

Dear Muizenberg High Family

Today is the 7th day of the National lockdown and on reflection I have realized that we have already covered a third of the 21 days. This is an unprecedented and uncertain situation and we do not know when school will resume. We cannot speculate or make any predictions. We will follow the directives from the President and the minister of Basic Education. I read a lovely message where the COVID-19 is seen as a storm on the sea, and the question is, should we worry more about the water outside the boat or inside the boat? I would argue that our MBHS family has the commitment and the tenacity to weather this storm, pull together, create unity and support on all levels and help every child to come to their full potential. It will ask us to sacrifice, but it will also encourage us to find a common purpose: Education at the core of such purpose.

Today is day 3 of our “back –to-school” programme. I am encouraged by the MBHS staff’s creative and spontaneous call of duty. I subscribed to Mr Dingle’s History channel on youtube and notified many high schools that there is “grassroots” history teaching for their Grade 8-12’s. Mr Petersen is teaching Life Science for up to 45 matric students per day. Many staff made their personal whatsapp accounts available for students who need help, I thank them. I want to assure every parent and caregiver that the school will do everything possible to ensure timeous curriculum delivery and catch up of the educational programme.

We have published the work set from 31 March until 10 April on our facebook and our website. This will take us until Easter weekend. Children need structure and direction, and it will be useful to set the boundaries and high expectations. Please look at the work done and you are welcome to check and sign their workbooks. This will give you as a parent and caregiver good insight into their work ethic and work done in class.

Our matrics must spend at least 4-5 hours a day with their work, not only with work set by the teachers (they have received their work on the last day of school) but should you have the means to access other online platforms, I encourage you to do so. Some subjects might require less time than others but we encourage a good academic routine.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents and caregivers for coming on board, helping and supporting the children to complete the work set. Please be assured that NO child will be disadvantaged because they do not have access to the online programmes and resources. We will find a way to support and catch up. All our learners had to take their text books home and it will benefit them to read with comprehension. We do not expect parents to be responsible for teaching the curriculum, merely to facilitate the homework process.

The department is adjusting the academic terms according to the needed contact and teaching time and the provisional timetable shows that the two weeks we are at home will be provided for during the course of the year. I am positive that this daunting health scare has brought home and school closer.

To quote Mahatma Ghandi: “ The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members”. In this spirit I urge us to do good, to donate, and to support organisations who are working around the clock to feed and care for the vulnerable.

God bless you and keep you safe.

LEONIE JACOBSEN

PRINCIPAL