. Consequently, any member of the school community who requires materials from the school building is now no longer able to pick them up.

This past week has brought a number of announcements from educational bodies that have major implications to our pupils. Letters have been sent to respective year groups but to summarise - **all external exams have been cancelled** (IB, IGCSE and Checkpoint). IB and IGCSE have not announced how grades will be awarded, so for the time being all coursework deadlines need to be adhered to and the teaching of syllabi needs to be finished. Year 9 checkpoint exams will NOT be rescheduled. More information concerning exams will be sent to the parents of years 11 and 13 as and when we receive it!

Thank you for all your efforts to support your child's education so far. We have all learnt a lot about the process and I understand that many of you are trying to work at home whilst helping your child study. As we embark upon the second phase of the school's closure, I feel it appropriate that Campion (slightly) amends its online provision to pupils.

Fundamental to our online delivery will be to ensure that **all pupils have access to the work**. This could be difficult for a number of reasons:

- The internet in Greece is notoriously unreliable. I have heard problems, from both pupils and teachers, concerning the stability of the internet (my internet was not working properly last week).
- A long time ago, the school took the decision to invest in hard-wired machines in the classroom and not provide teachers/pupils with individual computers/laptops/tablets. Whilst I believe that all teachers DO have a computer of some sort, many of the machines are quite old and struggle with online lessons. (The speed of the computers in the classroom has been great but in hindsight we might need to re-examine this policy).

- Not all families at home have a sufficient number of devices to satisfy the need of mum and dad to work remotely from home while simultaneously providing children with a separate computer/tablet.
- Many teachers have young children at home and cannot commit to being online for all eight periods in the regular school day. A flexible approach is needed to ensure that teachers are able to use their professional judgement and decide whether it is best for them (and their pupils) to teach an online Google Meet class or set work through Google classroom. *Note: teachers are still expected to work a “full day” but with the opportunity to plan/set/mark lessons outside the constraints (timings) of a regular school day.*
- Many families (pupils and teachers) will no doubt be affected directly by the Coronavirus illness. **Pupils cannot be disadvantaged** (they must be able to catch up) if they are unable to work for a period of time.

Therefore, **in order to accommodate the diverse needs of all relevant parties a flexible approach is needed.**

Moving forwards, this is what you can expect Campion’s online provision to look like:

- We will continue to use Google’s G Suite for Education as our preferred online learning platform.
- It is recommended that pupils are at least 13 years of age to access Google Meet but we have taken the decision to open this to all year groups in the Senior School. Please ensure that your child is utilising this educational tool in the manner that it is intended.
- The timetable of lessons will continue to replicate the same timetable as if pupils were in school.
- Teachers will provide (at least) half of the scheduled lessons via Google Meet. The other half of the lessons will continue to be set via Google classroom. *Note: a flexible approach is needed to suit the needs of the particular subject and lesson. **No pupil should be disadvantaged** if they cannot attend the lesson and this should allow pupils to “catch up” if needed.*
- When an online lesson (Google Meet) is to be conducted, pupils will be given at least 24-hour notice.
- Year 11 and 13 lessons - the syllabus and coursework **MUST** be completed.
- The amount of work that is set is equal to the amount of work that teachers expect pupils to complete at school (and for homework).
- For the Lower School (pupils in years 7, 8, 9), the lesson length has been reduced from 40 minutes to 35 minutes. (A five-minute reduction of each lesson adds up to a lot of time over the course of the week!)
- When work is set using Google Classroom, teachers have been advised to post it on the correct day of the lesson. *(Hopefully, this should ensure that no pupil feels overwhelmed by the quantity of work being set.)*
- Pupils can expect to receive feedback for work that is handed in – just like they would at school.
- Teachers and year tutors have been instructed to “follow-up” on pupils that are not handing in work/appearing for lessons. However, if you know that your child is struggling, please be proactive and contact your child’s year tutor – we are still keen to provide pastoral support even if it is as at a distance!

Some notes on Google Meet

- It is an online video service similar to Skype/Zoom, etc. Pupils will find it as part of Google’s G Suite for Education package.
- Pupils will receive an invite to attend the “Meet”. This will be either be in their emails (direct from their calendars) or posted on their Google classroom page.
- Behaviour of pupils in an online classroom is important for the success of the lesson and consequently pupils may be asked to leave the lesson if they are misbehaving. Pupils do have the ability to mute their microphones and turn off their cameras if deemed appropriate by the teacher.

The situation regarding Coronavirus is changing frequently and we are keen to monitor the success of our online provision. If you have any additional questions, please ask the relevant year tutor. Equally, if you have feedback regarding the provision provided in phase 2 of the school's closure, again please inform your child's year tutor.

Once again, thank you for your support in these unprecedented times. I wish you and your family good health and I sincerely hope to see your children in school after the Easter holidays.

Kind regards,

Mike Henderson
Head of Seniors