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25th April

Please find below the update 18 from HOPE.

News from HOPE

- 1) HOPE is to organize an online briefing on 10th May for the students currently on the course overseas and those applying this autumn's entry including those who already hold offers. HOPE's management team will be meeting the students and parents to give a summary of the current policy of our partner institutions regarding the actions taken towards Covid-19, graduation arrangement, English language tests, pre-sessional English course as well as visa suggestions. Q and A session will follow after the briefing. 4 Students currently still in the UK/US will be invited to talk about their experience. We will also collect the questions from the students and parents and feed back to our partner institutions for further reply at our pre pre-departure briefing scheduled on 12-13 June when representatives from our partner institutions will be invited.
- 2) Most institutions in China are going to re-open from next week and the week after next. In Shanghai, students of grade three of junior and senior middle schools (graduating students) will be back to school first from next Monday on 27th April, while the students of other grades (except grades 1-3 of primary schools and kindergarten pupils) will be back to schools on 6th May. Most universities will re-open from 6th May as well. With students and staff are gradually back to campus, HOPE will work with our partner UK and Chinese institutions to arrange more online events for students at local international schools and those students interested in the joint programme.
- 3) HOPE office will close for May Holiday from 1st-5th May. After a series of online events, we probably need a short break before another round of promotion events start from 10th May!

Kind regards

Daniel Zheng

Daniel Zheng

Managing Director

HOPE Study Abroad Service/HOPE International Education

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News on local media

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UK should reflect on how it has fought virus

By Tom Fowdy | China Daily Global | Updated: 2020-04-24 08:59 [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [+](#)



A woman is seen with her face covered as she walks beside the River Thames in Woolwich as the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues, London, Britain, April 23, 2020. [Photo/Agencies]

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They may not be at the same level of intensity, but the United Kingdom's and United States' political situations under the pressure of COVID-19 are strikingly similar.

In the UK-much like in the US where certain voices in government want to shift the blame to China for their own failures-British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab stated recently that "business as usual" with Beijing cannot continue.

Then, in an interview with Sky News, former minister Iain Duncan Smith criticized China's "lack of transparency".

Some UK media outlets are now endorsing the theory fanned by politicians across the Atlantic, and by Fox News in the US, that the novel coronavirus leaked from a Wuhan lab. The standout among them is the Daily Mail, which acts as an unofficial mouthpiece for some factions within Britain's Conservative Party.

The debate is becoming increasingly toxic.

Two countries that failed to adequately prepare for COVID-19 now see fit to demonize China.

Make no mistake, the UK did very little to prepare. Even now, many of its citizens do not seem to be taking the situation seriously.

It is not inaccurate to say that the UK has experienced, like others in the West, a great deal of cultural complacency in its response to the pandemic.

The outbreak in China was not taken seriously. The situation was viewed as the product of an inferior ideology and culture that could not possibly happen in the UK. New viruses and diseases were seen by some as merely a product of inferior countries that had to learn from the West.

The evidence of this complacency is abundant. On reentering the UK at the beginning of March, one found no airport scanning or screenings and no health questionnaires. Anyone potentially carrying the virus could enter without checks.

People did not-and largely still do not-wear face masks, and many remain ambivalent on social distancing.



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It is fair to say the coronavirus was never considered a real threat by many in Britain. When the pandemic did hit, the concept of herd immunity gained the upper hand for a while. By the time the government eventually took strict action, it was too late. The window from January to late March was filled with inaction.

As a result, the urge to blame China for the predicament is swelling, pushed by many voices in some sections of the media and the Conservative Party.

Instead of taking responsibility for the country's own clear governance failures and lack of a social response, the prevailing view on the virus is that it is not meant to be in Britain.

This produces a superficial and opportunistic sense of outrage toward Beijing, embedding the belief that China has attacked the UK's supposedly superior way of life, and there ought to be a reckoning.

Criticism against the government's lack of preparation is gaining traction amid a series of scandals, including a growing unofficial death toll in elderly care homes and shortages of personal protective equipment. That means this politics of anger directed at Beijing is not going away anytime soon, especially as British polls are starting to show small shifts to the Labour Party.

As we are seeing with the White House in the US, the politics of deflection is both tempting and convincing. Many among the public are more inclined to believe in the "inferior enemy" than to adequately hold their own governments to account.

On the whole, the evidence is clear that the British government failed on multiple levels to prepare, make contingency plans and warn the public of a potential COVID-19 pandemic. Yet it is China that ends up as the scapegoat.

The UK must do some deep self-reflection-not concerning Beijing, but how complacency got us into this mess.

The author is a British political analyst. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.



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Back to life, back to reality: Healthy Shanghai heads out of the darkness

It has been a long, tough few months under the dark cloud of novel coronavirus here in Shanghai, but it looks like the sun is rising.

