

29 October 2020

Dear Parents,

We have reached the middle of our final CAIE examinations and these continue to go very smoothly.

There is still a fair amount of teaching that is going on in the Lower Forms of the school and teachers are going to set some time aside to focus on revision before the internal examinations begin.

I encourage students to concentrate on the teaching and learning that is taking place at the moment and not to shift too much of their attention to the oncoming examinations, time will be created for that preparation.

### Uniform

Students will be asked to return to their full school uniform as of the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020. The exercise has served its purpose and I trust that students now understand that you have to wear a fresh set of clothes every day during these COVID times.

### COVID-19

This afternoon I received confirmation of the first positive COVID -19 case in the High School amongst the Form 1 students. I wish to thank the parent concerned for acting responsibly by contacting the school to inform us about this case. We sent out an urgent message to all the F1 students to quarantine for the next 10 days to look for possible symptoms during this period. I encourage parents to contact the school as soon as possible should their children test positive during the isolation period. All F1 students will return to online learning as of 30 October 2020 and return on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

Should other parents in the High school wish to isolate their children, please feel free to do so.

The pandemic is still very much with us. I urge parents to continue having the conversations with your children about the importance of observing the COVID-19 Protocols. There is clearly pandemic fatigue that is creeping in where students are also dropping their guard when it comes to wearing masks and social distancing and it is a constant battle to get them to tow the line. On a daily basis I am constantly having to reprimand students reminding them to social distance and wear masks. I am appealing to parents to assist us in reinforcing the appropriate protocols during this time.

### Farewell Function

Tomorrow afternoon, we will be hosting a small farewell function which would have been traditionally the Valedictory function to mark the end of a high school career at ISSA for those students that were able to return face to face learning in Upper 6<sup>th</sup>. This will be a bitter sweet moment especially for those students that were not able to say farewell to us face to face. One hopes that in the near future we could convene a more formal function by inviting our students back to school to mark such an occasion.

### Sport

We recently received a directive from the Department of Education that sport can continue in a controlled environment within the stipulated COVID protocols.

I am delighted that the Primary School was able to begin with some fun sporting activities this week and I wish to thank Mr. Henry Matthews for leading this initiative together with the teachers in the Primary School.

We will continue to monitor this space carefully to adhere to the strict COVID protocols as we are currently doing.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

+27 18 381 0330 +27 18 381 0330 [issaprimary@issa.co.za](mailto:issaprimary@issa.co.za)



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

SECONDARY SCHOOL

+27 18 381 1102 +27 18 381 1187 [admin@issa.co.za](mailto:admin@issa.co.za)



### Heads of Department appointments in the Primary School

I am delighted to inform the community that Ms Jidzo Ndebele has been appointed as the official Phase Head of Key stage 1 of the Junior Primary School. Ms. Ndebele brings with her tremendous experience in this area and we wish her all the best, together with her team as they shape a new path for this section of the school in 2021.

I wish to thank Mrs. Theresa Monage for holding the fort for the last 2 years in an acting capacity.

I am equally delighted to announce Mrs. Camillah Hendricks, who has also been officially appointed as Phase Head of Key Stage 2 in the Senior Primary School. A position she has been holding for the last year in an Acting role. Her experience came through strongly in the rigorous interview process and we wish her and her team well as they too create a new path for the Senior Primary School in 2021.

### Deputy Principal Positions

This weekend we are engaged in the process of appointing Deputy Principal's in the High School. These are very key positions in the school. I had earlier disclosed in previous correspondence that these will be internal appointments. I am delighted with the strong pool of internal applicants that have raised their hands to serve the school in these positions of huge responsibility.

I am a firm believer of nurturing internal talent and I am confident that the successful candidates will take the school forward as we work towards embracing and rolling out Vision 2023 for ISSA.

I think it is also important to mention for the record that the Deputy Principal's posts come with a teaching load of 24 periods each.

Please don't hesitate to call me if there are any issues that you wish to clarify.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Wells  
CEO/Headmaster  
International School of South Africa