

10th September 2020

Dear parents and students,

The start of the new school year is just a few days away, and I am glad to welcome you all back. All of us at BG Zaunergasse are looking forward to life and work at school returning to normal, and yet in times like these it is necessary to keep an eye on our **health**. We have therefore introduced a number of rules to ensure the safety of all – students, teachers and parents – as we go about our work.

The following **hygiene regulations and preventative measures** should be observed:

- **Face masks** must be worn when entering the school building, in the corridors, in the toilets and at the snack shop. It is not necessary to wear a **face mask** when sitting in your place in the classroom.
- The following entrances can be used: main entrance, side entrance and the entrance by the sports halls. Distancing rules must be observed when entering the building.
- Contactless dispensers containing hand disinfectant have been placed by the entrances and must be used upon entering the building.
- Floor markings and one-way systems on the stairs must be observed.
- Seating plans in the classrooms will be devised; for lessons in mixed groups (e.g. languages) students will be seated in blocks according to their form.
- Break-times should be spent in the classroom or in the yard.
- Moving between classrooms should take place at the end of break.
- Regular handwashing, airing the classrooms, observation of coughing/sneezing etiquette, and observation of distancing rules are all important!

Following these simple rules will enable us to prevent the return of a purely “distance-learning” model and to enjoy the unique atmosphere and community of our school. Each of us is responsible for our neighbours as well as ourselves! This also means that students showing any signs of **illness** should not come to school. I would urge parents to follow the advice in the information from the Ministry for Education, which has already been sent to you, but can also be accessed via the school website.

In case it should become necessary to return to distance-learning and teaching, we are well prepared and will offer all support necessary.

With the pandemic situation in mind, we have made some minor adaptations to the schedule for the start of term.

On the **first day**, we request that the students and parents of our **first forms**, to whom we would like to extend a special welcome, come to the entrance hall from 9.00am onwards: the start times for your short welcome and basic information talk have been staggered at 10-minute intervals. Following the welcome, students will proceed with their form teachers to their respective form rooms/homerooms; to avoid overcrowding, we request that parents say goodbye to their children at this point. Precise times can be found on the attached **overview of dates** for the start of school.

The religion teachers have also designed a safety concept for the **opening service** on Wednesday, 16th September 2020, which enables all those who wish to take part to attend. We will hold two services, and require those wishing to attend to **register** with their form teacher/homeroom teacher. Those attending the first service, for the **first and second forms**, will meet in their form room at 7.50am and will be accompanied by teachers as they walk to the church. The second service is for students in **year groups three to eight**. They will meet at the church for the start time of 9.00am. The rules of mask-wearing (for entering the building), sitting in blocks according to form groups and distancing between the pews must also be observed in the church.

Precise timings can be found in the attached **overview of dates**.

Despite the challenges these times bring, they also give us a chance to reflect on our sense of community and to be more aware of our responsibilities – in the spirit of our school motto: ***Better together.***

To this end, I am very much looking forward to getting to know you all, students and parents alike! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I wish all of us a good start to the new term and a successful school year!

Mag. Erich Schön
Direktor