

06 August 2020

# School Newsletter

## (Newsletter 8/2020)

WhatsApp: 082 9050 300

### DEAR MCA FAMILY

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

Let me thank our parents for being very understanding of the challenges we have as we adjust our day-to-day activities in line with the requirements of the time.

I would also like to thank the MCA staff for going out of the normal way of doing things, ensuring that each learner feels safe whilst on our premises. Our teachers went an extra mile where necessary to meet both the learners' and parents' academic needs - the support they have been giving to the learners on- and off-campus, is amazing and that is highly appreciated.

I would like to continue calling on everyone to heed the call to stay safe, observing all safety protocols wherever we are. Above all, let us continue to put our trust in the Lord and pray for a Covid-free MCA.

Wishing everyone a happy stay at home!!  
**L Mthembu (Exec Principal)**

### FROM THE STUDENT ACCOUNTS DESK

We have noticed the sudden increase in the number of parents who are falling behind with their monthly payments. This is becoming a problem for us as we have communicated with parents to come forth if they have financial challenges and make a special arrangement for the payments. We are approaching the end of the year now and time for such special arrangements is coming to an end.

Where no special arrangement has been made, we will be forced to withdraw our service at the beginning of term 3. Therefore, we urge parents whose payments are not up-to-date to contact the Accounts office ASAP as they will not be receiving their reports and we will not be allowing their children back to school until the payment is made.

### AFTER-CARE

Due to the number of days attended per week, After-care will now have a DAILY charge of R25. Normal monthly charge will resume when learners attend normally.

### TERMS OF THE 2020 ACADEMIC YEAR (AS REVISED):

- Term 1: 07 Jan to 18 Mar
- Term 2: 07 Apr to 07 Aug (including online)
- Term 3: 24 Aug to 10 Dec  
(mid-term break - from 24 Sept to 05 Oct - tbc)

Details of our plans for Academics:

- **24 Aug to end of Sept** – syllabus completion
- **October:** Revision and Remedial Programme
- **November:** Final Examinations
- **Up to 10 Dec:** Marking, mark capturing, scheduling and reporting.

### 2021 RE-ENROLMENTS (CLOSING: 14 AUG)

We would like to thank all parents who have responded to our request to fill in the re-enrolment form online [please note closing date if still not done]. Parents must note that the enrolment agreement has a duration of one academic year. Therefore, if there is no response to indicate that your child is returning to MCA in 2021, we can ONLY assume that you are NOT renewing your agreement with us - so no space will be reserved for your child. Please also note that applications are pouring in for 2021 and there may be no space whatsoever when we finalise our numbers later this month.

Applications for New Enrolments are still open till 31 Aug - apply online: [www.mcacademy.co.za/admissions](http://www.mcacademy.co.za/admissions)  
We have had to limit the number of applications due to influx and new control measures have been put in place:

*All applicants now have to fill in a short request form on our website and request to apply for admission. Where spaces are still available, MCA will then reply with a UNIQUE number and the link to apply online.  
**Grade 8 applications are CLOSED until further notice!***

## Google Classroom



MCA will be launching Google Classroom for ALL learners in Grades 4 to 12 at the start of Term 3. Joining is **OPTIONAL!**

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. **We will not be using Class Dojo from term 3!**

With Google Classroom, our learners will have an option of doing some assessments online so that we can maximally utilize the time we have at our disposal.

### What learners need to know / do?

- ✚ 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.
- ✚ Join your class using the Class Code supplied, by clicking on the PLUS sign, choose 'Join Class', insert Class Code.
- ✚ Keep checking notifications on their email inbox for messages about new work posted as well as announcements and reminders from teachers.
- ✚ Google Classroom allows learners to send 'private comments' to teachers if they seek clarity on some work.
- ✚ Assessments submitted online will be marked and scored. Learners will be able to see their marks and the correct answers for the assessment
- ✚ **Learners must make sure their names on Google Accounts match their school names (Strange names will be deleted).**
- ✚ **Full training will be given to learners when the term resumes.**

### What parents need to know?

- ✚ They can access their children's work online from anywhere, but they have to login to their children's email accounts to view their profile.
- ✚ Parents will be able to see the work that has been submitted or missed as well as the marks for each assessment.
- ✚ Junior School parents must assist their young ones.

A big THANK YOU to **Umfolozi Sugar Mill**, our sponsor for many years, for the donation of 200L of hand sanitizer. May God richly bless the hand that giveth!



### About MCA Online School

MCA launched the online mode of schooling at the beginning of term 2 to cater for those learners who either choose to study from home or cannot come due to comorbidities. We have been working tirelessly to improve our material and our presentation and we thank all collaborators that it is gradually taking shape.

We already have lists of learners who are physically attending school and those who are online. **Should parents wish to change from one mode to the other, they must let the school know BEFORE THE START OF TERM 3 as there will be no switching schools once the term starts.** The school will arrange only one orientation meeting for the online learners and parents (to take place during this two-week break). No learner will be allowed to study online if they have not attended the orientation workshop.

We will soon be launching a survey for those who may be interested in continuing with online schooling next year so that we can start planning accordingly.

### Communication with parents during lockdown

We would like to point out that due to Covid-19 protocols, we have stopped printed notices and letters. In order for us to reach all parents at the same time, we will be using emails to send all notices – this includes learners' report cards. For urgent announcements, SMSs will be sent.

Parents must therefore ensure that they notify the school of any changes on either their cellphone numbers or email addresses. Only ONE email address can be registered on the child's name and our system cannot do CC. We therefore appeal to parents to stick to one email address right throughout the year to avoid being left out of very important info.

**PS: Please note that Term 2 Reports will be sent on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August to the same email address from which you received this Newsletter.**