

WOODRIDGE COLLEGE AND PREPARATORY SCHOOLS

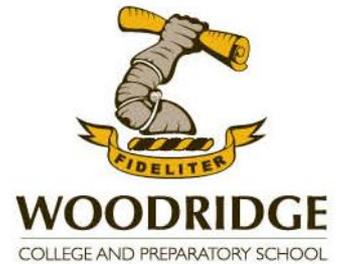
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21 May 2020

Dear Parents

On Monday evening the Minister of Education announced that the phased opening of schools across the country would commence on 1 June 2020.

We write to confirm that Woodridge College will re-open for Grade 7 and Grade 12 pupils on this date and that we will adopt a phased approach in bringing back the other grades. Within the next 48 hours we will upload information on the website, which provides comprehensive details of the safety and operational procedures in place. We take our health and safety obligations seriously, therefore we would ask parents to access this information.

There has been no communication regarding boarding schools at this stage. We await approval from the DBE or ISASA, but we will plan to open our boarding on June 1 2020 for the two cohorts returning and adopt the same phased approach for the other grades.

The Estate Manager and his staff have been hard at work ensuring the school is ready for the return of our staff and children. This has involved extensive deep cleaning, spacing of desks in classrooms, preparing the dining hall and boarding facilities and ensuring the campus is ready for the pupils to return. We have used guidelines and regulations from the DBE and ISASA to ensure that we are fully compliant.

As an Independent school we have latitude about which grades we bring back onto campus and related timing thereof. We will proceed with caution, but our plan is to get as many pupils and staff back onto campus as soon as possible. Both the DBE and ISASA are dealing with issues, which will affect our planning. We will communicate with you as our plans unfold.

Some parents are uncertain about sending their children back to school. We have clear protocols in place and all people on campus will be expected to adhere to the regulations, which will keep us all as safe as possible. These principles are based on both the WHO and international best practice and include compulsory facemasks, social distancing in classrooms and common areas, temperature checks and other safety measures. The school has been deep cleaned and sanitised and we will continue to sanitise the school at regular intervals. All classrooms, bathrooms, the dining hall and areas with high traffic volumes have had hand sanitiser units or bottles installed.

We understand that there will be families who do not want to send their children back because of health issues that can place either them or family members at risk. We also have children in other grades from other provinces and outside the country who will only return later. For this reason, we will continue with remote learning to support all these pupils.

International research has revealed the following:

- The last four months shows that it (COVID-19) does not infect or affect children and teens in the same way it does adults.
- Children and teens have low infection rates, they do not become that unwell if they do get infected and they don't tend to pass the virus on to adults.

The following inter alia will apply with regard to health and safety protocols

- Any children, young people and staff should stay at home if they are sick or will be sent home immediately if they show any symptoms.
- In the current school environment, physical distancing means “maintaining a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or in physical contact with each other, coupled with good hygiene practices (coughing into your elbow, handwashing and drying) and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces”
- Schools will also maintain registers so that young people and staff can immediately be contacted by public health services if there is a probable or confirmed case.
- Parents are asked to keep their children home if they are unwell and seek medical advice about whether they may need to be tested; and ensuring great hygiene practices at all times.
- The School will apply Public Health guidelines and remind students of good hygiene practice daily.

We would like to thank all staff who have worked with us on campus over the past few weeks. Significant preparations have been made for the return of our children to campus. These people include the Senior Management Team, members of the Administration Department and the Estates Department.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the academic staff who have worked extremely hard under difficult conditions to deliver the remote learning.

In the coming week we will provide you with more information about your child's return to campus. In particular, there will be logistics to share with you regarding transport, boarding, academic programmes, the tuck shop and extracurricular activities.

We thank you for your continued support of your child's education at Woodridge College.

Yours sincerely



Derek Bradley
COLLEGE HEADMASTER



Trevor von Berg
PREPARATORY HEADMASTER



Dave Emslie
BUSINESS MANAGER