



Loreto Convent School

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12 July 2021

Good Morning Loreto Parents,

Following last night's announcement by the President, extending the Alert level 4 by another 2 weeks, the SMT wishes to make our parents aware of the following very important points. It is imperative that you discuss the issues highlighted in this communication with your child/children, so as to ensure that no teaching time is lost, during this period when no contact learning and teaching is permitted.

1. It is important to emphasise that our Term 3 officially starts on Tuesday, 13 July. Despite the disruptions in the DBE calendar, we continue to follow the calendar as published for Loreto Convent School. Teaching and learning will continue accordingly, whether in the form of contact teaching or online teaching.

2. Due to the fact that Loreto Convent School has to follow any directives given by the DBE and has to comply with regulations regarding the re-opening of schools, online learning will continue, until schools are allowed to open for contact teaching.

3. Loreto Convent School is using Google Classroom as our online platform, to ensure continued teaching and learning. This platform has proved to be the most effective resource available to reach as many learners as possible. Work that is posted by the teachers to Google Classroom can be downloaded and completed by learners, so as to minimise the use of data at any given time. It is also not necessary to print the work once it is downloaded. Teachers will hand out the necessary print-outs when we return to school.

4. We would like to reiterate that platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams, are not a sustainable method of teaching for our school at the moment, as feedback from families indicated that the number of learners able to join these meetings is limited by the availability of household devices and data. We want to ensure that all our learners are able to access the work posted, and that no-one is left behind due to limited resources.

5. Teachers will use a combination of WhatsApp groups and Google Classroom to reach the parents and learners.

6. Teachers will post videos, links, and voice recordings to Google Classroom to assist the learners, although these tools also often use a lot of data. Teachers are well aware of this and will take this into consideration when posting work.

7. It is of utmost importance that parents and learners realise that using Google Classroom replaces a normal school day, and that learners need to work consistently every day and complete the work given in order to not fall behind. Learners should manage their time using their timetables

for guidance, so that the correct amount of time is allocated to the various subjects. They are able to communicate with the teachers on Google Classroom should they need assistance.

8. Having said that, teachers are aware of the fact that learners have many subjects that need their attention, and will not overwhelm the learners with work just "to keep them busy". We do, however, have a curriculum to follow and complete, in order for learners to be promoted to the next grade in 2022.

In order for online learning to be successful, for both the learners and the teachers, our learners need the support and encouragement of their parents. Parents must please provide their children with the necessary resources and give positive reinforcement to the children so as to ensure that they remain focused on their school work and achieve their academic potential.

Should you experience any challenges regarding academic issues, please feel free to contact Ms Alves, Deputy Principal of the High School or Ms Hill, Deputy Principal of the Primary School. They are available by contacting them via their email addresses as published on the school website.

All Google Classroom codes remain the same as were used in previous alert levels, with one or two additions to accommodate new teachers. Please consult the website should your child/children have forgotten the codes. We will be posting these revised lists during the course of today.

As far as Grade 12 prelim exam dates are concerned, no communication has been provided by the GDE yet. However, the NSC exam Timetable for November 2021 has been published and will be posted on the website today. As soon as dates for prelims are available, it will be communicated to parents.

We thank you for your support, and once again would like to offer our condolences to ALL families, including teaching staff of Loreto Convent School, affected by the deaths of family members and /or friends.

It is and will remain our commitment to keep you in our prayers.

At this stage, it seems that a possible date for learners to return to school for contact teaching could be Monday, 26 July 2021. Further communication in this regard will be sent, once this is indeed confirmed.

Loreto regards,



Mrs Truter
Principal