



# Sadiq Public School

Do the right, fear no man.

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Assalam o aleikum**

## **Seniors' external examinations**

Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) has now advised what is required from schools and when, for CAIE to determine a grade in the May-June O, AS, and A Level examination session. Having read the very detailed information from CAIE, I am satisfied that the outcome will be fair and robust for all students. As always, the appeals process will be available after provisional results are received. Results will be created by CAIE based on a wide range of evidence, not just mock examination results. Teachers, Heads of Departments, and Heads of School will be gathering the necessary information for CAIE, the deadline for which is early-June. No additional information or assessment is required from students.

The information sent by CAIE to SPS ends with the following, *"Will centres tell students what their predicted grades are? No. They must not do so. This is to prevent undue pressure being put on teachers and centres."* Students and their parents are therefore instructed not to try to communicate with SPS staff regarding the grades or the process and any breach of this instruction will be reported to CAIE.

CAIE advises they expect the results to be issued at the usual time, i.e. mid-August. CAIE has advised that universities have been contacted and all, of course, understand the situation. We certainly do not expect the CAIE grades to have a negative effect on university admissions. In fact, if students are interested in admission to Canadian universities, I strongly advise them to communicate with the Headmaster (Senior School) who has very favourable admissions information.

As has already been communicated, AS students are being advised to either take an estimated grade for the May-June 2020 session or withdraw and enter for composite exams in the May-June 2021 session. To transfer to the Oct-Nov session would result in too much time lost to prepare for the May-June 2021 A2 exams.

No notifications have been received by SPS regarding Matric or Intermediate examinations.

## **Summer vacation**

As per Government's notification, all schools are closed until May 31st and this closure period is considered the summer vacation. Schools are closed; this does not just mean classrooms, but offices too. School staff are subject to the same restrictions regarding social distancing as everyone else.

Regarding books, there are significant issues associated with sending textbooks out to our 2500 students. Courier firms are not operating. As all schools are closed (by government notice), we do not have staff available to send these out, nor even to distribute at the Gate. Further, I believe the school's delivery of books from our suppliers is not even complete because deliveries were interrupted by the lock-down restrictions. Until all of these issues can be overcome,

we cannot get text books to students. (If you listen carefully, you will probably hear the students saying, 'And anyway, it's summer vacation! It's time for a break from school work.')

There have been a few questions regarding e-learning. You will recall that students were completing their end of year exams when schools were closed. All students completed their year's syllabus and so no summer vacation homework or e-learning is required. As per the Government's notification, the extension to the closure is summer vacation and this applies to teachers as well as students. I will continue to post to Facebook some non-syllabus, non-compulsory activities for students and parents to engage with, if they wish.

### **The new Term 1 and new whole year calendar**

The senior management team has been busy over the past few weeks working through an updated annual calendar, with the goal of ensuring a full year of teaching & learning days. We have created three possible annual calendars: one for if school resumes on June 1<sup>st</sup>, another for if school resumes on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and another for if school resumes on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Nearer the time, when we have clearer guidance regarding the duration of the school closure, we will publish the updated annual calendar. For now we are doing what many people all over the world are doing, 'wait and see'. And thanking all around them for their continued patience and understanding.

### **Mental health**

Children and teenagers are likely to be feeling even more anxious than adults during this virus outbreak. The School Doctor has repeatedly said that stress compromises the immune system. Please help minimize your son's/daughter's anxiety and stress levels by limiting access to unnecessarily sensationalist television reports and repeated access to internet stories. They should relax at home, read cheerful books, do some exercise, watch positive television...

Now is a good time to learn what a virus is, understanding that a virus is not a bacteria, the role of washing hands with soap, and the role of vaccinations in the management of diseases such as measles and tuberculosis. Please share your knowledge with your children and take the opportunity to discuss such things as fake news, unreliable websites and social media posts/rumours, and pseudo-science. The World Health Organization's website is excellent – [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

As it has been doing for 66 years, Sadiq Public School continues to stand by its students, their parents, and its 729 staff. Please follow the government's advice. Relax at home, and save lives.

Assalam o aleikum

Peter Giddens

Principal