

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## At TIS,

we believe that through actions and service that demonstrate our commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, we can make the world a better place. But, we must be active and committed participants and not just vocal spectators.

## COVID-19

- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water, before and after eating, and after going to the washroom. Dry your hands thoroughly or the advantage of washing your hands is lost.

- Practise social distancing at all times.

## Thought for the Week

Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.

- Mary Angelou



## Return to School: 2020/2021

COVID-19 is like the roads in Ghana: dangerous (if ignoring protocols), full of potholes (complications), and there are new or unexpected challenges each day!

When schools first closed in March, I was confident that schools would reopen without restrictions in August, which was five months away!

Well, now a month out from commencing the new academic year, there remains little clarity due to the increasing numbers for COVID-19. Sadly, too many people appear to be taking this pandemic for granted, by ignoring social distancing standards, as evidenced by everywhere you go.

TIS has had two committees focusing on the two key aspects for a successful start to the new academic year: TIS Restart; and, Online Learning. A brief report is contained within this special Bulletin so that parents are aware of our planning.



Do the right thing,  
even when no one  
is watching.

It's called integrity.

## SAT 2020

- G12 students who want one more attempt at SAT must sit the SAT test on 29 August. Please ensure you have registered by the due date.
- G11 students wanting to sit their first SAT test will have their opportunity on 26 September. No TIS students will be allowed to sit the SAT test on 3 October (TIS Founders' Day). Start planning now.

## Making Us Proud

- Congratulations to the IB Class of 2020 on your DP results. Due to COVID-19, with no final exams, IB used a different system to determine its final grades. There has been widespread concern about the methodology used to determine the final grades as the sciences and maths (HL) subjects tended to be the hardest hit. IB is reviewing its grading system as a result of this angst. To each and everyone of our graduating class, focus on your future, learn from past lessons and go forward with the confidence of your invaluable DP experience. You can achieve anything and everything. You make us proud. Thank you.

Today, we present our our draft plans. I invite parents, students and staff to contribute their ideas and comments to these initial plans so we can refine them for Board approval by the end of July.

While I am not confident about which model we will commence with in August, I am confident that plans and processes will be in place to start as planned. If we start with Model 1, then orientation will commence from 12 August, so that lessons commence on 24 August (Secondary classes) and 31 August (Primary School Campus). I am also confident that any online learning experience will be better than the emergency learning which had to be implemented without warning in March.

## Admissions for 2020/2021

There are limited vacancies for boys and girls in Grade 7 at the Main Campus.

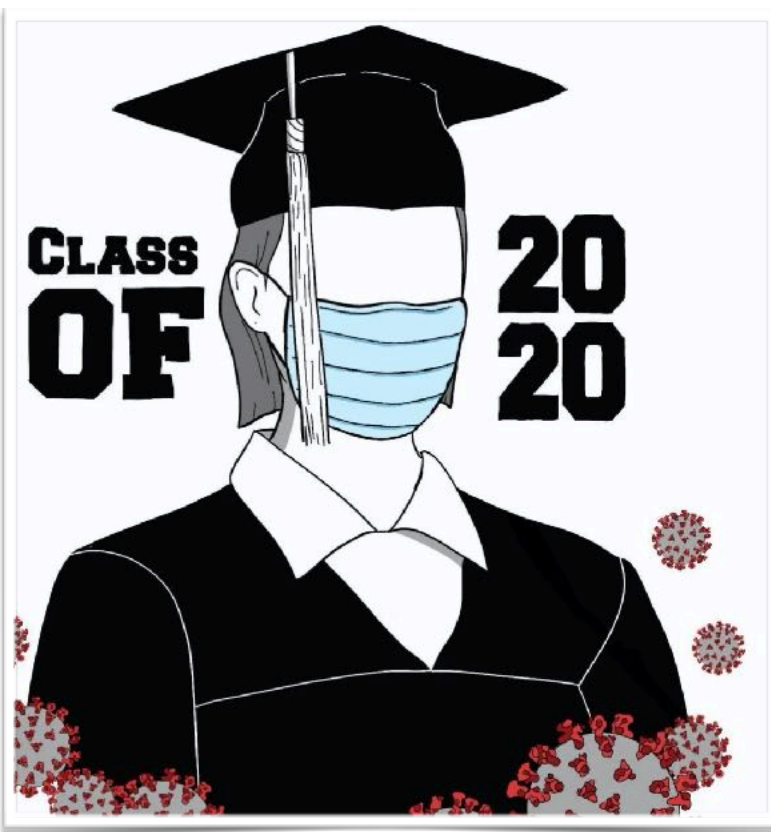
At the Primary School Campus, there are limited vacancies across all grades.

