

St George's Return to School May 2020

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your patience as we have worked to provide a framework for re-opening St George's International School in the current circumstances. The following plan has been agreed by the Governing Body of the School. While we understand that this plan may not be perfectly convenient for all family situations, it will allow us to re-open the school in line with the requirements set by the Luxembourg authorities, and provide for the safety and quality education of our students.

Our plan meets the requirements of the Luxembourgish authorities with regard to social distancing, hygiene and learning, whilst allowing the large majority of students continued access to school for the remainder of the year.

1. Calendar adjustments

The date of our half-term holiday will be moved to June 1st to June 5th. Thursday 21st May and Friday 22nd May remain school-free days. The end of the school year remains Friday July 3rd.

The date of the half-term holiday was moved from the week beginning 25th May as the Luxembourg authorities would not allow Primary students to come back to school on an earlier date and we want to bring primary students to school as promptly as possible. The revised half-term dates of June 1st to June 5th allow us to review the first week of Primary school operation and make adjustments as necessary. We appreciate that this may cause difficulties for individual families and in the case of unavoidable prior arrangements (medical visits etc) these absences will be authorised.

2. Start Dates

Secondary students (from Year 7 to Year 10) will start school on 18th May, Primary students (Reception to Year 6) start school on the 25th May.

Until the 15th May we will continue our online learning programme for all secondary students and until the 20th May for all Primary students.

3. School day

The School day will run from 8am to 1pm. Lessons will finish at 12.35 and all students should be collected by 1pm. There will be no canteen provision for lunch.

4. Primary School

Nursery: We will keep the Nursery classes at home for the remainder of the current school year. They will continue to receive online projects and play concepts to continue

their remote learning from the Early Years Educators and Teaching Assistants from the EYFS, supported by the Achievement and Progress Leader.

For this age group it is not possible to enforce social distancing as children do not sit at desks – they learn through play, freely moving around the classroom. Enforcing the wearing of masks in other situations is difficult and distressing for children aged three or four. Children wish to be close to their classmates and their teacher and they are too young to understand personal space.

We will re-open for all other year groups across primary on the 25th May at the same time as other schools in Luxembourg. Each class will be split into two groups, with approximately a maximum of 10 students in each (with the exception of Year 4 where there will be 11 students in each group). The Ministry of Education has directed us to offer in-school classes with social distancing for our Reception classes. We will inform parents individually of the group their son or daughter is allocated to prior to the start of school.

These class groups will be allocated specific classrooms in school. All groups will be taught by our existing teaching staff as well as our Early Years teachers and specialist subject teachers in Primary as well supported by our Teaching Assistants. The existing class teachers will alternate so that each class is taught by their original teacher on alternate weeks.

Due to health restrictions, specialist lessons will be cancelled for the remainder of the term. There will be no school assemblies. Students with Special Educational Needs will be supported as far as possible following their normal requirements.

All students will carry out the same work each day, planned by the class teacher. Common working materials (such as pots of pens) will be minimised and students will be asked to bring their own pencil cases.

Break times will be staggered so that social distancing can be maintained.

5. Secondary school

Re-opening the secondary school under these changed circumstances has meant that we have to create a new timetable. We are in the process of finalising this, but it takes time. That is why we will have a different start date for secondary of 18th May (rather than the 11th May set by the Ministry). Until the 15th May we will continue our online learning programme for all students.

Year 11,12 and 13 students

These groups will remain at home working remotely for the rest of the school year. These year groups would normally be on examination leave for the remainder of the year. We will work with Year 11 students to ensure that their preparation work for

Sixth Form is bought forward and their subject choices for Year 12 can be discussed remotely. Year 12 students will begin work on syllabus content for Year 13 courses. Class teachers for these year groups are preparing submissions to examination boards in lieu of the actual examinations. There will be no physical graduation ceremony or prom for Year 13 at the end of the year. Our intention however is to hold the graduation ceremony and prom at the beginning of September 2020 if possible.

Year 7 to 9 students

We will re-open for all remaining classes on 18th May. We will divide classes into equal sizes roughly by ability so that we can maintain our existing ability profiles. This ensures that we have no more than 11 students in one classroom at a time. Existing staff in set subjects (Mathematics, English, Science and Modern Foreign Languages) will be able to work with their classes by moving from class to class. Students will remain in their allocated classrooms rather than moving to specialist teaching rooms. In Science this will mean no practical lessons for the remainder of the term.

Due to health restrictions, Physical Education, Music, Art and Drama lessons will be cancelled for the remainder of the term. There will be no assemblies. Students with Special Educational Needs will be supported as far as possible following their normal requirements.

In subjects where students are taught by form group (Humanities), the divided classes will be taught by the specialist teacher with an additional member of staff following the same programme of study for the other group.

Year 10 students

Year 10 classes are all set by subject choice in their IGCSE groups and these, as far as possible we will maintain, although in some cases we will therefore see some movement within the single year group.

6. General provisions

The school will operate a shortened day from admission to the site at 8am to approximately 12.35 dismissal and closure at 1pm. The canteen will not operate.

Kiss and Fly will still operate, however please note that we may ask you to collect your son or daughter if they have a temperature when we check them at the entrance to the school.

There will be two entrances to the school only (Main Gate and Playground Gate) where all arriving students will have their temperature taken. If they show signs of fever (a temperature above 37.5 Centigrade) families will be informed, they will not be admitted and sent home. We will use remote non-intrusive thermal imaging cameras for this, which do not require physical contact. Parents will only be allowed onto school

premises if they have an appointment with a member of staff. All members of staff will also have their temperature taken on arrival at school.

Please do not send your son or daughter to school if they are ill or have a fever.

If a student tests positive for the COVID-19 virus whilst they are attending school, their family will be quarantined, and we will follow the instructions of the Ministry of Health on which other students may need to be quarantined also. This does not mean that the school will be closed.

If a student is classified as vulnerable, the family will need to provide a medical certificate to that effect and the student may remain at home. In these circumstances we will provide continued access to online learning which will match the classwork their group is undertaking. Otherwise attendance at school remains mandatory and we are required to report unexcused absences to the authorities.

All students using the school buses will be required to wear a mask, and we will also have hand sanitiser available. School buses will operate from the 25th May onwards.

The school will have hand sanitizer available throughout the school and in all corridors. We may also install additional outside large scale hand-washing facilities. The School has also a large supply of masks and gloves available for students and staff.

We will enforce directional movement within school as far as possible. Students and staff will not need to wear masks in classes, but we will encourage students and parents to wear them to and from school. We will continue to clean and disinfect all areas of the school on a daily basis to ensure a clean and healthy environment.

In these circumstances, these new provisions and adaptations to our existing school procedures allow for social distancing and health as well as allowing us to operate effectively and safely in these new and challenging circumstances until the end of the summer term.

We consider that the School is delivering high quality teaching in the conditions that are imposed upon us. All members of staff are working hard to maintain our pastoral care and operate the School. Although the School has seen a slight decrease in some costs regarding our buildings there have been a number of additional expenses to allow remote teaching to happen and to guarantee a safe return to the school. The Board of Governors has therefore decided to maintain the school fees for this term. We hope you understand we need to ensure the School's long term financial stability and be ready to adjust to the circumstances we will face in the autumn.

I understand that many parents may have additional specific questions as we move forward. We will place answers to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on our website and we

will also be glad to answer individual questions as we move to put these procedures in place.

Thank you very much everyone for the work you are undertaking at the moment to support your son or daughter. It is a challenging environment that we are all operating in – but as a community I am certain that we can all make these new arrangements work!

With my best wishes,

Dr Barkei