



## Newsletter 27 2020-21

Friday 26th March 2021

Dear Parents and JIS community

### Update following official press release from HK EDB:

As we now have official mention of the new guidelines for students starting school after the Easter holidays we are all systems go for the return of all students for an extended morning at school, from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April. This is great news and will allow us to push on with a final term with everyone back at school. We have previously been able to discuss with HK EDB regarding student numbers at school and had planned for a 4 day / 3 day week cycle, but to now have the ability to have all students back is great news.

I have been asked to clarify how the system works as the current regulations are 2/3's of the student population coming back to school. The answer to this is related to the size of our classrooms on campus which are registered with the EDB as being for 45 students (!) so we can assess 2/3 of these rooms and our actual student numbers which enables us to allow all of our students to come to school and be within the current guidelines we have been given.

As mentioned in previous messages we shall be extending our school session until 1 p.m. to maximize the opportunities for the students at school.

JIS in line with many schools have taken up the opportunity to get staff vaccinated – a much more scientifically secure method of protecting the school community in the pandemic. We all hope that the HK Gov't and EDB will view this as a positive strategy in considering face to face, full day schooling very soon.

### 3 Way conferences Students, Parents, Teachers - March 2021 – (22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March)

Thank you to everyone who logged on to meet with their child(ren) and class teacher this week to share aspects of learning and progress. The online model fits into lifestyles quite well so we were able to have a very high percentage of meetings take place. Thanks also to the students and teachers for their preparation and skills in presenting their learning.

In June 2021 we shall go further with our assessment and reporting opportunities by hosting the students led conferences – these events will hopefully happen at school and in person – pandemic permitting.

### Congratulations to the P4 and P2 classes.

Yesterday the P4 class became the teachers of PE for the P2's as Mr. Jason was busy online with 3 way conferences. The P4 class were tasked with designing and planning a series of P.E. activities which they would then teach to the P2 class. It worked! Well done to everybody.

### Easter Egg hunt and more!

It was great to hear and see the excitement as some of the students set off on their egg hunt and were busy with their 'Easter' themed math activities around the school campus yesterday morning! Wonderful to finally hope things are on the way back towards normal!





### **Something to look forward to next term:**

We are in the process of scheduling author visits and workshops as part of the Hong Kong International Young Readers Festival. Cath Wean has been liaising with the organizing committee to get some opportunities for our JIS students to engage with some more ‘real life’ authors.

We are hoping to welcome Rachel Ip (<https://www.rachelip.com/>) and Dan Gemeinhart (<https://dangemeinhart.com/index.html>) either virtually or in person to JIS.

More details after the holidays.

### **Term 3 school fees:**

Many thanks to those families who have settled fees already. Please settle fees by the start of term 3, thanks. Any information or support required please contact the school.

### **Outdoor learning- heading into the forest:**

Here at JIS we are passionate about outdoor learning, the advantages are well researched and we believe in their impact! Now more than ever it is important that we give students as much opportunity to get out in nature and reap the benefits.

With all students coming back to school it will be easier for us to offer ‘forest mornings’ - so we have planned a series of dates in term 3 for all classes to get involved in trips to Tai Po Kau Park (easily walkable from JIS) or Tai Po Kau Country Park (walkable for older year groups but a short bus ride for the younger years).

Many thanks to all the parents who joined the online presentation with Fiona Merrill on Thursday afternoon and to everyone who has volunteered to support the trips to the forest. If you can share a morning with the students it would be great to have as many supporting adults as possible – especially as we are currently under regulations of 1 adult to 4 student supervision.

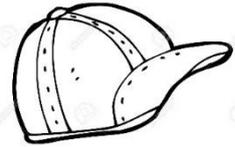
### **Junior Duke – Student award scheme – (P2 and P4 to trial)**

The P2 and P4 classes have shared some information about this scheme with their classes and are going to offer the scheme as a trial to see who may be interested to get started soon.

We shall then review if it is something that the wider JIS community could get involved in.

