

20 April 2020

Dear Muizenberg High family

The Department of Education, both DBE and WCED has been hard at work to find sustainable solutions to secure the 2020 academic year. During this process they are meeting with various stakeholders and roleplayers. These considerations take time and effort to consider all aspects involved in changing of time structures (terms), assessments, curriculum delivery and curriculum content. The concept is called Curriculum Recovery Plan. The result of these meetings is not available yet, however, a document called “Post COVID 19 – Recovery Plan – final draft” which was a working document used as a framework for the meetings was leaked on social media and to the news agencies, creating enormous confusion and queries.

In this light I would like to bring you up to speed and I hope that this communication will give clarity and simplicity to the confusing messages we receive on a daily basis.

REOPENING OF SCHOOL:

- It is **likely** that we will return back to school in **May**. We have received NO communication regarding the phasing or staggering of the grades, nor the reopening date.
- It is clear that the school calendar may be adjusted to make up the lost teaching and learning time.

CURRICULUM DELIVERY:

- **GRADE 12** is a top priority for the department. WCED is working hard on lesson plans and video material to help our learners to cope with the curriculum. There is NO indication that the curriculum or the assessments for Grade 12 will be reduced.
- Lesson plans and teaching resources have been developed for Grades 8-11. The curriculum and assessments for these grades **might** be reduced.

It is clear that we need to focus on the resources and time available to us.

- We have posted work via the website and the facebook. These two platforms are available for communication.
- The staff has posted work for all grades on these two platforms.

- The History and the Physical Science department have made youtube videos to complement the work. Educators are trying their best to ensure the learners have work and to make the curriculum delivery as beneficial as possible.
- We are aware of the fact that many families might not have data or internet access, and therefore, we are moving our curriculum delivery between cementing term one work and where it is possible slowly moving into the second term. **NO LEARNER WILL BE DISADVANTAGED BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE WORK SET.**
- We will have **recovery and catch-up sessions** for those learners who do not have the benefit of connectivity.
- Should your child struggle with specific concepts, e.g. a mathematical or accounting concept, we do not expect parents to teach the learner. Please make a note of the concept and ask your child to communicate with the teacher on return to school. During our catch –up sessions we will ensure that we assist the learners.
- Should you have limited internet or data: SABC 3, DSTV channel 319 and OVHD channel 122 offer daily broadcasts. We have published these links before on the website.

I applaud the staff in their efforts to assist the learners. They are going out of their way and is fully committed to teach, assist, be creative and upbeat. They are aware of the inequalities in terms of connectivity and reaching all their learners. Over the past few weeks I have seen superheroes with superpowers and I know your children's academic future is in good hands!

Thank you to all the parents who diligently play their role. You are great! Thank you for your partnership. I know we will all pull together and help each other to, not only survive these uncertain times, but to become stronger.

Please do not believe all the "*forward*" messages you are receiving on your whatsapp, facebook and Instagram platforms. We will keep you informed as we receive directives from the WCED. I wish you a healthy, and peaceful lockdown period.

Leonie Jacobsen