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- **Friday 18 - Monday 28 February** (inclusive) - Crocus Holiday (half term)

Whole School Information

Covid regulation update

Following Tuesday's government updates, many of the regulations we have in place will expire. When we return after the break, the following will now be possible again:

- Parents may come into the school building (wearing a mask and maintaining 1.5m distance). Current drop-off and pick-up routines remain.
- We will schedule an Open Session soon for parents to come and view their children's learning in the classroom.
- Students will be able to mix again and collaborate across year groups and classes.
- Students and staff no longer have to wear face masks in school - anyone may do so if they choose.

In addition to this, we will keep up the basic rules: hand washing, coughing and sneezing into elbows, staying at home and testing if you have symptoms. Self-testing twice a week for staff and students in Group 6-8 remains urgent advice in order to try to keep ahead of an outbreak.

Isolation following a positive test has also changed:

- It is now reduced from 7 to 5 days (as long as 24 hours symptom-free).
- With symptoms, the isolation begins on the first day of the symptoms (complaints) - even if the test was taken later.
- Without symptoms, isolation begins from the day of the positive test.

When travelling, it remains the responsibility of each family to be aware of the rules and regulations regarding quarantines.

Enforcement in case of corona-related absenteeism

Please be reminded of the updated regulations from the Truancy Office (originally published in the January 28 parent newsletter), regarding travel-related absenteeism:

Due to the corona measures, enforcing the rules is sometimes complicated. The Public Prosecutor's Office has now clarified enforcement for the following specific case.

The Truancy Office takes enforcement measures when young people miss school because they travel to an area marked orange or red by the government and cannot return in time, or have to go into quarantine because of illness (corona-related).

If, for any reason, the young person is stuck abroad or needs to be quarantined when classes have already started, parents should contact the school. This period can be considered as unauthorized absence. This is because this quarantine is reasonably foreseeable and can be anticipated. This is different with quarantines that are, for example, related to the fact that someone in the (living) environment turns out to be infected.

Urgent advice: The urgent advice is therefore to keep a close eye on the situation in the country to be travelled to. Anticipate where necessary!

Changing class composition

Each year at IPS, as with all international schools, many families leave our community, and others join. Over time, this has had different effects for the Rembrandt and Mondrian locations, and our classes have become imbalanced.

A class should be balanced in terms of:

- ❖ Gender
- ❖ New and returning students
- ❖ Mix of nationalities
- ❖ Mother tongue English speakers
- ❖ Academic ability

Within a balanced class, it is also important to consider:

- ❖ The known personality of students and their social/emotional needs
- ❖ Friendship groups (those which both positively and negatively impact learning)
- ❖ Behavioural dynamics of the students
- ❖ The concept of students having different learning styles and teachers having varying teaching styles, some being a more appropriate fit than others
- ❖ Students who "push" each other (having a bell curve class ideally so that there is less disparity in the width of academic groupings)

For optimal learning, an ideal class has/is:

- ❖ A positive learning environment
- ❖ A class "culture" which is focused around inquiry-based learning
- ❖ Friendship groups that positively influence learning
- ❖ Both balance and diversity

Our proposal, with the support of the School Council, students and teachers, is to mix classes within every group to create new classes for 2022-2023.

The positive impact of mixing classes for next school year means:

- + Groups move into the same location for greater collaboration and sharing of resources (single teacher/class no longer isolated!)
- + Redressing the balance, which potentially increases learning
- + Giving students, who just need a break from other students, a change of classmates
- + Students develop the social and emotional skills of adjusting to change and new dynamics, as well as developing and fostering new relationships
- + New children are not always so "new" as everyone is starting from fresh with a new dynamic
- + A new student doesn't throw the whole dynamic out because the students in the class have acquired the necessary skills to adjust
- + Readiness for transitions to other schools/high schools where the skills to adjust to new environments is always occurring

How might this affect you?

- You may want your child to remain in the same class with all the same students
- Your child **may** switch locations

We appreciate that last point is a game changer. Given that there are singular classes of a group at one location, it could potentially mean you switch locations.

Please join us at one of the Q&A sessions after the break:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| ❖ Wednesday 9 March at 14:00 | meeting code: meet.google.com/syu-ppba-zwt |
| ❖ Monday 14 March at 10:00 | in-person meeting in the Mondrian theatre |
| ❖ Monday 14 March at 18:00 | meeting code: meet.google.com/vpx-tqkz-tdn |

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Rembrandt Location

Rembrandt building & main office
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Mondrian Location

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