Dear teachers and students from St Peter College,

March and April are the springtime when the cherry trees begin to bloom in Shanghai. Last year in April, we welcomed St Peter’s Delegation. However, due to the coronavirus outbreak worldwide, it is a pity that there will be no visit to your school in July.

Our two schools have been enjoying good relations with each other. Knowing that Australia is also suffering from the virus, I, on behalf of our school, would like to express our sympathy for the outbreak in Australia.

Since China has undergone the torture of the epidemic, I’d like to share with you what I have seen and felt during the outbreak.

First, as for the general public, remaining at home is of great significance in the battle against the fatal COVID-19. To prevent its further spread, in response to the government’s call to reduce unnecessary travel, Chinese people have stayed at home for over a month. Staying at home nearly all day long during the winter vacation sounds really boring, but I found on the Internet that many people have created a variety of indoor activities. For example, I saw an old man sitting in front of his aquarium at home with a fishing pole in his hand and enjoying fishing time. I also saw a whole family covered with a quilt performing the lion dance. Besides, friends in my WeChat Moments have become “Super Chefs”. When the new term began, the government made full use of the Internet and calls on students to have classes online. Ordinary people like us are taking the initiative to fight against the epidemic.

Besides, I was moved by the doctors and nurses who make great efforts to battle against the disease. They are hailed as the most beautiful heroes in the harm’s way. Shortly after the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, many doctors, nurses and volunteers signed up to fight against the epidemic voluntarily. Many of them belong to the young generation born in the 1990. They spent a special Chinese Spring Festival without the company of their families as well as a Valentine’s Day without the company of their lovers. They had little time to have meals and had to work day and night. But we have never heard a word of complaint from them. All we can do is to encourage them and deliver medical supplies and donations to them. Their spirit of utter devotion has deeply impressed me and is worth learning from.

Not only do ordinary people and the volunteers take action to participate in the anti-epidemic battle, but also the government is making the effort. For instance, Huoshen Mountain hospital was built in just 10 days in order to admit more infected patients and provide a better isolation environment. Also, the government has been making efforts to bring the rising prices of face masks under control and speed up the production, research and development of masks. Our government has also released subsidies to prevent people from falling into poverty. President Xi has led the fight against the epidemic. The central government has taken all possible measures to deal with it and to ensure people’s well-being and quality of life.

This epidemic outbreak is just like a clear mirror that reflects both dark sides and bright sides of humanity. We have witnessed a few people without masks wandering on the streets or a few people reluctant to undergo the 14-day quarantine. However, the warm stories of unsung heroes around us and the efforts made by our government and countless ordinary people around us have inspired and touched us a lot. They have given us hope and positive energy to fight against the disease.

Australia may also go through this process. With the number of infected cases increasing, more stress and negative emotions will fill up your heart. But I believe that taking part in some interesting indoor activities invented by yourselves will bring you relaxation and happiness. You can also take full advantage of the Internet to “visit” your friends. Also, taking an active part in donation or voluntary activities can give you the sense of accomplishment of helping others, which can also cheer you up. More importantly, the priority is to have faith in your government, your country.

I am convinced that the novel coronavirus will fade away completely from our life in the near future and that we are to meet face to face under the splendid cherry trees in the near future. I also hold the belief that we are able to visit Adelaide where maple leaves are becoming red. There is hope in every corner of the world. I wish Australia a speedy recovery from the epidemic situation.

Though separated by mountains and rivers, we share one moon under the same sky. I am looking forward to hearing from you!

Yours sincerely,

Jiang Xiaoyin

Student Prefect of

Shixi High School Shanghai