



**17<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Dear Parents**

***At this very difficult time, I thought it would be easier for me to write to you directly and ask Herr Leyh to forward to you.***

***I hope that you and your families will keep well, during the following months and that hopefully by summer we might all be able to move on with our lives again.***

***I have been keeping up to date with all current government legislation and as members of English UK and British Council I am very aware of the travel restrictions – which will be in place for some time to come.***

***It was indeed, very sad, that the April Group, from LFS Bensheim, to Poole had to be cancelled, at such very short notice. I know that your daughters and sons will have been very disappointed, as so many had been looking forward to their Course with us, for a long time.***

***For many weeks we had hoped that the trip could go ahead, but last weekend, everything escalated and the decision to cancel was out of our hands.***

***I had told Herr Leyh, that Eagle International School, would not make any cancellation fee charges on our side, except for bookings that had been made in advance.***

***I spoke at length to P&O Ferries and they have been very understanding, in the present situation. Instead of implementing their 28 day cancellation fee of 50%, they reduced their time limit to 15 days.***

***Therefore on Monday I was able to cancel the P&O Ferry booking, without incurring cancellation fees.***

***I am also pleased to say that Kollerer, the German Coach company, have now also removed cancellation fees – so that is very understanding on their part.***

***For my part, Eagle International School will not make any cancellation. I have informed my Host Families and teachers that the April Group has cancelled and they have all been very understanding and look forward to the next time that we can host Bensheim students.***

***We will return the full Course Fees to Herr Leyh and he will refund to parents... I will issue Refund Notes should these be needed.***

***This will be set up as soon as Herry Leyh is back in Bensheim or earlier if required..***

*As always it is a pleasure to work with the Liebfrauenschule in Bensheim and also with other local schools and as you know our association goes back for over 30 years. I hope that you will trust me to do my best in this extraordinary situation.*

*We have been able to continue offering our Courses , through the Chernobyl disaster, Foot and Mouth Disease/ Avian Flu/ Sars and Terrorism, but nothing ever compared to the present situation.*

*I sincerely hope that in the months ahead we will all keep well and that we will all be able to move forward with our lives very soon.*

***Now looking forward to Summer – taking this as periods after 1<sup>st</sup> July.***

*If the situation in Europe improves, then we will be able to go ahead with our Summer Courses. Many of my German Schools have postponed their April/May/ June Courses with us and have provisionally booked places with us for July – August – September and October.*

*For Groups already booked with us from July 1<sup>st</sup> onwards, we don't have to make a final decision until May, at least. Then we will hopefully have a clearer view of how the situation is developing.*

***For the Bensheim Summer Group – I would like to hold this booking in place, until at least the beginning of May. So this gives us a period of 5/6 weeks. A final decision should really be made before the end of May, so that we are within the free cancellation period of 28 days, prior to departure, for P&O Ferries.***

*I have informed my Host Families and teachers that we are hopeful to open school on 1<sup>st</sup> July, depending, of course, on government decisions, in the UK and in Europe.*

*I will hold the P&O bookings, already made for Summer, and will cancel these within the designated period, should the groups not participate in the Summer Courses . Thus avoiding any cancellation fee.*

*If the Bensheim Summer Course, has to be cancelled, there will not be any cancellation charges made by Eagle International School. However, if the German Coach company makes cancellation charges then this has to be covered from the deposits that you have already paid . But hopefully they will be understanding.*

*I trust that this letter is sufficiently explanatory and please be assured that I will always do my best for the students and very much hope to be offering our Courses in Poole for many years to come.*

*Wishing you all a Very Happy Easter and keep well.*

*With my kind regards*

***Joan Rees  
Principal Eagle International School Poole.***