

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Update on Coronavirus

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As promised yesterday, here is an update from today:

With the help of all available teachers and educators, interns and other members of staff, we were able to run a more or less regular school day and successfully launched the remote phase lying ahead of us.

Students received the news, on the whole, calmly and graciously and were able to voice their concerns and get answers to the questions they had.

Our Abiturientia added a joyful note by spontaneously organising a motto day and offering music and dance sessions for fellow students during the break. We might not see such a thing in a while, it seems.

Students were asked to take all their belongings, books and materials home. The school reception is open tomorrow and for the rest of the week in case you need to collect anything left.

We were able to start our contingency plan today, and most of you should have received an introductory email by the Year Group speakers with further details by now. Please note that any questions you may have should be communicated via the Parent Reps. The Year Group speakers will then respond collectively. This avoids duplication and is an efficient use of teachers' time.

Here is our request to your families: as for all of us self-structured work can be a real challenge, we ask you to go through the weekly assignments together with your children and develop an age- and student-appropriate approach to structure their new school days. If you could also pat them on their backs for their achievements on our behalf at the end of their workdays, we would be very grateful.

The first packages were/will be submitted via email and/or the PADLET app, we call this phase 1.

In the meantime, we are working on using the Office 365 tool TEAMS. For this purpose, all students from years 5 and up have been issued their personal accounts and been added to their respective year group teams on the TEAMS platform. A great thank you goes to our IT team for making this possible over a very brief period of time.

Phase 2 will start individually in our year groups as soon as all is ready and all teachers have completed their online training. This being in great demand right now – as many of you might know from their own professional environment – the Windows server was down for some time yesterday. Hopefully, this can be remedied quickly so that we can benefit from this interractional platform at our school.

Students at our Oberstufe participated in an info meeting this afternoon and were briefed about their duties and responsibilities. They were also informed that the school will try everything possible to keep upcoming written and oral exams in place and find adequate modes of administering them, thus keeping their graduation tracks as safe as possible.

We will keep you posted on a regular basis and send our best wishes for now – take special care,

Christian Nitschke