



THE NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL BOARD  
PRESENTS

**THE ELC**  
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# STUDENT ZONE

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# EVERYTHING elc

All about events happening at elc  
International School Cyberjaya

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# Sports Day – Reinvented

by Anuj Saripalli (S.S.K.A)

The world has been facing a global health crisis, and it almost feels like the it has come to a standstill. Meanwhile, [elc](#) did its part for the greater good; emails were being sent out and teachers and parents alike were being prepared for e-learning. One of the most unfortunate consequences of the deadly virus though, was the halting of the much-anticipated Sports Day.

At first, it was decided that the well-planned event would take place without the presence of parents and visitors. This was a decision that was made to prevent the spread of the virus which tended to spread rapidly in crowded areas. In spite of these challenging times, [elc](#) persevered.

The four houses (Blue Sharks, Green Gators, Red Rhinos, and Yellow Eagles) worked hard for team events that took place during breaks and lunches. There were many surprises and celebrations when the houses achieved many feats - some that added onto the houses' previous records, and some that left all of us gobsmacked. Primary Basketball matches saw the Blue Sharks emerging as Champions with the Green Gators as runners-up. The Red Rhinos won 3rd place, while the Yellow Eagles came in last. The Yellow Eagles proved that they were fighters however, when they became runners-up for the Primary Dodgeball Match (Boys and Girls). Well done!

For Secondary Football, the Red Rhinos and Green Gators went head-to-head in a match that had the crowd at the edge of their seats. The match ended with the Red Rhinos seizing the coveted Gold and the Green Gators cutting it close in second place. The Blue Sharks and Yellow Eagles emerged 3rd and 4th respectively.

Moving on, the Under 11 Badminton Matches yielded amazing results! The Red Rhinos and Yellow Eagles pulled through in an intense match that resulted in another win for the Red Rhinos. The Green Gators, however, lost to the Blue Sharks. Nevertheless, both teams proved to be relentless in their efforts. Great job!

Last but not the least, the Tug of War Match was one of the best yet. Students all across [elc](#) Cyberjaya flocked to the field to cheer their teams on! The Green Gators snapped up the closely contested Gold, while the Blue Sharks came in second, Red Rhinos third and in final place, the Yellow Eagles.

The positions of the houses as of now, are:

- 1st: Blue Sharks (154)
- 2nd: Red Rhinos (139)
- 3rd: Yellow Eagles (138)
- 4th: Green Gators (131)

These events were held to encourage unity and a team spirit that is born out of unequivocal support of each other, especially during these unpredictable times. To all teams, well done!

# Lions Spark CNY Spirits in ELC!

Students and teachers alike were treated to a thrilling acrobatic lion dance performance in conjunction with Chinese New Year.

*By Hanson Tan with Aabir Roy and Anuj Saripalli*

Around the month of January, elc held the lion dance for the fabulous Chinese New Year. It truly was a fascinating sight. The students gathered in the MPH after their break and waited in anticipation of the performance that was sure to leave beaming faces in its wake. We waited for a short while as the performers prepared the costumes, fruits and equipment to make the lion dance a dance that everyone would remember.

The sounds of the clanging drums and cymbals caused a ripple effect as chatters of excitement filled the entire hall: The lion dance was beginning! Two lions emerged at the entrance to the basketball court. They were huge with bright red, yellow and neon-green coloured fur. Their heads were streaked with fiery-red hair and black horns in the center of their foreheads, giving them a formidable and bold appearance. They truly looked marvelous.

The lions' legs and feet were covered in spiral-shaped fur, and special selections of ancient Chinese sandals covered their large feet. They were accompanied by the Big Head Buddha, a man wearing a Buddha face mask and a brightly-coloured robe. During the performance, the lions walked around the court and danced with great joy as students reached out to feel the brightly colored fur.



They made sure to gift students with Mandarin oranges, a symbol of good luck. They threw the orange citruses up into the air, which made all the students jump up in hopes of catching one.

It wasn't long before the lions moved to the centre of the hall and began eating the assortment of fruits arranged neatly in a circle. One of the lions soon got up and accompanied the Big Head Buddha along with another worker to hand-out oranges to students from the Lower Primary Division. Children crowded around the box to collect the deliciously sweet, tender citron. The other lion, who was chomping away on a pineapple, scattered the bits of the pineapple. The lion then joined its partner for a final dance.

Afterwards, the Principal, Ms Kothai, the Head of Secondary, Ms Arbas and the Head of Primary, Ms Camarino arrived and stood in the centre with both lions flanking them on either side. Meanwhile, another worker gave the group a bowl of fruits and other goodies, all before the lions dropped their special "scrolls of luck" from their mouths and the CNY finale photo of 2020 was taken.

The loud music still continued as the musicians left the court with the magnificent lions and instruments following closely behind them. The sounds soon faded into silence, but excitement remained in the air, for this was a performance students would remember forever. What a way to end the Chinese New Year celebrations indeed!



