



# Jeppe High School for Boys

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

24th May 2021

Dear Jeppe parents,

I thought it was important, once again, to provide you with a quick update on developments since our last parent letter, sent on Thursday (20 May, 2021).

The decision to move the Matric and Grade 11 cohorts to online learning as from last Friday and for this week, whilst not taken lightly and logistically complex in some respects, seems to have proven to be the correct one based on feedback from parents and the general comments from boys and staff regarding the smooth transition back to temporary online learning. Whilst still early, we are also encouraged by the fact that the incidents of reported positive cases amongst the senior grades have reduced since making the decision. It is worth remembering that while the incidents recorded were believed not to have been spread within the classroom environment at all, with the majority being externally contracted, it was prudent to protect our environment as responsibly as possible at the time.

The junior grades, who have continued lessons on-campus, have also remained relatively COVID-free with only one additional learner, who has a brother in matric who tested positive as well, testing positive since our last communication.

We continue to follow up with boys who tested positive over the past two weeks and a number of them have recovered from the virus, whilst the remainder are either asymptomatic or mildly ill. We thus remain on track for all grades to return, COVID-free, to on-campus learning next Monday, 31st May, but will continue to monitor developments in this regard over the coming week.

From a staff perspective, two staff members have returned to school after recovering from the virus whilst others who were isolating (but remained negative) have also returned.

Unfortunately, Mr Jackson has, however, tested COVID positive over this past weekend. Although largely asymptomatic, he felt it prudent to go for another test on the weekend given the number of positive cases at school over the past week with whom he came into contact as a result of the tracking and tracing process which he drove. Mr Jackson's close contacts have already been informed and will be isolating and working from home this week.

On behalf of Mr Jackson, I want to assure everyone that he is feeling strong and positive and has every intention of continuing to work from home this week before returning to school once he has fully recovered from the virus and been medically cleared to do so. I know you will all join me in wishing him and his family (who are isolating with him) a speedy recovery, and know that they will remain in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

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

While the news of Mr Jackson's positive status is unfortunate, as is true of any member of our community testing positive, I want to reassure parents of both Mr Jackson and my belief that being at school remains the safest place for our boys. This is a view supported by our own experience throughout this pandemic and by scientific and medical data.

The onset of the third wave, reportedly already underway in Gauteng, will pose challenges to all of us in our individual and professional lives once again. As we have done, and as we will continue to do for as long as it may take, the Jeppe Community will adapt and overcome. Each of us has our role to play and as a school we remain determined to continue the wonderful business of educating young men in a responsible, safe and resolute manner as we have done for these past fourteen months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Murison', with a small dot at the end.

**Peter Murison**  
**DEPUTY HEADMASTER**