

## TANAT school confronts Covid-19

### High school news

*"This school year was conducted in a very unusual environment. It was a year that was interrupted, then resumed on condition that certain health and safety measures were observed.*



*Thus, after a break of two months, lessons resumed on June 1<sup>st</sup> for the last 45 days of the year. Forty-five days during which teachers and students would have to work extra hard to finish the curriculum. We are now one week away from the deadline and already the curriculum is 100% completed in many subjects. Some teachers have even*

*started revising. The measures decreed by the state are followed to the letter.*

*A delegation from the Ministry visited the school last week to verify compliance with mitigation measures and social distancing. Indeed, these measures were the condition for resum-*

*ing classes and the government wanted there to be no more interruption of classes in order to save the school year. A year that many students thought was lost.*

*One of the reasons why we sensed a certain fall off in their grades when classes resumed. Tan-at CSP anticipated this fall-off by continuing to teach via Whatsapp during the lockdown. We are now in the process of getting students properly back into their work.*

*It is with this in mind that we organised a first mock exam (for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) on July 16<sup>th</sup>. The BEPC exams are scheduled for August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. If time permits, we will organise a second mock BAC exam for the 12<sup>th</sup> grade students (Terminale) at the beginning of August. These graduating students begin the BAC with the sports event on July 21<sup>st</sup>. The written exams are scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup>.*

*I hope to be able to let you know the final results in the not too distant future. I believe these results will reflect the efforts made at all levels.*

Hassane Moumouni,

TANAT secondary school principal

### "Inside TANAT's classrooms"

A 12-minute video was produced from sequences shot in January 2020 by Ghissa, French teacher and high school censor.

This video shows how lessons are conducted in TANAT, from kindergarten to 12th grade as well as other activities such as physical education or the electricity courses.

Check it out on the Association's website: <https://associationtanat.fr/galerie-photos/>  
Or directly on Youtube: <https://youtu.be/RHkMhrpdgVQ>

### Review of the 2019-2020 primary school year

*"The 2019-2020 school year at TAN-AT private school closes on a note of overall satisfaction, despite enormous disruptions: review of the reformed curriculum and the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*The school was closed for two months due to COVID-19. It reopened on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 along with all other schools in Niger, and the government decided to make up for this time for the last forty-five days (June 1<sup>st</sup> to July 15<sup>th</sup>) in order to rescue the school year.*

*At TANAT, lessons continued on WhatsApp throughout the lockdown period for the CM2 class. This allowed these students to keep up with the curriculum timetable.*

*As part of the effort to prevent the spread of the coronavirus infection, all health and safety measures have been observed. We have four hand-washing stations placed at the entrance to the schoolyard. When lessons resume (mornings and afternoons) and at the end of recess, students line up to wash their hands. In the yard, as in the classroom during lessons, teachers and students wear their face cover-*



Primary school hand washing stations

*ings. It was not compulsory for Kindergarten, CI and CP pupils to wear a face covering.*

*The overall results are: 201 pupils move up a class, i.e. 91.78%, while 16, including 7 girls must repeat the year.*

*Most of the pupils who repeat a year have certain difficulties, especially in reading which is a prerequisite for acquiring knowledge in any school subject.*

Mouhamadoune Abdoussamed: Primary School Principal

### Sponsor a class or a pupil of TANAT school

Sponsorships are essential to offer schooling to underprivileged children (pupil sponsorship) or to balance the running costs of the school (class sponsorship). TANAT School needs you and your friends to give even more children the opportunity to take charge of their future.



## 2019-2020: a particularly unusual year



Floods in Abalak

*"The 2019-2020 academic year is coming to an end. A particularly unusual year.*

*Unusual in the sense that the academic year had to resume twice.*

*Unusual also because never before have we seen a year in which all areas of life have experienced disruption. Disruption that went as far as the closure of schools, places of worship, airports, road transport....*

*Unusual in that even a mother shuns contact with her child, so does the child. Gatherings are prohibited ...*

*But what is even more paradoxical is that this is happening, at the same time, in every country around the world; from the richest (United States) to the poorest (Niger).*

*This coronavirus pandemic, since that is what it is, has shown us how vulnerable man is and how limited we are in our inventions, in our projections and in our faculty to improvise.*

*Even Israel, which has an iron dome that can protect it in the event of an external attack,*

*has not had the upper hand in COVID-19. "*

Hassane Moumouni,

TANAT Secondary School Principal

### News

When TANAT re-opened on June 1<sup>st</sup>, primary school attendance was disrupted for the first few weeks by false information that circulated in Niger on social networks saying that a COVID-19 vaccination trial would be conducted on primary school children in Niger and that this vaccine was intended "to kill children".

Unfortunately many parents believed this "fake news". It took the authorities and educators to raise awareness and deny this information.

The winter season was slow to take off this year. The first heavy rains fell in mid-July and the damage already speaks for itself: many animals have died; houses have collapsed. Despite that, the nomadic population whose life is intimately linked to grazing land, breathed a sigh of relief. Indeed, the grass began to grow and the ponds filled with water. The heat has also decreased, making way for cool nights.

Among the Tuareg, we know that proverbs are preceded by an introductory sentence, "people say" or "the Kel Tamasheq say", to indicate that the proverbs are attributed to folk from long ago, holders of a wisdom from the dawn of time ...

"Even the desert is never totally deserted."

"However long a winter's night, the sun will follow"

"Better to walk without knowing where you are going than to sit and do nothing."

"Make your complaint a love song so you don't know you're in pain anymore."

"Camels don't make fun of each other's humps."

"Let him who has a dwelling see that he who passes by does not scorn him."

"Man invented the watch, but God invented time."

"He who does what his father did not do, will see what his father did not see."

"Living with a beautiful woman adds years to a man's life."



Secondary school class: students are all wearing a face covering.

### Tuareg wisdom

"When you travel, take two bags: one to give, the other to receive."

"The desert is that "less" which gives rise to more thought."

"Do not forget the good that you have received; do not speak about the good that you have done."

"No matter how far our feet take us, they always bring us back to ourselves."

When the world was created, God asked Man to choose between eternal life without clothes and a limited life, but with clothes. Man opted for the second proposal. This choice means that Man could not imagine living without honour because, among the Tuareg, clothes symbolise the dignity of the person. The height of dishonour is to be naked and, worse still, to be stripped naked. Thus we can better understand the role of a man's turban and the "taking of the veil", which corresponds to the passage of a woman to adulthood.

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### TANAT School

Given the state of the education system in the Abalak region of Niger, residents banded together in 2008, within the ONODEP association chaired by Mayor Billou Mohamed Moctar, to create and run a school that would cater for pupils from nursery school to final year graduation, in partnership with the French TANAT association.

The educational aim of Tanat School is to:

- Welcome boys and girls regardless of social, cultural or religious background.
- Give young people entrusted to them not only a solid school education but relevant training to prepare them for life as responsible men and women.
- Maintain a family atmosphere that allows young people to feel loved, recognised, supported and listened to.