# HELPING THE EARTH

## The Eco Club combats climate change with Earth Hour



*Promise Tree, created by Primary Arts teacher, Ms. Bushra and filled with promises from the students to Earth.*

The Eco Club of [elc](#) Cyberjaya decided to participate and help bring to light the climatic crisis the Earth is currently facing by encouraging fellow students and teachers to take part in the Earth Hour.

The Earth Hour is an initiative of WWF (World Wildlife Fund) that began back in 2007 and has continued to make waves in bringing awareness to climate change and has since become a catalyst for positive environmental awareness.

[elc](#) has always been an environmentally-friendly school and it's students and teachers have always done their part in ensuring that there is no wastage around the school. So, for this year's Earth Hour, Eco Club members and teachers came up with activities to help bring awareness and remind students that caring for and protecting nature never goes out of style.

The activities were to be led by Eco Club members were scheduled to be held throughout the month of March. The first week consisted of Year 4 members introducing the Earth Hour initiative to the rest of the school. It involved brief presentations of facts during break and lunch. Secondary students prepared for speeches and posters to be put up around school and on the school Facebook page.

The second week involved classroom walks and talks. Representatives of Eco Club went from classroom to classroom to show videos and conduct mini quiz sessions for the Lower Primary Division. The whole school was also encouraged to switch off class lights during break and lunch with the help of class monitors and Eco Club committee members checking each block to ensure that this directive was complied with. Secondary students did a lot of walking and carrying as they were assigned to start collecting resources by placing a specific recycling box in each class. On the other hand, Primary students had their hands full with promises and leaves! A promise tree was created with the help of the Primary Arts teacher, Ms. Bushra, which was then put up in the concourse area of [elc](#) Cyberjaya. Leaves, made out of recycled paper, filled with promises from the students to do better for the future of the Earth, were then pinned onto the Promise Tree.

Even though the month-long plan for Earth Hour had to be cut short due to the sudden outbreak of Covid-19, [elc](#) Cyberjaya and it's students and teachers were able to fulfil their roles in protecting the Earth. Hopefully, with all of the awareness instilled during the short two weeks, students and teachers will continue looking for and practising different ways to help the environment and the Earth.

# 2020 - The Year of Unprecedented Events

The IGCSEs have been cancelled in an unprecedented move by the IGCSE Board.

by Aabir Roy, [happy.aabir@gmail.com](mailto:happy.aabir@gmail.com)

All around the globe, an important and a milestone of an examination, the **IGCSEs** have been cancelled for students the world over. IGCSE stands for the International General Certificate of Secondary Education, and is an academically rigorous, internationally recognised and specialised English Language curriculum which is offered to students to prepare them for the International Baccalaureate and CIE A-level. But why has it been cancelled?

Well, it's not all that hard to understand: The current COVID-19 situation erupting all over the world involves a lot of uncertainties with regards to its cure and recovery. The pandemic has struck almost all countries around the world and has forced numerous schools (including [elc](#)) and colleges to shut down. Without joint preparatory efforts from both the teachers and the students, the exam is hard to crack, which is likely to impact their results. Moreover, given the spike in the number of COVID-19 cases thus far, our battle with the virus seems to be far from over, therefore colliding with the prospective IGCSE exam schedule. Thus, it is evident that this cancellation was inevitable.

