

30th November 2020, Gothenburg

## Head of School letter - December update

Dear Parents,

It is difficult to believe that Advent has started after what has been a difficult year. To light up the darkness we have decorated our school entrances both at Guldheden and Göteborg campuses to help bring some festive spirit to the season!

### Lucia!

A special day on the Swedish Advent calendar is the Lucia celebration, which occurs on or around 13th December. The Lucia celebration is a cherished cultural tradition in Sweden, usually involving a concert with candles and songs conveying symbolic references to darkness & light, cold & warmth. There will not be an official Lucia performance at school this year but we will celebrate at both campuses with a recorded Lucia performance.

### Covid-19 procedures

If a student or staff member receives a positive test result they are given instructions by the doctor, which includes contacting the principal. If the person has been in school within 24 hours of the symptoms we need to follow directions from [Smittskyddsenheten Västra Götaland](#), which involves letters being sent to the people the infected person has been in contact with. Healthy children should be in school, but if a student is displaying any symptoms at all, then they should stay home until symptom-free for 48 hours. We remind you that parents and other visitors are not allowed in the school buildings at either campus and must make arrangements to meet staff and students outside.

### Strong recommendations about travelling and consequences for student learning

The Swedish government strongly advises against (avråder) non-essential travel outside the EU, and this advice has been extended until the 31st January 2021. There is currently no quarantine requirement for travel into Sweden so no family returning from their Winter holidays can claim that their children need to quarantine and therefore not attend school. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their children are at school at the beginning of term.

Parents need to factor in the risk of flight cancellations, travel disruptions and the risk of falling ill due to the pandemic, plus the fact that the government strongly advises against non-essential travel (holidays and family events are not classed as essential travel). Compulsory schooling laws and ISGR's Admissions policies continue to apply.

Due to the above strong recommendations and rules, we will not be offering online learning or support to students who are not back in school on the 11th January 2021. Unless the school building has been officially closed and we have transitioned to teaching classes online, healthy students must attend all scheduled classes.

Your ongoing support of the school and the procedures we have in place to provide quality teaching and learning while preventing the spread of COVID-19, is very much appreciated. If parents or students would like further advice about health and safety issues at school, our student health team is available, lead by Irén Borg Berglund (Chief Medical Officer) who can direct students to the best support - Phone: 0707 808 401

Email: [iren.borg.berglund@isgr.se](mailto:iren.borg.berglund@isgr.se)

For details specific to each section of the school, please contact your section Principal, however first look out for information which they will provide via SchoolSoft and ManageBac:

Principal MYP: Graham Miselbach – 031-708 92 28

Principal LgrP: Marianne Axelsson – 031-708 92 55

Principal LgrM: Corinna Ljungberg – 031-708 92 27

Principal PYP: Lee Brown – 031-708 92 62

Principal IHGR: Maria Laasonen – 031-708 92 29

I hope that all parents and students stay healthy during this season but still find safe ways to enjoy the festivities and displays of lights appearing around Gothenburg. Please keep checking [Folkhälsomyndigheten](https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/) for the latest recommendations to follow.

Kind regards,

*Birgitta*

**Birgitta Sandström Barac**

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Head of School

