



ICSLONDON
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Shaping the world



A ROAD MAP FOR REOPENING Autumn 2020

Head of ICS London – Rod Jackson



1. INTRODUCTION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The COVID-19 pandemic presents the most serious public health crisis the world has experienced in many years. Looking forward to the 2020/21 school year and beyond, ICS is resolved to do everything it can to reopen our campuses because we believe doing so is in the best interest of our students. And yet, we recognize that ICS needs to find a pathway for reopening its campuses safely with the health and wellbeing of our entire community in mind. This document is a living plan and is under constant review and subject to change.

The ICS *Roadmap for Reopening* is guided by the assumption that ICS needs to be able to respond quickly to circumstances in our own school community as well as to conditions in London, the UK and beyond. Even as we plan to reopen our campuses in August, we know we may need to close them again with very little advance warning. *This means ICS must be prepared to move flexibly and rapidly between different learning models designed to fit a variety of circumstances and drivers.*

This Roadmap is guided by five principles:

1. To prioritise student, faculty, and staff health, safety, and wellbeing over all other considerations, going above and beyond the government safety protocols
2. To ensure that whatever mode of learning we are using onsite or offsite, we maintain the high standards of academic rigour, pastoral care and personal development which are central to our approach.
3. To ensure hygiene- and health-related policies are research-based, clearly communicated, effectively implemented, and diligently enforced.
4. To promote practices and policies to reduce risk of virus transmission and support our capacity to be responsive and agile when facing changing health circumstances.
5. To act in accordance with the ICS London mission and core values: “*Our innovative approach to education inspires each and every student to discover their strengths within a community of future leaders.*”; and with the Globeducate mission: “*We prepare each student to become a global citizen who can shape the world.*”



In any community, there is a balance between rights and responsibilities. In our planning towards reopening in the Autumn, ICS has working hard on achieving this balance. No schools will be operating in a business-as-usual manner for the foreseeable future, but through this Roadmap, we hope to continue to shape positive school and learning experiences within a challenging new context. ICS would like to thank its students for their resilience, adaptability, and spirit; its parents for their support, patience, and understanding; and its faculty and staff for their courage, professionalism, and dedication.

The 2020-21 school year promises to be an especially challenging one for all of us, but we are confident that we can weather these challenges together and come through them better and stronger as a school and as a community.





2. SAFETY FIRST

In our planning, we are fortunate in that we are able to learn from best practice in the UK and internationally from schools that have already begun the reopening process. Our membership of the Globeducate group gives us direct access to the practices and experiences of some of the best International Schools across Europe and beyond. These safety measures will be reviewed and adapted between now and the start of the Autumn Term – in doing so, we will be guided by the latest advice from Public Health England [PHE] and the Department of Education [DfE].

Our safety measures may include:

- Clear delineation of all school spaces, including classrooms, corridors, shared areas etc. ·
- Limited class sizes respecting distancing of at least 2m ·
- Students remain in the same small group and do not mix with other groups ·
- Hygiene: sanitisers in every room, frequent hand-washing, surfaces wiped between lessons
- Staggered start and finish times for the school day·
- Staggered Break times ·
- Protocols for safe lunch times

Given the restricted nature of our primary and secondary sites, in order to enact these safety measures, we will need to be creative and flexible in how we manage the school day, classes and our wider program.





3. LEARNING MODELS

Aim: To create equitable, flexible teaching & learning models for in-school and remote learning.

At ICS, since onsite teaching and learning stopped, we have worked extremely hard to provide a successful distance learning programme across the entire school. There is a great deal of uncertainty surrounding what we will face when we return in August and therefore our planning is centred on ensuring that we are well prepared for all scenarios. In this process we are preparing to put in place 3 possible learning models and, indeed, to be able to move swiftly and seamlessly from one to another and back as circumstances require.