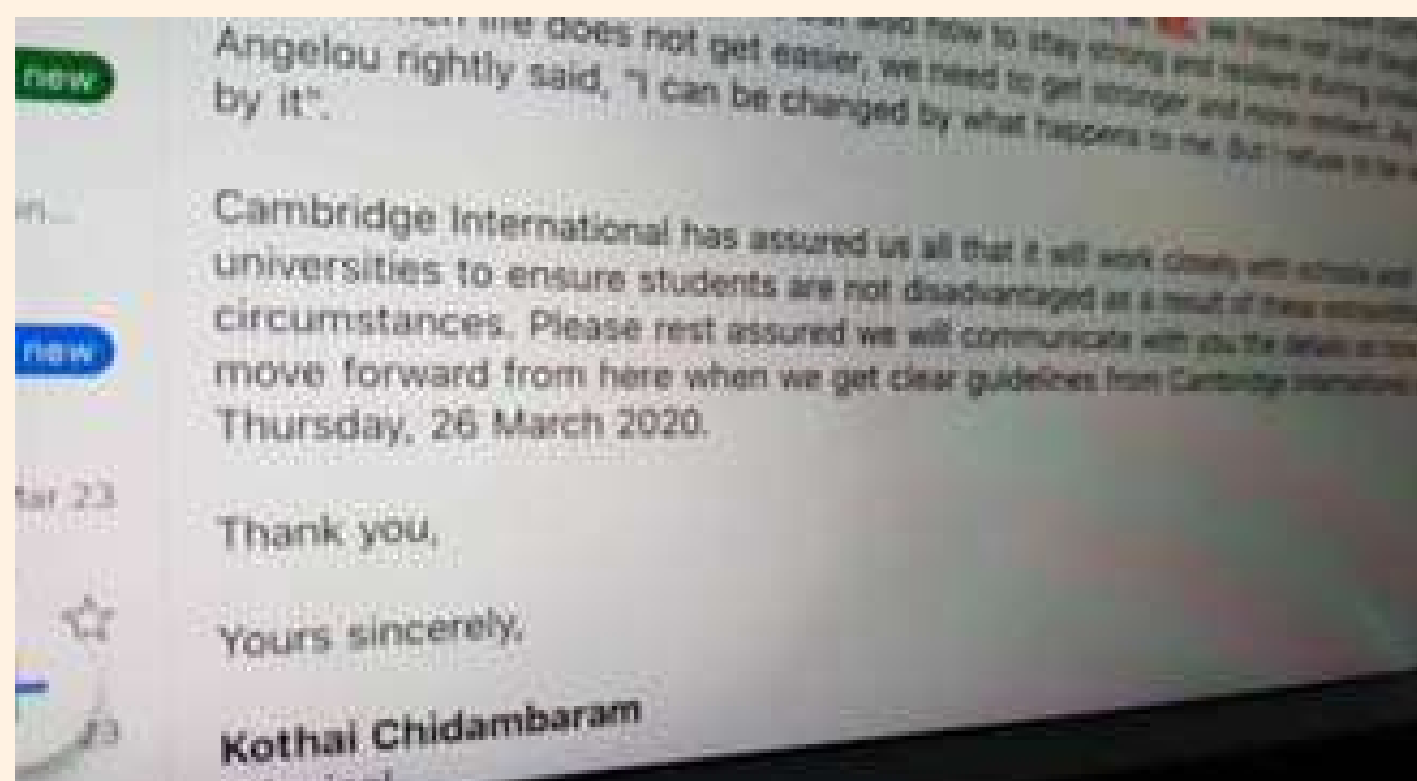
The IGCSE board has directed all countries outside of the United Kingdom to cancel the exam, creating pandemonium among students all over the world. The Cambridge board supported their decision by stating,

*"In recent days, many more countries have decided to extend school closures into May and June, making it impossible for many of our schools to hold examinations... We have been consulting closely with our global community of schools, who need as much certainty as possible at an uncertain time... (cont.)"*

*...Our priority is to protect the safety and well-being of our students and teachers, ensure fairness for all our students and support them in continuing with their education. Today, therefore, we have taken the difficult decision not to run our international examinations in the May/June 2020 series in any country."*

Ms. Kothai, our Principal, has sent out a formal email on behalf of the school to all related parents regarding the cancellation of the IGCSE exams, and has also stated that the Cambridge board will be guiding schools on how to counterbalance the cancellation of this exam.

Yes, this cancellation could have an adverse effect on some students; nevertheless, students are encouraged to be resilient as Maya Angelou rightly quotes, "I can be changed by what happens to me, but I refuse to be reduced by it."



The email sent by Ms. Kothai from [elc](#) to all parents of students who were scheduled to take the exam. (Source: Anuj Saripalli, [elc](#) International)

# The Interact Club Does Their Part

## Service Above Self

This year, the **Interact Club** organised an event that called on the student body, teachers and parents of **elc** Cyberjaya to do their part in giving back to society, through an initiative dubbed the Interact Book Drive. It was a big idea that required all hands on deck, but they pulled it off successfully, thanks to a whole lot of teamwork. To speed up the process and ensure utmost efficiency in the managing of the event, the club decided to allocate tasks to each group so that all members shared in the responsibility of making the event a successful one. Each group was responsible for the collection of pre-loved books from the lower primary, upper primary, and secondary divisions respectively.

The members of the club also created numerous eye-catching posters that were purposed at informing students, teachers and parents alike about the book drive. These posters were then put up around the school. Each team created attractive donation boxes for students and teachers to drop off their book donations, that were placed strategically in the front office.



Numerous discussions were conducted with club members to ensure that all members were doing their part in making sure that the school was well-informed about the book drive, as well as sessions for checking that the books donated complied with the terms and conditions set by the Community Library, an initiative spearheaded by the NGO Hub that receives donated books from the public and channels them to the building of libraries for underprivileged children all over the country. There were, however, quite a few books that weren't suitable for donating, like textbooks. But the crafty Interact Club decided not to let these valuable resources go to waste and instead donated many of the books to our school library and to the Eco Club.

Books were collected over a period of 4 days -the 2nd to the 6th of March. Book donations came pouring in, rapidly filling up the boxes that were set up, truly showing that with teamwork, the sky's the limit! The Interact Club hopes that these books would be of great help, giving children the gift of dreaming and imagining the sky and beyond. Truly, this wonderful book drive by the Interact Club has emphasised the power of Service Above Self.

*By Geethika and Aabir Roy*







# THE WORLD

Global news ranging from  
sports to health



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# Coronavirus? More like Corona Chaos. Everywhere.

