

Dear Parents,

I trust you have had an enjoyable and restful period with your families over the Easter weekend.

As we go into the 20th day of lockdown, there has been so much to process during a period for which we have all been unprepared. Anxiety and uncertainty deepen and with that comes a great deal of fragility as the world navigates these unprecedented times.

The International School of South Africa had installed remote learning to make up for lost tuition time up to the 3rd of April 2020. Moving forward government has announced that schools will not be returning on the 16 April as had been initially projected, that date now remains open ended. Our return date still remains the 5th May as was published in my last communication. However, this date may again be influenced by a variety of factors related to the pandemic should government move to open schools beyond the 5th May.

I wish to assure parents, should that be the case then the entire school will return to online or remote learning, as it is now commonly known, to support the continued learning of our students. Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) is committed to helping students and schools during these difficult times by providing additional resources which will help teachers to deliver effective teaching and learning outside of the classroom. This information will be shared with our parents and students in due course. During the course of the holidays, our teachers are currently hard at work particularly with those students that will be sitting CAIE Examinations in November, should these examinations go ahead as planned. I appreciate that extended commitment by our staff.

This week we are loading Google classroom for the Primary school so that we can roll out online learning for that part of the school as well.

I urge parents to be patient with us during this period as we all get on board with this new method of teaching and learning. It is an opportunity for us all to get our hands on deck and honour each other every step of the way so that our children can be the greatest beneficiaries in this process.

I am also receiving concerns from boarding parents about border lockdowns. At this stage it is very difficult to predict the way forward because every country has implemented its own set of lockdown rules. Safe to say that should boarding students be unable to join the day scholars, they will continue to receive online support during this period.

Parents you would have noticed that I have not raised the issue of school fees in my previous communication to you. Partly, because I am still hoping that we return to school as predicted but it would seem the return date remains uncertain at this stage.

I would like to thank those parents who have already honoured their fee commitment in advance. I am conscious that the lockdown could have potentially affected some of you materially, please let us have those transparent and open discussions to establish how we can support each other during these trying times. Our schools cannot function without your financial support.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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"If it's important to the child, it's important to us."

SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Parents these are trying times for all of us and we ask for your patience, prayers, courage, and resilience during this period. Rest assured that we will fulfil our educational obligation to your children, our children.

Thanks again for all your support and do not hesitate to drop me a line through my PA at jenna@issa.co.za

Yours sincerely

Bruce Wells

CEO/Headmaster

International School of South Africa

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