

## MS TEAMS – ENHANCING ONLINE LEARNING

Dear Parents,



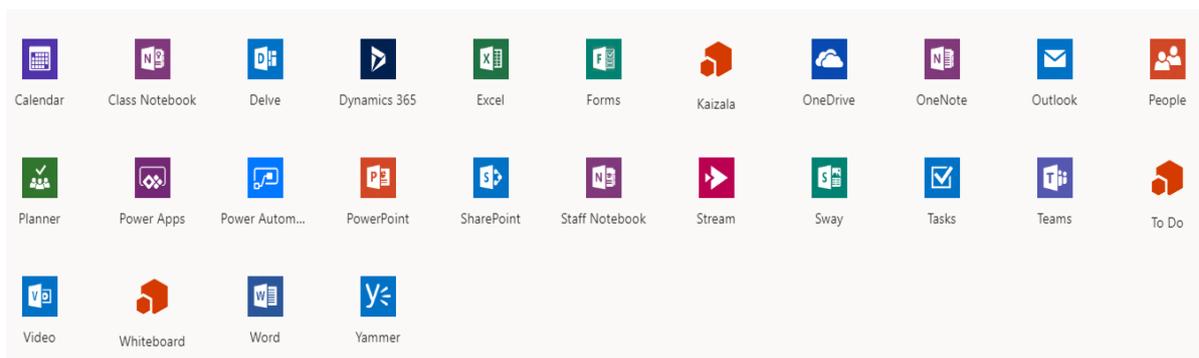
In May, the Ministry of Education asked all schools to enhance their remote online learning capabilities in preparation for the possibility that schools may not be allowed to reopen in September 2020. NIS has devoted many hours to exploring different options and finding the most suitable solution for the NIS Community.

As a result, after carefully reviewing and SLT voting on a number of possible platforms NIS has decided to utilise Microsoft Teams, via Microsoft Office 365 as a platform to deliver “virtual classroom” enhancements. This will be integrated with, and to supplement the provision, within Show My Homework.

**What is MS Teams?** Microsoft Teams is a Learning Management System {LMS} where students can work closely with teachers and fellow students to communicate and work on assignments online. Importantly, unlike some other LMS tools Microsoft guarantees a secure online learning platform, which is synchronous across multiple devices.

In the event of extended school closure NIS will be utilising MS Teams as follows

- a) Live interactive classes, with video, will happen every day for all students from G1 – 12, which allow for live question and answer, class hands up facility to notify the teacher that a child has a question, and a live and interactive whiteboard for teachers and students to show examples.
- b) Question and answer sessions between students and teachers will be incorporated live.
- c) Audio and video lessons will be recorded live, to allow students to replay the lesson repeatedly.
- d) Assignments can be set and submitted, with feedback from teachers.
- e) From posting assignments to holding study sessions, Teams offers a host of features to enhance their education.
- f) Integration with some of the MS Apps below



**Parents should be aware that this facility will be available at the start of the academic year to those students who are fully enrolled on or before 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2020. These students will have access from 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2020. Any students who have not fully enrolled by 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2020, will not be given access until at least Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.**

Of course, we hope that the C19 pandemic subsides and that as a result the KSA Authorities will open the schools as normal. However, in the event that this is not the case NIS will supply detailed instructions and student timetables in August.

Sincerely,

Mr. Tony {June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020}