



11 April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

I write to you not only as acting principal of Hoërskool Lydenburg, but also as a parent who understands your concern about your children's future, especially with regard to the current academic year.

Hoërskool Lydenburg has been keeping a close eye on the COVID-19 pandemic right from the start and has geared up early to handle this crisis. We now have only two overriding priorities: to ensure that children can successfully complete their academic year, and to ensure the sustainability of our school.

Nobody can say for sure how the pandemic will unfold or whether the lockdown will be extended even further. As a result we were ready to commence with revision work from 31 March and now from 14 April for online learning and teaching, as well as assessment, because contact tuition is not possible. Planning for the remainder of the month is based on the assumption that children will not yet be allowed to return to school. Our Minister's message was clear in this regard.

Preparations include the following steps:

- Specialised divisions are busy putting the necessary technology in place.
- We can confirm that some cellular networks will provide zero rated access to our online platforms for teaching and learning for our students. (Vodacom e-learning one example)
- Teachers are receiving training in online teaching assessment.
- Tips about online learning are being provided to children.
- We will continuously monitor staff and children's readiness for online learning and teaching, in order to help those who need assistance.

We have been keeping you informed since the end of March via Whatsapp-groups, Facebook and d6-communicator, about the latest developments. Please visit this webpage – there you will find all the communiques, health protocols, tips for online learning and the relevant support services available to children.





After the decision of the Minister was announced, we attached a **revised academic calendar** for April. We emphasise that it will not be “business(school) as usual”. Online teaching and learning will require commitment, focus and independent work from our children. We encourage them to seek help from us if they need support. They need to stay in a routine. We will be using Google Classroom and Whatsapp-groups to work with children. Google Classroom is an App that the parent/child will have to download. The child will receive a code for every subject in order to be part of the virtual classroom. We have tested it with our grade 8 Afrikaans Home Language subject and it has been a success. We are sending this message to you today to request that you download the app in order for classes to commence on 14 April. Codes will be sent to parents who must then pass them on to their children. Grade 12 learners will start with this process and then we will also slowly phase it in for other grades.

I am immensely impressed with how the Hoërskool Lydenburg community is rallying in response to the current crisis. But I do realise that we are in exceptional circumstances that require adjustments that are not always easy to make. We have never experienced anything like this before, but we also know that we can accomplish much through cooperation. The whole world is currently going through tremendous upheaval. We are all on this strange journey together.

I give you the assurance that we will do everything possible to ensure that your child will be able to complete the academic year successfully; and that he/she will have a noteworthy school to return to once this crisis is over.

I trust that you will be able to spend quality time with your loved ones, even if that is from a distance. May we all have our batteries recharged for what lies ahead.

Kind regards,

C Aucamp

C Aucamp
Acting Principal

