

Dear Parents of all Grade 7 to 12 learners

COVID-19 has created a unique situation that none of us have had to deal with before. Even the educational landscape has changed, but in it all we assure you that we have your children's best interests at heart.

On Thursday, 26 March 2020 the Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga, held a media conference to outline the Department of Basic Education's plans to support learners during the COVID-19 lockdown.

We received a memorandum from ISASA with some of the following information about the media conference:

- a) The focus of the Department of Basic Education's recovery plan is on recovering time lost in schools. Access to remote learning is uneven and is therefore a supplementary initiative. School calendars will need to be adjusted to allow for the recovery of as many lost school days as possible.
- b) In terms of assessments, learners will only be evaluated on what has been taught during class-time.
- c) The Department of Basic Education is finalising a Standard Operating Procedure that will assist in preparation for the re-opening of schools. However, there is currently no set date for the re-opening of schools. The Department of Basic Education will be guided by the Department of Health as to when it is safe for schools to re-open.
- d) Independent schools cannot choose their own re-opening dates for contact instruction. They must abide by the regulations of the lockdown and wait for the Departments of Basic Education and Health to announce the date schools will re-open.

We have not yet received any directives from the Department of Basic Education, but in the light of the above, Domino Servite School will begin implementing the contingency plans we started putting in place towards the end of term 1. This entails moving our teaching in the Senior and FET Phases online for the duration of the lockdown.

The following notice serves to inform you of some measures we have put in place. More details will follow in subsequent communication from the school.

- We will begin teaching Grade 10 to 12 learners online from Tuesday, 14 April 2020, using Microsoft Teams (online) as a platform.
- Grade 7 to 9 learners will join the online school at DSS from 21 April 2020.
- All grade 11 and 12 learners know what they need to do as they were trained at the end of Term 1.
- Grade 10 learners will be contacted by the IT department from school to assist them to log in online and to access Microsoft Teams.
- Grade 7 to 9 learners will continue with learning on Microsoft Teams as they have been doing during their ICT lessons.

We request that parents provide their children with the following:

- a) A device on which they can work, with, preferably, a keyboard.
- b) Where possible a quiet place at home to study, preferably with a desk, and uninterrupted time set aside for this.

If it is impossible for you to provide your child with a device, please feel free to contact the relevant Head of Phase to inform him/her of your situation. In such a case we will try to make an alternate arrangement.

Senior Phase (Grades 7 to 9): Mr D van Straten devosvs@dss.org.za

FET (Grades 10 to 12): Mrs A du Preez annelidp@dss.org.za

We are committed to ensuring that our learners' education continues in spite of the challenges that lie ahead for us as a country, as a community and as a school. This is uncharted territory for all of us, but we echo the words of Samuel when he said, "Thus far the LORD has helped us" (1 Samuel 7:12) and therefore we know that we can continue to trust Him as we go into this uncertain future.

Kind regards

D Newlands
Principal