- a) **Face-to-Face Learning Model:** This is the traditional school experience with all students attending school in person five days a week. Preventative hygiene policies are implemented in combination with minimal social distancing. It currently seems unlikely that risk of exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19 is considered low enough to rely purely on this approach in Autumn.
- b) **Distance Learning Model:** This is the same model our community has experienced from March 19th to now: our campuses are closed and school remains open through remote learning experiences. Safety conditions dictate that ICS's campuses must be closed. We hope this won't be the case in Autumn.
- c) **Hybrid Learning Model:** This model combines face-to-face learning with online, distance learning. This model uses social distancing alongside hygiene measures as key strategies to further reduce exposure within our community, while at the same time providing face-to-face interaction between students [some if not all] and teachers. **Within this Hybrid Learning model there are two distinct approaches:**

- **Hybrid Learning where the same model is used simultaneously for both online and in school learning**, this approach is well suited to Upper Primary and Secondary Years:
 - i) Teachers maintain the same online approach currently used.
 - ii) In-school students bring their own device (laptop or tablet) or their school IPAD [primary]
 - iii) Teachers continue to deliver lessons using their current digital platforms to all students.
 - iv) Teachers give input, resources, activities through digital platforms.
 - v) Students receive help from the same teacher either in class or online through chat features
- **Hybrid Learning with distinct models for online and in school learning**, this approach is appropriate for all students, including Early Years and Lower Primary:
 - i) Lessons delivered in-school or online; all follow same learning objectives.
 - ii) In-School and Online learning provided by different teachers.
 - iii) Groups assigned to either in-school or online teacher.
 - iv). Planning, tasks and activities available online for all students

Both of these **Hybrid Learning** approaches may require one or more of the following approaches to adapting school schedules with phased or staggered return to school models. Examples include:

- Allocating students to morning or afternoon sessions, adapting or lengthening school day as appropriate
- Allocate specific days in school and other days online.
- Return to schools for students of specific ages (complying with government plans)





4. GLOBEDUCATE QUALITY ASSURANCE

We are proud to be a Globeducate school and, as such, to be able to access support from schools across the group. This gives you, as parents, the confidence that our approaches to this crisis are informed and quality assured by the benchmark of international best practice. We ensure high quality learning by sharing the most teaching models for online and in school learning and by using best teaching practices identified across the group. Similarly, we are sharing curricular planning, activities and resources.

5. KEY PARTNERSHIPS

From the outset of the current situation, ICS has been working closely with government and industry partners to ensure a quick and safe response to guidelines and will continue this as we prepare to re-open. Including:



Department
for Education



Public Health
England





7. PARENT TESTIMONIALS FOR ONLINE TEACHING

*I hope this finds you well! We wanted to send you a quick note of thanks. The online learning this past week has been incredible. We have been so impressed with the connection that you have continued to have with the kids and the connection with all of the teachers through their videos and Skype calls. Both of our children learned a lot this week (as did I!). Having ICS support has made everything that is going on more manageable.
Thank you for all you are doing!*

As we approach the end of this extraordinary school year, we want to thank you all for your great work under such difficult circumstances, and make the best wishes for the preparation of next year, when he will conclude their IB course.

*First of all, I wanted to thank you for the wonderful job you've done converting to home learning. It's been truly impressive and the kids have transitioned fairly easily thanks to all your hard work. They love watching their morning videos and the lessons have been really great - both kids are actually learning and not just doing busywork, which is fantastic.
We also appreciate how fun you've made it.*

*I want to say that it is amazing and inspiring to see all the teachers working so hard to give us really good teaching in these difficult environments. Me and my family are very proud to be a student at ICS and I don't know what I would be doing if the school didn't give me these lessons to see everyone and be with everyone. I know it's very important what the hospital doctors are doing but I also think it's amazing what you are all doing.
I want to thank the leaders of the school and the teachers for allowing us to have great learning even in these difficult situations.*



Please do get in touch with us here at ICS if you have any questions at all.

We would be very pleased to speak to you.

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