

Dubaï, April 2nd, 2020

Dear parents,



You have known recently the decision taken by the UAE MoE to extend the distance learning until the end of this academic year. You have been, just like us, preparing for this eventual extension, but maybe not for it to last three months. No matter what, the decision has been made today which made things clearer to all of us.

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Thus, we are collectively put in this new situation where we have to apply distance teaching and learning that will last for a long period of time. In order for us to handle this situation, we have decided the following:

- 1) **we will continue to develop interactive sessions** and put in place a direct means of communication between students and teachers. This will take place through pre-recorded videos, online discussions, and zoom videoconferences. We firmly believe that we should alternate the use of different tools in order to keep students motivated. Some asynchronous activities, during which students will work independently on a certain task assigned by the teacher, remain essential for the acquisition of knowledge,
- 2) we will continue to make sure that **the amount of work** is not excessive so that the child's wellbeing is taken care of- the wellbeing that has already been shaken due to the status quo- and so that parents are not, also, overwhelmed. We should be able to continue learning and ensure students' progress. However, we should take into account the current constraints, that are imposed on all of us, and avoid exhausting all.
- 3) **Arabic, English, and Islamic classes in elementary** will show on the students' timetables starting Sunday April, 5. These will be 40 minutes sessions and will be more interactive.

4) **The middle and high school's timetables have been shortened:**

sessions of 55 minutes will now be 40 minutes- this will allow to dedicate the mornings for synchronized, interactive activities, as well as discussions with teachers, and answering questions. For the students who did not have classes after 16.00 in their schedules, their afternoons will start at 13.00 in order to allow them to work on assignments given by teachers from one session to the other. The classes that, originally, took place between 16.00 and 18.00 remain, but are now from 13.20 to 15.00.

5) we are still waiting for further clarifications from the French national MoE **with regards to the official exams** (baccalauréat and DNB). Based on the decisions that will be made, we will be able to make use of the freed afternoon classes to prepare our students to those exams.

The crisis we are going through is immense. It surprised us with the speed at which it settled in and the proportions it assumed. To face it, we must organize ourselves and find the means to continue to live, exchange, learn and progress. Mobilized since the start of the crisis, our teachers have shown a tremendous capacity to adapt and reinvent their practices. With your help and kindness, they will continue to do so for the benefit of all of our students.

All the administration staff remains open for your suggestions and query.

Best regards,

Etienne AGOSTINI

Principal – Lycée Français International, Dubaï

