



28 May 2020

Dear Parents

In a previous letter to you, I outlined, in broad brush strokes, the way forward when the Grade 12 class returns. Herewith, I intend to give some finer details to be noted with your child, in preparation for a return to school on Monday 1 June 2020. This is a particularly lengthy letter, but I ask you please to read it thoroughly and completely, and to familiarise your child with its contents.

Each day will begin with a screening process at 08h15. Weather dependent, learners will be informed of where to line up. Learners will be required to complete a form noting if they have a cough, raised temperature, shortness of breath or if they have come into contact with a Covid-19 positive person, or someone awaiting the outcome of a Covid-19 test. This is a requirement of law. Each learner will be screened by means of a contactless device to gauge their temperature. If a learner answers 'yes' to any of the above questions or has a raised temperature (above 37.5°), parents will be informed and the learner sent home. This is in keeping with the national Covid-19 protocols. To this end, we ask, again, that if your child has a raised temperature or is not feeling well in any way, please do keep your child home. This is in the best interest of everyone concerned. Self-isolation for a minimum of 14 days is the requirement by law. Where a learner is sent home in these circumstances, parents are to ensure that the child is taken to a testing centre, and the school informed by **email** (rhodes.mowbray@gmail.com) of the outcome thereof. All people tested, and those they come into contact with, are to be self-isolated for 14 days, especially while awaiting the outcome of the test.

Learners are required by law to wear a **triple layer, cloth mask** at all times. **Absolutely no buffs or scarves around the mouth will constitute a mask.** Learners will also be issued with 2 masks which the WCED has supplied for each learner. It would be wise for each learner to carry with them their own bottle of hand sanitizer. The school does have and will sanitize each learner on entry to school and each classroom. But it would be better for each of us to err on the side of caution by bringing a small bottle along with us. As we are not permitted to run a tuckshop under these conditions, it is important for learners to bring a packed lunch along to school with them. Learners must at all times, including break time, observe strict social distancing. A minimum space of 1.5m is to be kept between persons. We ask you to have this conversation with your child, and to tell him/her to observe this social distancing even when walking to and from school to public transport. Three (3) comfortable steps apart from the person in front of you is a good guide for distance between yourself and the next person. Learners who travel by public transport are to be especially careful. Wear a mask at all times, maintain social distancing protocols and sanitize hands as often as possible.

The school has made the decision to temporarily allow learners to wear civvies to school. This is in the interest of hygiene safety. Learners wear the same uniform daily, and the danger here is carrying the virus around with us. It would be best for learners to wear a fresh set of clothing each day, which can be washed as often as possible. Without trying to be prescriptive, we ask that you have a plan in place to launder clothing as soon after they have been worn to school as possible, this includes masks. We also ask that learners, as far as possible, wear fresh clothes and masks each day, avoiding the same clothes on consecutive days. Learners are to dress sensibly, especially as the colder, wetter weather has started settling in. Learners are to wear closed shoes at all times.

It is public knowledge that parents reserve the right to keep their children at home during this time. While this prerogative rests with parents, the school must be notified of this. Please complete the form attached to this letter, and return to school no later than 9am on Monday 1 June. This can be returned by email to [rhodes.mowbray@gmail.com](mailto:rhodes.mowbray@gmail.com) . This can only be returned by email, please. No parents will be allowed onto the school premises. We will also not accept hard copy forms returned with learners. This is in the best interest of all, to avoid the spread of the virus. We trust that we will have your cooperation in this matter. To this end, where parents indicate that they choose to keep their learners home, the onus is on the parent to ensure that the required work is received and completed at home, and returned to the relevant teacher by means of email communication **only**. This includes, and is not limited to, the completion of the required assessment tasks. These will be communicated by from teachers by means of GoogleClassroom, whatsapp and/or email. We ask that all learners ensure that they have downloaded the GoogleClassroom app on their cellular devices, laptops or tablets, and have registered with a valid email address. Should a learner not have an email address, they can create one for free using gmail. Many staff have already made contact with learners to join their GoogleClassroom, and this will be the continued means of communication with learners going forward. Staff have also created whatsapp groups, and this will also be used to supplement (not replace) classroom teaching. It is up to learners to grasp as best they can, using the available technology. All learners have access to free Wi-Fi at school, and must use this to their best advantage. Teachers have been and will be using Zoom as well, so learners must please also make the effort to be engaged in these Zoom rooms as well. Again, we are aware that data is a difficulty, but we ask that learners and parents do the best they can to be in contact as far as possible, especially by means of whatsapp and GoogleClassroom.

The school day will begin with Mathematics each day. Learners will go directly to their maths classes after screening (which, as stated earlier, takes place at 08h15). They will have four periods each day, for the first week, and the day will end at 13h30, and 12h30 on Friday. To make up and complete the notional hours, learners will have to be engaged on the online platforms. Other subjects will be timetabled in, and learners will be informed of this on Monday.

It is important to ask learners and parents to note that we are all relying on everybody to play their part in making this work. It will require that everybody plays by the same rules. This includes the classroom. Learners must be actively and positively engaged in lessons. Where learners are not behaving and abiding by the Covid-19 protocols, they will be sent home. We take this matter very seriously. We have many learners and staff with comorbidities and are immunocompromised. To put people through the danger of contracting the virus because someone has behaved foolishly will not be looked on lightly.

The school has spent much resources on ensuring that we are prepared for the start of term. We assure you that we have done everything we can. It is now up to the learners to comply.


Again, I want to thank the many parents who have honoured their commitments to paying school fees. Your contribution to your child's education is appreciated. At the same time, I want to appeal to those who have not done so, to please do so. This is vital for us to maintain the level of offering we currently have. Should parents not honour this commitment, it will absolutely lead to staff being retrenched, resulting in classes becoming bloated and posing a health risk. Please do continue to pay your school fees. I cannot stress the importance of this enough.

I want to thank my teaching staff who have been hard at work preparing to teach in a new way. We have spent the last week getting all teachers up to speed in using technology effectively in their classrooms. This has not been a quick or an easy process, but I am sure that all teachers are ready to go. I also want to thank the ground and support staff who have been working hard to sanitize the school every day, and to manage the administrative load of the school. This is no easy task.

Furthermore, I remind you that I am praying for you all. We are encouraged that President Ramaphosa has allowed us to return to our faith communities, to worship and pray. I ask you to observe the national day of prayer on Sunday 31 May. Pray that our school will be well and safe, and that an end to the virus will come soonest.

Stay safe, stay home!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K Long', written over a large, light-colored circular mark.

K Long,  
Principal