

# C.G.S. Newsletter

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Special UNESCO Survey Supplement

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## UNESCO INSPIRED CGS SURVEY

*As we approach the two-year anniversary of the virtual school we felt it was important to reach out to parents to understand some of the challenges families are facing.*

*UNESCO released a study recently on the 'Adverse consequences of school closures.'*

*(<https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse/consequences>)*

*CGS circulated a survey based on their research to identify key areas that needed focussed attention. Your responses have been tabulated and are available for your perusal at the following link:*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzkxpeub80>*

*It has provided us with very useful information to shape strategies and identify areas that were of most importance. Four areas for our focus have emerged, which we will be working on:*



**Wellbeing:** 80% of parents agreed, or strongly agreed that mental wellbeing was a concern.

- ⇒ Additional in-house counsellors will be speaking with students on a weekly bases, and any that are identified as 'at risk' will be flagged to parents and connected to professional counsellors, if they wish
- ⇒ Remedial activities such as mindfulness, yoga, art and physical activities will be regularly offered
- ⇒ Teachers are being trained to identify behaviours of concern and enlist counsellor support if required



**Social integration:** 76% of parents agreed, or strongly agreed that the pandemic had affected children's social development and integration.

- ⇒ Class-time in physical school will include social activities and training for readjustment to school
- ⇒ Team games, projects and collaborations will be used to foster social interactions while learning
- ⇒ Gym, art, break-time and assemblies will all focus on social integration for all students



**Growth and Development:** 75% of parents agreed, or strongly agreed that the pandemic had deprived their children of growth and development.

- ⇒ We will be adjusting our syllabus targets to ensure we go at a pace that allows children to catch up
- ⇒ Assessments will be adjusted to allow for all types of learners to feel confident and score well
- ⇒ Inspiring and motivating students to reach their potential will be a top priority for our teachers



**Student-Teacher connection:** 64% of parents agreed, or strongly agreed that there was a loss of the student-teacher connection

- ⇒ Teachers are being trained to find ways to connect with their students and help re-adjustment to school life after the long gap
- ⇒ Small class sizes will help individual teachers to spend time with each student to re-connect
- ⇒ Additionally, the Champion Teacher Programme will continue to bond with students and families.

*The Covid pandemic has taken an immeasurable toll on most households and our children have been hugely impacted. Some of the effects may not be apparent for months or even years to come. You could say we are in the midst of another pandemic - the mental health pandemic!. It is essential that we work closely to ensure your children are well supported with families and school working together.*