



# NEWSLETTER

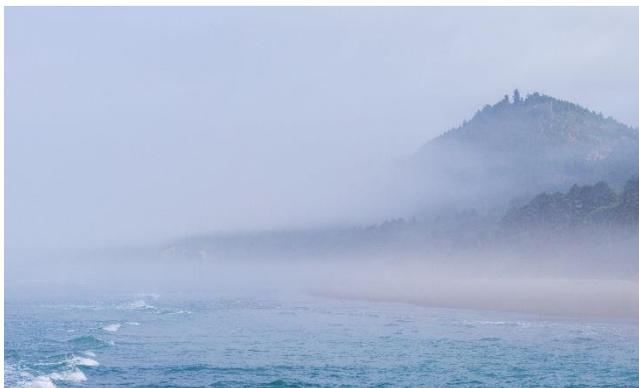
APRIL 2020

## Dear Parents

When we are working hard at something, we envision the future and picture it when it is done. When we are training or running, we imagine the finish line or winning the game. When starting up a business, it is often the owner's vision of what it can become that will sustain them during the difficult times.

In 1952, a woman named Florence Chadwick decided to attempt the 26-mile swim between the California coastline and Catalina Island. About 15 hours into her swim a thick fog began to set in clouding Chadwick's vision and confidence. She swam for another hour before deciding to call it quits. As she sat in the teetering boat she discovered if she had just continued on for another mile she would have reached Catalina Island.

Irish poet, John O'Donohue wrote the following in one of his books. "If you have ever had occasion to be out early in the morning before the dawn breaks, you will have noticed that the darkest time of night is immediately before dawn. The darkness deepens and becomes more anonymous. If you had never been to the world and never known what a day was, you couldn't possibly imagine how the darkness breaks, how the mystery and color of a new day arrive."



Two months after Chadwick's failed attempt she tried the swim once more. Once again, a thick fog set in. But this time she pushed herself along and succeeded in completing the incredible swim. When talking with reporters about her historic swim, she said that she was able to imagine the coastline and envision herself walking up out of the ocean and onto the beach. In the midst of the heavy fog, that vision is what made the difference.

This Covid-19 pandemic is difficult and worrisome. For many of us the fog has rolled in and we feel the discouragement as we see this virus spread across the world. At this point we do not know how much longer it will last, how much farther we have to go before it is over. But we do know this – it will not be forever. We will get control of this virus, a vaccine will become available and we will be able to return to having coffee with a friend, going out for dinner with family members, and going out to the movies.

For now, we need to have a mental image of the finish line in our minds. We need to imagine walking up out of the ocean and onto that beach. We need to see past this pandemic and see us not just surviving it, but thriving afterwards. If we can do that while the fog surrounds us now, we can know that we will make it through.

