

Shanghai April 28, 2022

Dear Parents,

We are aware that many of you are asking questions about the situation of the school, both in the short, medium and long term, given the situation we are currently going through. Those questions, of course, have been of concern to us for several weeks already at the level of the Board and the School Leadership.

Below, we have summarized some of the main questions and answers that we are able to provide to date. All of us remain of course mobilized and attentive to the evolution of the situation on a daily basis. Overall, however, we would like to reassure you that our school has solid foundations and will be able to ensure the continuity of its operations for next school year and beyond.

We wish you all to stay healthy and strong and hope that our school community can remain united during this difficult period that we are all currently facing.

Best regards,  
The LFS Board

FAQs

### **1. Is the reopening of the school before the end of the school year still an option?**

Like any business or community, the school is entirely dependent on the decision of local authorities with regard to the possible reopening of our campuses. At this stage we have not received any official information. We are of course in close contact with the authorities and we will keep you informed as soon as we have more details. It is however clear that if there were to be a campus re-opening, it would necessarily have to be done under strict sanitary conditions in order to ensure the absolute safety of all in this regard.

As you may learned, an initiative has been undertaken to try to convince the French Minister of National Education to authorize the switch to continuous assessment for exam classes. A first favorable decision has been communicated but discussions are still ongoing.

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## 2. Are there many staff resignations? Student departures?

We are currently recording about 10 to 15% more staff resignations than in previous years. Even if many staff members regularly tell us of a growing weariness and for some even a growing discomfort with the general situation that we are all going through, we have not recorded any massive resignations at this stage. We can therefore say that considering the situation, as it stands today, we will not have any structural difficulties in maintaining education until the end of the school year and beyond that. Of course, we may encounter some temporary difficulties or may have to modify our work organization somewhat for a while (e.g. larger class groups). Besides, we will probably not have to replace all resignations considering the expected decrease of student admissions for next school year.

As far as students are concerned, the situation is largely similar. Apart from a few early departures of Terminale students, mainly linked to the uncertainty that remained until a week ago, about the Baccalaureate exams, we have not recorded mass departures of families and students.

Like all of you, we are hearing from many families who are considering early and permanent departures from China. We are currently recording about 10% more departures than last year. The coming weeks and the evolution of living and working conditions in Shanghai and China will undoubtedly be decisive. The board of course remains attentive to this, particularly when it comes to monitor the budget for the current year.

## 3. The AEFÉ Agreement

The text of the agreement has been finalized since March 9 and has been validated by the various authorities in France. It will be signed by the Consul General, for the AEFÉ, and by the chairman of the Board, for the school, in the coming days.

This signature will therefore renew the status of LFS as an approved school (“Lycée conventionné”) with the Agency for the next five years.

## 4. Departure of the Executive Director

Mr. Péchoux recently informed us of his decision to leave China for family reasons. He therefore presented his resignation which will take effect at the end of the school year. The search for his replacement is already underway and interim solutions will be put in place to ensure the continuity of his duties. As soon as these have been finalized, we will of course inform you.

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## 5. Departure of the Principal and Deputy Principal Qingpu Campus

The departures of Mrs Gouix and Mr du Fayet de la Tour have been planned for a long time already and they were therefore anticipated by the AEFÉ. The Board has just approved the nomination of the candidates proposed by the AEFÉ to replace them and we should be able to present them to you shortly.

They will both take up their duties before the next start of the school year, it being understood that the organization of the next school year will still be the responsibility of the current Leadership team. Mrs. Guitton, Deputy Principal for Yangpu, Mr. Keller, Headmaster of Primary School in Yangpu and his colleague Mr. Kurdziel, Headmaster of Primary School in Qingpu, will remain in office and will be at their posts at the start of the school year in September.

## 6. Organization of the General Assembly

According to the bylaws of the Parents' Association, the annual General Assembly (GA) which must approve the discharge of the administrators, vote the budget for the current year, and elect the members of the Board whom mandates are coming to due date, must be organized during the first quarter of the year following the closure of the accounts (December 31, 2021). As you know, a date had been set for March 26 for the holding of this GA.

