



SRI DESA TIMES

SRI DESA NEWSLETTER #11

MAY 2020

The Learning Continues!

The decision to continue teaching and learning during the MCO (albeit via online platforms) was easy because we believe education should go on regardless. Below are our students' thoughts on their online learning experiences.

One of the Science experiments I did at home was on how water travels through a plant. Using water-soluble pigments, I could see the route the water took to travel up a celery stem. I would like to thank my Biology teacher for coming up with this fun experiment. Doing fun Science experiments like this during MCO sure helps to kill boredom, compared to spending time on your phone or watching television. It even sparks up a passion for Science. The world of Science is big and there are endless things to explore!

Aron Goh (Y10)



Aron with his Biology experiment

ONLINE LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS :

- Science Experiments
- Creative Writing
- History through Comics
- Preparing for IGCSE May/June Exams
- Online Exam Revision
- Parent Testimonials
- Commonwealth Essay Competition
- Online Survey Results
- A Special Message to Teachers



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More inside!

Fun, Creative Online Learning



Creative Writing (Haiku Art)

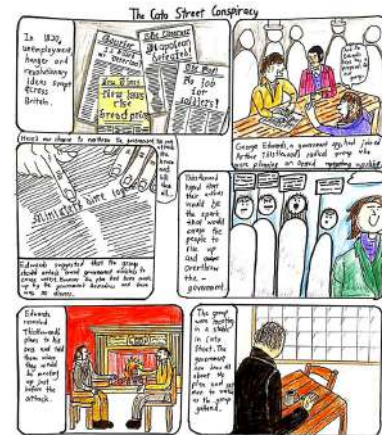
First, we had to choose a theme relating to endangered species and the one that piqued my interest was 'Corals'.

Creating an art piece inspired by my poem was the most fun part!

I learned that creating Haikus takes patience as finding the right words, with the right number of syllables is not easy but that is what makes a Haiku interesting. Similarly, painting Haiku art requires patience.

I enjoyed both the activities. Not only did I expand my vocabulary, I also had fun completing them!

Linaysha Hyacinth Perera (Y8)



History Through Comics

Creating comics for History? It was fun and it made learning the subject easier too! It was also an opportunity to put my drawing skills to the test.

The task was to turn the pages in the textbook into a comic and we were given the freedom to create the comic in any style we liked. This is important as every student interprets the text differently. So, we really had a lot of room for creativity. I took a while to brainstorm ideas for my comic. I applied my drawing techniques and was excited to see how it would turn out. I must say, I was satisfied with the outcome.

I would like to thank my teachers for trying their best to ensure that we understand the lessons well.

Dave Yeoh (Y8)

Preparing For IGCSE May/June Exams

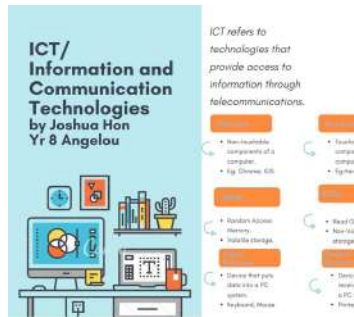


I was well aware of the pros and cons of continuing with evidence collection for the IGCSE May/June exams but I decided to take the chance because I am satisfied with my results so far. It was a tedious task to submit copies of all our work, but it had to be done. I would like to thank all our teachers for their guidance. Lastly, a word of advice to all my fellow schoolmates - be organized! File your notes properly so that when the time comes and you need them, you don't have to search high and low for them.

Foong Siew Hong (Y11)

Online Examination Revision Classes

I came up with a digital mind map for ICT. It was very fun and helpful as all the points are simplified, making memorizing them easier. I hope fun activities like this will continue when school reopens. My advice to everyone is to not give up, do your best and enjoy every lesson!



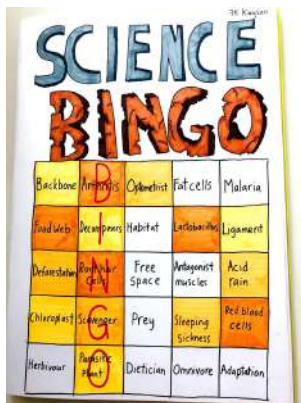
Joshua Hon (Y8)

Holistic Development At Home

We were encouraged to pick up a new skill, so I tried cooking! I realized that it is healthier to eat home-cooked meals and I now feel more independent. Thankfully my family enjoyed my cooking so much that they asked for second helpings! It makes my day knowing that my cooking puts a smile on my family members' faces.



