



8th January 2021, Gothenburg

Letter from the Head of School

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to ISGR and Happy New Year!

Hopefully you have had a safe Christmas and new year period, and are ready for a new term of school! A special welcome to new families joining us for the Spring Term, and perhaps enjoying their first experience of snow in Gothenburg!

I trust that you are continuing to monitor and follow recommendations, provided by the government at:

Emergency Information from Swedish Authorities: <https://www.krisinformation.se/en>

The Public Health Agency of Sweden: [Folkhälsomyndigheten](https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/)

We strongly advise that you follow the recommendation to wear face masks when travelling to the school on public transport during peak periods.

The Minister for Education has now opened the possibility by law to conduct distance learning for 'middle school' ('högstadiet'), which means grades 7-9. This has not been permitted by law for other grade levels. The decision for individual schools is made by the school Board. ISGR's Chair of the Board has approved the School Leadership's suggestion to move to distance learning for the first two weeks of school in these middle school grades - 7 to 9 (and MYP10 as previously advised, which is under the regulations for high schools). MYP6 and LgrM6 will continue in school. Further details will be provided by section Principals.

It remains essential that compulsory school law ('skolplikt') is followed. This means that students must be present at school (when schools are open) or attending distance learning classes (when they authorised), unless they have approved leave. Due to the frequency of student absence so far this academic year because of the pandemic, additional leave will now be restricted. Applications for leave will be reviewed by ISGR's Senior Leadership Team and the section Principal will respond with a decision. This is to ensure we follow the Swedish school law and students can continue learning as much as possible in class. A reminder that parents are not permitted to enter the school buildings and should meet their children outside - there is no exception to this rule.

An exception to the student leave policy is if you are awaiting COVID-19 test results, and we strongly recommend that any family member who has any symptoms or has been travelling, gets tested and receives a negative result before sending students to school. For specific

advice, you should call 1177 or visit www.1177.se. Absences need to be marked accordingly in Schoolsoft. All absences will be followed up by the school and unauthorised absences may result in losing your place at ISGR.

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 / graham.miselbach@isgr.se

Principal LgrM: Corinna Ljungberg – 031-708 92 27 / corinna.ljungberg@isgr.se

Principal PYP: Lee Brown – 031-708 92 62 / lee.brown@isgr.se

Principal LgrP: Marianne Axelsson – 031-708 92 55 / marianne.axelsson@isgr.se

Principal IHGR: Maria Laasonen – 031-708 92 29 / maria.laasonen@educ.goteborg.se

We are looking forward to making the most of this term, and with your support we can keep our community safe while giving students the best possible learning experiences. I wish you all a warm welcome back to school, don't forget to dress in layers, and again I hope all our families have kept healthy and safe over the winter break.

Birgitta Sandström Barac

Head of School

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