

June [2021]

IB World Schools

A portfolio serving Australian, New Zealand, Pacific, South East Asian, East Asian & North Asian schools, Networks and Associations.



Steve Wishart
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

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Dear Heads of school, Programme Coordinators and Teachers,

I hope you are all well. In addition to recent resources shared on Programme Communities and Heads Engage, I have created a mid year newsletter to highlight some of the support currently available.

I have been hosting weekly Zoom meetings for interested educators, offering assistance with the following topics:

- Evaluation processes under the 2014 standards and Practices
- Evaluation processes under the 2020 standards and Practices
- Discussion regarding Preliminary review
- Conversation regarding Programme Development Planning
- General questions or concerns pertaining to the local context

Educators joining the Zoom have the opportunity to ask questions, share practice, compare approaches with other practitioners and/or collaborate with other schools working through evaluation processes or the challenging circumstances currently faced by schools. These meetings are open to school leaders, programme coordinators or teachers across IB programmes.

In addition to weekly Zoom meetings, schools are taking advantage of the opportunity to schedule a meeting with me via Zoom to discuss a range of topics. Feel free to share any concerns, raise matters that I can follow up with IB departments, or ask questions specific to your schools context. Let me know how I can be of support to your school.

Warm regards,

Steve Wishart

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Next IB Global Conference

Due to COVID-19, the IB has decided to only have virtual conferences in 2021:

IBA and IBAEM: **IB Virtual Conference** October 18th – 22nd, 2021

<https://www.ibo.org/ib-virtual-conference-americas-africa-europe-middle-east-2021/>

Free Learning on the *Programme Standards and Practices 2020*

The IB has created [four free nanoPDs](#) on the new *Programme Standards and Practices 2020*. They will help you to better understand the new standards and get ready for your development plans. As you know, schools are supposed to always have a minimum of one and a maximum of three development plans running concurrently, and you are required to share one completed Development Plan for your next evaluation after you had time to reflect on its challenges and results. If you want to know more about the new evaluation process 2020, don't hesitate to contact me directly.

New resources for PYP

The IB has developed a [collection of resources](#) in collaboration with PYP coordinators. They provide practical examples and experiences to support the implementation of the programme. The PYP coordinator has a number of different roles and responsibilities, and these resources aim to provide ideas, strategies and useful tips for understanding and implementing the PYP.

The IB has created a new page on the public website for [Resources for PYP school](#). You will find there several useful tools, such as the [PYP resource guide](#) that compiles for all resources in a user-friendly way.

The IB has also developed [four series of free nanoPDs](#) dedicated to PYP. The series have four key topics: *Supporting understanding of key characteristics of PYP leading to authorization*, *Engaging with the PYP enhancements*, *Innovating in the PYP* and *The learning Community*.

New resources for DP

The IB has developed [resources for DP Sciences](#) through videos presenting the internal assessment process and discussions between examiners.

New resources for CP

On top of [the already existing nanoPDs](#) for authorization, the IB has developed a [free nanoPD](#) on the CP Reflective project.

The IB has also created new infographics, new case studies and new documents (such as posters) for CP to support schools. You can find them on [our website](#).

New resources for coordinators

The IB has created the [IB Coordinator Resource](#) to support coordinators with their roles and tasks in programme development in their schools. This resource covers all four programmes.

The IB COVID-19 Fund

COVID-19 continues to disrupt education systems worldwide, and the IB understands the unprecedented challenges and severe financial strain our global community are faced with. The [COVID-19 Fund](#) is a firm step forward protecting our schools from the effects of this health and economic crisis. The aim of the fund is to support candidate and authorized schools that are financially impacted by the pandemic. The fund is expected to be available through the end of the 2021-2022 academic year or until the allotted funds are fully dispersed, whichever occurs first. Please find more information and how to apply on [our website](#).

DP – May 2021: Understanding assessment during COVID-19

We know that schools, teachers and students around the world continue to experience tremendous challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have therefore created [a webpage](#) where we share videos and information to explain the principles and processes that will enable us to award results for both the exam route and the non-exam route, how we will maintain fairness across both routes and how we will consider the impact of the pandemic throughout the awarding process.

DP – November 2021

To support you for the November 2021 exam session, we invite you to look at the documents available on the *Programme Resource Centre*. You will find them under [Learning and teaching - Assessment sessions 2021](#).

DP – May/November 2022

To support you for the May/November 2022 exam sessions, the IB has published several documents on the *Programme Resource Centre*. You will find the [adaptations and guidelines](#) for both sessions, as well as the [examination schedule for May 2022](#).

IB Voices

[IB Voices](#) is the new, official podcast from the IB, where students, teachers and education experts with a passion for the IB bring aspects of our programmes to life, all in under 20 minutes. Join us regularly for new episodes, recorded in English, French or Spanish according to the language of the presenters. These podcasts will energize and inspire your learning and teaching, provide tips and strategies for bringing the IB to life in the classroom, and introduce you to members of our global community. You can [subscribe](#) and access our podcasts on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Stitcher](#) or [RSS Feed](#).

IB Research

In order to make evidence-based improvement to our programme, the IB conducts a wealth of curriculum research. These studies support the review of curricula across the IB's programmes, improve the effectiveness of teaching and learning, and explore initiatives, strategies and challenges encountered by schools, students and teachers. Some research are per programme while others are cross-programme studies.

I would like to point out our latest research studies:

- [Audit of the IB approaches to teaching \(2021\)](#)
- [Making the abstract explicit: The role of metacognition in teaching and learning \(2021\)](#)
- [What is well-being? \(2021\)](#)
- [Why well-being matters during a time of crisis \(2020\)](#)
- [Annotated bibliographies – Research on the IB from 2020](#)
- [How do IB students perform in UK higher education in comparison with A-level students? \(2021\)](#)
- [Global mindedness of DP and CP students \(2021\)](#)
- [PYP and MYP performance on the International Schools' Assessment \(2021\)](#)
- [Key findings from research on the impact of the Diploma Programme \(2021\)](#)

Programme Communities/ Heads Engage Communities

Programme Communities and Heads Engage communities have been established to connect educators across IB networks and regions. Please explore the options available to you and your staff. I have also developed a number of Australasian portfolio specific communities that school leaders, programme coordinators and teachers can join. Please access the link below for further information.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ukZl7PVovpBE7a-Ko1bqVpNz6H3Kf14z/view?usp=sharing>