



Jeppe High School for Boys

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Headmaster: D. J. Jackson
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20th May 2021

Dear Jeppe parents,

I apologise for yet another letter, my third in as many days, but feel it is important, during these difficult times as COVID numbers continue to rise, both within the school and the broader community, that I communicate as regularly as possible with the parent body.

This morning, we have received notification from parents, and via our tracking and tracing protocols, that a further three Matric learners and two Grade 11 learners have tested COVID positive. Whilst the majority of these boys have not been involved in our sporting programme over the past two weeks, and none of them are boarders, it does appear from our investigations and discussions with parents that at least some of these boys were exposed to the virus within the school environment (as opposed to community-related transmission).

As such, given the number of infections in the two senior grades, the fact that some infections appear to have arisen from school-related contacts, the consequent impact on the number of boys isolating and the risk to boys, staff and the school community as a whole, in consultation with, and support of, both the Gauteng Department of Education as well as the School Governing Body, we have decided to suspend on-campus learning for both the Matric and Grade 11 group as from tomorrow until Monday, 31st May.

As such, the Matric and Grade 11 group will move to an online learning platform, via their google classrooms, as from tomorrow (Friday, 21st May) until Monday, 31st May. During this time learning will continue, according to the existing on-campus timetable, and boys are expected to log in and attend all of these lessons remotely.

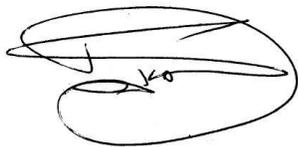
This 10 day break from on-campus lessons for these two grades will hopefully act as a “circuit breaker” in eliminating any on-campus, within-school transmission and will mean that, on 31st May, these grades can return to school COVID-free.

It is incredibly important that during the next 10 days, parents ensure that boys in the Matric and Grade 11 cohorts, in particular, use this time to isolate at home and limit all social interactions where possible. I ask for the support of all parents in this regard.

From a Gr8 - Gr10 perspective, there does not appear to be any school or community related transmissions in these grades (only two boys, from the same family, are currently positive and both of these boys have been isolating and not at school since last week). These grades will continue with on-campus learning.

The above decision has not been taken lightly but is done with the best interests of the boys, staff, parents and broader community in mind. We trust that you will understand and support our decision in this regard.

Yours in health and education.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dale Jackson', enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval shape.

Dale Jackson
HEADMASTER