



20 April 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

Re: Term Two 2020 Update

Greetings to all of you, and especially to our Primary School parents, who I do not normally address as this has traditionally been our Primary School headmaster/mistress's privilege. However, we are a family of schools and I look forward, therefore, to doing this on a more regular basis.

By now you will know that there is an extension to the lockdown until Sunday, 3rd May 2020. Faced with this reality we are planning for **two scenarios** for the beginning of term:

1. School to start as per the scheduled date of the 5th May.

IF the Government announced that the lockdown would be lifted on the 4th May, it would be our intention to start on the 5th, with boarders coming on the 4th May OR as close to this as possible. Having stated this, there are a number of issues that would need to be addressed before this could happen, namely, and amongst others, the provision of appropriate health measures to be put in place to ensure the safety of our children and the adequate availability of food.

Please note that this is **ONLY AN INDICATION OF OUR INTENTION** and that a lot more would need to be known before this became a reality.

2. School to start later (after the first fixture free, 22 – 24 May 2020)

Having stated the first point, our staff are being further trained in the use of Google Classroom and its related applications to be ready to engage with our pupils from the 5th May onwards. Formal training is scheduled for early next week, giving the staff time to prepare learning material for the following weeks. Special permission is being sought for them to attend this on-site. They are also going to be working in their respective departments to assist each other as they develop the content.

Timetables are being modified to provide students with a planned schedule of lessons for the week. A diversity of teaching and learning methods will be used, which include pre-recorded videos, interactive, real-time lessons, assignments, quizzes and written projects. An emphasis will be given to the core subjects in the lower secondary classes while all subjects will be focussed upon for the examination classes. The Primary School's main focus will be on Mathematics and English with the provision of other fun and interactive content. There will also be additional content supplied with regards to activities such as exercise, health and nutrition as well as providing for the spiritual dimension to our beings.

Pupils engagement will be expected by providing written homework, assignments, presentations, etc. to their teachers, with the latter giving timely feedback on the work submitted.

We want to create a simple but effective routine for the virtual school day and hope to start each day with a short devotion and message from myself, Mrs Holman or other senior staff. We envisage asking pupils to engage in their schoolwork for a period of four or more hours in the morning with them having to attend some virtual, real-time classes during this time. This will be organised through a personalized schedule that the individual pupils will have access to. Our Primary School scholars will have a shortened schedule that caters for their age-specific needs, including opportunities for creativity and fun. Our staff will be available online to answer queries and to provide feedback until an appropriate time before they leave for home in the late afternoon. The development of Whatsapp groups will be used to communicate with, in addition to the other methods associated with Google Classroom.

Our Form Base Teachers and Class Teachers (for our Primary School) are to play an important role in making sure that all of their pupils are engaging in the virtual learning. They will also be a back-up for those pupils who are struggling.

Assistance in the form of updated email addresses, cell phone numbers and the creation of gmail addresses will be required from you. A short questionnaire regarding this will be issued soon for you to complete. This will allow our teachers to create online classrooms.

I hope the information provided above is an adequate starting point for you to understand what we are working towards. Please expect more details as we draw closer to the 5th May. With regards to the next two weeks, I suggest that your child/children be allowed to rest and enjoy their holidays with the proviso that their homework has been completed. I would also ask that you make provision for the use of the internet at your home in anticipation for not coming back on the scheduled date, if you have not done so already.

Finally, although these are challenging times that we live in, we are not alone and therefore I can confidently pray.....

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:13

Yours for Gundi.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean Seeliger', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Dean Seeliger
Principal