NEWSletter

CURRO Aurora

Issue no.: 11

Date: 6 April 2020

Dear Parent

The second term has started last week and it's a very short term, with a whole month of examinations coming up in May.

That means that even though we are in lockdown, we're already on our way to exam season. Be sure to keep an eye out for important administration dates for your different subjects such as the examination demarcations.

Learners need to start working on study timetables to ensure that they have enough time to revise their work before the examinations. Diarise your exam dates so that you don't forget and lag behind or over-pressure yourself at the last minute – we are sending our provisional exam timetable herewith to assist.

Learners will need to study hard for the exams as there will most probably not be much classroom contact for revision sessions – we therefore ask that learners put their best effort into the work set for and during lockdown to ensure that they are well-prepared for their exams.

Please note that teachers are available for assistance on various platforms, including Microsoft Teams, WhatsApp, e-mail, ITSI and MyHub. We are using this multi-platform approach as we realise that our parents and learners have different access capabilities, restricted by the availability of devices or data.

We invite parents and/or learners to contact subject teachers, grade heads or members of the senior management team (e-mail addresses below) with any queries or guidance – you are more than welcome. Please also refer to the letter sent to parents by Mr JC.

If you are feeling overwhelmed or unsure of what to do, please ask for assistance. You are never alone, and everyone is here to help you make the most of your time at Curro Aurora and become your own success story.

Curro Aurora embraces the use of technology, and therefore we feel confident in the use of technology to bridge the gap in schooling during this lockdown period.

Curro Aurora is a fantastic school and I have never been as proud to be associated with this wonderful institution – the amount of work the teachers did during this "extended break" to ensure as little disruption to the academic programme as possible is astounding. We urge parents to be actively involved in assisting our learners to truly take ownership of their own learning – it is only in building a strong Aurora community that we can achieve true greatness.

COVID-19

GOVERNMENT HOME SCREENING PROGRAMME
IDENTIFICATION TIPS AND PRECAUTIONARIES
To keep the community safe from imposters, and potentialy a burglary, the following criteria will be met by the field testers. They will:
HAVE ID BADGES
WEAR THE SAME T-SHIRTS
CARRY THEIR RSA ID DOCUMENTS
BE ACCOMPANIED BY A POLICE OFFICER
TESTS CAN BE DONE OUTSIDE YOUR HOME
Hotline: 0800-029-999
CAXTON local media
COVID 19

Teaching time lost will be made up as per the letter from Mr JC Engelbrecht:

Different scenarios are sketched in this letter – please take note that all dates are in flux, pending the possible extension or termination of the imposed lockdown period by government.

I quote:

AS IT CURRENTLY STANDS

We would like to share with you, below, the ways in which we propose to make up lost time, after the lockdown is over – this will be balanced with the resumption of all normal school activities and extra-mural activities (where possible).

GRADE 8-12

	Term 2	Days	Term 3	Days	Term 4	Days	Total days
Current Term Dates	20 Apr – 19 June (Online support started 31 March)	38 (Excl. online support days)	7 July – 25 Sept	57	6 Oct – 4 Dec	44	143

DELAYED START SCENARIOS

Should the return to school be delayed through the extension of lockdown**,** Curro will issue a formal notice of revised return dates for the 2nd term.

Different scenarios are being planned for this possible delayed start to term 2 and include:

Grades 8 to 12 (Possible delayed return to school dates)							
	Term 2	**Days**	**Term 3**	**Days**	**Term 4**	**Days**	**Total days**
Scenario 1	4 May – 19 June	34	7 July – 25 Sep	57	6 Oct – 11 Dec	49	140*
Scenario 2	18 May – 26 June	29	7 July – 25 Sep	57	5 Oct – 11 Dec	50	136*
Scenario 3	1 June – 26 June	19	6 July – 25 Sep	58	5 Oct – 11 Dec	50	127*

In the case of Scenarios 1, 2 and 3 above, extensions of the school day and additional supplementary classes that may include Saturday morning classes and/or evening classes that could be scheduled to make up extra teaching time

ON-Line Learning

A virtual classroom is an on-line learning environment that allows for live interaction between the teacher and the learners as they are participating in learning activities. In other words, the virtual classroom is a shared online space where the learners and the tutor work together simultaneously.

We have created this environment by making use of various platforms to varying degrees, depending on the subject, availability of resources and taking cognizance of the limitations that availability of devices and data impose on parents and learners.

A reminder of the approach being followed in the high school at this stage:

1) Learners will complete the work that was sent to them at the end of term 1 over the next two weeks. Teachers are available online to assist should they have questions or need support. The learners can contact teachers according to their timetables to assist in managing time. High data use information will be limited as far as possible as not all learners have access to uncapped data.

