22nd May 2020

Dear Parents,

We are all working incredibly hard at the moment to ensure continuous learning continues to be effective under these challenging conditions.

As we approach the end of May, uncertainty still prevails within Nepal, whilst many other countries are slowly and carefully easing out of lockdown (whilst others are not!).

As you are aware, we had revised our provisional return to a fully operational campus, to Monday 1st June. Due to the government’s extension of the lockdown to the 2nd June and its extension on restrictions to domestic and international air travel to the 14th June, it will now not be possible to have a fully operational school before the end of this academic year, which is scheduled to end on Friday 3rd July.

There has been minimal guidance and instruction from the authorities with regard to a ‘roadmap’ going forward, especially with regard to schooling. This makes planning difficult, although not impossible.

We are constantly and concurrently working hard to ensure continuous learning continues effectively, whilst planning for a return to campus. A return to campus will occur when the following conditions are met:

- Nepal Government permits it with guidance on social distancing rules.
- Rate of infection decreases to ‘manageable levels’ in Nepal (in the absence of a credible R0 number).
- Clear TBS safety (social distancing) guidelines for campus agreed and understood by staff, students and parents.
- The campus is sanitised, ready and safe.
- Evidence that social distancing rules are effective in other schools and are not causing an increased risk to all stakeholders.
- Campus provision (under the new guidelines and restrictions) is equal or better than what is being provided online.

It is becoming increasingly likely that these conditions will not be met by the end of this academic year. This is not what any of us were hoping for, indeed, we were all hoping that we could resume campus learning before the end of the year.

In order to provide clarity, enable us all to make appropriate plans, assist with the mental health and wellbeing of all stakeholders and to ensure we have the very best school for the new academic year,
we have taken the very difficult, but I believe, the right **decision to not open the campus again this year for academic learning**: this will continue online.

When the government announces its intentions and advice with regard to what is safe and permissible within the valley, we will look to open up the campus to provide all stakeholders with access, in the form of social and physical activities, exchange of resources, consultations with teachers and leadership etc.

We are acutely aware of the importance of the school in binding our community together and the role it plays in providing social and emotional support for everyone, especially your children: when it is safe to do so, we will open the campus up to do everything we can, to help in this most important regard.

We must focus on keeping our collective momentum going, in ensuring our provision of continuous learning meets the academic and social needs of your children. This is not an easy task, but I am confident we can achieve this together. I remain cautiously optimistic that we can open the campus up, either before the end of the academic year, or during the summer break, to focus on the social, emotional and physical needs of your children.

We are again, cautiously optimistic, that the campus will be ready and open for learning on the scheduled date of Monday 17th August. If this does not look possible due to the aforementioned conditions not being met, we will inform all parents, students and staff at least two weeks beforehand.

My very best,

Brian