

Denpasar, 13 October 2020
Ref. No.: 3908/HS/Term2 Update/JS/Oct-20

Dear Parents and Students

Welcome back for Term 2. Below I detail various updates and some feedback based on some questions from term 1 reports.

Term 2 Calendar days - students' responsibility to be organised

I sent the outline for the various 'special days' at the end of last term; these are listed on the calendar in the Engage parent portal and on the school website calendar. We will also remind students in assembly the week before, and post on their Pastoral Google Classrooms. Tomorrow is 'Wellness Day' - all students must join the Meet they have received via email and also should have already signed up for workshops.

Tuesday 20th October - Parent Teacher Conferences for Class 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 are bookable via Engage. The deadline to book is Monday 19th October before 3pm. **Teacher Meet codes will be sent on Monday 19th**; please join together with your children, or at the same time with your account, using Google Chrome.

Monday 9th November - Parent Teacher Conferences for Class 8, 9; booking will be available via Engage from the end of next week - you will receive an email with further detail.

'Study groups'

A reminder that, from our observations, 'study groups' are **adversely affecting student participation, engagement, and learning**. Socialising outside of school time I cannot advocate enough (if you are happy that this is safe), but within school hours individual attendance to Meets is far more beneficial; we have many cases of lack of work follow up where the students were in 'study groups'.

Term 1 Report Feedback

We introduced Term 1 progress check reports 3 years ago as an early update for parents. These reports include a **grade from the first assessed pieces of work** from the academic year, based on Cambridge grade thresholds. All students will have feedback from these assessments which includes clear detail on how to improve.

An **effort rating** is also included. I received some comments that effort ratings were low; on average effort ratings across the school were 0.2 lower than Term 1 last academic year - however this is skewed by a very small

minority of cases where effort was very poor, despite consistent follow up from school. If these were to be discounted, effort ratings on average were actually higher.

Expectations of students will not be lowered - yes we give consideration - but we know what each student is capable of, and will not accept that they achieve less than that. If you are unhappy with effort ratings, I encourage you to discuss with your child so they can reflect on how to improve, and to join the PTC this term to further discuss with teachers.

Subjects vary; Maths and Science for example work at the highest grades across a range of topics all year. Social Sciences and English for example build skills towards the higher grades as the year goes by. Therefore, for some skills building subjects, we include a generic comment to clarify whether the grade is in line with progress expectations. If there is no generic comment, the grade should already be in line with MPG (Minimum Performance Grade).

The colour coding on the reports:

Red = grade below MPG. Yellow = grade on MPG. Green = grade above MPG.

We produce 4 reports per year. Two of these reports have full comments, the term 1 report is followed up by Parent Teacher meetings.

[HBL Term 2 2020-21](#)

Regards

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