



**AMBASSADE
DE FRANCE
AUX ÉMIRATS
ARABES UNIS**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

L'Ambassadeur

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the start of the school holidays, I wanted to address you, dear parents, dear pupils, dear teachers, dear members of the school community - to all of you who support our great French school network in the United Arab Emirates on a daily basis. I would like to express my gratitude and pay tribute to you for your commitment and your exemplary efforts during the difficult period we have gone through. I think we can be proud of the work accomplished collectively.

I know that it has not always been easy, especially for parents, who had to provide school support for their children while many of them continued to work from home at the same time. I am also aware that this year has been a source of anxiety for the students, in particular due to the many uncertainties surrounding the organization of the exams. However, we have finally managed, together, to overcome the unprecedented challenges we faced.

In this regard, I pay tribute to the exceptional effort made by the teachers and all the educational and administrative staff of the schools. They succeeded in adapting their methods and reinventing their profession in record time in order to continue to offer the best possible education to students. This was also possible thanks to the exceptional support of the AEFÉ and the network's inspectors and trainers.

Of course, everything was probably not perfect and nothing will replace real direct and human exchanges with the teacher. A review of the past few months will be drawn up in each school in order to draw all the lessons useful for the future. However, I believe that the measures put in place broadly met the objectives. New ways of living the school, of transmitting, of receiving have been invented. Teachers and students have also often forged strong relationships. I know this positive assessment is widely shared, including by education professionals and local authorities. The excellent results of our students at the Baccalauréat and the Diplôme National du brevet, again this year, are proof of this.

The objective guiding our actions has been and will of course remain the interest of the students, the families and the schools. In addition to the government's scholarship system for French families, the seven Lycées français quickly set up targeted financial support to families most affected by the crisis, in a spirit of solidarity. These measures also benefited from an exceptional support plan implemented across the entire network through the AEFÉ. Thus, 50M € of additional credits have been allocated to school grants, and 50M € of credits will come to support the school network, which will also be able to benefit from 50M € in cash advance from Agence France Trésor.

The strength of our French Lycées is indeed to be part of this broad and united network. It is essential to always keep this in mind. I therefore attach great importance locally to the coordination and cohesion of the seven Lycées in the United Arab Emirates. Likewise, preserving the financial sustainability of schools is essential so that they can quickly recover from the crisis, in order to preserve their competitiveness and above all continue to offer our children, during the next school years, an education of excellence and all the conditions for their well-being and fulfilment.

Now, we have to prepare for the future. Our goal for the start of the next school year is to allow as many students as possible to return to school. Of course, this will be subject to possible changes in the health situation and to the decisions taken by the local authorities, which remain to be specified. Priority will be given to the youngest, in particular the "maternelles", for whom distance education is often more difficult to follow over long periods of time. The schools will also follow very strict health protocols, defined and controlled by the local and French authorities, intended to protect children and staff.

Each Lycée will therefore adapt its educational organization to meet these two objectives. With the support of the Embassy, the AEFÉ and other players in the network, the different scenarios prepared by the schools will of course be clarified and refined over the next few weeks.

I have full confidence in our schools, their teachers and their management staff to continue to provide the best education for children. They are fully mobilized to prepare for the start of the school year in the best possible conditions. I also know the personal investment, most often voluntary, of many parents, elected or members of associations, to support these collective efforts. You can also be assured of my total commitment, as well as of my teams, to support the seven French Lycées over the next few weeks. We will have to continue to work together, with a team and responsibility spirit, to overcome the challenges of the coming months. Let's have confidence in our strengths, let's be confident about the future.

I wish you an excellent school vacation and a well-deserved rest.



Ludovic Pouille
Ludovic POUILLE