Given the circumstances, which constitute a situation of force majeure, we were forced to postpone it (email of March 16, 2022). Those same bylaws require the organization of the GA as well as the votes to take place in person. Changing the bylaws - for example in order to authorize electronic voting if this solution were to be considered - would require holding an Extraordinary General Assembly which would have to be held in person as well.

Consequently, we have no choice but to postpone the GA to the earliest possible date after the lifting of sanitary measures, as it was the case in 2020. On the other hand - just as in 2020 - we will organize an information session for the parents, by videoconference, before the end of May. At this occasion we will present the financial accounts for the past year as well as the budget for the current year, as it will be submitted by the board to the vote of parents at the GA.

## 7. The financial situation of the school and its sustainability at the start of the 2022 school year

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Just like any business, it is still very difficult, at this time, to accurately predict the consequences on the school of this situation of full lockdown which we are currently experiencing.

However, the board has conducted several "financial stress tests" which looked at different possible scenarios. Following this exercise, we are able to state that to date the financial situation of the school is sufficiently solid to guarantee its operations for the 2022-2023 school year and beyond, no matter what the situation lies ahead of us.

Of course, from an operational point of view, the situation could become really complicated for a while in particular if the sanitary situation were to worsen, but the sustainability of the school in the short and medium term is not in danger.

## **8. Why request the payment of the school fee deposit before the General Assembly?**

The payment of the deposit is always requested in April. For several years now it has been set at 15,000 RMB, as provided in our financial regulations. The annual General Assembly (which must be held during the first quarter, as seen above) always takes place before the deposit is invoiced. However, the invoicing of the deposit has no connection with the GA meeting and what's more, the amount of the tuition fees has no impact on the amount of the deposit.

The primary purpose of the deposit is to allow the School Leadership to determine, even approximately, the number of students who will be present at the start of the school year and thus the number of classes that will be necessary for each level. This information is obviously essential in order to allow us to organize the start of the new school year and in particular, to ensure that there is a teacher in front of each class.

## **9. Tuition fees 2022-2023**

As every year, the board works, with the financial department, on the preparation of the budget as from the end of the previous (calendar) year on. As part of this exercise, the main concern of the board is of course to ensure that the increase in tuition fees remains as limited as possible. In this respect the budget which should have been presented to you at the annual General Assembly of March 26 was strictly in line with the scenarios presented to the annual GA last year.

Obviously, recent events caused us to consider additional difficulties which will of course have financial consequences. We have therefore already anticipated these difficulties and in particular frozen certain investments to keep only what was deemed strictly necessary. We will present all this to you in details

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during the information session that we plan to organize at the end of May, if by then we cannot hold our annual General Assembly in person (see above).

In such case, we will present at the information session a "provisional" management budget that the board will implement pending its possible validation by the Annual General Assembly as soon as it can be validly held. This will also apply to tuition fees for the year 2022-2023. The tuition fees of the first term will be invoiced, on a provisional basis, following the information session at the end of May. However, if the Annual General Assembly does not approve the budget proposed by the board and decides to modify the tuition fees on the basis of an alternative budget which would be adopted by the GA, the overpayment taken into account on the first invoice would be deducted on the invoice for the second semester (or reimbursed if the student had to leave the school in the meantime).

## **10. Reimbursement of fees linked to the closure of the school campuses**

As was the case in 2020, the board has planned to reimburse the costs that will not have been "disbursed" by the school due to the closure of our campuses (this mainly concerns buses, ASCs and the canteen). Just as in 2020, we will only be able to determine the precise amount of these reimbursements once the eventual date of reopening of the campuses has been determined (see question 1 above).

These reimbursements will be organized either in the form of a credit note applied on the school fees for the first term for the students who will stay with us, or they will be paid directly to the parents of the students who will leave us at the end of the school year.

## **11. Opening of the class of Terminale (Grade 12) in Yangpu**

After consultation with the parents of the students concerned, the Board has decided to postpone the opening of the class of Terminale (Grade 12) on Yangpu campus for the coming school year. All 2022-2023 Terminale students will therefore be together on Qingpu campus. This decision was taken in order to provide all of our final year students with the best possible teaching conditions, while providing them with all of their choice of specialty classes.

This decision was of course shared first with the parents concerned. It does not apply to the students currently in Seconde (Grade 10) on the Yangpu campus, who will remain on their campus for the class of Première (Grade 11).

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