



# Jeppe High School for Boys

Good Hope Street, Kensington, 2094  
P.O. Box 28923, Kensington, 2101  
Tel: 011 614 1938/9  
hms@jeppeboys.co.za  
www.jeppeboys.co.za  
Headmaster: D. J. Jackson  
GDE Registration No.:130633

28th June 2021

Dear Jeppe parents,

It is at times like these that I am reminded of the famous line from Robert Burns' poem "To a Mouse":

*"The best-laid schemes of mice and men  
Go oft awry"*

Just a few short hours after sending out my letter this morning, in which I attempted to proactively keep parents informed of our plans for the remainder of the week, after (perhaps foolishly) not expecting yet another change of direction by the Department of Education, I find myself writing another parent letter with our previous best-laid schemes now all awry!

Whilst both the President's speech last night, and the Draft Gazette on the matter, indicated that the last day of schooling for this term would be on Friday 2nd July, it seems, from the media briefing and subsequent statement released by the Minister of Education earlier this afternoon that *"learners in public and independent or private schools should be released for winter vacation on Wednesday, 30th June 2021"*

As such, we are forced, yet again, to change plans, adapt and be flexible and will thus close the school upon the conclusion of Wednesday's exams, as per the latest announcement.

In addition to the clarification regarding the date of closure of schools, Mrs Motshekga also confirmed that schools will return for the third term on Monday, 19th July, a week earlier than previously gazetted. I appreciate that not only is this date problematic for those who have booked holidays during this period (assuming regulations allow you to embark on them) but that it also risks returning to school during the peak of the third wave, thereby negating the benefit of the earlier holiday. It would thus not surprise me if, closer to the time, this date was changed again and we will therefore keep parents informed in this regard.

The enforced closure is somewhat frustrating given the high levels of attendance at today's assessments, the hard work put in by the vast majority of boys in preparing for these examinations and the relatively low levels of current infections in the school. However, we are sympathetic to the rationale for the decision and will comply with the directives as required. We have, therefore, made the following decisions regarding the remainder of the test block:

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

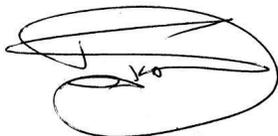
- School, and the boarding houses, will close after the writing of the exams on Wednesday, 30th June.
- Assuming schools reopen on Monday, 19th July, normal academic lessons will take place from Monday, 19th July - Wednesday, 21st July. During this time, boys will reconnect with their educators and revise the work that is included in the upcoming assessments.
  - These three days will also be utilised to allow those boys who were not able to write assessments this week (28th - 30th June) due to illness or COVID isolation, to do so in these three days. Heads of Grade will be in touch with boys, to confirm the dates and times of writing, in this regard.
  - Whilst boys will be expected to do some studying during the break, we did not think it either fair or academically sound for boys to use the entire holiday period to study and to then commence with the writing of assessments on their first day back.
- Examinations will thus re-commence on Thursday, 22nd July and continue to Friday, 30th July on the same basis, timing and schedule as would have been the case had we completed the two-week test block this term.

The above changes will have an impact on the timing of the issuing of Term 2 and Term 3 reports (which will be issued later into Term 3 and at the beginning of Term 4 respectively) as well as necessitating a revision of the Term 3 cycle test programme. The details related thereto will be communicated in future letters.

My apologies, once again, for the confusion and heightened levels of anxiety which both parents and boys (and educators) are no doubt experiencing following the events of the past 24 hours. I can appreciate, understand and sympathise with the frustrations and uncertainty.

Hopefully this will be my final headmaster's letter to you this week. Trusting and praying that this will indeed be the case, please let me take this opportunity to wish you all a very well-earned and much-deserved break (I am hesitant to call it a holiday as regulations currently forbid us leaving Gauteng!), along with my fervent hope and prayers that everyone within the Jeppe family remains healthy and well during the time away from school.

Yours in health and education.



**Dale Jackson**  
**HEADMASTER**