

20 January 2022

Cautious and Optimistic

We appreciate that so many parents, guardians and students are attentive to the many detailed updates recently sent out. We understand that this continues to be an anxious time for families and we will continue to do our best to keep everyone advised. Thank you to the parents and guardians who have reached out to us directly and to those who participated in our recent family virtual town halls.

Our operational approach tries to maintain a balance that supports students and allows us to continue operations as a school that offers an exceptional learning experience. While still doing everything we can to minimize and slow infections, managing the Omicron variant is requiring us to shift strategies to lessen the impact of COVID rather than trying to prevent it completely on campus.

The Public Health Officer for British Columbia advises that schools should strive to remain open for in-person teaching and learning with all existing COVID mitigation protocols in place. Here, these include mandatory mask-wearing indoors, clear barriers in classrooms, physical distancing where possible as well as enhanced cleaning, fewer “bubble-piercing” staff on campus (but working from home), no off-campus trips for students, indoor space ventilation and limiting visitors on campus to essential service providers only.

With our last tranche of students expected to arrive this weekend from across Canada, we instituted protocols such as requiring returnees to submit proof of COVID testing results to the College before arriving. Those students will be tested again on campus and anyone with a positive test will be accommodated and supported in our isolation spaces.

Our goal is to re-start classroom-based learning Wednesday morning, 26 January with all standard rules and protocols as noted above. Extending online classes for two school days next week will help us monitor any symptoms displayed by students who arrived on the weekend, all of whom will be tested again Tuesday evening prior to the start of in-person classes.

With students mixing in classes, House “isolation” – not allowing students from one House to mingle with those from others – will also end. (A decision to allow dayroom mixing is still pending consultation among Houseparents who provide important social and emotional support for all students.)

CAS activities such as kayaking and sailing will recommence 31 January with applicable standard protocols in place. Upcoming Block Week (26 – 28 January) and Project Week (28 March – 1 April) will proceed as planned with student support in place for both learning opportunities.

Best wishes and please stay safe, wherever you are.

Yours sincerely,



Craig Davis
President and Head of College