I've used any opportunity I could in the last few months to convince myself everything was back to normal, from people heading back to work to the city's museums and tourist attractions opening again, with mixed results. Our workplace is still nowhere near as busy as it was before the Spring Festival, and many museums and tourist sites — like the Oriental Pearl TV Tower — soon closed again over fears of a second wave of COVID-19.

But now I can really feel life getting back to normal, and I don't think it's just my brain being overly optimistic with me.



Children return to the playground as life gradually gets back to normal in Shanghai.

Back to school

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One of the key factors symbolizing a return to at least some form of normalcy is the announcement that students will soon return to school.

Ninth and 12th graders — middle and high school graduating students — will be able to return to school on Monday, and will become the first group of students to return since the virus forced the closure of schools and an extension of the winter vacation.

Returning to school will be staggered across grades, with others heading back on May 6 and May 18. Universities are also preparing to welcome back students, with some starting as early as next week.

Flights filling up

Another sign that things are getting back on track is the increase in airline passengers on China's domestic routes of late. Passenger numbers have recently recovered to about one third of the same level last year, according to the Civil Aviation Administration of China.

Daily passengers climbed to 458,300 in March, nearly a whole 70 percent higher than February's figures, despite that month usually being one of the busiest for travel in China.

Anyone who had the chance to visit one of the city's airports in the past few months will know just how quiet and empty they were.

Trains on track

China's rail network is extensive, but recently many services have been empty, or canceled altogether, because of the battle against novel coronavirus. That's set to change this Labor Day holiday, with around 7 million expected to get onboard to travel in the Yangtze River Delta region alone, with a peak between April 30 and May 5.

People have likely been itching for the opportunity to get out of the city, especially as many will have been holed up at home for weeks on end with no travel prospects.

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For the upcoming holiday, 50 extra trains will be put into service, including on routes from Shanghai to Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Zhuhai.

Long road ahead

Despite Shanghai being in a good position to resume many functions of normal life, there's still a long road ahead until the city, the country and the world are in the clear.

Shanghai still has the occasional new imported case, despite local cases being reduced to zero. Luckily the city's measures are strong enough that these cases are all caught and isolated at the border.

Harbin, in China's northeast, faces a new battle of its own as imported cases threaten the city, especially those returning from across the border in Russia.

The World Health Organization has warned that the crisis is far from over, and that many countries are only in the beginning of their battles against the virus. Apart from the health aspects, the halt in normal life will most definitely lead to an international financial crisis that needs to be battled long after the last patient recovers.

So, while I'm relishing any semblance of normalcy here in Shanghai, it's bitter-sweet.

"Make no mistake: We have a long way to go," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual media conference recently. "This virus will be with us for a long time."



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Students eager to get back to university

Shot by Zhou Shengjie. Edited by Zhong Youyang. Subtitles by Wang Xinzhou and Andy Boreham.



East China Normal University will see 10,000 graduating students back in the first batch and 5,000 non-graduating students in the second.

Li Yingchen, a senior student at the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, bought a ticket from his hometown in Yunnan Province after the university announced dates for students' return.

The university said graduating postgraduate students can return on Monday, and graduating undergraduates on Tuesday. Other students can come back in batches from May 6. Dates for overseas students will be announced later.

Students have to submit applications for return on WeLink and only those who are approved can return. Anyone with respiratory symptoms, temperatures higher than 37.3 degrees Celsius,

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fatigue, diarrhea or other problems should stay home and return when they have recovered and with university approval.

“Our teacher told us on Tuesday that we can start submitting applications,” said Li, a major in prosthetic orthopaedic engineering. “In the application, we have to fill in information such as our health condition in the past 14 days, the specific return itinerary and our green health code.”

Li submitted an application on Thursday and awaits approval. But he bought his ticket to Shanghai right away as he is eager to return to finish his dissertation.

“I have written part of my dissertation and need to use the lab on campus for experiments,” he said. “I chose to fly because it’s quick and the price is cheap now, an off-season for travel. It costs me just over 400 yuan, while it cost more than 1,000 on normal days.”

Wei Qinjian, a major in mechanical design, manufacturing and automation, is also returning to Shanghai as he has to take an internship at the company he will work for after graduation.

The university is asking students to prepare some protective items, such as masks, and protect themselves on their way back. They will have to show their health codes and student identify cards and have their temperatures measured at the university gate.

The campus remains locked down and students will have to submit applications to leave. They will check their temperatures twice a day and disinfect their dormitory rooms daily.

Takeaway food from restaurants outside campus is banned but other items can be dropped at a university gate and delivered by campus staff to a site where students can pick them up.

“I think the university has done a great job to keep us safe,” said Li. “Since I have been admitted into a master’s program at Fudan University, I will have more time than my classmates, so I will work as a volunteer to serve them, providing services such as helping distribute masks and other protective items.”

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East China Normal University will see about 15,000 students back in two batches, including 10,000 graduating students who will be the first to show up. Six teams have been set up for traffic instructions, entry inspections, temperature screening, campus patrols, emergency management and logistics.

