



Jeppe High School for Boys

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Headmaster: D. J. Jackson
GDE Registration No.:130633

19th May 2021

Dear Jeppe parents,

Following my lengthy and detailed parent letter late yesterday evening a media statement (which has already been amended following its initial release) earlier today by the Department of Basic Education has indicated that all contact sport is suspended with immediate effect, in all schools throughout the country.

Whilst this media statement has not been confirmed to me by any official channels, and until the contents thereof are gazetted they are not legally enforceable, we feel that it is prudent to adhere to the instructions therein and, as such, will be suspending all contact sport as from today.

Where feasible, we have already cancelled various rugby and hockey fixtures that were due to take place this afternoon and the much anticipated hockey and rugby fixture against King Edward VII scheduled for this weekend is also obviously postponed.

I apologise to all parents for any inconvenience caused by the above and the late notice of the announcement by the Department of Education, in relation to this week's fixtures.

For the remainder of this week all rugby and hockey practices will also be cancelled as we determine the way forward and also seek more clarity from the Gauteng Department of Education on what is permitted in terms of non-contact sport, intra-school matches and practices.

In relation to my letter yesterday evening, we have continued with the tracking and tracing related to the positive cases and have identified one further positive case amongst learners today. A number of boys have also been placed in isolation, often due to them not having followed the COVID policies and protocols which we have put in place or because they had placed themselves at risk as a result of attending social gatherings on the weekend.

In addition to the one further positive case amongst learners, a second educator has also tested positive this morning and is in isolation. We are in the process of tracking and tracing all those deemed to be "close contacts" in this regard.

I also reiterate our previous requests that parents not send their sons to school if they are sick and displaying any COVID-related symptoms. I appreciate winter is approaching and many boys who are presenting with the symptoms of a common cold would, in pre-pandemic times, be sent to school but in the current environment in which we are operating please could parents adhere to protocols and keep their boys at home in such cases.

Lastly, many of the boys will be understandably devastated to learn of today's announcement and the suspension of all sport, and the immediacy thereof - particularly given their excitement and joy at returning to some level of "normality" over the past two weeks. I ask you to please talk to and comfort your sons this evening. We will ensure the tutors, housemasters, educators and coaches do the same over the coming days.

Yours in health and education.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dale Jackson', enclosed within a large, loopy oval scribble.

Dale Jackson
HEADMASTER