*The virus that has killed more than 3400 people and left more than 100,000 in suffering is taking over the world.*

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By Aabir Roy, [happy.aabir@gmail.com](mailto:happy.aabir@gmail.com)

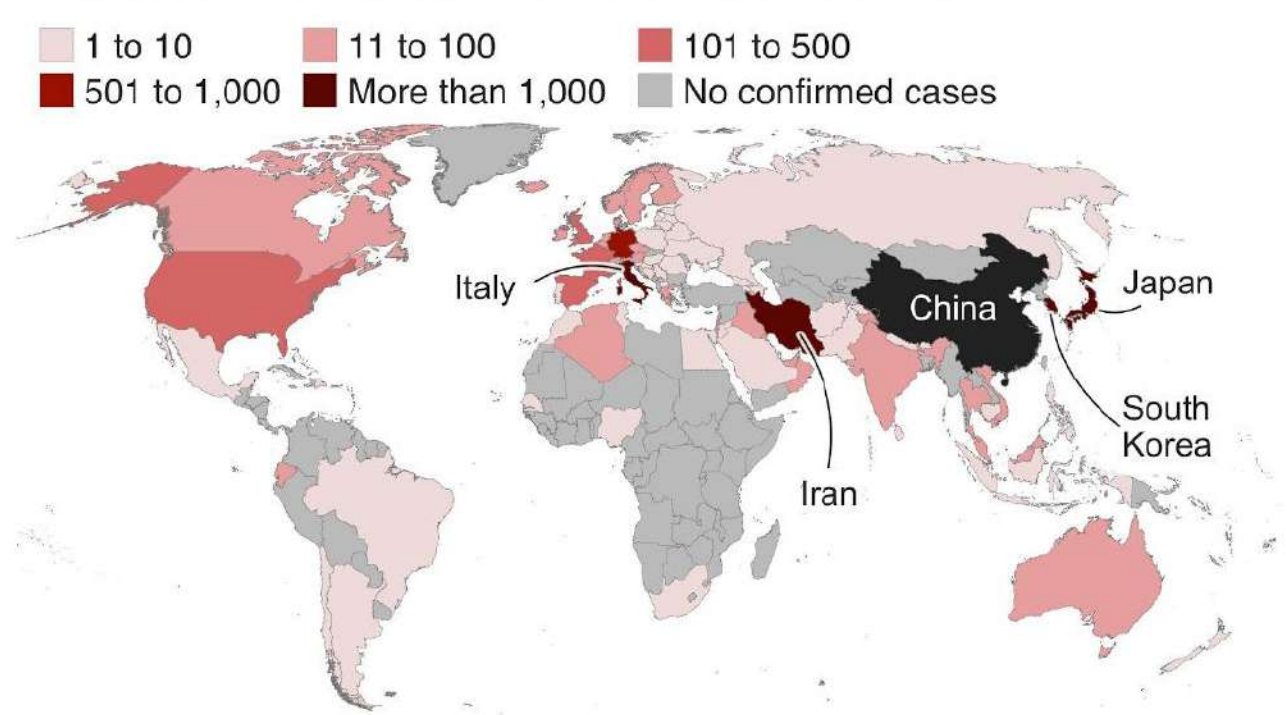
In the past few months, China has been hit hard by the emergence of a new type of Coronavirus, which has, in fact, wreaked havoc throughout the world, resulting in a mounting death toll of over 32,000 and a further 686,000 in treatment. It has crashed stock markets, closed down schools, and most importantly, endangered all 7.7 billion people and their souls. So what exactly is this “coronavirus”?

According to the **WHO**, Coronaviruses (**CoV**) are a large family of **viruses** that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (**MERS-CoV**) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (**SARS-CoV**). A novel coronavirus (**nCoV**) is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans. This new coronavirus is named **COVID-19** and originated in **Wuhan, Hubei** and was traced back to a **Huanan** seafood wholesale market selling live bats, civet rats, peacocks, and snakes. No, this isn't some fancy pet store but a market that sold these animals for **consumption**. These are eaten as delicacies throughout the whole of China and are sold illegally despite the **ban** on the trade of these animals set by the Chinese government.

So what are its impacts on the population of China? Well, based on statistical data, 3,004 of the total 3400 deaths and 80,559 of the 100,000 infected people are citizens of China alone. This is important to know as it

would help us recognize the extent of harm Coronavirus has inflicted on a global scale (*Source A*).

