

RHENISH GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

The Oldest Girls' School in South Africa

Principal: Ms E H Slabber

13 August 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Learners

Update on Covid Cases and Adjusted Level 4 at Rhenish Girls' High School

Last week I reported to all parents about the outbreak of Covid Cases at Rhenish Girls', that we had been instructed by the WCED to close the hostel for Grade 8 - 10 learners and that no sport or cultural activities would take place until further notice. At this moment, I can report a sharp decline in the numbers of Positive cases reported - I am aware of 5 Positive Covid cases this week. This does not mean that we can become complacent. It does not suggest that this is the end of Positive cases in the school. We have to be extra cautious to ensure that we conserve our most important and our at most risk resource, our human resources, so that school may return to "normal" very soon.

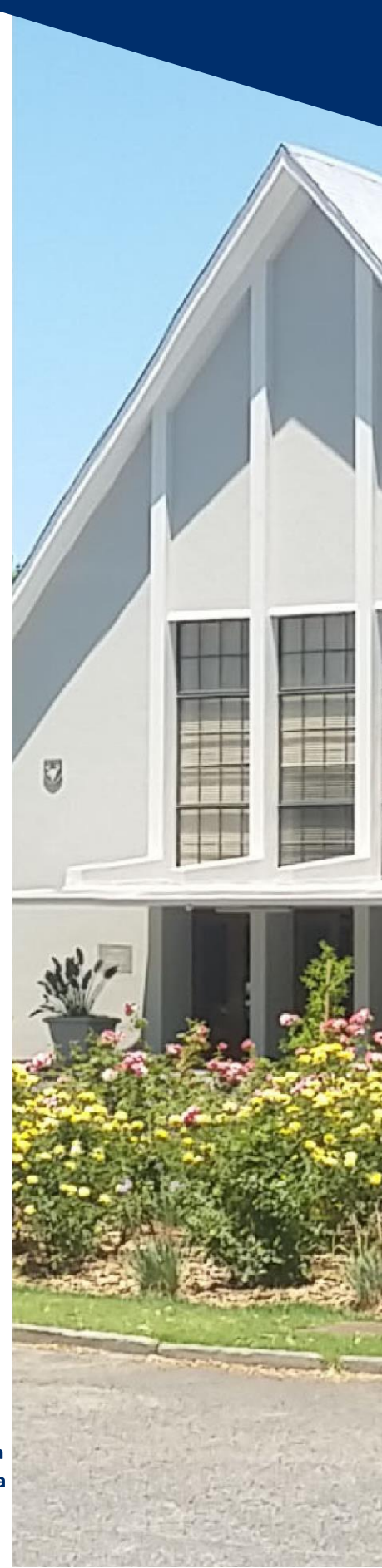
The hostel will be open for all Grade 8 - 12 learners from next week. However, I want to plead with parents to ensure that your daughters are healthy when they return. While the hostel girls cannot be expected to wear masks 24/7, we need to be extra cautious with our interactions with each other. Learners should not visit each other's dorms, but should rather meet outside in the fresh air.

Until positive cases are under control, the current suspension of sport and cultural activities will remain.

Grade 12 learners – Monday 16 August – LO Examination

The Grade 12 learners will write the LO prelim examination on Monday 16 August. This is the final preparation in this subject for the Grade 12 learners as they write their FINAL NSC examination for LO on 6 September.

Parents and learners need to take note of the following important information regarding this prelim exam and the final examination:



RHENISH
GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



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Prelim exam – a doctor’s note is needed if your daughter cannot write the exam on Monday at school. This prelim exam is important and no Grade 12 can afford a zero at this stage. If your daughter is isolating, has tested Positive for Covid or has been booked off for any other health issue, we will allow an online exam. In this case we will require justification from a registered health professional under whose care your daughter is **BEFORE** she will be allowed to do the online exam. Parents **MUST** email this to Mrs Smith @ Sherna.smith@rhenish.co.za by Sunday 17:00 if they cannot write at school.

Final LO Examination – 6 September: No learner will be allowed to write this exam at home. A doctor’s certificate is needed if your daughter cannot write on 6 September and this means that her final results will not be available next year. Only once she has completed a supplementary examination (and the dates for these are not yet available) will her final results be calculated and then made available. If your daughter tests Covid positive at the time of writing, your daughter may write the exam (if she is well enough), but she will write in a separate room at the school.

Reports – Term 2

We completed the test series for Term 2 at the beginning of this term (certainly a first in the history of this school!) and the reports for the second term will be handed to learners today.

The aim of the mid-year test series was to expose learners to an extended assessment so that they are able to learn the skills needed to sit for a full examination session. As things currently stand, all grades will write full exams at the end of the year and we feel that it was prudent to teach them the skills necessary for them to be able to achieve their academic potential at the end of the year.

The interruption to the test series was unfortunately beyond our control but we are confident that the decisions made in response have not disadvantaged any learners.

In most subjects, the marks acquired in Terms 1, 2 and 3 count towards a "year mark" (sometimes referred to as a continuous assessment mark). That then forms a part of their final result at the end of the year along with their final exams.

In the GET phase (Grades 8 and 9), the split is usually 75/25 (year/exam) and in the FET phase (Grade 10-12) the split is usually 25/75 (year/exam).

Last year, because of the revised curriculum and the abbreviated school year, the weightings were altered slightly to create more of a balance between year and end-of-year exam marks.

Whatever the weighting is, it is important to understand that the marks a learner acquires in Term 1, 2 or 3 are merely a reflection of her work in that particular term and not of her ability overall. We encourage learners to work as consistently as possible to ensure they build up a year mark that will benefit them at the end of the year.

In the midst of this, we are also acutely aware of the fact that we are in the second year of a world-wide pandemic that has altered the landscape of our world and has far-reaching effects on us all. Everyone, our learners included, is under unprecedented pressure to function as "normal" in a world in which very little is “normal” anymore.

We encourage both learners and parents to view the results of the recent test series as a way of identifying potential weak points that should then be worked on; use these to determine where adjustments need to be made. This work and these adjustments may take many forms: extra lessons, changing a subject where possible, adapting a work ethic or reaching out for help. They are never an indication of person's worth or value.

While we appreciate that there is considerable pressure on learners to achieve certain results to gain access to tertiary courses, the welfare, mental health and safety of our learners is paramount and we have had to adjust our definition of "success" in these unprecedented times.

Please be assured that the staff will also use the results of this recent test series to determine where weak points lie and will work on these for the remainder of the year to ensure that every learner is fully prepared for their final exams. That said, we also need to be realistic about expectations and perhaps there are some tough conversations that need to be had.

Please be assured of the ongoing support of the staff, management and the SGB in ensuring our learners' safety and success for the remainder of the year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E H Slabber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E'.

Ms E H Slabber

Principal