

Verbiér, 26 January 2021

*Dear Copperfield parents & students,*

Thank you for your enthusiasm, encouragement and trust in this past week. We are confident that at every stage we have acted with integrity and within the law. Nevertheless, we do not claim to be perfect and thank you for giving us information that helps us to learn and grow.

#### SCHOOL'S LEGAL POSITION

As you are aware, the school has received public attention in the past week. We are confident in the integrity of our processes and actions and have received high quality legal advice at every stage. An independent review of our actions has been carried out by the well-respected Swiss law firm Lenz & Staehelin as instructed by one of the parents. We have provided Lenz & Staehelin with full transparency and they are satisfied by our approach.

We will be holding four conference calls for parents over the coming two weeks, each Wednesday and Sunday at 1800hrs. This will be a chance to hear direct answers from the school leadership, and from both our lawyers and Lenz & Staehelin. We ask you to submit your questions in advance to [info@copperfield.education](mailto:info@copperfield.education). Dial-in details will be circulated in advance of the call.

#### SCHOOL SITE REOPENING

A fire inspection of our premises by the Communal fire service on 13 January concluded that some of the glass of our premises required an upgrade from EI40 (40 minutes of protection) to EI60 (60 minutes of protection). We received this notice at 1700hrs on 15 January and immediately closed the affected areas. We have not used them since. On 21 January the upgrade work was completed and another fire inspection was carried out on 22 January, which concluded that the site was safe. This was formally communicated by the fire service to the Commune on 25 January, and countersigned by the President of the Commune today.

The implication of this is that we shall return to school tomorrow for normal classes. We are delighted about this. Please drop your child off by 0810hrs at Le Hameau. The drop-off point is by the cafe.

Pick-up will be at the usual time of 1630hrs. Please pick up your child at the cafe and register with the staff member on duty in the cafe before leaving, otherwise we will assume that your child has been lost on campus and begin to follow emergency contact procedures.



**COPPERFIELD**  
VERBIÉR

If you wish your child to make their own way home, you need to inform us of this intention in advance. We attach to this newsletter a pick-up form that enables you to give permissions for your child to make their own way home, and/or to nominate other adults to pick up your child.

In the meantime, a staff member has left the school and we have recruited an experienced and high quality replacement, whom we shall announce in the coming days. We have received huge interest among experienced educators to join our faculty, with over 50 high quality applications within Switzerland for 3 positions. We believe this a reflection of our academic vision and of the strength of the faculty we have assembled. We will not rush our hiring decisions: as you know, this is one of the most important decisions an organisation must take. Our staff have been doing a superb job and we regularly let them know how appreciative you are of their work.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Thank you for beginning to migrate to Threema. Please can I ask the remaining parents to get the app here: <https://threema.ch/en/download>. Threema will be used to send "on the day" messages such as if a child has left their gloves at home.

On 22-Jan parents and students received access to Firefly. The login details are associated with the email you have provided in the Copperfield Enrollment Form. To set up:

1. In your browser, go to the Parent Portal address [here](#)
2. Select "Logging in for the first time? Activate your account" (In the green box)
3. Enter the email address you have provided in the Copperfield Enrollment Form and press activate account
4. Follow through to the next steps. Note, if you do not see the "Activation Email" please check your spam folder. For further details please follow [these](#) instructions.

Yours faithfully,

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