



Verneuil sur Avre, May 6th, 2020

Dear EDR Parents,

I hope that all of you are doing well, despite the lengthy confinement that will hopefully be ending soon. We are in unprecedented times, dealing with a challenge the likes of which we have never seen before and, we hope, will never see again. This past week the Senior Leadership Team of EDR met to discuss whether or not, and when, the school should reopen in May or June. Many of you will be following the French government's updates regarding the staggered optional return to school, beginning with the CP and CM2, next week. After a careful analysis of the situation, we have arrived unfortunately at the conclusion that, in order to ensure the safety of both your children and the school staff, it is best for the school to not reopen prior to the end of June.

Although it may be feasible to open some day-schools with local student populations in France, through limiting the numbers of students present by alternating their daily attendance, we do not feel that this is practicable at EDR, with 90% of our students in boarding and over 50% of them coming from abroad. The majority of our students would not be able to return due to ongoing travel restrictions, leading to the additional difficulty of trying to maintain both face-to-face teaching and online teaching, and many of the students would have to go into quarantine for two weeks upon arrival. It would not be possible to allow students to return from "red" departments, which currently includes Paris, and if an infection were to occur after a reopening, we would be faced with shutting down and quarantining the entire school community.

In addition to these considerations, the Senior Leadership Team took into consideration the sanitary guidelines (masks, hand sanitizer, disinfecting guidelines, etc.) and social distancing rules established by the French Scientific Council with respect to the reopening of schools. On the basis of these considerations, it was decided that the real risks and logistical difficulties with bringing back the few students who might be able to return would be too high. The students in Première may be invited to come back in June, depending upon the decision of the ministry of education with regards to the French oral examinations, but it is very likely that these will take place during the first trimester of the next school year, 2020-2021.

The teaching of your children's online courses will continue through 3 July, as mentioned in my previous email. We are incredibly grateful for the efforts that all our staff are making to ensure continuity of education for your children, despite the fact that now our students are spread globally across many time zones.

We are also extremely grateful to you as EDR parents for your forbearance whilst we have been working through what is possible in terms of fee reductions, what we can do to ease the burden on you and reflect the fact that whilst we are still doing everything we can to educate your children, they are not actually at school; they are at home, with you. At the same time, we need to balance our support to you as parents with our responsibilities as an employer and do everything possible to maintain the jobs of our dedicated staff. We also have to ensure that the inevitable fixed costs of operating the school physical plant, despite the students not being on campus, are covered. We have been working with our parent company, GEMS, on analyzing these costs and putting in place the financial structure to ensure the perennity of the school, while at the same time responding to your needs as a parent community. I will be sending a letter to you regarding this next week, detailing our response and the measures that we are putting in place.





Some of our students are concerned about the fact that they still have personal belongings in the boarding houses. Provided that travel restrictions allow for this, we will be setting up a schedule for students to pick up their belongings during the final week of June. For students who cannot travel at this time, we will put the personal belongings in storage until September.

Some parents have been requesting information about the summer camps that EDR normally operates. We are studying the possibility of running a couple of two-week sessions this summer in July, with a combination of academic review and preparation for the next academic year, along with a variety of sports activities on campus. We will communicate further to you regarding these as soon as we have more clarity regarding potential sanitary restrictions that may still be in place in July and August.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and understanding in these difficult times.

With best regards,

David Johnson, Directeur général délégué

