

Dear Parents,

We are coming up to the end of our first week of distance learning and confinement. Our teachers have been using the tools and materials you have been informed about. Technical problems have arisen and we have tried to troubleshoot them to ensure that all has been as smooth as possible for the students. These are early days and we are aware that the challenges will most likely evolve as the length of our confinement increases. Here are several of the recent issues which have been raised by the teachers:

- a) In Primary, the introduction of new technology and new methods has generated many questions from their students. The teachers have been supporting their students as much as possible. We hope that with time and practice, things will become much smoother.
- b) Also in Primary, the teachers have noticed that some of the students are working late on the computers. We hope that families will be able to organise the use of the computers so that they can reduce the amount of screen time for all.
- c) The Primary teachers are introducing learning grids, so children can select to complete tasks that do not need to be completed online if they wish.
- d) In both primary and secondary, we ask the students to respect the section timetable for direct and indirect contact with their teachers.
- e) On the French side of the school, the teachers may increasingly be using google classroom to organise their work with their students. This may increase the difficulty of organising computer access. We hope that all teachers will respect the school timetable to prevent the students from becoming overloaded.
- f) The section teachers have begun to use google meet. These 'meets' have been successful, although we do realise that conference procedure needs to be introduced and respected.
- g) We have noted that some students have not been present for the 'meets' and others have not been on their google classrooms. We do request that you inform us if your children have problems accessing or doing their work.

### **GCSE News**

On Wednesday evening (18th March), the British government announced the closure of all British schools as well as the cancellation of all British exams including GCSE. However they also stated that the students will be awarded their qualifications. Nicola Hill, our Secondary English coordinator, found this statement on the exam board's website on Thursday morning (19th March):

*"Our focus is now on supporting learners in all countries to achieve the qualifications they need to progress to the next stage of their lives. We are working around the clock with the Department for Education, Ofqual and the other awarding bodies to understand the detail of this decision and will share information with you as soon as we can. This is an unprecedented global situation and we understand that it could cause uncertainty and worry for learners and teachers alike, but please bear with us."*

Nicola Hill stated in her letter to the 2e students that "at the moment we have no idea how you will be assessed and there is speculation in the media today that the exam board may use coursework grades, mock exam results, online tests, estimated grades or a combination of these. Given the uncertainty of the situation, we have decided to continue with the mock exams that have been scheduled and to continue with the programme until we have more information from the exam board about how your grade will be determined."

The GCSE exam program for the 3e remains unchanged and hence the planned teaching and evaluation will continue as normal.

## **University applications**

The UCAS website (UK university application service) posted this announcement on Thursday 19th March

Following the announcement of the closure of schools in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and the cancellation of examinations and assessments in England, UCAS is working with Ofqual, the Department for Education, the Scottish Government, the Office for Students, and examination awarding bodies. We expect to be able to provide a further update on Friday 20 March.

Kat Weinert, our North American university guidance counselor, continues to monitor the situation in North America and will inform our candidates of any significant developments which may have an impact upon their applications.

It is our aim to support you and your children during these challenging times. Therefore do not hesitate to contact us when problems arise. We also wish to remind you that the CSI Anglophone Section Parents facebook page is a very useful place to exchange information and ideas with fellow parents.

On behalf of Lara Bonucci, the APESA President and myself, I wish you and your family health and sanity.

My kindest regards

Rob Miller  
Head of the Anglophone Section

19/03/20