## No Hat No Play – Everyday! Put a hat in your bag, please.

As the weather is getting warmer and the sun is getting more intense we shall be asking all students to wear a hat outdoors at all times. We are not trying to be difficult at all but we need to showcase positive sun-smart skills for all the children. Of having a hat at school at all times. Many thanks to everyone who has now got into the routine



## Covid procedures – please stay vigilant on temp checking in mornings, we are still required to keep these records

Please check your child's temperature before they leave the house each morning and record the result on the sheet. If you need further sheets – your child can collect from the school office

## Environmental update and parental support request:

### Recycling update from Fiona Merrill contd.:

Yesterday's assembly was for the P1, P3 and P5 classes – we again shared the focus on Sustainable Development Goals, linking the JIS students to a world beyond their own and the thoughts of key leaders of our planet on how we manage it the best ways we can.



This week's Sustainable Development Goals is - Number 12: Responsible production and consumption.

Reduce, reuse and recycle is a model many of us are familiar with (also refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle and rot.) Here at JIS we hope to reduce our global footprint and as a school community collect waste to be recycled whenever possible.

At school we now also collect tetra paks for recycling with MilMil, the first recycled pulp mill and education center for paper-packed beverage boxes in Hong Kong. Please send in your washed/cut open tetra paks (juice boxes, milk cartons, lemon tea boxes etc.) to school and ensure the plastic spouts have been cut off. We also accept all kinds of clean plastic, cans and glass. It is vital that this waste is clean, with the lids removed (and no products with a mix of plastic/paper.)



**Employment Opportunities at JIS: Please contact the school if interested or share with friends who may wish to get involved.**

**School Library Assistant – approx. 3 days per week, term time only, starting mid-April 2021.**

**Many thanks for the interest in this position. JIS will be contacting applicants shortly to arrange informal interviews at school. Thank you.**

JIS is looking to employ a library assistant in our school library from April 2021. Anna Lamont has done a fantastic job for the last year but is moving back to Australia from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. If you are interested in getting involved in school life and have energy to share with the students – this could be for you!

The school library assistant is a creative role in managing the library for borrowing and sorting books, inspiring the next generation in a love of reading and liaising with classes for their units of inquiry and research. The role is closely linked to the work of our school curriculum and PYP coordinator who supports and manages the library for our school community. The role is ideal for a parent who wishes to have part time employment and needs to be available to support their family during the school holidays – this role is a term time only position. Hours are flexible but a Friday full day is needed for students to check in and out books for loans. Our library is a very popular space for our students, with a positive working environment and a great view over Tolo Harbour.

A role description is available here: [library assistant](#)

The role is suited to someone who enjoys working with young children, may / may not have experience of working in a school community and has an interest in children's literature or reading. Anna Lamont will be available in April to offer full onsite training and support. The role is based on a commitment of 17.5 hours per week and is paid at \$180 per hour – with an average salary of around \$12,500 for a 4 week month.

Applicants interested in the position are welcome to contact the school at any time for information and should send in a C.V. and short introductory letter to [s-walton@jis.edu.hk](mailto:s-walton@jis.edu.hk) by March 26<sup>th</sup> 2021. We would aim to host some informal interviews in the week of 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

We look forward to hearing from you.

### **Full time Education Assistant role for August 2021**

Next term we shall also be recruiting for a full time Education Assistant to support the students learning. This role will be full time starting in August 2021 and would suit someone interested in making a commitment to working in a school environment to support a range of student learning activities alongside a class teacher. Full details will be shared in term 3 but if any interested persons would like more information they may contact the school principal on [s-walton@jis.edu.hk](mailto:s-walton@jis.edu.hk) for more details. We aim to do some informal interviews at JIS in April 2021. **Applications still being accepted for this position.**



Click [here](#) for the latest news bulletin from our partner secondary school.

Have a really great Easter holidays – time away from screens and some exercise outdoors. We hope that HK can continue with our efforts to contain the COVID-19 virus and we can welcome all the students to school in term 3. Stay safe and healthy everyone.

Simon Walton  
Principal