

VICTORIA PARK HIGH SCHOOL



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Principal

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EASTER 2020 – COVID 19

Dear Parents

During his address to the nation our President summed it up succinctly:

“THE MESSAGE OF EASTER IS WHAT WE CARRY IN OUR HEARTS TONIGHT. IT’S THE MESSAGE OF HOPE OF RECOVERY AND OF REBIRTH. WE SHALL RECOVER. WE SHALL OVERCOME. MAY GOD BLESS SOUTH AFRICA AND PROTECT HER PEOPLE.”

We now know that we are facing an extension of the lockdown and all that goes with that. The country faces anxiety over disease, loss of loved ones, finance, the economy and education.

I believe that we are being led by a president who has taken steps swiftly, after listening to the advice of experts and has made decisions that will benefit the health of all South Africans. I am grateful that he has spoken to us in a humble, respectful and humane manner. The pressures on him to put the economy first must weigh heavily on his shoulders. We can look to the future to resurrect the economy, but nothing can bring back a loved one.

Our country has survived difficult times, our school has made it through many ups and downs. Victoria Park High has more than just survived, it has thrived in tough times and will continue to provide education and hope in the near future.

It is encouraging that we have had this Easter time together with our loved ones and hope that we are using it to grow together, rediscover the basics of life and set new goals for ourselves. In this I hope that we can start appreciating the little things in life that we have been taking for granted, so that when we emerge from this challenging time we will be the stronger for it.

I encourage you to be positive about the extension of the lockdown and do everything in your power to stay safe. We must support our government as best we can to minimize the threat of the virus and to flatten the curve.

We are ready to tackle our academic work in very different ways as from Tuesday, 14 April 2020. We will be trying to be innovative in adapting to the needs of on-line and social media studying. Resources are available on the VP website and the Facebook page and these are updated regularly. WhatsApp groups are being formed, the Grade 8/9 ITSI tablet communication will be utilized and individual teachers are

using platforms like Zoom, etc. All of this is a new challenge and I urge learners to use what is available, communicate with their fellow learners and make the best of this virtual situation without going overboard. Hopefully when school resumes we will have the opportunity to solidify the self-study knowledge that is being attained and make a success of the school year. We are aware that there are challenges with respect to internet connectivity, the availability of data and personal circumstances. We will also be communicating what academic work is left to do this term, to keep up with departmental time-lines. Remember that the authorities are investigating the streamlining of syllabi, the use of future holidays and longer school days to meet the challenge facing us with missing teaching time.

Stay positive and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mike Vermaak

Principal

Easter 2020.