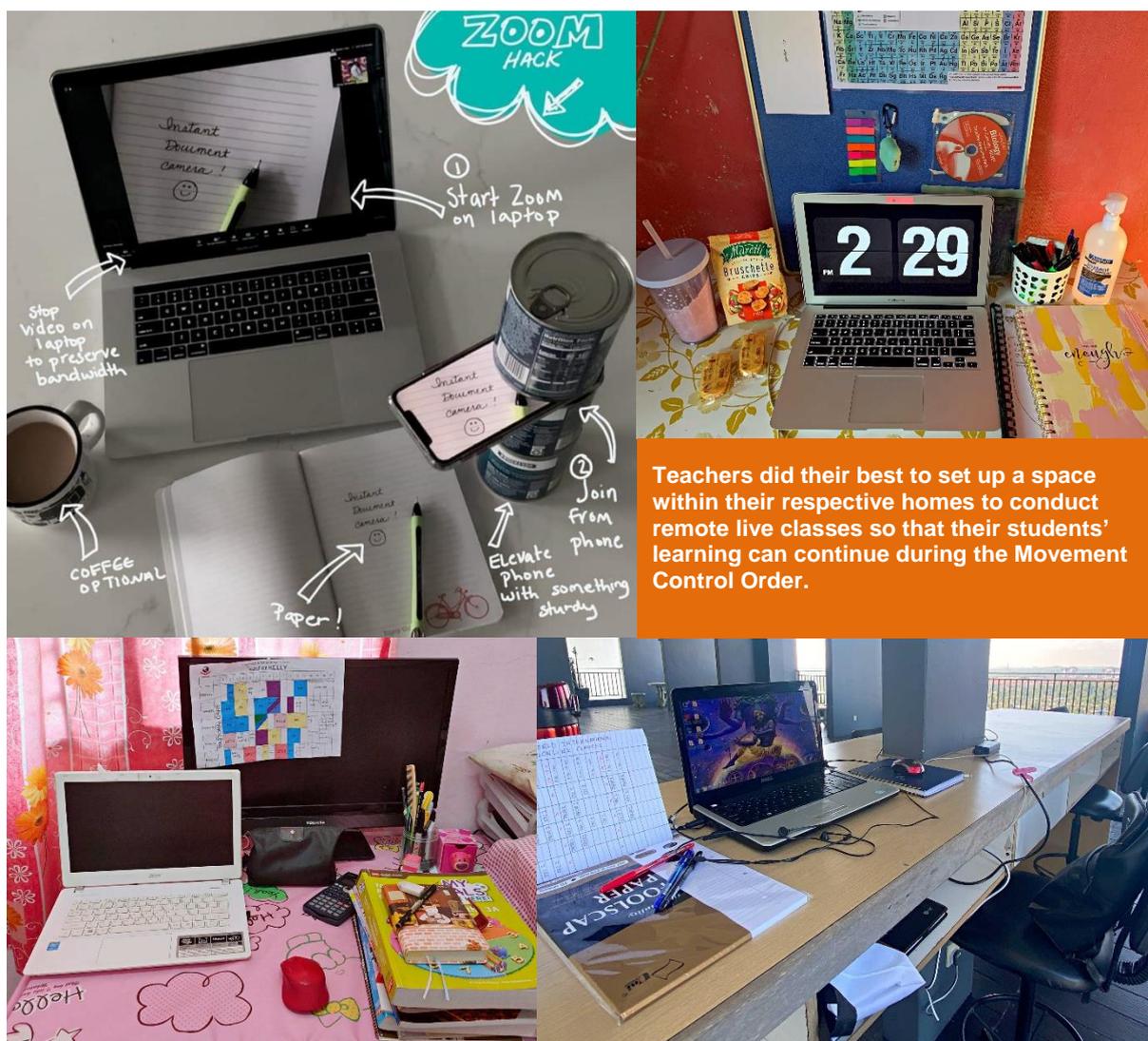
Please stay healthy and maintain hope that we are closer to the beach than we realise.

**John Chuah**  
Head of School

# The Road To Online Learning

When the first Movement Control Order (MCO) was announced during the Term 1 school break, the school had started to actively prepare to conduct online classes in the event that the MCO is extended. After evaluating various online learning platforms, Zoom and Google Classroom were selected for their ease-of-use as well as features. Zoom is used for live video classes while Google Classroom allows students to turn work in digitally as well as for teachers to push resources such as notes, assignments and quizzes, to students.

After teachers underwent training to conduct online learning using best practices for virtual classrooms, they were required to set up a dedicated space at home with internet connection to conduct the remote learning.



As we go through this unprecedented period of time together, we believe it is helping us to appreciate, to recognize worth, and to be grateful for many things in life. The school appreciates its dedicated staff and how hard they have been working to switch over to online education. We appreciate our parents who have been patient with us as we move students to education online. We appreciate our students who tackle their online classes with enthusiasm and are working their best.

# Learning Continued Online

The school has without fail put the interest of students' learning as its priority by conducting remote learning since 1 April 2020. Online classes will continue throughout the Movement Control Order period and are delivered using live streaming and pre-recorded lessons. In addition, teachers continually support students by providing supplementary materials including worksheets, quizzes, and topical tests to check for understanding; links to video clips are also provided where relevant.

With the availability of online learning and also the other supporting materials, students will be able to continue their learning at home in-line with the syllabus and curriculum for almost all the subjects in their respective year level. Upon their return to school, they will be able to continue with their lessons in classrooms. Therefore, the online learning using Zoom and Google Classroom have effectively replaced the 'lost' school days.



These Zoom sessions provide an opportunity for students to engage in activity with the teachers and peers. Teachers can explain the work that has been posted on Google Classroom, review the results of any assignments or tests and clarify misconceptions. It is important that students actively engage with the materials posted, complete any assignments, and undertake the online quizzes. Upon return to school, there will be continuity of teaching and learning, currently being undertaken through Zoom and Google Classroom, back into the classroom.

**UNIWORLD**

## Create a Conducive Environment for Remote Learning

- SPACE**  
Quiet & undisturbed learning space
- ENVIRONMENT**  
Bright & airy
- DEVICES**  
Online toolkit, microphone, speakers
- STATIONERIES**  
Planners, books & writing tools
- HYDRATE**  
Water & drinks
- ATTIRE**  
Comfortable & casual

**STOP**  
**COVID-19**  
SOCIAL DISTANCING  
1M