

17 July 2020

Dear Parents

Thank you to those of you that were able to participate in the survey.

### Data Feedback

The returned data was needed more to inform us how we are going to structure our new model going forward than with the health and safety side of the COVID plan.

Some parents are concerned about committing to one or the other and are afraid to make an uninformed decision related to the two different offerings.

The school is opting for a hybrid blended model, where there will be simultaneous face to face learning and live streaming of the lessons by the teachers on a daily basis.

How the school phases in the returning of students to face to face learning in Term 3 will be communicated to parents once the data has been carefully analysed.

However, there are a few things I would like to clarify with the online vs face to face learning.

As we go into the peak with all the safety measures in place, some parents may still choose the option of online learning.

If parents choose to return to face to face learning later in the term, they will not be prejudiced if they had previously opted for online learning.

Parents, as you follow the daily updates on the pandemic in our country, you will be aware that there is always new information that influences this space. We will not ignore the professional and scientific advice that is offered to us as we make decisions on how to move forward as a school.

### Boarding and Travel

The plan remains to receive boarding students who are able to travel to South Africa by road on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August for quarantine purposes. As previously communicated, Botswana students will be met at the border. ISASA is in constant conversation with the South Africa Immigration authorities regarding the opening of airspaces in our sister countries for travel to South Africa. We will communicate that message to our parents as soon as we are notified.

We will be issuing travel permits to students that will travel across provinces and borders to expedite their smooth return to school for Term 3.

### **Load shedding**

Load shedding has reared its ugly head again and there have been a few disruptions to our online programme. Unfortunately this has become our “New Normal” and we have had to navigate these challenges as and when we are confronted by them.

### **Cambridge Examinations**

We are delighted to inform parents that we have received confirmation that the November Cambridge examinations remain on track if conditions allow at the end of the year. I will err on the side of being optimistic that our students will be able to travel to South Africa by then to sit their final examinations.

Should plans change around Cambridge examination provisions, updated information will be carried in a communique from the desk of Ms Makhan, Deputy Principal of Academics.

Parents I also wish to extend my sincere thanks to those of you that were able to respond to our call around the payment of school fees, this is much appreciated. Thank you also to those parents that have come forward to discuss private payment arrangements with the school. I am hugely grateful for this partnership and the sense of community that we are building during this time.

Teachers have started their report writing in earnest this week, and reports will be distributed at the end of the term. It has been a pretty long haul with two weeks to go. Thank you again for your patience and for your unstinting support of us during this period.

Today we gathered virtually as a staff to provide a snapshot of where we are in our journey as a school. I was able to share the many compliments and messages of appreciation that we have received from our parents.

I again wish to commend the staff and the entire ISSA team for their diligence and hard work during this term.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Wells  
CEO/Headmaster  
**International School of South Africa**