



Jeppe High School for Boys

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Headmaster: D. J. Jackson
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25th May 2021

Dear Jeppe parents,

Since my letter of yesterday morning, I am pleased to report that the incidents of positive infections amongst the boys, across all five grades, seems to have reduced considerably with no new cases reported today. Unfortunately though, we have had three more positive cases amongst the staff that have been confirmed and which is clearly of great concern, not only for the health and safety of the staff but also given the knock-on effects on the academic programme of additional staff having to isolate as a result thereof.

As such, and given the success which appears to have resulted from quelling infections in the senior grades as a result of moving the Matric and Grade 11 cohorts to an online learning platform, I have taken the decision, in consultation with, and support from, the Gauteng Department of Education and the School Governing Body, to also move the junior grades (Grade 8 - Grade 10) to off-campus, online learning as from tomorrow, Wednesday, 26th May.

Boarding masters will contact parents to fetch their sons from the boarding houses this evening. If this is, understandably, not possible to arrange, boarders will be allowed to remain in hostel and can be collected tomorrow morning. Mr Hillock and the Boarding Housemasters will also endeavour to make arrangements for termly borders should their collection prove to be logistically complex.

This decision has not been taken lightly, particularly as there is little direct evidence of transmission spreading within the junior grades, and we continue to believe that school remains a safe place for the boys, but I would rather err on the side of caution and place the health and safety of everyone within the Jeppe community at the forefront of any decisions made.

It is still our intention to re-open the school to all grades for on-campus learning as from Monday, 31st May but we will review this decision during the course of the week and communicate with parents accordingly. We will also use this opportunity to deep clean and sanitise the school and boarding houses over the next five days.

I once again appeal to all constituents within our Jeppe community to ensure that you remain vigilant regarding COVID protocols and procedures and that you limit your social interaction, as much as possible, over the coming days so that we can hopefully return to a safe and COVID-free on-campus learning environment next week.

Yours in health and education.

Dale Jackson
HEADMASTER