

Dear students,

You might have heard that the IBO has decided to cancel the May 2020 sessions worldwide. They have done this out of concern for their students and schools due to the pandemic and the uncertainty it brings with it. They cannot guarantee the safety of their students and teachers, hence they need to cancel. Information for now is scarce; they have decided this and will let us know more in the next few weeks. Today they have planned an update as well as for March 27.

So, what does that mean for us?

1. Well, the IBO has only stated that all May exams are cancelled and that students will receive a certificate for what they have done so far. For this reason we have decided to continue the IOCs as planned so that the IBO has a better idea of what you are capable of. This is in your interest. However, if the IBO or the Dutch government takes different measures we have to reconsider. For the time being the IOCs are on until further notice. How and where will be communicated with you as well.
2. Besides that the IBO will provide documentation, Elde College will do the same. We will draft up a document providing information about what you as a student have done. I have done this as well for students who dropped out of the programme and we know universities take these seriously. Yours, of course, will be worth more because you have taken the exams and had to stop. Furthermore, the class of 2020, of any school, will be known as the Corona year, so people will know and understand.
3. I, as your IB teacher and coordinator, as well as the school, will keep you updated about any new events or developments. For now, I cannot really answer any questions because the IBO first needs to inform us about what they will do. We do not expect them to postpone the May exams, however, they might. They might let students take part in the November 2020 session or just cancel it and draw conclusions from what the students have done so far. The latter one, for now, seems to be the most obvious one, given that this is an international programme and organising this is an immense task to complete. But basically, for now: we really do not know. Again, we will keep you update as soon as we do.

For more information you can also read:

<https://www.ibo.org/news/news-about-the-ib/may-2020-examinations-will-no-longer-be-held/>

I am sorry because I understand that you feel that all the work you put into this has gone to waste. But keep in mind what I have always told you: I am not just getting you prepared for the IB exams, but also for the academic world. The skills you have learned throughout the years are not wasted. Yes, you did not get a chance to show your skills in the official exams, granted. But you should master these skills so that you can show them off when you do get to uni or college. Please, do not forget this!!! The exams are just there to round it all up; you have been trained for over two years and that is what will count!!

Our school is looking into all the consequences and will keep you updated as well. For now, focus on your Eldeweek 3 tests and make them count! It is a bizarre situation for everyone around the world, so we will have to make do. Safety and health come first, always!

I am not at school at the moment, so if you do want to have a chat or need to express something or anything, contact me via the chat and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Best wishes,
Miss Linders