The university has divided students into 10 categories, such as graduating students and non-graduating students with important research, and worked out corresponding plans for their return in different batches. An online system has been set up to assess applications for return.

Dai Liyi, vice president of the university, said all students need to wear masks and show green health codes and campus ID cards on their return.

A room has been set up at the gate of its campus in Putuo District for returning students to have temperatures checked by an infrared imager. Students with normal temperatures can enter the university while those with a fever would be guided to an observation tent for another check by a doctor from the university hospital.

They may enter the university if their temperatures fall to normal level. Otherwise, they will be sent to a designated fever clinic for diagnosis. They will be sent to a designated hospital for treatment if found to be infected. If they have no infection, they will be quarantined at a designated dorm building until their symptoms disappear.

An infrared image indicates the temperatures of faculty.

Temperature screening devices and hand sanitizer have been put in canteens and marks on the ground remind teachers and students to keep at least 1 meter from each other.

There are three kinds of packed foods for each meal. The foods are carefully prepared to ensure nutrition and taste, according to Dai. Students can take food back to their dorm or eat at the canteen.



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“There are only a few students remaining on campus since the winter vacation, so each of them can occupy a table and face one direction to prevent cross infection,” said Dai. “After the other students return, they may have to share tables, so we will install baffle plates.”



Dong Jun / SHINE

Diners will have their temperatures taken when entering the canteen.

In the dorms, public areas have been disinfected and ventilated. In the dormitory rooms, the school has put 15 masks, a thermometer, soap, alcoholic cotton and notices for anti-virus prevention on each desk for students.

Dai said the university has prepared about 500,000 masks which will be enough for the two batches of 15,000 students to use by June 1. He said they were purchasing more.

Wang Jing, deputy director of the university's logistics department, said students will have temperatures and identities checked before entering. They are also offer services such as basking quilts and picking up packages upon requests from students to ensure they live comfortably on campus.

Dai said the campus will remain locked down so faculty and students need to submit application first before leaving and entering. There won't be offline lectures, forums, conferences, job fairs, club events or sport competitions.

He said the university has been delivering online courses since March 9 and the effect proved good.

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“We’ve set up flexible ways for thesis submission and oral defense, as well as degree awarding,” said Dai. “Both online and offline oral defenses will be available.”

A drill will be held to test its pandemic control plans on Saturday.

At East China University of Science and Technology, two drills have been organized, one at its campus in Fengxian District and another in Xuhui.

According to Chen Jian, the university’s security department director, students will be divided into different batches and return in designated time periods.

“If they come in a wrong time period, we will not allow them to come into the campus,” said Chen. “So our teachers are now communicating with students to make sure they understand the rules.”

In the canteens, different entrances have been set up to lead diners to different levels of the buildings. At the No.1 Canteen, foot-shaped marks have been pasted on the ground to guide teachers and students to different windows to pick up packed meals and keep distance from each other.

“Teachers and students will have to bring the meals back to their offices or dorms, rather than dining at the canteens,” said Li Tao, vice president of the University. “We also encourage that each room to have one to pick up the foods for all so as to reduce gathering in the canteen. The dishes will vary from meal to meal but all the canteens will offer the same menu so they can go to the nearest one.”

The universities said return is not compulsory and students can make their decisions based on their own conditions.



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Dong Jun / SHINE

Several observation sites have been set up at East China Normal University.

Source: SHINE Editor: Shen Ke

China to screen Jane Eyre free online

Xinhua | Updated: 2020-04-10 10:43 [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [+](#)

"Jane Eyre," a drama adapted from English novelist Charlotte Bronte's 19th century novel, is set to be released online for free Thursday night, according to the National Theatre Live (NT Live) in China.

Captured live from the National Theater of the United Kingdom, the drama tells stories of a woman's fight for freedom and fulfillment on her own terms.

Directed by Sally Cookson, this version is a collaboration between UK's National Theater and Bristol Old Vic, emphasizing people and events that influenced Jane Eyre the most in her life. Only seven actors and three musicians performed on stage.

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The drama will be available free on Tencent video, Youku and Bilibili for one week, according to NT Live.

Initiated by the National Theatre of China in 2015, the NT Live was a project to introduce high-definition documentaries from top British theatres and those in the United States, Russia and France.

Virtual tour of the Palace Museum



The Panoramic Palace Museum, a feature of the official website of the Palace Museum, enables visitors to virtually explore the ancient architectural compound.

On this virtual tour, you can have the 600-year-old Forbidden City entirely to yourself, take your time to explore the labyrinth of its halls, gardens and courtyards, as well as learn about the story of every exhibit that interests you. You can also feast your eyes on the museum's most famous snowscape.

Go to the following link to enjoy the tour: https://pano.dpm.org.cn/gugong_app_pc/index.html

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