2) All the work was sent via MyHub. Should learners not have received this via MyHub as sent at the end of term or via e-mails where requested, please ask subject heads to send the PDF or a screen shot of the particular subject to your preferred platform (i.e. provide e-mail address or WhatsApp number).

3) Teachers are on duty during lockdown to assist. To make it easier and more structured, we are on-line through various platforms during our normal lesson times for the lockdown period – we started on Tuesday with day 2.

4) Learners are not all required to be on-line all the time in all their subjects. They are using this time to do the work set for them and learners are encouraged to log into Teams/WhatsApp etc. to ask assistance according to their timetable slots. This is to help them and support our parent body. Specific subjects may require specific on-line and/or webinar sessions which have been communicated to learners involved already.

5) Though we are making up academic time later in the year, it is after mid-year exams (a bit late for our kids), therefore this interim measure.

It is very important to remember that children look to adults for guidance on how to react to stressful events. If parents seem overly worried, children's anxiety may rise. Parents should reassure children that health and school officials are working hard to ensure that people throughout the country stay healthy.

However, children also need factual, age appropriate information about the potential seriousness of disease risk and concrete instruction about how to avoid infections and spread of disease. Teaching children positive preventive measures, talking with them about their fears, and giving them a sense of some control over their risk of infection can help reduce anxiety.

What you need to know

You may have noticed that there has been a recent hype about the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. The important thing to remember, is to not panic. If you stay informed and take the necessary precautions, you can keep yourself safe from COVID-19 and other viruses.

What is the COVID-19 virus?

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that cause illness, ranging from the common cold to more serious illnesses, such as pneumonia. The novel coronavirus, COVID-19 is one of seven types of known human coronaviruses.

How does a virus like COVID-19 spread?

A virus spreads when an infected person sneezes or coughs and someone else gets the droplets in their eyes, nose or mouth – most often when touching a contaminated object and then touching their face.

How can you prevent the spread of COVID-19 (and other, more common viruses)?

Preventing a virus from infecting you, or from spreading, is actually very simple!

- Wash your hands and arms (up to your elbows) frequently – soap and water are fine; when not available, use hand sanitiser with a 60%+ alcohol content.
- When washing your hands, sing 'Happy Birthday' twice in your head to ensure you wash long enough.
- If possible, avoid large crowds during a high-risk period (such as flu season).
- When you attend school assembly, do not breath or cough on your peers.
- If you don't feel well, don't come to school.
- Keep your distance from visibly sick people.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue (or your sleeve if necessary).
- Avoid touching your face (or anyone else's) without having washed your hands.
- Do not share food or drinks or personal items during high-risk periods.
- Wash/Wipe down frequently-used items and surfaces (such as pens, textbooks or tablets) often.

What are symptoms of COVID-19?

Symptoms can range from mild to severe. It is important to seek medical attention if you think that you may have been exposed or are experiencing symptoms. Please do not come to school if you are unwell.

- High fever
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Muscle aches
- Diarrhoea

Sources:
www.livescience.com | www.osha.gov
www.pandemic.internationalsos.com

This infographic is for educational purposes only and not a substitute for professional medical advice.

#Learners2Leaders

CURRO

COMMUNICATION:

During this period of lockdown, it is vital that we have open communication channels as we will be expecting learners to continue their learning whilst at home. Various channels of communication are being used, including e-mails, WhatsApp groups, ITSI and Microsoft Teams.

We thank our parents for assisting learners in obtaining access to the internet to facilitate distance learning solutions – we do realise that having a whole family on-line with parents working from home and learners involved in on-line learning is no small feat.

Contact details of the School Management Team and Grade Heads herewith for easy reference:

Receptionist	Cindy Duma	Cindy.D3@curro.co.za
Head of High School	Dion Kotze	Dion.K@curro.co.za
FET Phase Head	Sarah-Jane Olivier	Sarah-Jane.O01@curro.co.za
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	Wendy Longwitz	Wendy.L2@curro.co.za
Grade 9 Heads	Kelsey Gallon	Kelsey.G2@curro.co.za
	Brendan van Zyl	Brendan.v@curro.co.za
Grade 8 Heads	Kyla Hayter	Kyla.H@curro.co.za
	Warrick Hammond	Warrick.H@curro.co.za

TERM 2 PLANNER:

We urge parents and learners to please read the **TERM PLANNERS** that have been posted to **MyHub**.

We will adhere to these dates as best we can, but where changes are made, we will communicate such changes on MyHub and via our learners.

THOUGHT TO PONDER:

We wish you and your loved ones continued health – please keep safe.

Yours in education.
Dion Kotze
Head of High School.