To apply, complete the online process at:

<https://tis.openapply.com>

Stay healthy.

Dr Ken Darvall (Principal)





# TIS Return To School



## 2020/2021 Academic Year

We are preparing for three possible learning models for the start of the new academic year. Models 1-3 are suitable for the Main Campus (secondary school classes). Models 1 & 3 are suitable for the Primary School Campus. This is an initial draft, so we will appreciate your feedback about how we can deliver the best educational experience in each scenario. Please email your feedback to [info@tis.edu.gh](mailto:info@tis.edu.gh) by COB Tuesday, 21/7/20. Following Board approval, and subject to government regulations, an updated plan will be communicated to parents by 1/8/20. Be assured that plans and procedures will be in place to ensure a successful start to 2020/2021.

### Model 1

#### Online Learning (asynchronous and synchronous sessions)



School is closed. No students at school.  
Online learning for all students.  
Full curriculum options to satisfy learning program requirements.  
Normal timetable operates.  
Virtual ASAs and major events.  
Reduced school fee.

### Model 2

#### Blended Learning



School is open but restrictions limit the number of students on campus.  
Students at home will continue online while students on campus have live and asynchronous lessons.  
Day student option may be available.  
On-campus and isolation protocols in place.  
Virtual and live ASAs and virtual major events.  
Restricted exeats.  
Quarantine at school location for international students (TBC).

### Model 3

#### Traditional (Pre-Covid) Learning



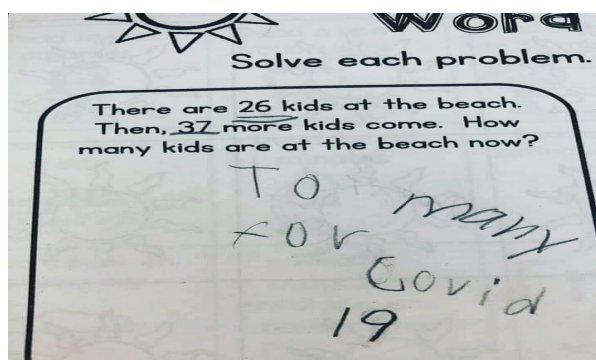
School is open and all students are allowed to attend.  
Split meal times.  
Blended lessons.  
On-campus and isolation protocols in place.  
Virtual and live ASAs and virtual major events.  
Virtual excursions.  
Quarantine at school location for international students (TBC).

## Preparations For The New Academic Year

Planning for a new academic year is nothing new, however, planning for an academic year with more unknown quantities than usual has been at the forefront of decision making in our preparations for the new academic year. Restrictions created by COVID-19, the national government, international travel protocols and arrangements for ensuring that IB learning requirements are met have influenced proposals that have been made. As part of the preparations for the start of the new academic year, two committees (the School Re-start Committee and the Online Learning Committee) have been put together with a mandate to review the available options for TIS specifically.

The Re-start Committee covered various scenarios for the start of the academic year when 1) TIS remains closed to all students 2) TIS is opened to specific groups of students 3) TIS is opened to all students. In the first scenario, if TIS remains closed to all students the Re-start Committee has agreed and finalised new student and parent orientation, the imposition of continued virtual teaching/learning, virtual learning support, virtual/distance student well-being support, an adjusted timetable allowing for synchronous and asynchronous lesson time.

As an international boarding school, the committee has considered a scenario for opening up the school to specific groups of students. These considerations include enabling and maintaining social distancing in the hostels, putting up an isolation facility in line with isolation protocols, enhancing our blended learning to incorporate students who opt to remain at home and international students who cannot return to school due to border closures. Then bearing in mind that COVID-19 could be with us for some time, the committee considered a scenario of re-opening the school completely, but with some additional arrangements. These include the continuation of blended learning for students who have not returned to school and enhanced health and safety protocols for all those who have returned. Our first priority is to continue to safely deliver the requirements of the IB programmes to all our students.



