



Brussels 1st September 2021
2021-09-LD-2/AB

**For the Attention of the Members of the
European Schools' Community**

Dear Members of the European Schools' Community,

Today, we are entering into a new school year and as newly appointed Secretary-General of the European Schools I wish all of us a good start by welcoming in particular our new students and staff members and their families.

Different from our hopes, but not unexpected, also the 2021/2022 school year will be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and we understand the impact on our students and staff members, but also on the parents.

In preparation of this school year, the European Schools established a 'Task Force' in June in order to address the Covid related challenges and to provide the management and teaching staff of the schools with concrete recommendations in the pedagogical area on how to start the school year.

The 'Task Force, composed of representatives of all stakeholders of the schools, had provided a report and concrete recommendations, which were presented to the Board of Governors of the European Schools in an extraordinary meeting scheduled on 31 August.

All recommendations provided have in common that they focus on the best interest of the pupils including their well-being. Therefore, an individual tailored and needs based approach is recommended.

The pandemic will also require on local level organisational measures to ensure the safety of our pupils and staff. Related decisions of the Directors will be taken within the legal frame offered by the Member States hosting the individual school by taking in consideration the specifics of the organisation of studies in the European Schools. As Secretary-General I can reassure you, that these decisions will be taken by the Directors in close consultation with me and my team and local stakeholders. We will aim at finding the best possible balance between safety requirements and the interest to provide teaching, learning and also assessment 'in situ'. We will do our utmost to ensure within the school a clear and transparent communication and to foster an exchange with all members of the European Schools' community which will reflect the values such as mutual respect of our unique school system.

With the new school year, the European School Brussels II will open its additional temporary site 'Evere' and two new Accredited European Schools will open their doors in Mersch (Luxembourg) and Saarbrücken (Germany). We warmly welcome these two new members of our community and wish them all success possible.

At the same time and to my deep regret, the accreditation of the UK Europa School Culham has come to an end on 31 August due to Brexit and I wish to all members of this school community all the best for their future.

Let me finish by thanking the former Secretary-General, Mr Giancarlo Marcheggiano, for his dedication and hard work over many years. I wish to him all the best for his new role as Director of the European School Alicante as of today and to all of us a successful new school year!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Beckmann', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Andreas BECKMANN
Secretary-General