

Rashid Sharfuddin
Headmaster

July 21, 2020

Dear Parents,

I trust that all of you are doing well and holding on to faith, hope, and some good humour in this time of COVID – 19. It's almost the end of July and a campus that would have normally resonated and reverberated with the sound and laughter of our boys and girls is very quiet now. Actually, a bit too quiet for my liking! July for me at SelaQui has always been about heavy downpours and delight of hearing clamorous boys and girls chasing each other in the rain or kicking a football in the main field. And I would look forward to seeing them all drenched in rain and mud on my way back from the office as they file past in the dining hall for their snacks. How we miss all this and more!

Today, I am writing to you with lots of pride about what my colleagues and students have achieved in the last few months and especially in the last few days. It has been a marvelous July for all of us.

Record breaking Board results: The entire town and the other schools have been talking about our outstanding AISSCE results of the batch of 2020. They have indeed done us proud! The combined class average of 63 students stands at 91.9% and it's almost 8% improvement over last year's results. Rashi Kudesia of Commerce topped the School with a staggering 99.25% (average including Music) followed by Aayush Kumar with 98.75%, Shivaansh Mohan with 98.50%, Jarli Thomas Nake and Sanjana Jaiswal with 98.25% each. However, by CBSE ranking, which does not include the sixth subject (Music), Aayush Kumar is ranked 8th in the district followed by Jarli Thomas Nake in 10th position. Aayush is also ranked 9th in Uttarakhand state. 33% of the class scored above 95% and almost 50% of the class scored above 90%. Humanities stream continues to dominate this year as well but it is very heartening to see the way Commerce and Gurukul streams have made their marks. I am also delighted to inform you that our results are "BEST among all boarding schools" in the country. The class 10th students also improved on their predecessors by 1% with Smaksh Mahajan and Harsh Agrawal topping the chart with 97.6% (a new School record) followed by Neelanjana Gupta Choudhury with 97.4%, Khushi Pandey with 96.8% and Ayaan Ahmad Khan with 94.6%. This is indeed a remarkable feat by both classes and I am truly indebted to all my colleagues and students and of course parents for making this happen.

College Placements in Foreign Universities: It is but obvious, that with such a talented batch, we have got some of the best universities' placements in Canada, USA and UK. Some of the students of the class of 2020 have been admitted to the top universities in Canada and USA. Our students have offers from Union College, Denison University, Kenyon College, University of California, Arizona State University, University of Illinois, NYU, University of Michigan in the USA, University of Toronto (ranked 1 in Canada and among top 25 in the world), University of British Columbia (rank 2 in Canada), University of Waterloo, York University in Canada and University of Sheffield, Bristol and Glasgow in UK. In all honesty, I must compliment Mr. Itihaas Singh for working with the students and getting us these fantastic placements. We also have placements in Netherlands and New Zealand as well. I am convinced that the rest of the class will also get very good placements in the University of Delhi and other colleges in India in the coming months.

Fee waiver and payments: The School has decided to give a Rs. 70,000 fee waiver per student for the year 2020-21. This will be adjusted in two quarters in the second term bill. This is irrespective of the date of the reopening of School. The School looking to support parents in this tiring time will raise second term bill in two equal installments in September and in November after deducting the waiver. I must emphasize that this is for this year only. Some of

the new parents and returning class 11 students have not paid the second quarter fee till now. Kindly pay this by 31st July 2020.

Scholarships: As you are aware that for existing students, we have two scholarships of 50,000 per class (5 to 9) and 8 scholarships of one lakh (class 11th – two each in Humanities, Commerce, Gurukul, and Pure Science) for academic session 2020-21. These scholarships are based on the Annual exam that was held in Feb-March and the minimum qualifying criterion is 85%. Only the top two students from each class and streams will get this award. Internal students who appeared for class 10th exams in March are also eligible for separate scholarships based on their Board marks (minimum cut off is 80%). We have also provided quite a few scholarships to new students based on their entrance exam marks, interview, and family background.

Reopening of the Schools: We still have not got any guidelines from the government on the reopening of School but as I have written earlier, I am quite hopeful of getting students back by August or September end, in batches. I am sure all of us are praying for things to normalize so that we get back to the regular running of the School. I will write to you on this as soon as I hear from the government.

New curriculum design and students led learning: I have mentioned that its time that we change our pedagogical plans and process to equip students to face the real world and beyond what lies in grades and textbooks. The new curriculum focuses on inquiry-based learning that is students led, grounded in research, and in developing competencies. It also emphasizes equally on sports, art, music, and working with the immediate community. I will speak to you in detail on this on Saturday, 25th July at 7:30 pm.

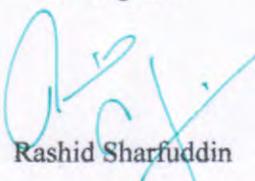
Online classes: As you are aware that online classes have started with a slightly modified time table. Please make sure that students are attending classes regularly and are serious about it. The School has now taken a decision to allow students till class 9 to bring tabs (only Samsung tab with Wi-Fi connection) and classes 10 to 12 can bring laptops to School (no mac or iPad). They can buy a regular Dell, Lenovo, HP, or Acer laptop up to the range of 50k.

Inter House events: We will start some of our Inter-House events from 1st week of August. House meetings will happen once a month and tutorials meetings will happen on alternative weekends. We are also planning to schedule a series of talks and discussions with some prominent people as well as alumni about mental health, careers, and current affairs.

Webinar with students and parents: It has been long since I have spoken to the entire school. I am planning to speak to all parents and students on Saturday, 25th July at 7:30 pm. The link will be sent by Housemasters / Housemothers and I will be happy to meet the SelaQui community virtually at least for the time being.

Let me conclude by saying how proud and happy, I feel leading a very happy, disciplined, and focused student body and an extremely qualified and motivated faculty of SelaQui International School. We have been in this for the last six years and School has grown in many fields and is now recognized in India as a force to reckon with. All this has been possible not only by the guidance and support of the Chairman, Board members but also by our parent body who have trusted their children with us. I am sure this time will pass soon, and we will get together on this sprawling beautiful campus to celebrate our triumphs and achievements. Looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Warm regards



Rashid Sharfuddin

Headmaster

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