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HOËRSKOOL
HELDERBERG
HIGH SCHOOL



TO LEARN | TO LIVE | TO SERVE

1 April 2020

Dear Parents and Learners

I trust you are all well and have enjoyed the time at home, despite it being a confined space. Certainly, many of you are facing real challenges and I encourage you to continue to put your trust in God.

The closure of the school due to lock-down for the first two weeks of the second term, with the possibility of a longer period, has a significant impact on teaching and learning in the following ways:

- Lost teaching time
- Lost assessment time
- Less revision time
- Academic momentum is lost
- Rise in stress levels

I remind you of the first announcement where the President indicated that schools would start on 14 April, thus extending the 2nd term into the June/July holidays. Helderberg High School is still in support of this announcement and intends to formally commence teaching on Tuesday, 14 April. To date we have no indication when schools will resume.

As a school we are acting in a proactive manner. Our Educators have spent considerable time from home to successfully manage the uncharted waters of home-based learning. We are doing our best to ensure that your child will not have to repeat this year.

The school will continue with lessons via 2 platforms, firstly with WhatsApp groups while integrating Microsoft Teams, each educator will guide the learners where applicable. These lessons will contain new work that we expect the learners to go through with guidance and monitoring from their parents and teachers.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOME-BASED LEARNING

Teachers will communicate via WhatsApp on class groups and will use this forum to teach. Work will be shared with the children directly and they are expected to show self-discipline during this period of home-based study.

The best way for learners to merge with this system is for them to utilise the time allocated for each subject on the timetable, to work on that specific subject. Additional work will need to be done in the afternoon in preparation for the next day. The educators will be available during each period to teach and answer questions. We kindly request that you respect that the teachers will be using their afternoons for marking and preparation and that learners need to prepare their questions for during school time. In an urgent situation, educators will do their best to answer questions on Whatsapp after school, but NO responses after 1600 will be entertained.

In order for your child to successfully receive these lessons, access to the internet is imperative.

PLATFORMS

Whatsapp : I have no doubt that every child at Helderberg High has access to Whatsapp and will thus be able to receive instructions from their educator, this will be the first port of call. Please can you ensure that your child has sufficient data on a daily basis. We would like to remind you that this platform should be used strictly to enhance education, please do not clutter the groups.

Microsoft Teams: depending on the need, we will liaise with you when this becomes necessary and we will guide you. Should you wish to watch an intro tutorial – Mr Mason has kindly shared this clip: <https://youtu.be/oLL6pxu-JY>

TRIAL RUN – 8 APRIL

As mentioned this will be a totally new experience and we recognise there may be teething problems. We therefore request each learner to be available on Wednesday, 8 April, as a trial run. We suggest that you use the Wednesday timetable, to contact your teacher and classmates during the applicable periods. Parents, we encourage you to also be available to assist and monitor, our hope is that most of the problems or issues will be ironed out on Wednesday in preparation for Tuesday.

Copies of the timetables per Grade are available on www.helderberghs.co.za under the *News & Timetables* tab.

TUESDAY – 14 APRIL

Teachers will be available for learners to ask school related questions from 7:30 till close of school each day. Teachers will communicate with the learners on a weekly basis regarding interactive sessions with the learners. Interactive sessions will run according to the current timetable.

To each learner of Helderberg High School, we are taking your education very seriously and we strongly encourage you to do the same. We recognise this is not the ideal situation, but we can successfully manage this together, please don't hesitate to ask for help from any of your educators.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in this important matter.

AR BASSON
PRINCIPAL