

13th March, 2021

Dear Heritage Community,

Welcome back after the Spring break. I hope you managed to get a good (safe) break with your family and loved ones. We have our Open House for new September 2021+ admissions online on Saturday 20th March and we have also launched our video promoting our new Post 16-19 Heritage Lyceum. If you haven't seen it there is a link here: [Heritage Lyceum](#)

Late on Friday, all schools received Order 50 from the Extraordinary National Commission for Public Health outlining the parameters for education in Moldova in the worsening pandemic, from Tuesday 16th March. Please communicate directly with us if there are any issues. Because Chisinau is in a red zone for cases this will mean for us:

- 1) School Starter and Primary are allowed to physically return to school on Tuesday 16th March. For us, this also includes Miss Allie's class because they are Cambridge Primary.
- 2) Grades 5 through to and including Grade 8, will be online and being taught on the DLP from Tuesday 16th March. As will Grade 9E Cambridge class for now (because it is non exam class).
- 3) Grades 9A and 9B (national examination class) will be in school.
- 4) Cambridge IGCSE 2 classes will be in school on a two weekly rota for 50% of the class one week, 50% of the class the following. Mrs Inga will email directly these students and families with further details.
- 5) There is no 'end date' for the Order but we are expecting further possible announcements from the ministry and directory of education in Chisinau around examination classes in particular. We will update when we get them.

We assume this will be the model now until the end of the academic year unless we see cases come down and we come out of being a red zone. Families isolating at home and whose children's class are physically in school, will have their education through hybrid learning. The same rules for operating safely on the campus (Level 3 of the Crisis Management Matrix) means the administration corridor is accessible at the same times as before to use the Finance Office and for contracts.

A link to the order on the ministry website is here: [Order No. 50 from 12.03.21](#)

We have continued to watch the cases & deaths from the pandemic rise to their record levels this past week. The media in Moldova has highlighted the need for all members of society to practice and model the safe measures more effectively that will allow our society to function with the pandemic until a mass vaccination programme allows restrictions to ease as we can see already happening in countries like Israel. The statistics attached of our own cases, submitted daily to the health ministry, demonstrate clearly what can be achieved in a school community, if we all follow the simple, safe measures. As we return to physical school or learn from home, we all need to be vigilant in re-enforcing these daily. It is the duty of everyone in the Heritage community. The pressure on key workers and especially our colleagues in the frontline in health care, is now at capacity and this could be avoidable if we all practice wearing a clean



mask properly, keeping a safe distance and practicing good hygiene.

We don't know what the next 11-12 weeks remaining of this academic year will bring. The situation in society is not great with the pandemic and we know there is a deep divide in the debate for more restrictions and school closure. We support all efforts in our society to make us function and safe and my position as director and for the Heritage community is very clear. Schools should be the last to close and the first to open. Schools operating safely, should not be physically closed, as we saw in Week 25, if other areas of society are left open. It is wrong and it is damaging to children and young people on all levels. We have followed the wise strategy from the ministry since the summer when all schools had 7 options to choose the way they operated for this academic year. The smooth way we moved online for Week 25 demonstrates our capacity and experience as a school.

We have demonstrated how that is done for 6 months this academic year. We are monitoring the position over physical examinations closely. Our strategy can only ever be "plan for the worst, hope for the best" and we prepare our students for both eventualities of taking physical exams and having robust centre grades ready. We work as a school team of professionals with all families always and we can get through these remaining weeks until the end of May and the 4th academic year at Heritage, as we close the year successfully together as a community on May 31st.

Thank you for your continuing support as our community.

Warmest wishes and stay safe,

Rob Ford

Director