

24 July 2020

School Newsletter

(Newsletter 7)

DEAR MCA FAMILY

Greetings once again in the Most Precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We thank parents who are consistently communicating with us and keeping us informed about those who have been infected by Covid-19. This is very important information to us as the school for prayer and support as well as making us extra-cautious about the risks we may be in.

In a space of one month, we have had not less than ten of our learners reported to have tested positive for the virus. We would like to appreciate the manner in which parents of those learners handled the entire process: making sure that soon after testing, these children stay at home whilst waiting for the results so as not to pose any threat to the entire school community.

The reports we received indicate that none of our learners are sickly or have any symptoms and that they are all in good state of health at home. The school arranged for the learners to continue with their lessons at home until they return at the start of term 3.

We never knew that up to this far we would still be held at ransom by the Covid-19 pandemic. We however, want to call on everyone to heed the call to stay safe, observing all safety protocols wherever we are. Above all, let's continue to put our trust in the Lord and pray for a Covid-free MCA!!

ABOUT THE CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS

The announcement by the State President on national TV on the 23rd of July called for the immediate [closure of public schools](#) until the 23rd of August.

As MCA, we would like to clarify our position on this announcement:

We will not be closing the school on these days!
We have recently revised our academic calendar following the closure for 7 days due to positive Covid19 cases identified at the school. Our calendar now has only three terms for the year 2020 (See dates on the side).

7th of August as the last day of Term 2 and the 17th of August as the start of Term 3.

There will be a mid-term break in the last term - term 3. Our academic year will officially end on the 15th of December.

Whilst we exercise our right of independence in this regard, we would like to make it known that we are in full support of every effort by the national and local authorities as well as the society at large to fight the spread of Covid-19! As we continue rendering the service to our clients, we will make every attempt possible to keep everyone safe during this high-risk period.

TERMS OF THE 2020 MCA ACADEMIC YEAR:

- Term 1: 07 Jan to 18 Mar
- Term 2: 07 Apr to 07 Aug (including online)
- Term 3: 17 Aug to 15 Dec (mid-term break - from 24 Sept to 02 Oct - **tbc**)

2021 RE-ENROLMENTS (CURRENT PARENTS)

MCA parents will soon have to indicate if their children will be returning to MCA in 2021 or not, like we always do at this time of the year. We are working to have this done online, via the school website. **We will advise when our system is ready for this.**

The process (when ready) will require each parent to register using their email address. We therefore urge ALL parents to ensure that they have valid email addresses as they will not be able to complete the process without one. We appeal to those with multiple addresses to use only one for all school forms.

Applications for New Enrolments still open till 31 Aug - apply online: www.mcademy.co.za/admissions

STATUS OF OUR ACADEMICS

(Reports by Heads of Schools)

Junior School report

With the pandemic still lingering on, we have been extra cautious in our classrooms ensuring that we adhere to the national regulations to aid in the fight against COVID 19.

Teaching and learning has been taking place since our return. We are currently busy with assessments and we have been experiencing glitches as to our learners not fully attending school and missing many of their very important end-of-term assessments. We ask parents to assist us with this issue by sending their children to school on allocated days to complete their assessments - we have to issue out term 2 reports on the 7th of August. We hope to be able to issue reports to all our learners.

We thank the parents for their continuous support for our active online learners as we have 90% submissions and participation. This is a positive gesture and we tremendously appreciate the effort. We continue to plead with our inactive online learners to please participate and meet deadlines as this is imperative that they keep up with the rest of our learners to avoid being left behind.

Stay safe and God Bless.

Mrs N Mdletshe.

(Acting Head of Junior school)

Senior School report

The season of the Covid-19 has brought a totally new shift to every individual, forcing us to adapt to a completely new way of doing things. Change is never easy but we thank the good Lord for giving us the ability to soldier on in the midst of adversity.

The Senior School is conducting contact sessions and online sessions concurrently, however we have come to a decision that we no longer allow learners to switch schooling methods within the term as this poses a lot of complications for teachers. Please note - it is not easy for all of us!

We would like to urge parents with children attending contact school to assist with the monitoring of work given to learners during days when they are not at school. Teachers send reminders via Class Dojo and WhatsApp chat groups, but we still have learners who come to school with work not completed.

Online Schooling is progressing although we still have a few glitches as we are all still finding our feet on this whole new system. I therefore appeal to parents to check if learners are submitting their work given to them online and to communicate with the register teacher or Online School Co-Ordinator if there is any challenge. The Senior School has managed to conduct assessments for both schooling systems. We will inform parents when reports will be issued.

Mrs J Sibanda

(Head of Senior School)



Google Classroom

Google Classroom

MCA will soon be launching Google Classroom for ALL learners in Grades R to 12 – it is currently limited to Online learners. We have to be prepared for any direction we may be forced to take in future!

Google Classroom will make it easier for our learners to receive their material and keep ALL their notes and assessments in one place and under different subject folders. Class Dojo does not have this feature and that is why we will be moving away from Class Dojo in the near future.

What learners need to do, for now:

- ✚ Make sure that they have a working Gmail address, preferably own learner's Gmail address (it's easier with a Gmail account than any other email account).
- ✚ Download the Google Classroom App (from the Google Playstore) if using a smart phone
- ✚ Wait for the teacher to give you the Class Code to use when joining the class. It's that simple!!

If using a computer, do step 1 only and wait!