



28 August 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

Re: Update on Current Affairs

It is again my pleasure to write to you in an attempt to update you on what has been happening at the College and to notify you on the important events that will transpire shortly. Our beautiful College continues to await the return of our pupils. Spring is nearly upon us and we have been made aware of this with the weather becoming warmer while our trees continue to lose their leaves in anticipation of new growth.

In our continued efforts to improve our communication with you we have decided to move to the use of **Whatsapp messages** after a successful trial at our Primary School. You would have already received information regarding this. We will be moving away from the d6 Communicator application as a result. If you have not received any message thus far, I urge you to contact our reception in order for you to update us with regards to your mobile phone number. We are also **changing our email domain service provider** as parents have had problems receiving our emails, especially those with a yahoo address. This should be rectified by Tuesday, 1st September. You will also be receiving regular **statements** of your accounts as a further improvement.

Our **mock examinations** are behind us with staff having already provided feedback to their students. Although the online assessments were not without their challenges, we all agree that it was a worthy exercise as part of the preparations for the external examinations. The **next month** is a very important period in which students are encouraged to make the most of. Effective time management is paramount.

All indications are that the October/November Cambridge examination series will take place. Our representatives of the Association of Trust Schools (ATS) are in constant contact with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education as well as with Cambridge International Examinations in this regard, and as a result we encourage you to continue to assist your children in their preparations. The exact date of when the children will return to school to write their external examinations has not been established yet.

You would have received information recently about the up-and-coming **consolidation tests** that we have set for our non-external examinations classes. These are important assessments to ascertain the level of mastery of the knowledge obtained since the beginning of online learning. We therefore encourage all our pupils to prepare appropriately for these. A series of internal, end of year examinations will also take place during mid-November for these classes.

We are excited about our **Form 1 intake** next year. Many parents/guardians have already paid their deposit and we have a healthy waiting list for the remaining few places. I have thoroughly enjoyed the virtual interviews that I have had with the students and parents. We look forward to welcoming them into the Lomagundi College Family.

We had a very successful meeting yesterday where we spoke about what we can offer our senior body, and specifically our **Lower Six Students**, in addition to what we already do. The discussions centred around the provision of extra career guidance, life skills and other internationally recognised qualifications that would be attractive for our students. More information about the decisions related to this will be communicated shortly.

We are also very conscious that our **Form 2s** will be having to make decisions about their IGCSE subject choices and that discussions regarding these need to be had. Formal communication and related documentation will be sent out soon.

Our **online half-term dates** have been scheduled from the 14 September to the 28 September while the “**fixture free period/rest**” has been planned for the 2nd to 6th November. Our **internal examinations** for the Form 1s, 2s, 3s and 4Bs will take place from 12th November. Finally, we plan to close the online programme for the **Christmas vacation** on 10th December 2020. Please note that these dates can change.

We have initiated the programme of regular **individual** and **group tutorials** and are already seeing the benefits of these less formal interactions between staff and pupils. One of the main objectives is for these to be used as a platform for encouragement and support AND to provide assistance with specific academic problems.

Thank you for your support for our **Constance Dohwe**, who has been diagnosed with Aplastic Anaemia. We are about to launch a Virtual Fundraising Walk for Constance in the month of September. This will be open to people of all ages, anywhere in the world. We have managed to raise a significant amount for Constance, but we still do have a long way to go. We look forward to your support and ask that you also assist in spreading the word.

In closing, may I ask that you continue to support our effort regarding:

- **Online learning.** I am addressing the issue of a small minority of children who are failing to sign in online for their lesson that we have observed. Please continue to monitor your children’s activities during the online school day. We do not want our pupils to miss out on the important tuition provided. We want their academic efforts to count.
- **Online assessments** (specifically regarding the Consolidation Tests). It is imperative that these tests are completed under examinations conditions. Their teachers will be advising them on how these are to be executed. I ask that they take these instructions seriously.
- **Online tutorials.** These are important for the reasons stated previously. Please encourage your children to make the most of the opportunity afforded.

I would like to thank you for your continued support of our schools and for the efforts that you are making to keep your children engaged in learning, even during these challenging times. I commend you, Ladies and Gentlemen. We, here at Lomagundi College set of schools, are optimistic about the future. It may be different to what we have experienced in the past, but we have determined that where there are challenges, there are also opportunities for growth.

Yours for Education at Gundi

Dean Seeliger
Principal