

28 June 2021

Dear Parents,

Following the announcement by the President last night, to close the entire Education Sector by Wednesday 30th June, and by extension to 2nd of July to allow boarding schools the latitude to complete travel arrangements by 12.30 noon on Friday. This has again been reiterated by the Minister of Basic Education at a Press Conference called at 11.00 am this morning; the International School of South Africa has taken the following position.

- Our Schools` closure for Term 2 will be brought forward to the 30th June 2021 at 1.30 pm which will be the last day for formal lessons as per National Directive as advised by the Department of Basic Education.
- We will allow our Boarding students to begin travel arrangements from the 30th June after school, for those that do not need the PCR test.
- We will allow parents of students travelling out of South Africa until Saturday morning to confirm travel arrangements. This will also give us ample time to arrange PCR tests by arrangement as determined by confirmed flights out of the country.
- Travel arrangements and PCR tests will be coordinated through Mrs. Gabriel`s office and her Team.
- The restructuring of our Academic Calendar will be communicated from Mr. Makudo`s office for the High School and same for the Primary School from Mr. Nheera`s office.

What do these dates mean for the International School of South Africa?

Term 2 adjusted dates:

Schools close on the 30th June and re-open on the 27 July 2021 at 07.30 am sharp.

All Boarders will be expected to return on Sunday the 25th July 2021.

We had anticipated a shorter holiday for this term with closure on the 5th August to return on the 31 August 2021. The holiday break remains the same in terms of time taken out.

The July examination will now be an August examination which will be moved forward accordingly, so that no contact time is lost. Ostensibly teaching time will not be lost and we will enjoy more contact time as Term 3 will be slightly longer than normal, with a Mid -Term to be published sometime in October in the adjusted Calendar which will be published soon.

Parents, sorry to spring this on you, but this does call for swift action following the President`s announcement last night. The situation on the ground is dire and I do think this will be the safest and most sensible thing to do for the well-being of our country and our children, as we move into this Ruthless 3rd wave. I would feel more comfortable that our children will be out of the “Eye of the Storm” during this period, and I hope by the time we return to school we would have flattened the Curve a bit.

I concluded with an excerpt from a sobering speech by our President, Cyril Ramaphosa last night.

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“If it’s important to the child, it’s important to us.”

SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Fellow South Africans,

Our former President Nelson Mandela once wrote:

“I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way”.

“But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb”.

As a country, we have faced two devastating waves of coronavirus infections.

We have overcome these by responding swiftly and decisively, and by acting together to contain the spread of the virus and protect ourselves, our families and our communities.

In the words of our President,

“We now face another great challenge, another hill to climb.”

Parents, we have climbed many hills together as a community in the past 16 months managing this space, this is yet another one of those hills.

Thank you for the support that we continue to receive from you as a school, this too shall pass as they say.

Please do not hesitate to call me if there is anything you wish to clarify.

Please let us stay safe during this difficult period which we are all experiencing across our Continent.

We hope and pray that our share of vaccines will reach our shores sooner.

However in the interim let us continue our good practices of **Washing our Hands, Wearing our Masks and Social Distancing** and please keep away from crowded places.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Wells
CEO/Headmaster
International School of South Africa