INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS UNIT

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

FDUCATION UPDATES

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SECTION: SCHOOL



May 19 [The Guardian] 'It's barbaric': some US children getting hit at school despite bans. Students of color and those with disabilities are disproportionately subjected to corporal punishment, which continues despite widespread bans and evidence of harm. LINK



May 7 [CNBC] During Covid, more families switch to private school from public education. Private schools, which generally have larger campuses, smaller classes and greater autonomy, often demonstrated more flexibility when it came to reopening. LINK



May 4 [Reuters] Biden pushes 17 years of free school, asks companies and wealthy to pay 'fair share'. The second plan would expand America's 13 years of free public schooling at both ends, adding two years of preschool for 3-and 4-year olds and two years of community college for those who have completed high school. <u>LINK</u>

SECTION: SPECIAL EDUCATION



May 19 [Straits Times] Parents of children with special needs better prepared for HBL this time. Parents of children with special needs said they are more prepared this time for managing space at home or getting to grips with technology during home-based learning (HBL) this year, having learnt from their experiences during the circuit breaker a year ago. LINK



May 13 [The Guardian] Pupils in England 'waiting up to five years for special needs plan' Children with special educational needs and disabilities face long delays and bureaucratic hurdles before getting extra support from local authorities in England, with those from better-off families able to pay for private services, according to a report by Ofsted. LINK

SECTION: COVID-19



May 18 [India Today] How Covid-19 pandemic has affected foreign education in 2021 According to a recent survey conducted by iSchoolConnect, only 14.5% of students stated that they would be forgoing their plans of studying abroad. The remaining were divided between those who wanted to study abroad despite Covid-19 and others who wanted to take a gap year before doing so. <u>LINK</u>



May 16 [Channel News Asia] Education, health ministries 'working out' plans to vaccinate students under 16: Chan Chun Sing. MOE announced tighter COVID-19 measures for schools and institutes of higher learning on Friday, including conducting co-curricular activities online and suspending external activities. LINK



May 16 [Straits Times] S'pore schools to start full home-based learning from May 19 amid spike in Covid-19 cases. Schools will provide instructions and support for students to access a range of both online and hard copy materials, so that learning continues uninterrupted. They will also help students who may require digital devices or Internet access. LINK



May 16 [Malay Mail] Malaysian teachers improving their digital skills to impart knowledge during Covid-19 pandemic. He admitted that the closure of schools during the period was a big challenge to teachers as they found it difficult to see the involvement of pupils in learning sessions. <u>LINK</u>



May 13 [SCMP] Coronavirus: most Hong Kong kindergartens plan tuition fees freeze next year despite financial strain of pandemic. Kindergartens in Hong Kong have suffered financially from parents pulling their children out during the pandemic, as well as families emigrating. Government data showed that at least 16 have ceased operations since last year or are planning to do so. LINK



May 13 [SCMP] Unvaccinated students who refuse Covid-19 tests will not get dormitory rooms at Chinese University of Hong Kong. Hong Kong's vaccination drive began in late February, but the take-up rate has remained sluggish, marred by public mistrust in the government and fears over the jabs' side-effects. LINK

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SECTION: HIGHER EDUCATION



May 19 [The Guardian] Job prospects vary widely for graduates in England, data shows. Health subjects such as medicine, dentistry and nursing, as well as veterinary sciences and economics, topped the table of subjects that were most successful in launching graduate careers. LINK



May 19 [Uni of Manchester News] Construction completed on UK's largest engineering campus at The University of Manchester. MECD will provide world-class sustainable research facilities, alongside flexible and innovative teaching and learning spaces that will enable students to shape their own learning environment. It will house a community of 8,000 students, researchers, academics and professional services staff. LINK



May 19 [Inside Higher Education] Online Internships Fail to Meet Expectations. Online interns report lower satisfaction with their experience than in-person interns. Online interns also reported lower scores for both academic and developmental value, as well as networking opportunities. LINK



May 18 [BBC] Universities keeping lectures online into autumn term. The previous two academic years have been disrupted - with many students having to spend months off campus - but it seems as though the pandemic could mean a third year of changes. LINK



May 18 [BBC] Cambridge University to offer short online courses for professionals. The courses will target "people around the world who are looking to upskill, gain further education and distinguish themselves in the post-pandemic job market. <u>LINK</u>

SECTION: TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



May 19 [Vietnam Plus] Vocational schools offer training in new skills. Only around 83,320 ninth grade students in Ho Chi Minh City will sit the 10th grade entrance examinations, and the remaining 16,245 have not registered for the exam, the municipal Department of Education and Training has said. LINK



May 18 [The Nation Online] How a Nigerian is taking technical, vocational education to the worldADB calls for reforms in PHL technical, vocational education. A Nigerian, Dr Benjamin Irikefe, has propounded new ways of deploying Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to tackle global unemployment, and the world – through the International Vocational Educational and Training Association (IVETA). LINK



May 18 [Michigan News] Career, technical education provides pathway for students with disabilities, U-M study shows. The authors find that students with disabilities who ultimately complete a career and technical education program are 48% more likely to graduate high school relative to observably similar students who never enroll in a program. LINK

SECTION: EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY



May 19 [Ottawa Citizen] E-learning is here to stay, but it won't look anything like what COVID has created, experts say. Public education produces not just skills and knowledge, but also social cohesion and good citizenship, and the ability to embrace differences. Time spent outside of the classroom at recess, lunch hour and extracurriculars are all part of learning. LINK



May 19 [Business World Education] Digital Transformation: Driven By Education, Supported By Tech. Distance learning is typically an extension to a traditional in-person course, with key videos and resources made available online. However, putting lecture videos online is not enough. <u>LINK</u>



May 18 [Uni of Birmingham News] University of Birmingham launches a 100% Online PGCert Design for Learning Environments. The Online PGCert Design for Learning Environments takes a holistic approach to the subject area and will quickly expose students to the knowledge and skillset they need to design and evaluate learning environments in a variety of contexts, making it the ideal programme for those looking to progress their career in a range of sectors, including education and corporate training. LINK



May 18 [Inside Higher Education] Is Ed Tech Ready to Help Students of Color? New report recommends investigating structures impeding success among students of color before throwing money at problems -- and also says more research and research funding are needed. <u>LINK</u>



May 18 [University Business] 3 ways ed-tech makes learning more accessible in the shift online. One thing is clear—education is in the midst of change. And during times of rapid change we cannot lose sight of how essential accessibility is for millions of students and educators alike. <u>LINK</u>