Nurin Amina Tan (Y8)

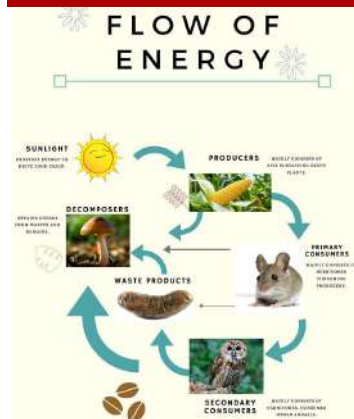


We played Bingo for our Science revision which was both enjoyable helpful as it makes learning easier. I really appreciate our teachers for thinking out of the box to come up with fun activities to help us better understand the topics. Keep up the good work, teachers!

Kayson Leong (Y7)

For Biology revision, we created posters to aid visual learning. Mine was on the flow of energy, which I found interesting because I got to do some designing - a breath of fresh air! I think my teachers have worked very hard during the MCO period and would like to appreciate all their efforts.

Ng Wei Yi (Y11)



It is great to have Physical Education as usual every Friday as exercising is important although it does not directly link to academics.

Since we can't leave our homes, the plank challenge is the easiest way to keep us fit and healthy.

Victor Loo (Y10)

Working out relieves us of stress.

I enjoy the online PE sessions as I get the chance to see my friends and teacher.

I hope everyone is coping well at home and I would like to thank the teachers for the good work they have put in to make everything happen!

Darren Pan (Y10)



Mental Health Support



Having a mental health support helpline during this period of isolation is crucial as students and parents need someone to talk to. It serves as a channel for them to voice their problems and anxieties.

You can expect to have an attentive non-judgmental ear on the other side of the line. A good point to remember, a problem shared is a problem halved. Sharing also gives you a fresh perspective on your problems.

Our In-House Counsellor, Madam Choo - a former Principal at Mahkota Nursing School and former Student Counsellor at Help University - can be reached at 016-754 4451. Rest assured that confidentiality (except when safety is at risk) will be maintained.

Thank You, Teachers!

The common misconceptions about teachers and their work during this MCO period is that they have more time to relax and they do not work as hard.

Transitioning to virtual teaching is not easy for teachers. They are not able to see if their students are paying attention. They have to text students regularly. Moreover, marking is not as convenient as before. They also have to prepare the material in advance so that lessons go as planned.

Thank you my teachers for working so hard during this period !

Leong Yong-En (Y11)

Commonwealth Essay



The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition is about utilizing your creativity to write a simple yet meaningful essay based on the theme and topic you are given. This year, the theme is "Climate Action and the Commonwealth" and I chose the topic "The destruction of the oceans is everyone's concern". With my mother's and my principal

Ms Saw's encouragement, I have been taking part in the competition since 2018. I appreciate the support and guidance I receive from my teachers. I'm also glad we can continue participation in the competition despite the MCO. Speaking from my experience, I would strongly encourage students to join this competition as it will not only help to improve writing skills, vocabulary, grammar but also widens one's knowledge about the world.

Sheryn Low (Y9)

What Our Parents Say

"Congrats to Sri Desa on setting up online learning before school holidays in anticipation of the MCO. Also really appreciate the teachers' efforts to work out of the norm to execute the online teaching. I kinda follow some of the classes too!"

Rebecca (Mother of Y7 & 9 student)

"My daughter is very happy with the online learning. No problem with understanding the lessons so far. As her mother, I am happy as all work must be submitted on the same day and if she fails to submit as required, I will be immediately notified. Thanks to Sri Desa, the online learning has come in very handy".

Punitha (Mother of Y11 student)

"Sri Desa has done very well in terms of the speed and willingness to pivot to online learning despite the short notice of the MCO. The teachers are successfully pulling it off, and continuing to innovate as the weeks pass. Well done!"

Francis (Father of Y8 student)

"I really appreciate how the teachers are all doing their part in continuing to educate the children with the same commitment and passion except it is now done via a screen. I sat in most of the class sessions and the teachers are all doing an incredible job. I also learn new knowledge while sitting through it !

Everyone is going through a change and let's get this through together. Keep up the good effort Sri Desa!!!"

Irene (Mother of Y10 student)

Student Online Survey Results

How did our students feel about the online learning program?

- 80% rate the online learning experience as good, very good or excellent.
- 75% rate the teachers' delivery as good, very good or excellent.
- 90% think the teachers have been supportive and understanding.



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Sri Desa Learning Centre Sdn Bhd
(Company No. 1148873-T)
Level 3, Tower 1, Faber Towers, Taman Desa 58100 KL
+603-7972 0000
www.sridesa.edu.my
www.facebook.com/sridesaigcse/