

OUR LUISE

DOES THE CORONA CRISIS DESTROY EVERYTHING?



Going to school in Corona - times

EXPERT OPINION

LISA MARIE WILLEMS, 04.06.2020

In the last weeks, teachers have played a key role in ensuring that students not only engage meaningfully at home but also stay motivated to make progress in learning without seeing them in person.

We know that the requirements of families are different and that even from one school to the next there are huge gaps in terms of digital equipment. Some schools work with different digital tools and apps to stay connected with their students. Others still copy a weekly schedule with materials which needs to be picked up by the parents once a week.

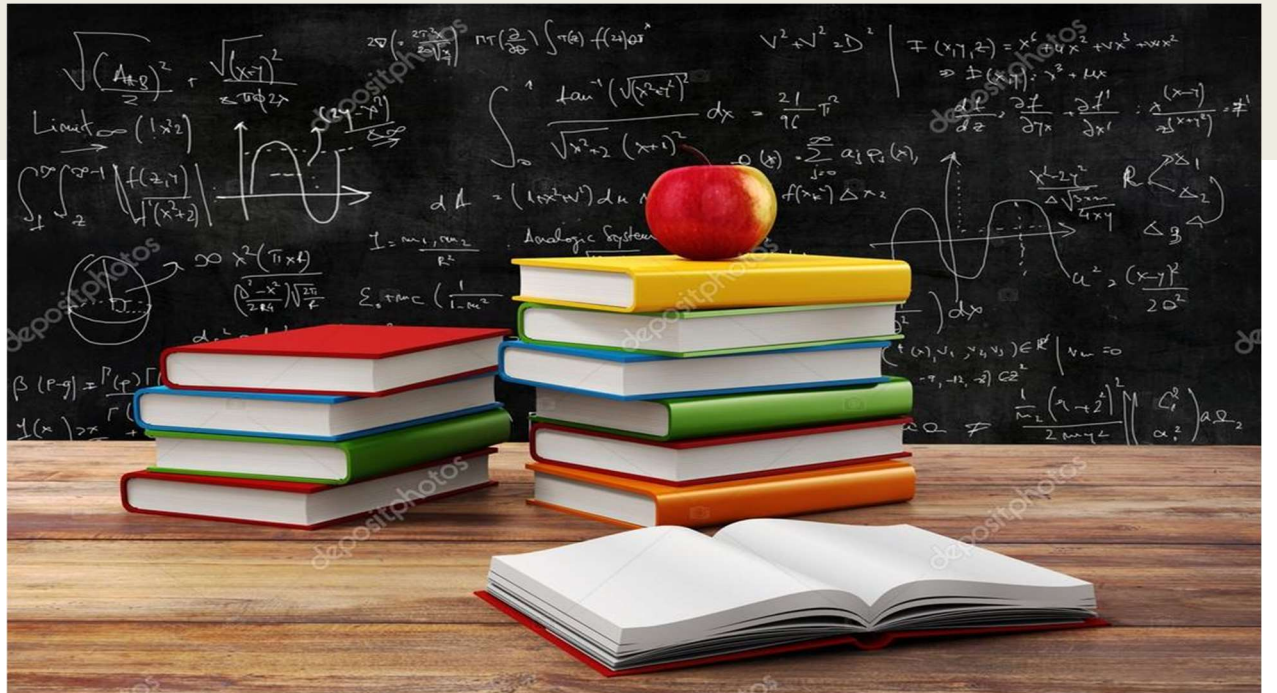
Whatever way the schools try to reach their students with, often it's their teachers who are able to keep their students' enjoyment of learning and who maintain to stay in touch with them which is very important in education.

The Corona lockdown has resulted in boredom for many people and especially some of the younger ones don't feel the need to use their time effectively. They took the day as it came and allowed home schooling to let slip. But we know from different studies that especially foreign languages need to be practiced on a regular basis in order to make progress, and what is even more important, to not regress regarding the language skills that you have already achieved.



Language learning is important to travel – Important to communicate

We should not forget that learning a foreign language is really great, especially if you start early. In schools, children have such a great opportunity to choose between different foreign languages. But what happens when you don't have your regular language lessons at school any-



In school, Children get the opportunity to learn a new language for their future.

Learning foreign languages – very important in school

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more? Well, why don't you start learning a language from home?

It has never been easier to learn a foreign language from home. We live in the digital age. Every student has got a smartphone and there are plenty of language learning apps which are dead easy to use. The next time you don't know what to do with all that extra time that you have, before you download another silly game from the Appstore, try out one of those great language learning apps!

Some argue that there are students who are better at sciences or other subjects than languages, but languages are also an important part of the student's future. For example, many students plan to do a gap year after school. If they have gained good English skills they are able to travel the world. Finally, learning foreign languages has been also proven to be healthy. It increases your brain powers and prevents neural diseases such as dementia. Bilinguals have also been tested to

be stronger at multitasking and other skills (cf. Kaplan international college). So learning foreign languages is good for your health, too, which is another great reason to start learning another language.

All in all, everybody has to reorient themselves when the schools reopen, after the Corona crisis. It isn't an easy time for teachers and students. Definitely, it's very difficult. In Corona – Times, everybody has to stick together, but also make sure that they don't destroy their own future. The chances in school life are so important for students. Because of this situation now, many discussions are taking place online. Be part of those discussions! With good language skills, you are able to discuss those important topics on an international level. After all, this pandemic affects everyone in this world in some way. Stay connected, communicate and use your time wisely and start learning a foreign language now!



The pandemic has forced us to stay home. But, what will happen next?