## Cases of coronavirus outside China



Source: WHO, health ministries. Updated: 6 Mar 10:00 GMT

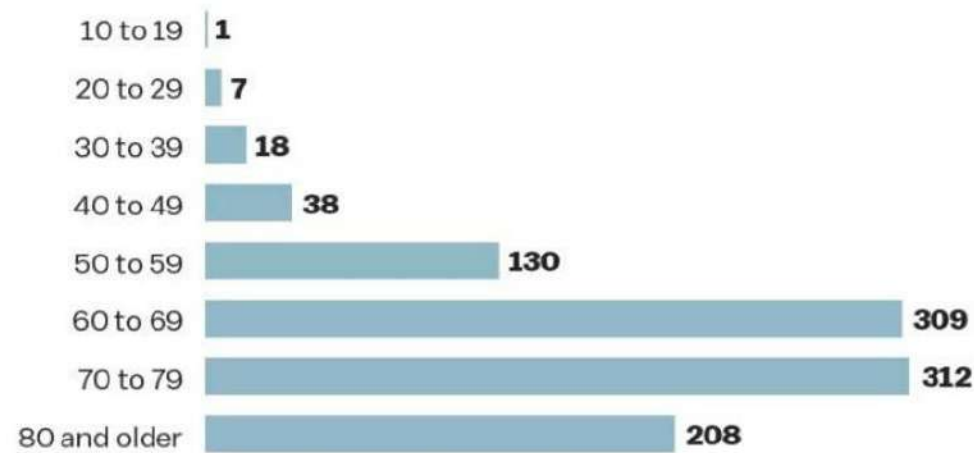
BBC

*Source A: A map showing the number of Coronavirus cases outside of China. Source: WHO, BBC News.*

The Coronavirus struck at an unfortunate time as the Lunar New Year supervised the movement of a huge population from all over the world into China for the festive holidays, and the risk of the spread of the virus. Consequently, mobility has been restricted in Hubei, the epicentre of the outbreak being locked down immediately, prohibiting citizens to leave or enter the province. In a nutshell, both internal and external population movement has reduced significantly in China. Another finding that is quite surprising is that the younger population has suffered fewer deaths compared to older populations. (*Source B*).

## Deaths from Covid-19 in mainland China, by age group

As of February 11, 2020



Source: *The Epidemiological Characteristics of an Outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) – China, 2020*, China CDC

Vox

Source B: This graph provided by Vox Media indicates the number of deaths grouped based on age. The source is listed in the image.

During an interview with the Assistant Director-General of the WHO Dr. Bruce Aylward to clear the fog on why exactly is there such a difference in the number of deaths of the younger and elderly age group. This is what he had to say:

***“The elderly are dying of an inflammatory process in their lungs due to the coronavirus, and they have a weak immune response. On the other hand, there are many possibilities as to why children are not being affected, one of the most likely is that they get infected but have a low expression of disease. Why? The receptors of the virus bind to the lungs that aren’t very mature in children, hence they are unable to develop”***

The effects that the Coronavirus has had on economies and industries both inside and outside of China is nothing measly. One of the negative impacts it has had is on the transportation industry; after the public found out that the Coronavirus transmits from one person to another by droplets (mucus, saliva, tears), many have stopped commuting to areas such as malls, restaurants, and recreational spots using public transport. As a precaution, numerous schools throughout China have been shut down, giving rise to online learning software such as turbulence is very evident in the stock market records throughout the world, not just China (Source D).

iTutorGroup, where one can communicate with other students online (Source C). These are all attempts to prevent people from entering crowded areas where there may be higher risks of the transmission of the virus.



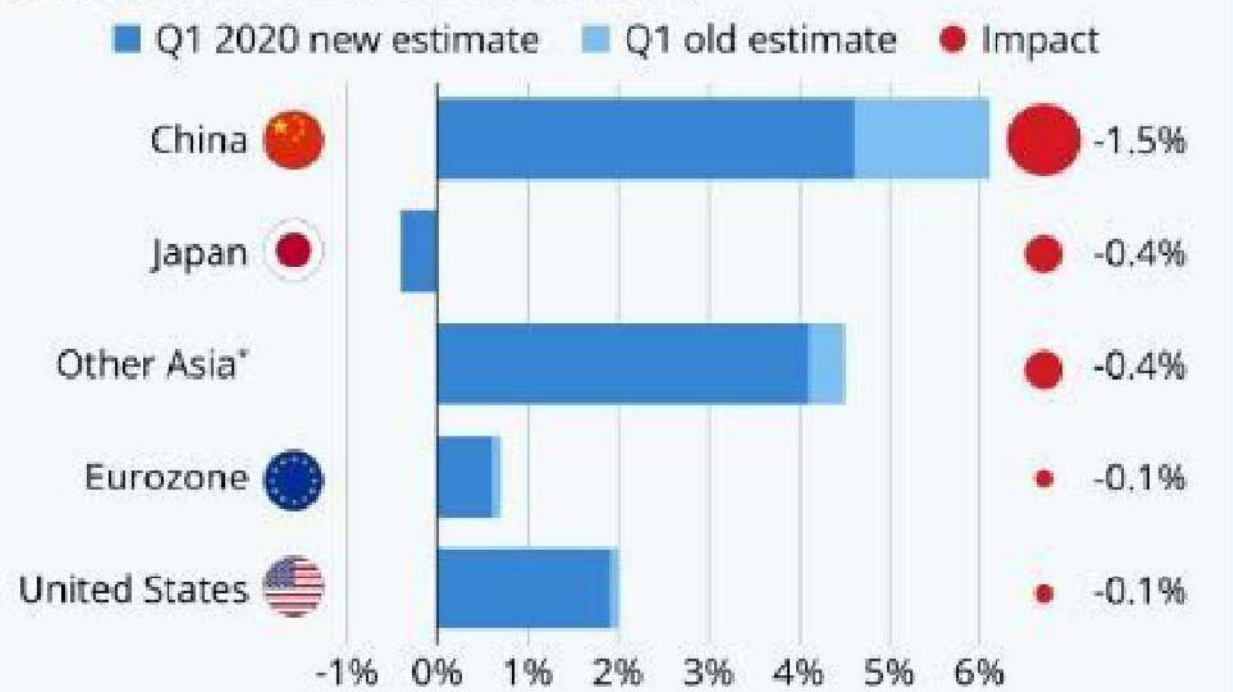
Source C: Wang Guanxin of the iTutorGroup instructs fellow teachers how to teach online in Shanghai on Feb. 7. (Noel Celis/AFP/Getty Images)

