

Covid Update

It has been six months since Bombay International School moved into the virtual teaching world. Efforts to make teaching and learning value-enhancing for students continue. The level of student engagement has been high as we have adopted a blended learning model where students work asynchronously on 20-25 per cent of their IBDP curricular requirements. The greatest positives during this period have come from our students who have embraced changes at all levels. Here is an update from us:

- Our hybrid model of teaching started in mid-March 2020 and continues successfully. This includes CAS, which is an important component of the IBDP program and features on the weekly timetable. As academic classes moved to online, yoga sessions were conducted on Zoom with the aim of helping students deal with long hours at their computers. Eye, neck and back exercises were taught. Improvisational theatre sessions gave students an outlet to express themselves through drama. Students developed the skills of crowdfunding and used them to gather funds for a cause.
- Professional development for teachers has focused on blended learning to enable faculty members to empower themselves through technology. This allowed for both reduction in fatigue from online classes and an increase in student agency and independence. Due to the intensive teacher-coaching programme, our staff members are comfortable using several online tools for inquiry-driven teaching, giving feedback and marking assignments.
- We moved our end of Y11 exams to the early part of Term 3 and examinations were conducted successfully online, covering the entire Y11 syllabus.
- The Extended Essay process was successfully completed and students had an online celebration of this on September 28, after their Vivas with their supervisors.
- Despite closure of schools and unavailability of laboratories, work on skill-building for Internal Assessments in the Sciences is progressing well**.
- For students of Y11, the first few days of the term were spent on an Induction Programme, as always. This year, the focus of this programme was ATL (Approaches to Learning) skills and providing them with tools to make the most of the virtual learning world.
- During the summer vacation, the school provided students with summer internship options with companies such as Autohangar (in the field of Automobiles), Robin Age (in the field of Publishing) and Praja Foundation (in the field of Governance).
- Despite the rigour and demands of the IBDP, we are proud to share that our students have planned and executed numerous activities both within the school and on an inter-school level to keep up their community engagements during this time. These initiatives included FIKA.

**For secondary research-based extended essays in sciences, data is being sourced from relevant and reliable sources such as peer-reviewed journal articles and credible scientific databases. There is evidence of criteria-based selection of relevant sources, appropriate methods used for data-analysis and interpretation and drawing valid conclusions in response to the research question. Evaluation of the research methodology used is an integral part of students' course work.