



PARENT LETTER: ACADEMICS FOR THE MEDIUM TERM 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Learners

Since Thursday, after the Minister of Education made many announcements, confusion still reigns. The huge scale of uncertainty in education circles, pending court cases, untruths and disinformation make parents, guardians, learners and teachers very insecure. This letter strives to give direction to Swartland High School; despite everything that appears in the media or happens at the Department of Education.

As you have already been informed through the media, the schools will probably only open for the senior learners in June. The focus of the academics at Swartland High School thus shifts from a short term e-learning strategy to a medium term (MAY/JUNE/JULY 2020) e-learning strategy. I have consulted with Mr de Beer (Academic Head) and we have put the following in place for the medium term:

1. CHECK LIST

Each teacher will complete a control list for each subject and grade that will indicate up to which point work has been completed. It will also show which lessons were presented by Zoom/ Windows Teams/ PowerPoint, etc. up to April 2020. The table will also include all tasks/ assignments that were sent to learners. The links of lessons that were, for example, stored on Google Drive or One Drive will also be made available to you. This is the first of two tables (per subject teacher) that will be sent to learners and parents so that learners and parents can control their homework.

2. PLANNING FOR MAY 2020

The planning for May 2020 must be sent in a second table to parents and learners. The planning will include dates, themes/chapters as well as page references. Planning will be sent to each group at the beginning of each month.

3. AFRIKAANS/ ENGLISH

Each teacher was tasked to make sure that all assignments are available in both languages. The work must be exactly the same.

4. MEDIUM TERM: MAY – JUNE – JULY 2020

SHS gave assignments, presentations and notes to learners on the short term (April 2020) so that they could work on their own. On the medium term we CANNOT carry on using photos or assignments via Whatsapp or emails only. All the lessons will be stored on Google Drive (for Zoom or Whatsapp) and One Drive (for Microsoft Teams) so that learners who do not have data can access work at a later stage. Microsoft TEAMS is interactive and learners can pose questions. Class times can be booked on the Microsoft 365 App, Calender. This will ensure that Gr 12s do not receive presentations at the same time. If you still have questions, please contact Mr de Beer by e-mail.





Parents and learners must note that various platforms will be used, because certain platforms are more suitable for certain subjects. All lessons will not be 50 minutes long; some may consist of a 5 – 15 minute presentation followed by an assignment. Where more than one teacher teaches the same subject/grade all assignments, PATs, lessons, etc. must be exactly the same.

5. DATA

We recognise that data is a huge problem. Hereby I direct a friendly request to parents and learners who have unlimited internet access to help other learners download assignments, while still protecting their health and the health of their families. At Level 4 movement is still largely restricted, but learners can help other learners by loading work on a memory stick and deliver it to class mates.

6. LENGTH OF CURRICULUM

According to WCED-circulars the Gr 12-curriculum must be 100% completed. However, examinations and the calculation of the year marks will change. The gr 8 – 11 curriculum will probably be decreased to 80% of the original curriculum, but final information has not been received. The phasing in of the grades will also play a role and the grade 8 and 9 groups may be limited to 80%. Until we receive the adapted curricula we work under the assumption that 100% of the curriculum for each grade must be completed.

7. LEARNERS WHO DO NOT REACT

All learners who do not react to assignments and neglect to hand in tasks/PATs will be contacted personally by teachers. **Teachers will keep a register to indicate when learners/parents were contacted. This register will act as evidence during the final mark discussion session.**

8. TRAINING MANUAL FOR MICROSOFT TEAMS

Mr de Beer has compiled a simple training manual with screen shots that explain the whole process and use of Microsoft TEAMS. I am sure that all of us, after studying it, will understand the process and will soon be skilled to use Microsoft TEAMS. There are also many YouTube sources that you can access, should you prefer to do so.

9. PROTOCOL FOR LEARNING

The safety of our learners will be our biggest priority when schools re-open. I have already written a protocol that will overthrow all current aspects of school life, but that will put the safety of learners first. This protocol will be combined with the WCED guidelines.

10. PLANNING FOR THE REST OF 2020

The Department of Education will within the next few weeks provide the new year planning, as well as information regarding the amendment of the curriculum. The School's management team will, therefore only be able to do its planning after we have received the aforementioned. Preliminary planning has already been done.



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Ladies and Gentlemen, our familiar world, that used to stretch from welcoming in January to the last marking of gr.12-papers, has changed suddenly. We have been pulled out of our well known orbit into a completely new one. Suddenly we have to think differently, master new technology and develop new inspiration. After more than a month of lockdown I know for sure that nothing can replace the teacher in the classroom. However, we want to assure you as parents and the community that the academics of our learners will always come first. Like never before parents, learners and teachers must take hands and work together for the benefit of each learner in our school.

Best wishes until we see each other again.

J Schoonraad

6 May 2020