But we should mention that there are a few positive impacts on industries as well, as China’s government has become much more transparent through social media platforms such as WeChat and Weibo, both of which has played an important role in reflecting public opinion during the outbreak, prompting the Chinese government to respond and adjust policies accordingly. The outbreak has accelerated the application of new technologies as well. Social communication has been greatly diversified, making room for efficient and online measures of interaction. This trying time is also shaping the entrepreneurship of the private sector. Many businesses have been driven not only by profits but also a desire to provide a social good.

Medical industries inflated overnight to meet the increased demand for sanitizers, masks and medicines. In fact, exorbitant demand of these supplies in many countries (including Malaysia) has imbued the government to call into effect laws prohibiting the excessive cost of these products, including masks. Automobile and aviation industries are suffering as well, not only due to the fall in consumer demand but also a drop in the functioning of their manufacturing plants as their employees prefer staying at home to minimise the chances of incurring the dreadful disease. Economic

## Coronavirus Expected to Put Damper on Global GDPs

Estimated impact of Wuhan coronavirus on the growth of global GDPs (2020 projections)



Source D: According to an analysis by Deutsche Bank, the effects of the coronavirus will lower global GDP growth in 2020, setting back global growth forecasts by 0.2 per cent. Source: Statista, derived from Deutsche Bank.

There are many key takeaways for the whole world from this entire episode of the Coronavirus chaos; offline-driven businesses have to begin to shift online, especially in education, entertainment, and retail; smart cities have to be made to systematically enhance public management by integrating traffic, emergency and disaster warning; and social media is changing the world, whether it through setting hygiene guidelines, formulating legal measure or creating massive public awareness about serious health issues and the importance of quarantine.

As of now, the miracle we can hope for is the invention of a corona vaccine, but it (if we are lucky) would only be available earliest at the end of summer 2021, according to NIH director Anthony Fauci. Till then, we can only prepare for the worst and hope for the best. After all, for now, we are at the very least aware of the truth behind Dr. Bruce Alwyrd's statement when he said, ***"This is a disease that is in the cases and their close contacts. It's not a hidden enemy lurking behind bushes."***

The **elc** Gazette, Cyberjaya

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ALL SITES ACCESSED ON 6th MARCH 2020

# Premier League Title As Good As In The Bag For Reds

Liverpool fans, rejoice! Liverpool is in first place in the Premier League, beating Man City by 19 points

With only 11 games left, Liverpool's team stands a strong chance of beating Manchester City's phenomenal record of winning games in the 2018-2019 Premier League season. Speaking of Man City, they are in second place – with an astonishing difference of 19 points. The match between Manchester City and Leicester City ended in a 1-0 win for City as Gabriel Jesus scored the winning goal after Aguero missed a penalty shot 12 yards out.



*The fabulous Liverpool F.C team standing together  
(Source: worldfootball.net)*

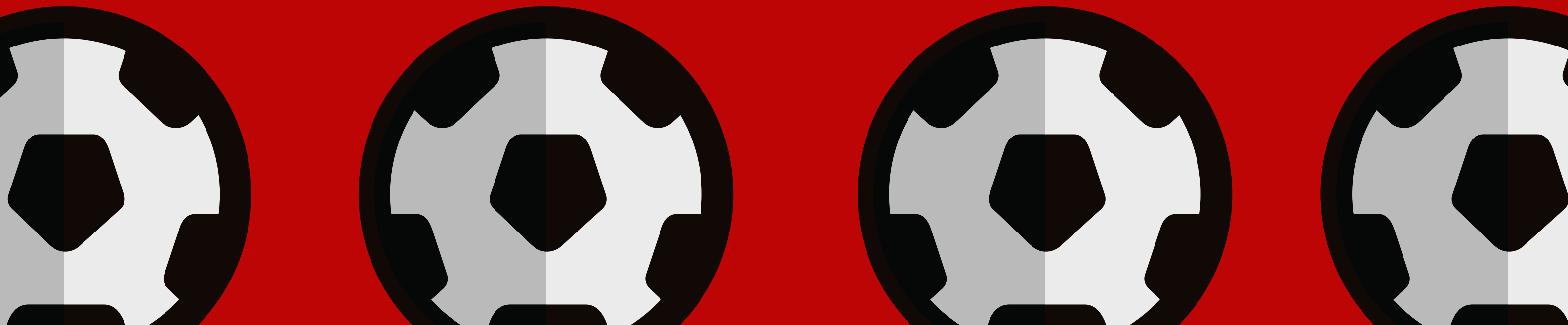
As far as Manchester United goes (City's rivals), Bruno Fernandes scored his first ever Premier League goal yesterday against Watford in 19th place. Speaking of Manchester United, a VAR controversy arose when they played against Chelsea on February 18th where United won 2-0. The first goal for Chelsea scored by Olivier Giroud was cancelled as it was offside. The second goal was also cancelled out as Cesar Azpilicueta pushed an opponent, but only did so as he was being pushed by Fred. Adding onto the heat, Harry Maguire kicked Michy Batshuayi and the latter went down – surprisingly, the offender did not receive a warning. Following this, Maguire went on to score United's second goal.

