



RHODES
High School

persevere

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Dear Parents

I ended my communication dated 19 June with you, saying that the weight of the wellbeing of my school bears heavy on my shoulders. More and more each day this weight grows as the challenges we face in the wake of the Coronavirus forces us to reassess what is 'normal'.

We have already informed you of four of our staff who have tested positive for Covid-19. We are happy to report that all four of these staff are recovering well, and are all in the last stages of their self-isolation. We thank God for their recovery!

It is incumbent on us, however, to again share difficult news with you. One of our matric learners has tested positive for Covid-19. The learner in question has not been present at school since last week. Any learner that she has come into close contact with has been notified to self-quarantine.

We have taken the decision to postpone the control test timetable, which was meant to commence tomorrow, 24 June. The new starting date and timetable will be communicated with you soonest. We have done this to give all members of the Rhodes High family a chance to recalibrate where we are. We have communicated the situation with the District Office, and they have again stated that school remains open. Should you wish to keep your child home for a few days, we ask you to communicate this to the school by email or telephone. However, it remains the responsibility of both parent and child, in these instances, to ensure that work is received off the online platforms, and worked through. We know that these are difficult situations to be in, and difficult decisions to make. While we are sympathetic to the plight of learners, parents and staff, we are also bound by the directives of The Department of Basic Education and the Western Cape Education Department. Again, we would like to impress upon you the lengthy measures we have gone and are going to, to sanitize every work station (desk and chair) multiple times a day. Hands are sanitized at the start of every lesson as well. The WCED is also again sending in a team to decontaminate the venues where the learner has been. We again encourage the Matriculants to wear casual clothes to school, and, in particular, to not wear the blazer to school. Clothing should be changed out daily, and washed as often as possible. We are aware that learners feel they may be under pressure in wearing civvies to school, but we wish to stress that this is not about any fashion parades. This is about the safety and wellbeing of everybody at school.

Again, we ask you to have these continued conversations with your child, reminding them to sanitize and to **maintain social distancing** and to **wear their masks**. We just cannot have this conversation with learners as often as we are needing to. Learners who do not cooperate with these regulations **will** be dealt with in the strongest terms.

We pray for wisdom in these trying times. I pray for you and your families, that you may be well. I ask you also to pray for us as we sit in the coalface of this devastating virus. God bless.

Yours sincerely,


K Long,
Principal

Our Vision is to embrace and manage change, to uphold high standards and to educate for life within a safe and caring environment, which challenges learners to realize their full potential.