Dear ISU families,

Some months ago one of our Board members introduced me to the term VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity) World. Little did I think that some short weeks later, this would be realised in its entirety with the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the last 3 weeks at ISU, we have navigated this VUCA World with the closure of our campus and the implementation of e-learning. Our mission remains the same, whether we make it happen on Schwabenstrasse or online: "engaging and challenging education in a caring, supportive, diverse environment where students aspire to fulfil their potential". Spring break is almost upon us and a chance for students to get some needed time away from screens and for you to take a well-deserved break from supporting the e-learning of your children.

For better or worse, we are all following the media and seeing how various governments and authorities grapple with COVID-19. As you may be aware, the current measures (Ausgangsbeschränkung) remain in place until 19 April. Our campus is scheduled to re-open on 20 April. However, this is an ever-evolving situation and these dates may be subject to change. We will, of course, continue to monitor and update you on any developments.

If e-learning continues from 20 April, we will be refining our measures:

**Lower School**

We fully appreciate that students are craving an opportunity to connect their learning with other students. Previously, we have limited such options because of GDPR considerations, age restrictions with regard to platform permissions, and child welfare. If we move into a fourth week of e-learning, we will balance these obligations with the need for students to connect virtually.

**EYP 1 - Grade 3**

- EYP 1 and Grade 3 will have the opportunity to join an optional Google Meets "Morning Meeting", and where necessary, at other times during the day/week.
- Please note these Google Meets would entail parents sharing their personal email addresses.
- Parents will receive guidelines from the respective homeroom teacher as to how this works.

**Grades 4 and 5**

- Grade 4 and 5 have school email accounts. Please be advised that the student accounts for Grade 4 & 5 will be limited to internal email access only (@is-ulm domain) for safety and security reasons.
- Students are expected to behave the same online at home as they would at school, this was agreed upon signing the Acceptable User Policy earlier in the school year.
- Teachers will only be meeting students one-to-one virtually when a parent being present.
- Students are not permitted to create their own Google Meet sessions.
- All Google Meet sessions need to be initiated and attended by their teacher.

More information on G-Suites and a parent consent form are attached. If e-learning continues after the Spring break, these consent forms need to be completed and submitted to the respective homeroom teacher on 20 April and we hope to have Google Meets operations for Lower School on 21 April.
Middle and Upper School
This has also been a trying time for our older students too. For middle schoolers, please find a document attached that has some activities that you may find interesting over the next two weeks. If e-learning continues from 20 April we are looking at some opportunities for learning to continue away from screens. To our IGCSE, IB students and families - thank you for your resilience and patience. More information with regard to the IGCSE and IB will be coming after the holiday.

End of year examinations are now scheduled to take place on
18-29 May for Grades 6-8
25-29 May for Grades 9 and 11

If the campus remains closed after the 20 April, the dates for these examinations will be reviewed. Mr Rawlinson will communicate more information on this after the holiday.

Wifi Connectivity
Should e-learning continue from the 20 April, our service provider (City-Netz) has reached out. They had a limited number of Wifi cubes that they will make available free of charge to families that are experiencing difficulty with Wifi connectivity. I would like to thank City-Netz and their CEO Markus Haut, who also happens to be an ISU parent, for their generosity and foresight. Please contact me if you feel you need a device after 20 April.

The above are contingency plans as we are all hoping that students return on 20 April. Their vibrancy and energy are sorely missed. As previously communicated, if we do return on 20 April it will be on Level 3 of our response matrix. However, this decision will be entirely out of our hands. Please do refer to my email from 30 March for further details on what Level 3 measures entail.

We will, of course, continue to monitor developments over the holiday and will update you accordingly.

Wishing you a wonderful Spring break and a chance to enjoy the longer, sunnier days.

I look forward to seeing you all, hopefully, on 20 April.

Warm regards,

Liam