

20 January 2021

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to inform you that we have made a good start to the term and all our classes have officially resumed online learning this morning apart from the ECD phase, which has been allowed to return to face - face learning in accordance with the agreement that was reached between the Department of Social Development and member schools of NAISSA.

Some boarding parents have requested that we extend the isolation period as an extra precaution for those local boarding students that did not return to boarding with negative COVID certificates. In consultation with the Pastoral Deputy, Mrs. Lucille Gabriel, the House parents, and Professor Lionel Green-Thompson, we have extended the isolation period to 7 days after reaching consensus with all parties affected. I hope this gives parents a measure of greater comfort.

All students should have received all supporting learning materials at the close of today.

I look forward to a very good working relationship with you as we take the school forward in 2021. This industry called Education is about relationships, and how we honour and maintain these going forward, translates to the success of the school.

I begin my second year at ISSA with a measure of self-assurance and confidence that as a school we are on the right trajectory with regards to taking the school forward. Thank you for the trust you have shown in me as a leader and thank you also for having the confidence in the team that I lead, by sending your children to the International School of South Africa. We do not take this for granted.

Vision 2023

I have shared the Strategic Plan with the Senior and Middle management on the 8th of January 2021. This was followed by another meeting and discussion with the entire staff on the 18th January 2021, where we shared how we can collectively engage in an organic process of giving shape to our new Strat Plan. This is the beginning of a new era and an exciting time, as we redefine a new roadmap for the school. We will also be inviting our students to participate and make their contributions during the course of the 1st term. Parents will be invited in due course to make their contributions to the process.

Tutor System

We will be introducing a new structure called the Tutor system into the high school. This will entail a small group of students that will be arranged vertically and will be in the care of a teacher called the Tutor, students will be called Tutees. The Tutor will be the primary source of contact between the student (parent/guardian) and the school. This new structure will strengthen the support that we offer our students on issues concerning their academics, personal issues, disciplinary issues, academic choices, and study skills amongst other things. This will strengthen the communication between the parents, teachers and students and the school. Your children will be introducing you to their Tutors once the students have been formally allocated to their Tutors.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

SECONDARY SCHOOL

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School Fees

This is one area in the operations of the school that continues to remain a source of tension in the life of the school for me. Understandably so, given the current economic crisis and the uncertainties that go with it. However, we should not lose our civility towards each other in our levels of engagement.

Parents thank you very much to those of you that have honoured your commitments to pay your fees on time. We hugely appreciate it.

My door has always remained open when it comes to supporting parents with financial challenges by installing agreed upon special arrangements for payment of fees. However, I find it discourteous when some of you that have failed to honour your agreements, adopt a very aggressive and hostile stance towards the school when we engage you about outstanding payments. Some of you have even thrown the South African Constitution, an honourable document, into our faces for your convenience to defend your cause. I find this behaviour very distasteful and deplorable I am afraid.

Personally, I invest a lot of time and effort in relationship building centered around respect for all in the communities I serve. And as we continue to work in this space, I ask that we always try to foster and strengthen good working relationships with each other. Respect for each other must always be central to our conversations and engagement, regardless of the inevitable challenges or differences we may sometimes encounter as a community. I look forward to your support in this regard.

Results

Despite the testing times that 2020 brought with it, our students have managed to rise above this and excel.

Mr. Tinashe Makudo, Deputy Principal Academics has already shared the AS and A results in his earlier letter to parents.

Yesterday we received our IGCSE results. A very high standard was achieved considering all we have had to endure to deliver a quality an online education.

I wish to share the results of our top achievers in the IGCSE class of 2020.

Makudo Tawananyasha	7 A*s and 2 A`s
Gaomas Ti-a	6A*s ,1 A`s and 1 B
Chalamba Wezi	4 A*s and 5A`s
Akingba Omotola	8A`s
Ezebuike Olachi	3 A**s, 2 A`s and 3 B`s
Savanhu Dion Ruvarashe	5 A`s and 1 B
Elitha Taruvona	4A`s and 3B`s
Nyemba Marcia	3 A`s and 5 B`s



Dlamini Thubaletu 2 A*s and 1 A and 2 B`s

Caetano Teles Jessica 3 A`s and 4 B`s

We wish to commend and congratulate all our students, teachers, and parents as we join in celebration with you for standing together and supporting each other as we navigated the school through the choppy waters last year and still produced such outstanding results.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you for your ongoing support of the International School of South Africa even during the difficult times and look forward to a fantastic partnership with you as we continue to steer the ship yet again through some of the turbulent waters that still lie ahead.

If there is anything you wish to clarify, please do not hesitate to call me, or set up an appointment with my PA, Jenna Rae.

Yours sincerely

Bruce Wells
CEO/Headmaster
International School of South Africa

