



29 June 2020

Dear Parents

This is a particularly lengthy letter, but we ask you to read it through thoroughly, and familiarize yourself and your child with its contents.

The return of Grades 10 and 11 to school has been much anticipated, and brings along with it much anxiety on the parts of learners, parents and the school alike. The effects of Covid-19 and its subsequent lockdown has forced us to think differently about how we teach. To this end, I want to say a huge thank you to the teaching staff who have all been hard at work learning new methods of teaching using technology as an important tool of communication and imparting knowledge.

The Grade 10 and 11 learners will return on Monday 6 July 2020. However, we want to quell any fears you may be having. The timetable has been worked out in such a way that each Grade is only at school for two days a week, and even then not in full number. Please see below:

Monday: 11 NT, ZP, LNH1

Tuesday: 11 LH, MBS, LNH2

Wednesday: 10 NH, JM, JS

Thursday: 10 JF, DT, JD

The details of the splitting of Grade 11 LNH will be sent in separate communication from the Grade Heads.

This means that your child will only have to attend school for **one day a week**, at least for the foreseeable future. This may change in time, and this will then be communicated to you. Learners will be taught all their runs on the days that they are at school, and the school day will end at 14h00. However, it is important to add that, since learners will only see their teachers for one lesson per week, they are to use the time productively, downloading work off GoogleClassroom and the like. Please ensure that your child is already signed up on this platform and also on Whatsapp. If they have not, for some reason, they will be able to do this at school when they return. Free Wi-Fi is available at school, and so learners must take advantage of this resource to continue their learning. Learners will also be given work packs of notes and exercises to work through. This really is in the best interest of each and every learner to do this. Learners need, now more than ever before, to take control of their own learning. The parents' role is to offer support and to make technology available as best it can be. We do know that there are often difficulties in ensuring this, but we ask you to please do the best you can. These are unusual times, and it calls for us to all think and work differently, collectively, in ensuring that our learners are given the best chance they could possibly be given. This also has long term ramifications. The new technology-based learning we are embarking on is something that we have been investigating for a long while, and will definitely be ongoing into the long term future. Learners who have misplaced, lost or forgotten their WCED Wi-Fi login will be given it again on their return to school. This login can be used at any school with a WCED Wi-Fi connection.

We would like to ask you to have a very stern, strong conversation with your child regarding their safety and that of others. Wearing a mask and maintaining social distance are the two most basic means of limiting the spread of Covid-19. It is never too late to dispel the myth that 'Covid-19 does not exist'. It does! Learners can contract the virus from their friends, who may not even know that they have or are carrying it. We all need to play our part in ensuring that we protect ourselves and those around us from contracting the virus as best we can. It is already common knowledge that the virus can be spread from people who show no symptoms of having the virus.

At school, learners will be screened from 8h15 in the morning. Learners must therefore begin arriving at school at this time. Once learners have been screened they will proceed to the first period. Learners will be sanitized at the screening station in the morning, as well as on entering each class. Every work station (desk and chair) are sanitized at the end of each lesson, so when your child enters a new class, their work station will already have been sanitized. It is wise for each learner to carry along with them a small bottle of hand sanitizer. If they are feeling that they need to, they may then use this to sanitize **their own hands. Masks must be worn at all times.** Masks must cover the nose, mouth and chin. This is a requirement of law. Learners will be issued with two masks on entering school for the first time. However, they should already own their own, and should use these at least on the first day of returning. It goes without saying, but learners should not be sharing masks. We are not allowed to operate a tuckshop, and so we ask parents to ensure that a healthy packed lunch is provided for each child. No learner will be allowed to order food from a delivery service. These are not permitted on the school grounds at all. No sharing of food is permitted. Again, this is a requirement of law. In the interest of ensuring social distancing, no lunch break will be had. Learners will be given a chance to have lunch in class, however. Learners should observe social distancing on public transport, walking to and from school, at break, and also in the classroom. We have done, and are doing, our bit to ensure your child's safety, we ask them to do the same. We have many learners and staff who suffer from comorbidities, and who will suffer greatly should they become infected. Any learner, therefore, who behaves foolishly and puts the entire school population at risk will be dealt with in the strongest terms. No parents or outsiders will be allowed onto the school premises for the foreseeable future. Any parent who wishes to have a conversation with a member of staff, teaching or office, will have to do so telephonically or via email.

In the event that your child is not well, we ask you to please keep your child home to self-isolate. If you are not sure as to whether to keep your child at home, consider the following tick list:

- Does my child have a new cough?
- Does my child have a sore throat?
- Does my child have a headache?
- Does my child have diarrhoea?
- Does my child have a raised temperature/fever? (37.5<sup>0</sup> or higher)
- Has my child had any contact with someone who has travelled overseas over the last three months, or with someone who has contracted Covid-19?

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 them. 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 settled 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 Friday 3 July 2020. This can be returned by email to [rhodes.mowbray@gmail.com](mailto:rhodes.mowbray@gmail.com) . This can only be returned by email, please. 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.

We would like to thank all those parents who have honoured their commitment to their children's education by paying their school fees. We ask you please to continue doing so. We ask those parents who have not honoured their school fee payments to please do so. We are a long way yet in being able to pay staff salaries for June, and also to cover other debts and expenses which we have. We ask you please to make payments as swiftly as possible in order to ensure that all these debts are honoured.

In a recent communication to the Grade 12 parents, I noted that the weight of the wellbeing of my school weighs heavy on my shoulders. I would like to again echo this with you. Managing a school as vastly varied as ours is in these difficult times does not come easily. I rely chiefly on a gracious God to guide us all through this. I am praying for you all. I ask that you, in turn, pray for us as we navigate these difficult times together.

Yours sincerely,



K Long,

Principal