

Rashid Sharfuddin  
Headmaster



Dear parents,

June 8<sup>th</sup> 2020

As I write this letter to you in the wee hours, I can hear the wind howling among the trees outside and the pitter-patter of raindrops against the windowpane. Dark clouds are gathering over the football fields and I can feel and smell the promise of a good impending torrential rain. Rain and thundershowers have become the regular norms in April and May, which is not regular Dehradun weather. In these irregular times, we are living in, I write to you to let you know of a few decisions that we have made keeping in mind the evolving situation and guidelines. I am beginning to see regularity coming in slowly but surely in the next two months.

**1. Class 12 Exams:** The remaining papers of class 12 will be held in early July. CBSE has notified that students can appear for the papers in their home districts or a place closest to where they are based right now. We are compiling the list and sending it to CBSE. Please do get in touch with Mr. Anand Saraswat ([anand.saraswat@selaqui.org](mailto:anand.saraswat@selaqui.org)) if you have any queries regarding this. Colleagues will be getting in touch with concerned students to support them in their exams. I am sure our students will do well in their remaining papers and we look forward to having another year of a heart-warming performance from them.

**2. Summer Vacations:** Considering that my colleagues have been delivering online lectures for the last two months or so, it's important that both students and colleagues have some break before we embark on this journey again. **Consequently, the classes will resume again on the 6th of July 2020.** It has been a testing time for all of us and my colleagues have risen to the challenge of providing some really good and meaningful transactions online. All videos are also available on Teams for students to revise in case they have missed any lessons. However, let me point out that there won't be any more vacations for students including Founder's and Winter break once they return back to the campus in August.

**3. Online Exams and Holiday Homework:** We conducted an online exam for all classes at the end of May to keep students motivated and focused. We also wanted to see how much learning and syllabus completion has happened in the last one and a half months. We have set some work for students to do during the summer break. Please make sure that they complete the work and hand it online on time. All these assignments will count towards Half Yearly assessments.

**4. Reopening of the School:** We are very hopeful to reopen in the first week of August. However, we will have students coming back in batches. Class 12 will come in the first week followed by classes 10 and 11. The rest of the school will be back by the first week of September. It's important that we must be absolutely certain about safety and security before we invite students back. We have put a plan in action that is certified by the Boarding Schools Association (UK) and Medical Boards of various countries and has been in place in boarding schools around the world. As you are aware, boarding schools in England, the USA,



and Australia have already started being operational. I must remind you though, that there will be stringent measures in place and I will expect the parents to abide by them. The rules and protocol for visits and outings will be non-negotiable. A quarantine period will be observed for all batches in the school campus, regular testing will be carried out for all and physical distancing and hygiene measures will be strictly followed. Special measures have been planned for the workforce coming from outside. The academic calendar will be tweaked to make sure we catch up on any lost time. I am of the opinion that boarding schools will be a safer option compared to day schools in these times as we will be in a better position to provide support and safety by cutting down contact points and travel times with the outside world. I will give all of you two weeks' notice and will again write to you with more updates and safety measure to be taken regarding this in the beginning of July.

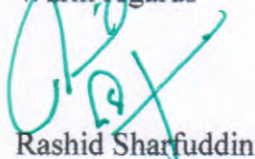
**5. New Admissions:** I had an online orientation with our new students and we welcomed them to our family. They look extremely excited and are raring to go. I am quite looking forward to having them here in August and to experience at least a large part of boarding life this year. As an exception for the first time due to the pandemic, I have allowed all students who paid their admission fee to attend online classes even though they are legally not part of the School. I also divided the term fee to be paid quarterly for new students. However, it will not be possible to extend this benefit in future months unless they get formally enrolled with us by completing all the formalities. I should use school resources to support our existing students on roll rather than on those who are sitting on the fence. From June 20<sup>th</sup>, we will now provide academic support to only those students who have done all the admission formalities with us. I will advise the parents of those students to coordinate with the admission department to close the matter before 20<sup>th</sup> June.

**6. Returning Class 11 students:** I am hoping that all returning class 11 students should also complete the formalities before 20th June. I am aware most of the parents have paid the fee but we do have a few parents who are still waiting and watching. I will urge them to make their decision within the next week or so.

**7. Result Review Meeting:** I and colleagues will meet online with parents and students class-wise in July to provide feedback on the first quarter of teaching. The detailed time table will be sent by the academics department and will be communicated formally in June end.

I am aware it's an unusual time in our history but I am also optimistic that we will come out of it stronger. The SelaQui family will weather the storm and all our stakeholders will come out of it safely in the coming months. I look forward to seeing and talking to you soon.

Warm regards



Rashid Sharfuddin



Headmaster  
SelaQui International School  
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