**VIRTUAL TIS ORIENTATION TIMELINE & PROGRAM****As at 17/7/20**

DATE	TIME	SESSION	GROUP	SCHOOL/ PROGRAMME	GRADE/ DEPT
12/8/20	11.00am	ManageBac (MB)	Newbies	Primary/Secondary	PYP/MYP/DP
13-14/8/20	9.00am	MB Connection	Newbies	Primary/Secondary	1-6/7-11
13-14/8/20	4.00pm	Q&A/Support	All	Primary/Secondary	PYP/MYP/DP
17/8/20	10.00am	Welcome Back	Continuers	Secondary	8-12
17/8/20	12.00pm	Welcome to TIS	Newbies	Primary/Sec	All/ 7-11
17/8/20	2.00pm	Staff information	All	Primary/Sec	K-12
17/8/20	3.00pm	Wellbeing	Newbies	Secondary	7-11
17/8/20	4.00pm	Q&A/Support	All	Primary/Secondary	PYP/MYP/DP
18/8/20	9.00am	Learning	Newbies	PYP	K-6
18/8/20	11.00am	Learning	Newbies	MYP	7-10
18/8/20	2.00pm	Learning	Newbies	DP	11-12
18/8/20	4.00pm	Q&A/Support	All	Primary/Secondary	PYP/MYP/DP
19/8/20	9.00am	DP Subject Selection	All	Secondary	11
19/8/20	11.00am	MYP Subject Selection	All	Secondary	9
19/8/20	2.00pm	University Counselling	Newbies	Secondary	7-11
19/8/20	3.00pm	Student Council	Newbies	Secondary	7-11
19/8/20	4.00pm	Q&A/Support	All	Primary/Secondary	PYP/MYP/DP
20/8/20	9.00am	Projects	Newbies	Secondary	7-9
20/8/20	9.00am	CAS	Newbies	Secondary	11
20/8/20	11.00am	Extended Essay	Newbies	Secondary	11
20/8/20	2.00pm	TOK	Newbies	Secondary	11
20/8/20	4.00pm	Q&A/Support	All	Primary/Secondary	PYP/MYP/DP
21/8/20	9.00am	Extracurricula	Newbies	Secondary	7-11
21/8/20	10.00am	Online Learning	All	Prim/Sec	All
21/8/20	11.00am	Technology	Newbies	Primary/Sec	All/ 7-11
21/8/20	2.00pm	Learning Centre	Newbies	Secondary	7-11
21/8/20	3.00pm	Learning Support	Newbies	Secondary	7-11
21/8/20	4.00pm	Q&A/Support	All	Primary/Secondary	PYP/MYP/DP

*Note: A final version of this schedule will be confirmed by 31 July*

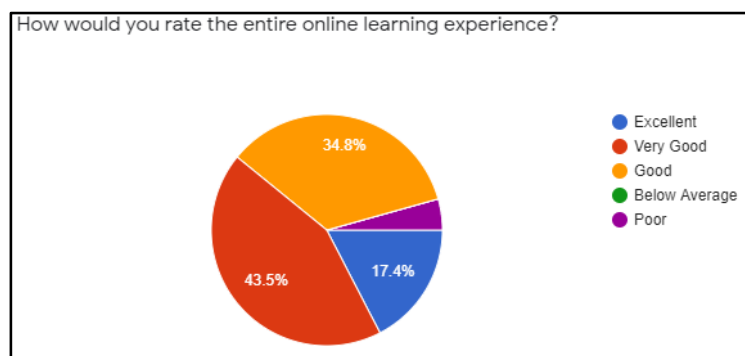


## ONLINE LEARNING AT TIS

The Online Learning Committee would like to thank all parents and students who took time out of their busy schedules to complete last week's surveys about online learning for the previous semester.

