AT LEAST THREE SCHOOLS HAVE OPTED FOR VIRTUAL INTERACTIONS, MORE TO FOLLOW

Online interviews for admission to Class XI

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Calcutta: Schools have started conducting online interviews and assessment for admission to senior classes.

Modern High School for Girls, The Heritage School, and The Cambridge School have interviewed students online for admission to Class XI.

The Heritage School has also held interactions with erstwhile students who have applied for admission to various classes.

Delhi Public School New Town, Mahadevi Birla World Academy, and The Newtown School are also preparing for online interviews.

Most schools conduct interviews for admission to Class XI once the Class X board exams are over. But this time both ICSE and CBSE exams have been deferred because of the coronavirus outbreak.

“We are conducting the interactions for both Class XI (ICSE council) and IB students. It includes interaction with the candidates as well as their parents. We cannot wait indefinitely and we are receiving emails from parents expressing anxiety,” said Devi Ran, the director of Modern High School.

Admission, like every year, will be provisional and will be confirmed only after the board results are out.

The Heritage School has also conducted online tests for Class XI, the results for which will be declared a week later.

“The online classes for XI will begin on April 15 if the lockdown continues. We will not want the children to miss out on the classes,” said principal Seema Sapru.

Sarejesh Mukerjee, the director of The Cambridge School, said, “Two students from Thailand were interviewed during the lockdown. Both will be admitted to the school. They will now be enrolled for the online classes. But we already had this online interview and admission process working from before because we have foreign and NRI students who apply and are interviewed thus,” said Mukerjee.

The Newtown School has informed parents of around 250 students of classes V to IX and XI who have applied that the school will conduct online assessments.

“We had two dates for the admission test — April 2 and 4 — but we had to cancel because of the lockdown. We will take the tests online and we are working on the process to roll out the use of any unfair means,” said Sunil Agarwal, the founder director of The Newtown School.

Sonali Sen, the principal of DPS New Town, said the school will wait for another week before conducting the interviews online.

“Have we kept on hold to see what the government has to say about the lockdown,” she said.

Mahadevi Birla World Academy has the data of those who have applied to Class XI, she said.

“The interview process will start from April 15 onwards and we will keep the parents updated on the same,” she said.

Schools can choose the platform for online interviews. In the case of The Cambridge School, Microsoft Teams was used but the school has also opted for Zoom.

Admissions during the lockdown have been a challenge as schools could not conduct the interviews physically. But the current scenario has forced schools to leverage technology to conduct interviews for senior classes.

“Most of the schools have already completed admission process for Class X and that is why it is rather difficult to follow the same protocol for Class XI,” said Sujata Patil, the principal of The Heritage School.