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RHENISH GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL: MS E H SLABBER

28 May 2020

Dear Grade 12 Parents/Guardians and Grade 12s

Returning to School – 1 June 2020

We are very excited that the Grade 12s will be returning to school on 1 June 2020 and I am aware that you have been waiting in anticipation for this letter.

The SMT returned to school on 14 May and the rest of the staff returned to school on 25 May. We have been hard at work putting in place certain procedures and protocols for the return of the learners. We are confident that the school is ready to welcome learners back in line with the government's COVID-19 regulations. I am emphasising the following points for 1 June 2020, **but please read the the Rhenish Covid-19 health and safety regulations carefully.**

General safety tips (please read the Rhenish Covid-19 health and safety regulations)

- Sanitising stations around the school are to be used on a regular basis. We also advise that learners bring a small bottle of alcohol-based sanitizer with them every day.
- Social distancing is very important and we want all staff and learners to adhere to this at all times. To make it a little easier, we thought to suggest a “flow of traffic” map to be able to help with social distancing. Unfortunately, the girls will have to change classrooms for every lesson – this is owing to the complexity of our timetable and the many subjects we offer. They will walk to each of their teacher's classrooms and we therefore need the girls to be vigilant and conscious of their surroundings as they change classes. Social distancing measures will be adhered to in classes. Learners are encouraged to take responsibility for this personally and to practise social distancing during break times and when going to the bathroom.
- Masks must be worn at all times. The WCED has provided masks – at this stage one mask per learner, and we are fortunate in that an Old Girl has also donated a mask to every Grade 12 learner. This will be presented to the Grade 12 learners on 1 June 2020.
- Hands must be washed as often as possible. Soap and paper towels are available in all the bathrooms.

Screening procedure (please read the screening policy carefully)

- Every staff member and learner will be screened when s/he arrives at school.



- Grade 12s need to arrive with a mask and walk to the Ebenezer Hall. Three different stations will be allocated and girls need to stand 1.5 meters apart while waiting for the screening
- Sanatise hands at the front of the hall
- Once screened and given the go ahead, please take a seat in the hall for the orientation programme.

Academic matters

We realise that parents and learners may feel anxious at the moment with regards to the completion of the syllabus, the administration and completion of assessment tasks, marks, and the understanding of the content covered during the lockdown period.

We would like to assure you that the staff feel confident that there will be enough time to complete the syllabus and cover all the content required to write the NSC examinations at the end of the year. The Department of Education will soon publish the amended school calendar which will most likely indicate shortened June/July and September holidays. This information will be shared with parents as soon as the official document is received. The DBE also provided the curriculum recovery plan to schools on 26 May and the staff can now plan for the rest of the year. The NSC examinations will start later than originally scheduled in order to provide schools with more contact/teaching time to complete the syllabus. The forgoing of the June examinations has also increased teaching time by 3 weeks.

Once the Grade 12s return to school, the main focus will be on consolidating the work completed during the lockdown period. Before carrying on with the curriculum, it is important to ensure that all learners have completed the assigned work and should they have any questions or not understand some aspect(s), they will have the opportunity to discuss this with their teachers. There will not be a focus on formal assessment tasks in the first few weeks back at school. Learners will need to adjust to the school routine and this “new normal”. They must ensure that they are up to date with the work in all their subjects, and settle down before formal assessments will be administered.

Learners not returning to school

I am aware of learners who will not return on 1 June and I have had discussions with those parents. If for some reason you have not yet contacted me, please do so as soon as possible so that we can discuss the different options. A formal process must be followed and an agreement between the school and the parent will be completed after my discussion with the parent.

School uniform or not

Grade 12 learners have lost out on so many events this year and the most important goal at this moment is to help and support the Grade 12s with their academic work. Grade 12s can, if they wish to do so, wear neat, comfortable and warm civvies (preferably the Rhenish tracksuit) when they return to school. Please note: no pajamas or slippers will be allowed. This will be the case until further notice.

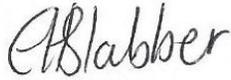
Even though these are uncertain times and it will be an adjustment for all parties, we are excited about the matrics returning and putting their shoulders to the wheel to ensure that they are confident and ready to complete their Grade 12 year.



Please ensure that you read the following information carefully:

1. Screening policy
2. Rhenish Girls' High School COVID-19 health and safety regulations
3. Guidelines from the WCED regarding learners at risk (Comorbidities)

Yours sincerely



Ms E H Slabber
Principal

