

Dear Parent,

If ever we needed such a reminder, the events of the last few days have demonstrated just how vulnerable we remain to Mother Nature and all that she can throw at us. Volcanic ash continues to erupt from Eyjafjallajökull and its effects have stretched well beyond the confines of a small island in the north Atlantic. I am sure that many of you have been affected by this event, as has the school, with the closure of all air space in much of northern and western Europe on-going.

Many students and eleven teachers, myself included, remain 'stranded' in Europe. From what I gather most schools in Dubai are experiencing similar if not worse problems. The classes of absent teachers are being covered by other colleagues. Having spoken to several teachers still here in the UK, they are happy to communicate with students in examination classes via email if this helps. I realise that this is not an ideal situation, but these are unprecedented circumstances. The examination boards in the UK are aware of the problems that these events are creating for all students at this time. Where necessary additional representations will be made to make them aware of the particular difficulties experienced by the College.

At the time of writing there is no sign that the restrictions on flying in this part of the world are going to be lifted. Thus rescheduled bookings over the next few days look as if they may come and go as well. It is a frustrating time for many, but there is little that we can do other than be patient.

Like the others here in the UK, I look forward to getting back to Dubai as soon as possible. In the meanwhile, I send you my best wishes and ask for your patience and forbearance.

Yours sincerely,

Carlo Ferrario