



Principal's Weekly Newsletter

Edition 11
11 September 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Monday 14th September is a day we have all been anticipating; the resumption of formal lessons! We are all excited and I believe our returning Exam Students are as well! Hopefully the rest of the Students will be returning in the next coming weeks or so.

Let me start by thanking you all for your support and understanding as we, as a nation and community, responded to the unexpected invasion of COVID-19 in March to date. I believe we are all now well informed and are aware of all the set Protocols that should be followed where ever we are at any given point in time. As we prepare to open the Hostel on Sunday for the Boarders and on Monday for Lessons, let us keep in mind what is expected of us in terms of keeping ourselves and the next person safe. I sent out my weekly Newsletter this past Monday and attached to it were guidelines on what is expected from Parents and Students when they return to school – please let us adhere to these. Attached to this email is a Health Assessment Form that each Student should present upon arrival at school every day – please refer to the Re-Opening of School Procedures for Students that was emailed to you with the last Newsletter.

1. School Fees Payment

Please note that the Accounts Office will be open on Sunday 13th to attend to Parents and Students who will want to make School Fees payments. They will be open between 9.00am and 4.00pm so do make sure that you arrive well before 4.00pm to ensure you get a Fees Pass for your child to be able to get into Hostel. I would like to implore Parents to make sure that they are not late as late comers will not be entertained and Students will not be allowed into Hostel without a School Fees Pass. **Boarders whose School Fees has been paid, please note Fees Passes are with the Hostel Superintendent at Hostel.**

Day Scholars will also be required to obtain a School Fees Pass to be able to have access into the classroom for lessons. Day Scholar Parents should also take advantage of the opportunity to make payment on Sunday 13th at the College Office.

2. First Day of School

Students are expected to arrive at School between 7.00am and 7.15am. I will have Assembly with them and from there they will meet with their respective Tutors where they will be given a detailed guide on what will be expected of them in the weeks to follow on a day to day basis.

Students should wear their Number 1 Uniform on the first day of School. Thereafter, they revert to the Summer Uniform. Students should also make sure they have their School Fees Pass on them at all times.

3. Afternoon Program

The Director of Sport has put in place a program that observes the Covid-19 Protocols until we have had confirmation from the Ministry of Education on activities that we can resume.

We have also opted to dedicate the major part of our afternoons to Students with Projects and Course Work to complete for their Exams and a part of the afternoons will also be dedicated to the Science Subjects Practical Lessons.

Our day will end at 4.00pm between Monday and Thursday and at 1.00pm on Friday. Please make sure Day Scholars are collected promptly.

4. Transport

I have had a number of enquiries regarding transport for Students to School and back to Mutare. As mentioned in two of my previous Newsletters, the School is not able to provide transport for Students until further notice – the social distancing required would mean the school would have to do many shuttles to get children to school and back to Mutare and this poses a number of logistical problems. May parents, please, make their own arrangements to get Students to school and back home.

5. School Rules

With this Newsletter I have included 'The Schools Hair & Grooming Regulations'. May you remind your children to adhere to the set regulations and emphasise to them that hair and dressing will be inspected upon arrival at School to make sure that Students have taken heed of our reminder.

The Leaders will be expected to wear their Summer Uniform everyday to school i.e. the girls should wear their black skirts and the boys their black longs. However, during Exams, the girls will be allowed to wear either their black longs or blue longs.

6. Gadgets

Please be advised that the returning Students (Form 4 to Upper 6) are permitted to bring with them Laptops, Smart Phones and any other gadgets for educational purposes. Please make sure that Boarders register their gadgets with their respective House Parents.

7. Online Lessons for Non-Exam Classes

We have now fully migrated to G-Suite and Students will be receiving new email addresses from the School and invitations from the Teachers to join G-Suite. This is a more interactive platform for learning purposes and we should see an improvement in lesson delivery. We may experience some teething problems as we roll over in the first week but we hope things will normalize thereafter.

Off Mr. Mutangadura's Desk

1. The Grade 7 Boarders should be signed in Laverock Hostel on Sunday 13th September by 4.30pm. Covid-19 protocols as listed in the parents pack and Laverock House routine and protocols still stand.
2. Students are expected to arrive on Monday 14th September at the Rec Centre by 7.30am.
3. A Health Checklist has been emailed to the parents and this should be produced on arrival.
4. Please comply with the re-opening protocols i.e. Parents/Drivers to stay in vehicles. If the temperature check is above 37° C, the student will have to stay in the vehicle and return home.
5. On Monday 14th September, the Grade 7 induction and assembly with physical distancing will be done before lessons commence.
6. Break and Lunch sitting arrangements will be as per protocol. Please encourage students to wear their face masks, wash their hands regularly and avoid sharing materials whilst at school.
7. Cricket, Tennis and Swimming may be included for Sport and Physical Education according to SRC MOPSE as they are non-contact sport. We will update you fully in due course.
8. Please make appointments with your class teacher for Consultation (14th to 18th September). Different methods of communication will be used for this exercise as per arrangement between teacher and parents/guardians.

May I take this opportunity to wish all the Parents and Students that are travelling to Mutare between today and Sunday a safe journey. Thank you to all the parents that have made their school fees payments – they have made the start of this term more manageable. We are grateful for the support.

I can safely say, now, I look forward to meeting the Exam Students on Monday. I get to see the faces of Hillcrest and hopefully make a positive impact in this short time I get to spend with them.

Kind regards,



Orlando Fernandes
Principal