

Welcome to our first ISE at a Distance Newsletter

We are sure, like us, you have experienced a week of readjustment. This is an unprecedented situation that has asked us to think outside of the box to come up with solutions to keep our students learning. We still recognize that there is a way to go, however, we are learning daily and making changes to what we can offer our students. We have been overwhelmed by the capacity and creativity of all our teachers. This week they have tried to find innovative ways to keep their students engaged, shared resources and ideas with each other and carried out online lessons. They have done this while many of them are sick and trying to manage the learning and wellbeing of their own children.

We are so very grateful for the words of support and encouragement we have received from you, it has helped us stay positive. We know that there are areas that we can still improve on and we hope that we can rely on your continued patience and understanding as we manoeuvre through these challenging times.

Activities and events We are trying our best to remain positive and continue to plan. We have been successful in rescheduling the Secondary Prom to 23 May, we hope the secondary school production will be held in the first week of June. We have also organised that the DP2 and Group 8 final class photos will take place on 11 May. As you will appreciate these dates and further activities may have to be changed or cancelled depending on the situation.

We would like to wish each family all our best wishes, health and positivity for the upcoming week.

Marcella Watts, Joan Roach and Daphne Dansen



Contact us:

- You may call us between 09:00 and 12:00 for any urgent matters on the normal school number 040-251-9437 **use Option 1 or 2**
- Email the school office
 - primary@isecampus.nl
 - secondary@isecampus.nl
- **Secondary:** If your child is unable to attend the online classes, please email the school office first thing in the morning.

PRIMARY MATTERS

STAFFING Mrs. Danielle Johannsen returns from maternity leave on Tuesday 24th March. She will be teaching in UFD2 on Tuesdays. Congratulations to Mrs. Vervoort who gave birth to a healthy baby girl on Thursday 13th February. Mother and baby are both doing well. Congratulations also to Ms. Anika Martens who gave birth to a healthy baby boy on Tuesday 21st January. Mother and baby are also doing well.

School Matters A number of students have left food in lunch boxes in their locker. Unfortunately, the food is rotting and going mouldy, so the lunch box and its contents will be thrown away.

Distance learning Welcome to week 2 of distance learning. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the feedback form. We appreciate all the thoughtful suggestions, the positive comments, and all the thank you messages. Using both parent and staff feedback, we are making some adjustments to our distance learning programme, which we hope will make the coming weeks go more smoothly for everyone. To read more about our updates and upcoming developments, please visit the [parents' support website](#).

Throughout this process, we have wanted our students to feel connected to school. Each day our teachers have written individual messages to their students, provided comments on work submitted, and recorded short videos of themselves. Even with these steps, we read many times in the parent feedback that students are missing face to face contact with their teachers and friends. We are missing the students as well! We are investigating the possibility of holding a few video calls throughout the week for students who are available to have a chance to see and talk with their teachers. As educators of young children, we are not making this decision lightly as we balance privacy laws, student safety on the internet, and the understanding of families sharing devices and simultaneously trying to work from home. Please keep an eye on the parent support website as we develop this further.

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SECONDARY MATTERS

STAFFING This week we have had some changes to staffing. Ms Abels started her parental leave on 16 March and is replaced by Ms van Heeren. It is not the best time to have to join a school, but we are working (remotely of course) with Ms van Heeren and hope she will be able to support her students online very soon. I am grateful to Ms Pagany who will take over MP3A Year Tutor and Mr. Cotrell who will take over MP3B from Ms Abels.

DP2 May exams Last night, DP2 families were informed about the decision the IB has made to cancel the May exams. We recognize that this decision will mean there are many questions and worries about how this will affect the student's future. At this moment the IB has released very little information other than, that they will find a solution to ensure that students can still be eligible for their Diploma. The IB have promised to provide schools with more information about this process this week. Our curriculum team have already met to start putting a plan into place and once we have more information from the IB, will be able to finalize the plan and inform students and parents. This current situation has been extremely hard to manage, but this added challenge will ask even more from our team who are focused on doing everything in our power to find an appropriate solution in order to support our students. However, our hearts go out to our DP2 students who are now faced with this additional challenge.

Online lessons All students have now received a timetable which indicates when their lessons will take place. All students are expected to attend these lessons at the scheduled time. Teachers are taking attendance and parents will be informed if we spot patterns if students are missing or arriving late at lessons. If for whatever reasons your child cannot attend a lesson, please inform the office. We are in the process of evaluating last week and have discussed various ways to make additions to the current lessons as well as ways to support the students in managing their schedules and tasks. We will continue to update you when changes are made. We have asked that teachers inform their class if they need to cancel an online lesson due to illness, please bear with us.

Supporting your child(ren)'s learning We appreciate that it is not easy to support your child learning when many of you are also trying to work from home. However, we have noticed that particularly for MP1 and 2 students, they need to have a clear overview of how to tackle the work that has been assigned by teachers. All tasks, assignments and deadlines have been put on Managebac. You can see the overview of each week on the Dashboard in Managebac. We have also sent all parents a daily schedule that can support you in organizing your child's day. It would be beneficial if you could, at the start of each week, or day depending on your child, help them to organize the tasks they should be focusing on and ensure that they upload their final work on the set deadline. If things are unclear, encourage your child to write down questions for the teacher which can be then asked during an online lesson or mailed directly to the teacher. Year Tutors will also be focusing on this point when they meet the class and we are in the process of developing additional methods to support students manage their learning.

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