March 16, 2020  
SYA Transition to online

Dear SYA France and Spain parents,

Please accept our sincerest thanks to all of you for your patience, understanding and fast-moving action following the surprise announcement of travel restrictions between Europe and the United States late last week. All students were able to leave the country within 48 hours with very few complications. While it was an abrupt end to the in-country portion of the experience, faculty and staff did their best to provide as many opportunities for closure as were feasible and will continue to do so from a distance.

As you have probably heard, the situation here in Europe has progressed fairly rapidly. All schools are now closed and residents of Spain join those in Italy already under mandatory house confinement. It is truly an eerie experience. You can rest assured that all faculty and staff are safe at home.

As students spend a few days getting accustomed back at their own homes, we know that the situation in the U.S. is also presenting challenges. Schools are closing and it appears that at least some of the restrictions in Europe will be implemented soon in the U.S. We trust that all students are following the CDC guidelines for return to the U.S. and understand the challenge that comes with being at home for an extended period of time.

As was detailed in previous communications, students who decide to stay online with SYA will begin classes on Monday, March 23rd. Given that many students are returning to find that their home schools are also closing, we expect that a large percentage of students will continue their course of study with us. In order to prepare for that transition, please understand the following:

1. Because of the volume of students going through this transition at the same time, we will assume that your child will continue with SYA unless you contact us to tell us otherwise. If we do not hear from you, your child will remain enrolled with SYA.
2. If you chose to opt out of the online option for any reason, please contact the RD for your campus by this Thursday, March 19.
3. Information about tuition refunds for withdrawal and the online options will follow in a separate email.
4. Detailed information about the structure of classes and school calendar will also follow in a separate email.
We look forward to providing the best possible experience that we can given our current circumstances. While your children are not here in person, they remain in our thoughts. We miss their enthusiasm and energy already here in Europe.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Best,

Aric J. Visser
Head of Schools and Programs

Tom Hassan
SYA President