In other news, Chelsea beat their London rivals – Tottenham Hotspurs – in a hotly contested 2-1 win, making up for the 3 points they lost against Manchester United. Chelsea's goals were scored by Olivier Giroud and Marcus Alonso. However, an own goal from Antonio Rudiger gave Spurs a life-line.

As for Arsenal, Aubameyang scored a brace (2 goals) against Everton to grab the win for the North London side. Adding onto that, Arsenal's attacking fullback, Saka, has been performing especially well for the Gunners, with an assist in his last game along with an assist against Everton.

To top it all off, this was definitely a proud moment for all Liverpool fans and marked a fantastic start to the Premier League season.

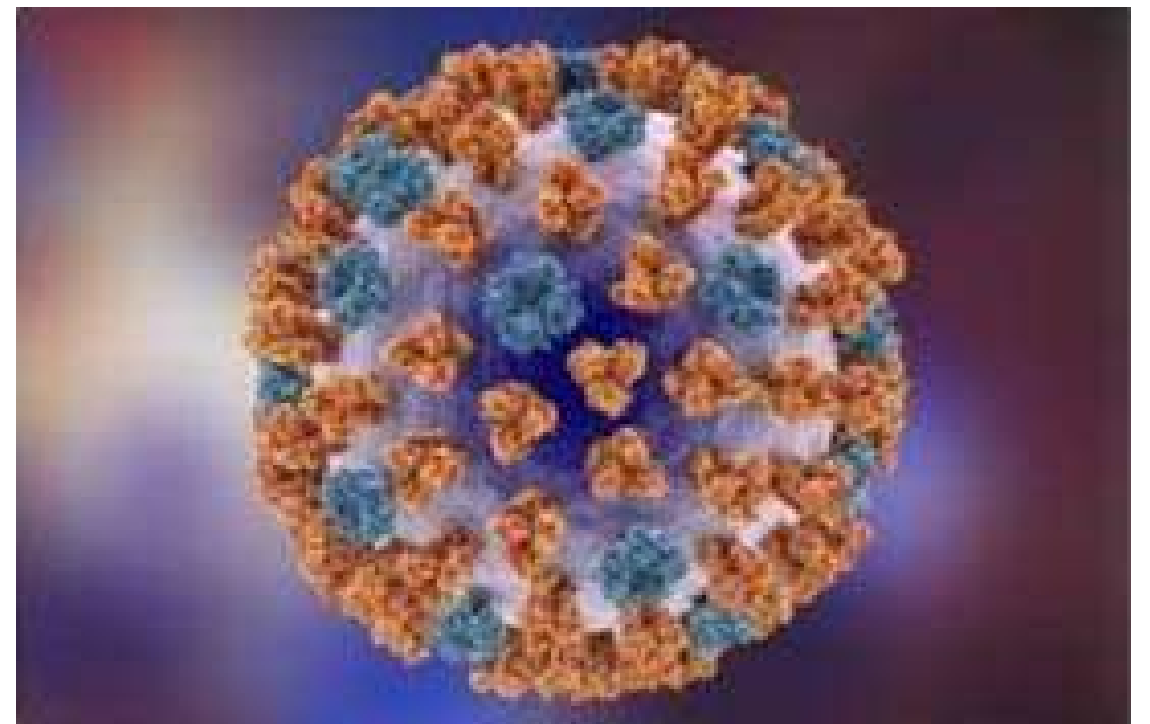
*By Dylan Fernandez with Aabir Roy and Anuj Saripalli*



# Influenza A: The Virus Slowly Ravaging Malaysia

Before Corona, there was Influenza. Little did we know the onslaught of disaster it was going to bring.

The **Influenza A** (H1N1) outbreak has spread throughout the country, with schools forced to close and parents scrambling to vaccinate their children to prevent this disease from infecting them. The first few cases were recorded in December of 2019, and the flu has spread to many states in Malaysia, affecting citizens by the thousands. The Government, however, quickly assured the citizens of Malaysia that the situation was under control as they worked around the clock to ensure sufficient vaccines were being made available to medical facilities to curb the spread of Influenza A. The million dollar question is, however, what exactly is the Influenza A?



