

VICTORIA PARK HIGH SCHOOL



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COVID 19 NEWSLETTER: BACK TO SCHOOL

Dear Parents

We are preparing to accept our Grade 12s back safely on Monday 1 June 2020. The SGB and teachers have been pro-active in getting the school ready for the big day. **We are still waiting for the official return dates for our Gr 8 to Gr 11 learners.**

Learners must return to school wearing masks.

Learners opting to stay at home for medical reasons must furnish the school with certification from a doctor. For these learners the work will be posted on the WhatsApp groups and the school webpage, as was being done during lockdown. Tests and assignments will be done at home, under test conditions, and forwarded to the school. A declaration, committing to honesty, will be signed. Parents will be responsible for fetching and returning the tests and assignments. More specific detail will be communicated as the school becomes accustomed to a new routine.

COVID CHANGES TO TIMETABLE AND SCHOOL DAY

We are going to be operating with half a grade at school per day, to ensure maximum social distancing. Learners will attend school for a day and then have the next day at home to consolidate the work that was taught. The school lessons will be intensified with teachers maximizing actual teaching time and giving the necessary consolidation work.

Each of the Grade 12 register classes will be split into two groups – Group 1 and Group 2, so as to enable social distancing. **These class splits will be communicated to learners on their English WhatsApp groups and on the school webpage.** The group of the class they are allocated to, will determine the days they attend school. On Monday 1 June all learners who are in Group 1 of their register class will return to school, prepared for Day 1 and those allocated to Group 2 of their register class will return on Tuesday. On Monday and Tuesday, when the groups return to school the routine will be explained.

On Tuesday 2 June, Day 1 of the timetable will be repeated for the Group 2s of all the Grade 12 classes.

This process will then be repeated as per instructions on the English WhatsApp groups.

And so we go on in the new world of schooling. The school day will have hour long lessons, 5 minutes in between lessons and two generous breaks. **The school day will end at 15:00 daily, until further notice.**

LEARNERS ARRIVE AT SCHOOL

- The school gates will open at 07:15 and screening of learners will take place from 07:15 - 07:50.
- Grade 12 – Entry will be through the **vehicle entrance gate** on the western side of the school.
- The temperature of each learner will be taken and the relevant Covid 19 questions will be asked to each one of them. Only then will entry into the school building be allowed.
- Learners who do not meet the screening criteria will be isolated and strict protocols will be followed to ensure they do not pose any risk to other learners and persons on the premises.
- Masks to be worn at all times and social distancing (about 1.5m) to maintained at all times.
- A queuing officer will be present to ensure that this happens during screening in the mornings.
- Once on the school grounds, masks to be worn at all times and social distancing protocols must be strictly adhered to.

THE CLASSROOM

- All classrooms will be sanitised each day.
- Every attempt will be made to maintain social distancing in the classroom.
- Masks to be worn at all times in the classroom – **COMPULSORY**.
- Face shields may be worn, both in and outside of the classroom if learners wish to do so, in addition to masks.
- Entry into classrooms as well as the exiting of learners from classrooms will be controlled in an attempt to maintain social distancing.
- Hand sanitiser will be available in all classrooms, but we strongly recommend that each learner carries a small bottle of hand sanitiser on them or in their school bags.

MOVEMENT AROUND THE SCHOOL AND DURING BREAK

- Masks to be worn at all times when moving between classes and at break time.
- Social distancing protocols to be adhered to as far as possible when moving between classes and during break.
- Masks and face shields may be removed when consuming any form of food, while at the same time maintaining a safe social distance.
- Social distancing in the bathrooms must also be maintained as far as possible.

- Learners are encouraged to wash hands during break when visiting the bathroom.

PROCEDURE WHEN LEARNERS LEAVE SCHOOL

- Masks to be worn at all times.
- Social distancing protocols to be adhered to at all times.
- Learners will be instructed where to exit the school buildings so as to minimise congestion and adhere to social distancing protocols.
- Grade 12 – exit through the same vehicle entrance gate you entered through in the morning.
- Once the school day ends, learners must exit the school buildings and premises and make their way home, either privately or by means of public transport. **Learners will NOT BE ALLOWED TO “HANG AROUND “ the school AFTER SCHOOL.** They need to make their way home straight after school. **This is NOT NEGOTIABLE.**

GENERAL

- **The school tuckshop will be closed until further notice. Learners are encouraged to bring their own food and drinks.**
- **Hair might be longer, as a result of the closure of hairdressers and therefore may not be cut into any fashionable styles. Learners must shave, as normal.**
- **There will be no extramural activities.**
- **The Matric Farewell, according to COVID regulations, will not take place.**

We trust that all goes as well as possible as from Monday and that we stay safe. It is a time when all of us are learning together. Please stay positive and let us work together to do the best for all our teachers and learners.

Yours sincerely



**M J Vermaak
Principal
28 May 2020**