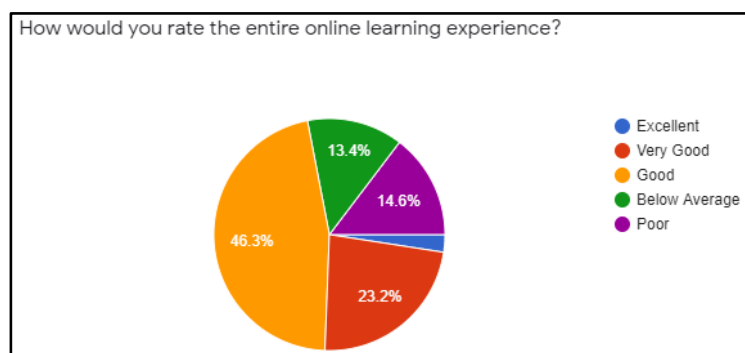
The responses gave us an insight into the areas that worked and the areas that need improvement.

Overall, 34.8% parents who responded rated our online learning module as good, 43.5% rated it as very good and 17.4% rated it as excellent.



*Figure 1 Parents overall rating of online learning module.*

Out of the students who responded 46.3% gave rating of good with 23.2% giving a rating of very good. 2.5% of student respondents gave a rating of excellent.



*Figure 2 Students' overall rating of online learning module.*

The survey is part of a study aimed at improving online teaching and learning in the TIS community. The responses gathered from the survey and the various reflections by students and staff show we are on the right path.

We are committed and determined, as a school, to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic does not derail the education of our students. Considering the uncertainties associated with the reopening of most educational institutions, we are putting together a robust online teaching and learning model to ensure our learners get the best out of our engagements. As an IB World school, we are integrating features into the model to ensure we uphold the teaching and learning principles of IB and satisfy the stipulated hours of study. The table below outlines some of these features:

FEATURED	DESCRIPTION	REASONS
<b>Blend of both asynchronous and synchronous online learning.</b>	<p><b>Synchronous</b> online teaching and learning happens in real time i.e. a virtual traditional classroom.</p> <p><b>Asynchronous</b> online teaching and learning happens in real time i.e. a virtual traditional classroom.</p> <p>Both have their strong and weak points. We are blending them to ensure we get the best of both.</p>	<p>Synchronous learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social interactions</li> <li>• Live engagement &amp; dynamic learning</li> <li>• Quick feedback on understanding</li> </ul> <p>Asynchronous learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-pacing</li> <li>• Improved flexible (e.g. time zone constraints, technical issues)</li> <li>• Reduce online data usage</li> </ul>
<b>Deliberate emphasis on Universal Design for Learning (UDL)</b>	A framework to improve and optimise learning for all students. Multiple means of representation, multiple means of engagement, multiple means of action and expression.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differentiation</li> <li>• Collaboration</li> <li>• Exciting lessons</li> <li>• Removes learning barriers</li> <li>• Goals, methods, materials, assessments work for everyone</li> </ul>
<b>Blended Learning</b>	A mix of learning online and face-to-face in a traditional classroom	To be ready for the situation where schools reopen with social distancing rules and all students cannot be on campus. Students at home can still benefit from online lessons.

Further details about our online learning module would be communicated in subsequent bulletins.



# TEMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



A family school

& a unique experience

Early Years | Primary

Community 22

Secondary\* (Boarding)\*

Community 21

[www.tis.edu.gh](http://www.tis.edu.gh)

+233 30 330 5134

To enrol, do it online: <https://tis.openapply.com>

**An IB World School**



# PLEASE NOTE

**Tema International School is **CLOSED** until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**Deliveries should be handed to security at the Promise Street entrance.**

**To make contact with TIS during this period of closure, please email: [info@tis.edu.gh](mailto:info@tis.edu.gh)**

**We apologise for any inconvenience.**

**Stay healthy by observing all recommended health practices.**

**TIS Management**

# **TIS INTEGRITY Code**

**“TIS, as a family school that provides unique experiences,  
embodies a spirit of integrity and respect for others  
which are central to the personal,  
academic and ethical development of each member.**

**As a TIS family member,  
I promise to uphold and demonstrate its values,  
and protect the reputation of the school.  
I make this pledge in the spirit of honour and trust.”**



