



# Yangon Academy International School

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9 May 2020

## Parent Update: 9 May 2020

Dear Parents of the YA Community,

The following letter to our parents represents the Administration Team's Weekly Parent Update as we continue with our Distance Learning Program. To give all parents an understanding of the School's current and future planning, please note the following:

### 1. Continual School Improvement

As a school, the teachers, staff, and administration are constantly seeking to improve our teaching and support of students. Through formal and informal parent, student, and teacher feedback and by regularly and critically evaluating our online school program, we will continually adapt and evolve our online program to meet the needs of students and parents. As a result, students will experience an increase in helpful teacher feedback as well as more robust interactions via live videoconferencing.

### 2. End-of-Year School Planning

The Administration Team and the School Staff are currently planning for the successful and seamless end-of-year, closing of the school. With only 4-weeks remaining until the last day of school on 5 June, there are activities and logistics to finalize, including providing some form of memorable graduation ceremony for our Grade 12 students as well as facilitating the student textbook return and the issuing of report cards and transcripts.

### 3. Scenarios for Re-Opening School for 2020-2021

While the focus of the teachers and staff remain on the daily teaching and support of students, the Administration Team has been meeting regularly and methodically in planning for the re-opening of school next year. Such planning, of course, requires developing various school re-opening scenarios, depending on the government restrictions and external circumstances existing in mid-August. In addition to monitoring these restrictions and circumstances, the Administration Team will rely upon the expert re-opening guidelines offered by educational experts, international school associations, and international health organizations.

We should all be reminded that Yangon Academy is not alone in its current re-opening planning: In fact, according to the latest statistics from UNICEF, it is estimated that schools for over 90% of the world's enrolled students have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is equally informative to know that schools in countries such as Japan, Germany, Korea, China, Denmark, Australia, and Israel have already re-opened and, as such, we can rely upon their best, most successful practices for additional guidance. For Yangon Academy, we will implement a re-opening process that ensures the safety and health of the students, faculty, and staff, while providing a full, 180-day school year.



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Depending on the previously noted restrictions and circumstances, the School is making plans for several different school re-opening scenarios, to include, but not limited to, the following:

**Scenario #1:** Both the government measures and the external circumstances allow for a safe, regular, full-time re-opening of the school on Thursday, 13 August. This is the best-case scenario, which the Administration Team is both confident and hopeful will take effect.

**Scenario #2:** Both the government measures and the external circumstances permit the re-opening of school on 13 August, while practicing strict social distancing protocols. In such a scenario, the School is now developing plans for a blended learning model; whereby, there will be a combination of online learning at home and classroom learning at school.

**Scenario #3:** Both the government measures and the external circumstances prohibit the re-opening of school on 13 August, as well as for the near-term future. In such a scenario, the School will begin the year with its current Distance Learning Program. And, then adjust its model as government measures and external circumstances allow.

All parents should know we present these possible scenarios simply as evidence of our current thinking, research, and planning. In the weeks and months ahead, the School will be able to narrow and refine the scenarios, and we will keep parents informed of this unfolding school re-opening process.

#### 4. Seat Deposits and Tuition Fees

In regard to, and in relation to, the recently sent "Seat Deposit" letter to parents, the Administration Team would like to update parents on the following:

**Seat Deposit Request:** This year, and as demonstrated in all previous years, the School is sensitive to families' financial commitments, and we remain flexible and cooperative with parents should they need an accommodation with the Seat Deposit. In such a case, please contact the Finance Department.

**Tuition Fees:** In addition to the stated tuition-fee discounts, the School will implement a new 2020-2021 tuition-fee payment schedule, which will allow parents to pay the fees in 4-equal installments throughout the school year. Additionally, we will extend the grace period depending on when we collect the tuition fee. The School hopes this payment accommodation will support parents in their own family budgeting.

#### 5. Final Thought for the Week

We hope this transparent weekly update on our current thinking and planning is helpful to our parents as we all work together to provide the best possible education for our students. Certainly, during difficult times, the resulting uncertainty and anxiety can prove challenging for all of us. However, we know better days are ahead of us, so we express heartfelt thanks to our parents today, as we all move forward together.

Sincerely,

Mr. David Miller  
Director, Yangon Academy