



# Jeppe High School for Boys

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3rd September 2020

Dear Jeppe parents,

Spring has arrived and with it some of the coldest days thus far this year - given the nature of 2020, I suppose this was to be expected! Nevertheless, we look forward to increasing temperatures and the promise of a new season.

We are now well into our third week back at school and I am pleased to report that all staff members (academic, administrative and ground staff) remain healthy and COVID-19 negative whilst no boys, to our knowledge, have contracted the virus at either school or in the boarding houses.

With the improving weather (this week aside!), continued reduction in positive cases both nationally and provincially, a healthy school population and the matrics beginning their prelims next week, we have decided that:

- As from Monday, 7th September, all Grade 11 learners will return to school on a full time basis. i.e. Grade 11 boys will no longer attend school on an “alternate day” model but will be required to be at school each day.

With matrics writing prelims and thus not attending classes or on campus for much of the day, and with an eye on the Grade 11's entering matric in just a few short months, we feel that it is both academically sound and, from a health perspective, safe to bring the Grade 11's back on a full time basis as a number of other schools have now done.

Where possible, as was the case with the matric cohort, we will continue to make use of the larger classrooms and teaching venues for the Grade 11's.

We will review the success of this initiative in the coming weeks and, if successful, will investigate the feasibility of bringing junior grades back on a full time basis in October, after the conclusion of the Examination Block.

Grade 11 learners, please note that your morning registration will now move to the Payne Hall as well - with two separate check-in stations available. Matric registration, for each examination, must be completed in the Memorial Hall foyer on arrival.

*Turning **black** and **white** into **gold***

- Secondly, as from Monday, all boys will be required to attend school in their full school uniforms and not in Jeppe tracksuits. Again, this is in line with the approach adopted by a number of other schools and is due to the significantly reduced infections and increasing evidence that the virus is highly unlikely to be transmitted via clothing.

As we continue to edge closer to a return to relative normality, we feel the above two directives are important steps on this journey. We are also awaiting an announcement from the Minister of Sport, apparently due later this week, regarding school sport and a potential relaxation of some of the regulations in this regard.

All boys, and not just matrics, should by now be fully immersed in their academic programmes, attending the remedial extra lessons offered in the afternoons if necessary and turning their attention to the upcoming period of tests and examinations, the timetables for which were issued two weeks ago. The support of parents in assisting their sons in remaining academically focused is greatly appreciated.

Lastly, for matric parents, please be aware that we have scheduled a date of Tuesday, 3rd November for the Matric Valediction function. Due to COVID-19 regulations regarding large gatherings preventing use of the Memorial Hall for the valediction, the occasion will move to a morning event on the bottom fields so as to allow all parents, and boys, to attend. Further information will follow in due course but please diarise this date, and the morning time, in the interim.

Yours in health and education,



**Dale Jackson**  
**HEADMASTER**