

BLUE HILLS COLLEGE

GDE REG 133694

PRIVATE BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL | GRADE 8 - GRADE 12

INTEGRITY | COURAGE | RESPECT | DISCIPLINE | DILIGENCE



16 MARCH 2020

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER - COVID-19

On Sunday 15 March 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the nation on measures to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic. One of the announced measures is the closure of schools from Wednesday 18 March 2020 until after the Easter Weekend.

The announcement has caused changes in our calendar of events, and this communication outlines those changes.

We support our government in the strategies employed to ensure the safety of all citizens. We urge all to remain calm, stay informed and take the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the virus.

CLOSING AND OPENING DATES

We will close on Wednesday 18 March 2020, at 12h00.

Since we are closing at 12h00, the clearance for boarders will continue until Thursday 19 March 2020. We realize that some parents may be far, and such a short notice may be an inconvenience.

The opening day will be Tuesday 14 April 2020. Boarders will be expected in on Monday 13 April 2020.

We were supposed to close on 8 April 2020, and open on 4 May 2020. The change in our closing and opening dates mean that we will have a longer term 2.

The closing day for term two remains 31 July 2020.



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CO REG 2004/035651/87
MEMBER OF ISASA

SUSPENDED/POSTPONED EVENTS

The Pink Blue Day planned for 20 March 2020 has been suspended, until a new date is communicated.

29 March 2020 had our Open Day, which has also been postponed to a date yet to be finalized.

All meetings, trips and camps which were falling in the months of March and April have been suspended, until further notice.

REMOTE LEARNING

There may be no need for our remote learning programmes to commence in the period 18 March 2020 to 14 April 2020, as this has been taken as a normal closing period for term 1. In case the situation does not improve, and schools remain closed even after the Easter holidays, then our remote learning mechanisms will kick in. The two days remaining, Tuesday 17 March 2020 and Wednesday 18 March 2020 will be used to trial run the remote learning at school. It is therefore very important that parents ensure that learners come to school, so that they are not left behind.

We noted that there are learners who do not have phone numbers, and our request is that parents relax that rule, since WhatsApp is going to be one of our important means of communication.

Educators have indicated that there are a few learners in the school, who do not have tablets. There are varying reasons, as some tablets are said to be broken or lost. We would like to appeal to parents to ensure that in the two days left, learners are connected to our systems via a tablet. Since we are in an emergency situation, you do not need to go for an expensive one, but make sure your child has one, so that he/she does not remain behind.

We will use our ITSI E-Learning system, WhatsApp groups for learners and parents, and the Google Classroom platforms to continue with our teaching and learning activities.

A timetable has been drawn, and it will be made available to learners and parents. Learners will be given work by a specific educator, at a specific time – guided by the timetable. By the end of the day, parents are expected to assist by checking the learner's books or tablet against the timetable, since there should be work done after each lesson.

This remote learning arrangement will kick in, if we fail to open schools on 14 April 2020. It means that if we do not open physically, we will still be able to open remotely, so that teaching and learning is not delayed.



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IMPORTANT DATES

. 17 and 18 March 2020	– Consolidation and Trial Run of Remote Teaching
. 18 March 2020	– Term 1 Ends
. 10 April 2020	– Good Friday
. 11 April 2020	– Easter Saturday
. 12 April 2020	– Easter Sunday
. 13 April 2020	– Easter Monday
. 13 April 2020	– Boarders Arrive
. 14 April 2020	– Term 2 Lessons Begin
. 15 April 2020	– ICDL and CAT Term 1 Tests Begin
. 17 April 2020	– ICDL and CAT Tests End
. 20 April 2020	– Term 1 Tests Begin
. 24 April 2020	– Term 1 Tests End
. 27 April 2020	– Freedom Day
. 15 May 2020	– Term 1 Reports Published
. 17 May 2020	– Parents' Meeting - 12h00 to 13h00
. 17 May 2020	– Grade 12 Consultation – 13h00 to 15h00
. 31 May 2020	– Grade 8 – 11 Consultation – 12h00 – 15h00

ENDING

I would like to apologise for the delay in sending this communication, there was a lot of engagement needed with other stakeholders before this final decision.

It is our hope that you will have an interesting time with the children during this break.

Unfortunately, this pandemic is affecting movement and association. However, our trust in the Lord gives us hope that He will see us through and keep us safe.

Yours in education

Mr B. Ndlovu
THE HEAD



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