Dear ISU families,

You may have been following the news and seen the announcement yesterday from Angela Merkel and Markus Söder (15.04). The Bavaria government had a follow-up conference this afternoon (16.04). Since Bavaria is one of the most affected states in Germany, the Bavarian government wants to open schools and shops later than other federal states.

The main points are these
- The current measures (Ausgangsbeschränkung) remain in place until at least 3 May.
- Schools in Bavaria will re-open on 11 May.
- It will be a staggered re-start with some grades coming back before others. In the German state system, exam grades on 27 April and some Middle and Upper School grades could possibly return from 11 May.
- A plan with regard to elementary school and kindergarten re-opening is yet to be worked out.
- Schools in Baden Wurttemberg will re-open on 4 May.
- More details on school re-opening and under what conditions will be decided on 30 April.
- No mass gatherings until 31 August.
- It is highly recommended (not mandatory) that people wear masks (when outside from now on) in public transport and in public buildings.
- There will be a staggered re-opening of shops and services over the coming weeks.
- Restaurants, shopping malls, pubs, clubs, etc. will remain closed.

Impact on ISU
- With the cancellation of IGCSE and IB written examinations, no students will be returning to the ISU campus before 11 May.
- E-learning will continue at ISU until further notice. More details on this can be found below. It is basically a repeat of the information you received on 3 April.
- From Monday we are providing emergency child care (Notbetreuung) to parents in "front line services". This is something we not just are legally obliged to do, but are happy to do to ensure emergency services and medical care can be provided to those most in need. However, this is only for children where both parents or single-parent families are providing “front line services” and there is no adult available to look after their children. Parents need to inform us beforehand if they wish to avail of this.
- We have already purchased face masks, more hand sanitisers, and sanitiser dispensers and will continue to plan further. These plans will consider spacing and rooming for a staggered re-start. Details will be communicated well in advance
- We will be reviewing arrangements with regard to graduation and other events

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. From next week, 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 parent consent was sent to families and shared with you on 3 April. These consent forms need to be completed and submitted to the respective homeroom teacher on 20 April and we hope to have Google Meets operational for Lower School on 22 April.
Middle and Upper School
E-learning continues from 20 April we are looking at some opportunities for learning to also continue away from screens. We will be communicating information to our IGCSE and IB students and families on Friday.
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

Wifi Connectivity
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 from 20 April.

Families Returning from Overseas
It is a requirement that anyone returning from outside of Germany needs to self-isolate for 14 days. The circumstances we all find ourselves in are, to state the obvious, unprecedented. As we follow regional, national and international news reports, no one can predict what the future will bring. At times like these, we need each other most. All of us at ISU want you to know that we are here for your children and stand ready to do all we can to help them through to the other side of this global crisis.

Look out for each other and check in on each other.

Warm regards,

Liam