

7 October 2020

Dear Parents,

Thank you for the positive feedback I have received from you following yesterday's communication.

As promised yesterday, I would follow up with any new developments.

This letter serves to inform you that this morning, I have received confirmation that of the two members of staff who went for testing on Monday coming out of the contact tracing, one result has returned positive this morning and the other negative.

I thank those members of staff for acting responsibly and sharing those results with us.

I have taken the view after careful deliberations, in consultation with SME, members of staff and the Chairperson of the Board that the responsible thing to do would be, as of tomorrow the 8th October, for Forms 1- 4 to return to online learning till the 15th October which takes us to the beginning of Mid – Term (five days). Students will follow the normal timetable.

According to the Standard Operating Procedures as stipulated by the Department of Basic Education there is a distinction between close and casual contact which sometimes can be difficult to quantify.

In this instance, I would prefer to err on the side of caution to ensure that all members of the community are safe. The affected teacher has been in contact with all the forms from Form 1 – 4, and the responsible thing to do is to allow these students to go into quarantine.

This is a reasonable window (13 days) including the midterm for our students to go into quarantine to check for possible symptoms. During this period classes will be deep-cleaned and sanitized. Currently our classes are sanitized daily and disinfected on a weekly basis.

Boarding students will remain in quarantine in the Boarding Houses and continue their online lessons from the residence. Boarders will be allowed to leave their residences to take their examinations.

Department of Health

We have been working closely with the Department of Health and Education with respect to our COVID compliance. I have been in contact with the Department of Health in the last 24 hours and they are satisfied with how we managing the process thus far and have been very supportive. They have again cautioned against closing schools for isolated cases. They have agreed to assist us with possible contact tracing during this period.

Examinations

All external examination candidates that are taking exams during this period, will be allowed to come onto campus to sit their examinations as per the timetable, including the Grade 6 checkpoint exams. These will be done under strict COVID-19 compliance regulations. Parents will be allowed to drop off and pick up students at the end of the examinations.

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

SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Primary School

The Primary school has not been affected during this time, however parents that may have children in both schools may choose to keep their children at home and opt for the online learning. The decision will be entirely yours.

Conclusion

I trust that you would support this arrangement and I will keep you updated should any new developments arise.

Kind Regards

Bruce Wells
CEO/Headmaster
International School of South Africa.