*A render of what the Influenza A virus might look like under the microscope. (Source: NewsMedical.com)*

According to officials, "The flu virus is officially designated by the WHO as Influenza A (H1N1), following a name change from swine flu to avoid suggestions that eating pork products carried a risk of infection, and is referred as such by Malaysia's Health Minister. Another one of our trusted sources say, "The 2009 flu outbreak in Malaysia is part of a larger flu pandemic involving a new type of influenza A virus subtype H1N1 (A (H1N1)) virus. The first death related to the A(H1N1) virus was reported on 23rd July 2009 and so far, there have been 78 deaths reported."

Lately, there has been a string of forwarded messages on social media warning of the rise in influenza cases in the country. The Ministry had reassuringly said previously that as a tropical country, Malaysia records influenza infections throughout the year, but at a very low rate. The ministry still advises citizens to be cautious, and to take preventive measures at all times, with health and hygiene being practised more by Malaysia in order to fight this virus.

After all, only time will tell if Malaysia would be able beat this virus successfully, but until then, stay healthy, wash your hands, and we will see you next time!

*By Geethika with Aabir Roy and Anuj Saripalli*



# EDUCATION

A different take on the field  
of Education

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# How to Crack the End of Year Exams Like A Pro!

In this guide, we will show you all there is to know about the End of Year Exams, and how to ace that test!

Today, we will be giving you a guide on what the End of Year Exams are like and how to ace them effortlessly.

## What is an End of Year Exam?

An End of Year Exam is an assessment that is administered toward the end of an academic year.

## How long is the Exam?

The time allotted for each subject varies. 5 minutes prior to the completion of the exam, students would be asked to go through their papers for a final time before submitting it to their respective invigilators.

## How can we prepare for our exams?

There are many ways in which we can prepare for our exams, but here are a few main steps most of us students go through in preparation for exams:

- **Review class notes:** Creating mind maps filled with diagrams that are easily comprehensible is a sure-fire technique to get those brain juices flowing! This nevertheless requires a good grasp of all subject matter; as such it would be a good idea to go through class notes provided by subject teachers before attempting said mind map.
- **Take a mock test:** You should try out the activities in your textbooks but make sure to time yourself and attempt those activities as if they were questions in an actual exam.
- **Study with your classmates:** This helps in taking a different approach to a certain concept which could come in handy when faced with questions that are opinion-based, or require different perspectives.

- **Go through your previous test papers, or the online IGCSE papers:** By doing so, it allows one to acknowledge their mistakes, and prevents them from making the same mistake twice.
- **Create a timetable a month prior to the exams:** This is very much advisable, because it sets daily goals and helps the student work efficiently.
- **Rest:** We often take this for granted, and never pay heed to it, but one should know that this is the most crucial components in sustaining students during a time as intense as this, as this also helps in preventing anxiety.

*By Dhaniyah Balamurugan with Aabir Roy and Anuj Saripalli*



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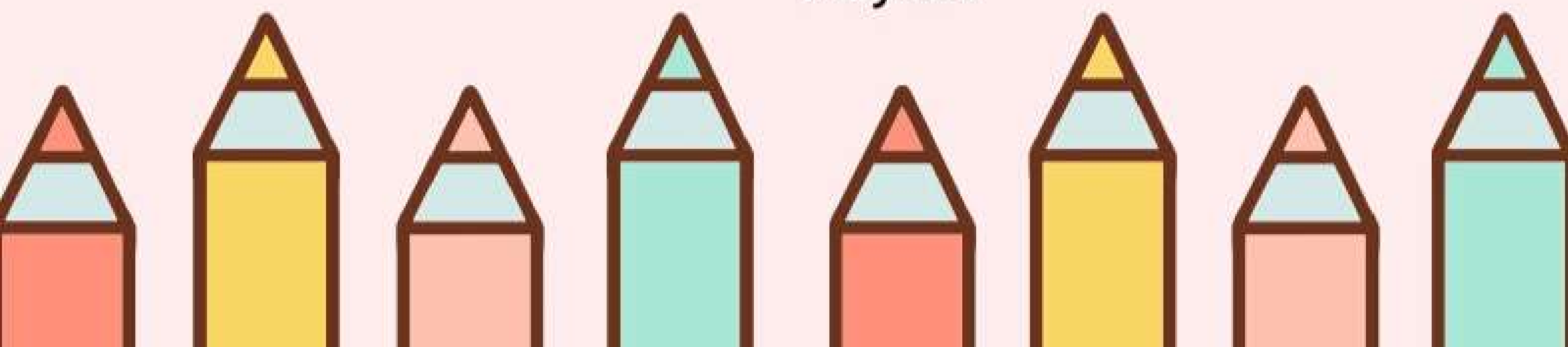
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