

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your outpouring of love and support to Kieran's family. We have lost a remarkable young man, who set examples of kindness, enthusiasm and compassion that should guide us all in the future. At a later date, with permission from his parents, we will do something long lasting in his name. In time to come, we will look at what we can do to help others who lost family members in the tragic events as I know you all have so much love to give and at times like this, as a visiting survivor who lost two children said, 'love is the answer.'

We are in the process of formulating a security plan which will be strictly adhered to. We are seeking assurances from the appropriate authorities of their assistance, but as you would appreciate their resources are stretched at the moment. That being said, we are reassured by how proactive they are being. We do not want to rush this and send out instructions that we then alter once we have had more input from the authorities. Be assured that clear cut measures are in place for both the senior and junior sections of school and we shall send these out at the appropriate time. Please do not share these online. In line with our policy of keeping a low profile, this letter is sent without a letterhead to a protected site for which you will have received the password through our official message services. Please also await further communication with regards to start dates. As things stand schools have been told not to open before the 6th of May.

Ours is a small family school; we all know each other and have a sense of community and intimacy which will be an asset at a time when we need to be vigilant of strangers. I thank you all enormously for your generous offers of assistance. The safety of your children is more important to us than anything else. That being said, we are aware that some students in Form 4 and above, in particular, will be worried about missing too much work. We can assure you that our teachers will catch up on missed work. Our exam classes start their IGCSEs and A Levels soon and we have sent out specific information about this. The exam boards have been made aware of the circumstances and are being very helpful and understanding.

We are sensitive to how our younger students will have been exposed to aspects of life they should not have been. Throughout the school we will be offering counselling and emotional support to our students. They will know that we love them and are here for them at all times.

Tensions in the country are clearly running high, which can lead to warnings, some real and some not. We feel this extra time before schools open, as advocated by the security council, may allow for more calm to return. Until then, please err on the side of caution and keep yourselves and your families safe. You need not worry about your children's education as that is our job. We are determined to make sure that your wonderful children fulfill their potential despite what is happening.

I have been in this country for long enough to have experienced times like this before. Sri Lanka will bounce back and in years to come our students, past and present, will contribute towards its success in many different ways. I will not be going anywhere without seeing that happen. The staff and students at this small school are my family. We all have the same concerns about our beloved children, and we are stronger together.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Moir