**College St Etienne. Kinshasa**

 **The re-opening of classes at Collège S. Etienne. August 2020.**

**Precautions taken to prevent outbreak of Covid-19.**

**Introduction**

The school year 2019-220 has not yet been completed in Kinshasa. The government has ordered schools to re-open so that pupils in their final year of secondary education and primary education can complete the school year. However, with the re-opening of classes a significant number of parents have refused to send their children back to school for fear of exposing them to covid-19. A local television station sent a camera crew to Collège St Etienne where most of the pupils had returned to school. Their aim was to report the safety measures taken by the College. In the film the Headmaster, Fr. Simplice Mbassi CJ, reports on the success of the re-opening. Mr Pierre Kabuma, the Headmaster of the Primary School reports on certain difficulties.

**Opening scenes**

A maths class.

Hand washing in the playground

Secondary pupils in class.

Primary pupils in class.

Lesson. Boy at blackboard converting Arabic numerals into Roman numerals.

**Translation of French commentary.**

Since the re-opening of Collège S. Etienne the obligatory directives of the Head of State are being respected by the finalists in the secondary and primary school in order to prevent an outbreak of cod-1 which is at loose in the world.

Classes have been resumed as Fr. Simplce Mbassi confirms.

Translation of Fr Simplice’s report.

As far as Collège S. Etienne is concerned the re-opening has been a success. All the arrangements have been made so that everything is properly organised according to the directives of the Higher Authorities concerning the keeping the virus out by creating a sanitary environment etc. and starting classes.

We encourage our parents and pupils to join with us in combating the virus. We know that covid-19 is not going to disappear from one day to the next. Life must go on and we must adapt and evolve.

We can get rid of covid-19 by respecting the distancing rules etc. It is this that we are making every effort to carry out. We encourage parents and pupils who hesitate to join us to come and see and verify for themselves that everything is in order.

**The Primary School.**

**Translation of commentator’s introduction.**

The Headmaster of the Primary School reports that 90% of the pupils have returned. He points of several difficulties that have experienced.

**Translation of report by the Headmaster of the Primary school.**

We expected 66 pupils to return. 57 did return and 9 remained absent.

The great difficulty we have experienced is that some parents are not prepared to accept the preventive measures. Here masks must be worn before entering the school and temperatures taken. However, there are certain parents who arrive either without a mask or they have a mask but refuse to have their temperature taken. There are parents who respect these measures and arrive with masks, those without masks are provided with one.

**Photos shown during Headmaster’s report.**

Girl in Primary school answering a question

Teacher giving a class on Negro African Literature starting with Gabonese literature.

**NB. Importance of blackboards. Chalk and talk the usual method of teaching. There is little evidence of text books in this short film.**