



EXCELSIOR EXPRESS

LOCKDOWN ISSUE

MAY 2020 EDITION

What's inside

SEIZING THE MOMENT

UP-SKILLING IN TIMES OF
DOWNTURN

GOODBYE, UNTIL WE MEET
AGAIN

FUTURE TENSED



THE END OR A NEW BEGINNING?

A normal day, that's how it began. Everyone was going through their normal lives and then everything changed when the virus shook the entire world. An unseen enemy we didn't notice until it smashed through our borders and gave humanity a grim reminder of their own mortality and powerlessness. However, humans have survived much worse, and everytime they encounter a problem they improvise, adapt and overcome.

We surely fought back hard. Sixty two days of lockdown and we are here, still fighting, still surviving. During these times, we have seen instances of crushing despair and uplifting moments of hope. Almost everyone is locked inside their shelters like being in an ongoing war, a war with no guns or weapons, just deadly silence and fear of the unknown. At present it is safe to say that the spirit of the world is winning. No matter what, a little virus is not going to stop us from living our lives, so we did exactly that. Our education never stopped due to online classes, we don't stagnate because our creativity helps us find an infinite number of activities to partake in. Well, where would we be without the internet!

At the end of the day, if we try hard enough, this is going to be another Pandemic we have beaten. The black plague and the Spanish flu were arguably much more deadly than the current covid-19 we are facing right now but we brought those under control, which goes on to show how powerful the human mind can be.

So for the students, the best course of action right now would be to keep on learning via online classes even if we are at home. Speaking of studies, don't forget that holiday assignments are going to come crashing onto you like that long lost relative you meet every year. For those who are fine with home assignments- more power to you, and for those who are not- there is no escaping it. The final advice is to not take too much stress, if you relax and go through your lockdown life normally by following the rules and this pandemic will go away swimmingly.

SarthakSanal Kumar
IBDP Year 1 Student

Here are some facets that continued to exist and grow while the world stayed still...

Seizing the moment:

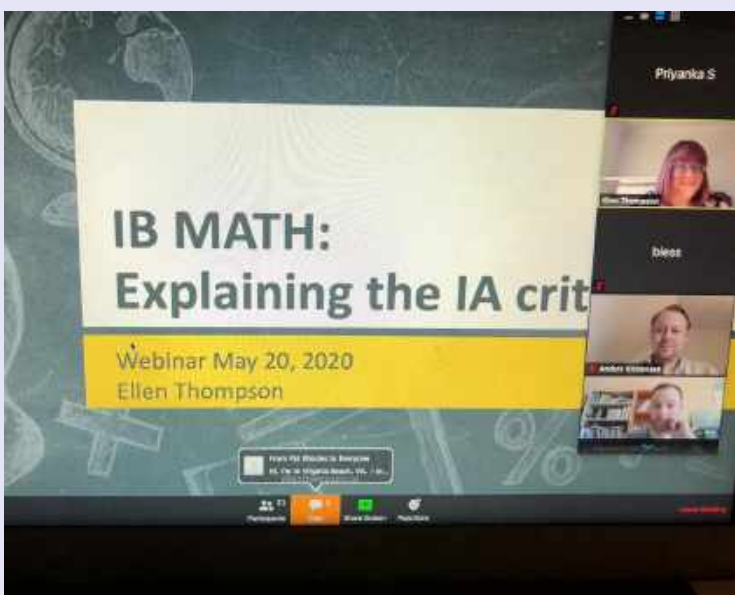
Switching to online classes does not mean that time is being lost from these crucial years of the students' life. The regular sessions emulate a real life classroom from the comfort of the learner's homes. Along with their regular classes, students utilized this time for their personal development, learning new skills or sharpening the old ones. From drawing, singing, playing instruments, reading, writing, cooking and dancing to learning and influencing the whole world with their sheer will power. Nothing can pull these Excelsiorites down. The virus cannot weaken the hearts of the students. This lockdown has allowed them to let their innovative sides out; the 10th graders creating a documentary on the virus and its effects and the online inter-house competition in which all the students allowed their imaginations to go wild and fill the canvas with the colors of their creativity. Excelsiorites cannot be stopped by any virus!



COVID-19 IN INDIA
A SHORT DOCUMENTARY

Up-skilling in times of downturn:

“COVID-19 is at a pandemic stage and webinars at an epidemic stage”. These are words from a meme being floated around in various social media platforms. And yes, it is true! Besides coping with online-classes, conducting orientation programs and completing household chores, the teachers also attended several webinars organized by Cambridge as well as other online learning platforms. These webinars helped to improve their content knowledge, learn innovative strategies and methods and to equip themselves with various tools to improve the performance of their learners. The students too, attended online workshops and webinars to take part in CAS activities and expand their knowledge in their respective subject areas. This community of learners and teachers continues to soar amidst and above the dark loom.



Goodbye, until we meet again :

The unfortunate circumstances did not permit a ceremonious farewell to the commendable class of 2020. However, on the 8th of May, a two and a half hour long virtual gathering of all the teachers and students was held to bid them adieu. The students had a great time talking, laughing and reminiscing all the uncountable beautiful memories they had created with the Excelsior family. Each one of them had a lot to share; from exam jitters to fun school trips, they recalled how every day at Excelsior for them had been amusing in its own way. It was surely a very emotional moment for the students and the teachers as well. We have witnessed our dear students growing into talented and mature young adults. It is indeed difficult to say goodbye to a home full of memories.



Application: UK

Through UCAS - 5 college limit

80% success

- IB Predicted Grades
- Personal statement
- IOth results
- I.LOR (preferably from an HL teacher/subject that you are applying for)
- Personal information (form)
- Co-op/ No co-op

→ Education system: very rigid/ pre-defined

Application: Canada

College-specific websites

- IB Predicted Grades
- 12th grade midterm report card
- IOth results
- NO LOR
- Question & College specific essays (not for all courses)
- Interviews (not for all courses)
- Year abroad
- Co-op only offered by some colleges and courses

→ Education system: flexible

"Don't count on Universities waiving all your IELTS/TOEFL requirements, take them seriously. you'll need them for a student Visa / study permit - no prep. is required!"

Future Tensed:

In order to give clarity of Grade 11 Curriculum and subject choices to students and parents, orientation programs were conducted by subject teachers in the first two weeks of May. The course and assessment outlines along with the philosophy of each of the curriculums; CAIE and IBDP were discussed to empower the stakeholders to make informed decisions. Besides that, on the 13th of May a session was conducted by Ms. Abneeta, the EE coordinator to educate the students about one of the core component of IBDP - the extended essay. The following week had extended essay sessions which were all designed to go in depth for each of the subjects. Another online session was held for Grade 12 on the 23rd of May which was led by Ms. Anshika Malhotra, a senior school graduate who had recently procured admission offers from multiple top ranking universities from all around the world. The aim of the session was to guide the students through the process of college application filing.

All of these orientation programs ensured to lift some haze off the lens.

Timeline that I should have followed!

| Month | Key Action |
|-----------------------|---|
| January | Shortlisting country and a broad subject area |
| June-August | Profile Building |
| September | Start working on your college applications |
| November-December | Apply now! |
| Pre-Summer Break 2020 | |
| Post-Summer Break | |
| May | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your checklist ready • Make a list of things you have already done and things you are yet to do this summer |
| August Mid | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize a list of colleges and courses (in depth research required) |
| October first week | Early applications |
| January | Don't delay later than this, both UK and Canada are rolling bases |