



WOODRIDGE
COLLEGE AND PREPARATORY SCHOOL

SINCE
1936

24 January 2021

Dear Parents,

SENIOR MANAGEMENT
lindi.clephane@woodridge.co.za

OPENING OF SCHOOL – THE COLLEGE

The latest Government Gazette has promulgated that: *“Independent schools must delay the date for the reopening of schools for learners to return to school for a period of two weeks from the date of the pronouncement of the Minister, on 15 January 2021”*

We are therefore pleased to inform you and the pupils that we will be re-opening school for on-site tuition as from 1 February 2021. Boarders will be required to return by 18h00 on Sunday 31 January.

The day scholar busses will run as per the times published at the start of the term. The bus service will, from 1 February up until mid-term, 25 February, leave their pick up points as scheduled and will depart from Woodridge at 16h15 each day. Departure time after half term will be communicated timeously.

As we have done since we opened school this year we will continue with online teaching until the pupils return to campus on 1 February.

The College teachers are ready to deliver lessons on site again with some adaptations to cater for COVID concerns. Although it puts a huge strain on teachers, we will be offering our programme simultaneously on site and remotely for specific exceptional circumstances. This would be for those who have not been able to return from outside the country and those with comorbidities. Please make contact with Mrs Clephane (lindi.clephane@woodridge.co.za) by Thursday 29 January if your child falls into one of these categories. Please include in your email the reason why your child needs to be taught remotely. Please be advised that the teaching options are either on site or remote learning not flipping between the two at will as this is disruptive for everyone else in the class and the teacher. Not all classes will have a remote component because if no one in that class has to continue online, then that class will only be taught on site. The delivery method for a lesson has to change if it has a remote component hence teachers cannot flip between methods daily. They will accommodate pupils who need to quarantine or isolate due to COVID and the standard reporting procedures for this apply. We expect all pupils to be back on site as soon as possible.

When we return to campus on 1 February, parents are asked to conscientiously complete the Odin Health App each morning. The information provided is vital for us to manage the variety of attendance protocols and, as importantly, should reduce the congestion at the front gate. We have monitored the traffic flow closely and have identified the bottleneck being directly linked to the app not being completed, necessitating a paper registration process. This is time consuming and the delay causes unnecessary anxiety to parents, and more importantly, pupils who desperately want to arrive at school on time.

Also, please do not send your child back if they have symptoms or have recently been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID. Sending your child back under these circumstances severely compromises the whole school and our capacity to provide a safe environment for the entire Woodridge community.

We look forward to the return of our pupils on 1 February and in the meantime, stay safe and keep positive.

Yours sincerely

Derek Bradley
COLLEGE HEADMASTER

Dave Emslie
BUSINESS MANAGER

