



Hoërskool

LADYSMITH

High School

Posbus 33 / PO Box 33
LADYSMITH
KwaZulu-Natal
3370

Telefoon : (036) 637-7091/2
Telephone : (036) 637-2221/2
Faks/Fax : (036) 637-2531
E-mail : lady-smith-high@mweb.co.za
Website : lhs.co.za

2 June 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian

COVID-19 CORONA VIRUS

As we prepare to resume our school year we are all concerned about the impact that the COVID-19 virus could have on education.

We have seen countries around the world reeling from the devastating health crisis brought on by the exponential spread of this highly contagious and deadly pathogen. The novel corona virus is exactly that – it is a brand new strain of viral infection. Even now, several months after its discovery, medical specialists across the world are trying to understand it, develop a vaccine and ultimately curb the spread of the virus.

This is not the flu despite what the critics would have you believe! The human race has all but conquered influenza in that we have built up an immunity to it and we have developed flu vaccines. It is true that the Corona virus infection rate continues to grow in South Africa. The lockdown merely slowed the spread, limited the loss of lives and gave our healthcare sector time to prepare for the worst.

It is against this backdrop and after our entire country has been "locked down" for over two months, that we appeal to you to make an informed decision. It falls within your rights as a parent to decide whether or not your child(ren) will return to LHS or register for home schooling.

The LHS educators, support staff and cleaners will be properly trained to combat the spread of this disease. We will observe all protocol provided by the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Health and implement our own stringent measures to safeguard the LHS family. To this end we have consulted highly qualified frontline medical specialists to assess and refine our COVID-19 protocol and procedures. It is definitely in your child's best interest to observe all protocol without fear or prejudice. We are all only as safe as our own behaviour dictates.

Rest assured that our Governing Body understands that your child is your most precious possession. The Governing Body has provided all additional safety equipment, over and above that which was provided by the KZN Department of Education. Social distancing and regular hand sanitizing will be observed by everyone in the school environment. Masks will be worn by everyone without exception. Educators will lead by example. Everyone entering the school building will be screened on a daily basis. This means they will be asked a set of questions to establish if they have any symptoms and their temperature will be recorded with a digital thermometer. Only if the learners receive the all clear will they attend school for the day. If not, they will be isolated until the parent

or guardian can collect them for further intervention. Educators will not attend school if they display any sign of illness. Your child must do the same.

With regards to the issue of the school uniform, good hygiene practices must prevail. One cannot wash the school blazer and school tie daily, nor can we mix casual clothing with the school uniform. For this reason, learners must wear civvies to school as the entire outfit must be washed when they return home each day.

If your child is concerned that they were unable to maintain academic progress during the lockdown, please be assured that all learners in all subjects, will resume learning from the same point. Not all educators had the resources to dispense work programmes during the lockdown period nor were they expected to do so. It is also true that not all learners have equal access to online platforms.

Sadly, the lockdown has also had a savage impact on the livelihoods of our parents, as businesses floundered or closed. The Governing Body is sympathetic to the plight of all families who are under tremendous financial strain to make ends meet. To this end, the Governing Body has agreed to grant a payment "holiday" and the subsidy application process also remains open. The payment holiday allows you to continue settling your school fee account until 15 December 2020, after the normal October closing date. To apply for a full or partial school fee subsidy please send an email to info@lhs.co.za and we will forward the necessary forms to you. Please bear in mind that the payment of school fees is legally binding (Section 39-41 of the South African Schools' Act, Act 84 of 1996) notwithstanding the days that were missed. It would be highly appreciated if more school fee payments could be made via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or bank deposits in order to limit the number of visitors to the school. Use the following bank details:

- Bank: Nedbank
- Account number: 1330067347
- Branch code: 133025
- Reference: Child's NAME and SURNAME

Due to factors beyond our control we were unable to conclude our first term assessment programme. For this reason, testing will only resume once learners have settled into the new school routine. When the learners arrive, it will be to an entirely different routine and way of school life. All learners will enter the school at the sliding gate between the Tennis Courts and the Girls' Hostel from 07:00 every morning. Motorcyclists will also enter here and park on the driveway next to the gate. Learners will queue for screening on the pathway between the Tennis Courts. All social distancing protocol will be observed here and throughout the school day, including break times. At the end of the school day, learners will exit the school premises from the same gate. Access to the school at the main gate by parents, visitors, officials and suppliers will be strictly controlled and documented.

To make provision for lost academic time and the screening protocols the school day will end at 15:30 from Monday to Thursday and 14:00 on a Friday. Suffice it to say this will be similar to the start of an entirely new school year. If we are all committed to do our very best to protect ourselves and one another, we may well succeed in this endeavour.

Kind regards



HJ CLARK
PRINCIPAL