Dear ISU families,

I want to most sincerely thank you for your support, understanding, and kind words over the last few weeks. These have been unprecedented times with a 3 week campus closure, the implementation of e-learning, and the cancellation of IB and IGCSE exams. We are aware that this is most taxing on your children who have had their lives turned upside down over the last few weeks. Of course, it has also brought further demands on you, as you balance your many commitments and responsibilities with the e-learning of your children.

As we enter the third week of e-learning, we can imagine that it may be becoming more difficult to keep your children on track with their studies and also to keep them entertained indoors.

Many, many of you are doing this anyhow, but please see the following points that have been pulled from a variety of sources that may help you:

• Remember that you are not the teacher, do not put undue pressure on yourself.
• If your child is struggling with their work, let them struggle and see if they can overcome the challenges by themselves. Many educators call this the "learning pit", and the skills they need to research, problem-solve, think outside the box are all life long skills that they will need and will use.
• Don't jump in to save them too quickly. After this, if your child still cannot do their work, encourage them to contact their teachers, who can and will help.
• Don't battle with your child as it will create conflict. Your child needs to own their learning and so trust that they will.
• Don't compare your child and situation to others. Children learn differently so within your home do what works for your family. If a family say their child is working a full six hours a day, that's fine... for them. Your child may learn differently. Embrace this.
• Allow your child to relax, let them watch TV, let them do nothing, let them clean their room, let them feel their own boredom and get themselves out of their boredom. These are invaluable skills. It is not your job to entertain your child every second of every day. Don't feel guilty.
• We are restricted from using "virtual meeting" platforms for younger students because of data protection laws and age restrictions with regard to permissions. However, we do encourage your children to reach out to friends online. Teens and Tweens are mostly sociable beings and they will be missing their friends. Let them hang out online even if they are not studying.
• Don't be too hard on yourselves. We're all doing our best!
• We are here for you every step of the way so do reach out to us, and well done on the fabulous job you are doing so far.
Upcoming developments:
The "curfew" in Bavaria is due to come to an end on 3 April at midnight. As we're all aware, this is a developing and evolving situation. We will continue to monitor and update you on any developments. Please take time to familiarise yourself with the Robert Koch Institut's high-risk areas. As we're all well aware now, Covid-19 is not just confined to these areas. Please be very mindful of your travels over the Spring break. I'm not in a position to tell anyone what to do but limited or no travel over the Spring break would seem to be the wisest and most responsible course of action.

Although a lot could happen between now and then, we are due to re-open the campus on 20 April. Covid-19 has not gone away and we will continue to exercise caution. If we return on 20 April, it will be on Level 3 of our response matrix.

ISU's Level 3 measures include:

- Cancellation of all swimming;
- All after school activities in the Sporthalle Offenhauser Gries (across from school) and BBU Nersingen gym will be cancelled;
- PE will continue on school grounds or the outside area across from the school. Students will change at school in designated areas;
- All local day trips, field trips and sports trips will be cancelled;
- All assemblies will be cancelled;
- After School Activities will be cancelled;
- After School Care will be cancelled;
- No off-campus privileges for older students;
- All students are to exit the building by 15:40;
- During school pick-up in the afternoon, parents are kindly asked to meet their child(ren) directly outside the school building or in the playground;
- EYP parents can enter the building but there will be a staggered entry and pick-up process. A member of staff will be available at the main entrance to guide you.

These measures will be reviewed on a weekly basis.

Access to our building will continue to be severely curtailed. If it is deemed essential for a non-ISU community person to access our campus, they will still have to complete a short questionnaire to help determine any risk. Trial days for students from outside our community and school tours for prospective families will not be available.

I have taken the difficult decision to cancel all residential field trips for the remainder of this school year.

When we open, we will again be reinforcing precautions with our students and staff, reminding them to wash their hands frequently, avoid shaking hands, and to cough and sneeze into their arms or into a tissue. Tissues should be thrown away immediately. Please also remind your children of these precautions. Hand sanitizers will be available in all classrooms and shared spaces. In addition to our regular cleaning and disinfecting, regular disinfecting will be done throughout the day. A deep clean of the building will also be completed before 20 April.
If campus closure does continue after 20 April, we will obviously be continuing with e-learning and introducing some additional elements to our e-learning measures for Grades 4 and 5. I will communicate more if this turns out to be the case.

Common sense approach
Common sense will support our community’s well-being and health. When we return, anyone with a sore throat or symptoms of respiratory illness, with or without a fever, are asked to refrain from visiting the campus. If students are experiencing these symptoms, parents should inform us and keep their children at home until they feel better. If these symptoms persist, please do seek medical advice. If students do display symptoms at school, they will be required to be collected.

If you have been diagnosed with the Covid-19 or were in contact with anyhow who is suspected of having the virus, please do contact me immediately.

Thank you all for your continued support and understanding with these measures.

We look forward to seeing you and welcoming student back into the building before too long.

Stay happy, healthy and safe.

Warm regards,

Liam