

16 March 2020

### **COVID-19 and the closure of our school**

Dear Bishop Bavin School Parents, Guardians and Stakeholders

Following our communication with you on 15 March 2020, after the address by President Ramaphosa declaring a national state of disaster and closure of schools from Wednesday, 18 March 2020, we remain committed to ensuring measures to help our families through this very uncertain time, with academic sustainable programmes in place.

When our school closes on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, **this will be deemed our Easter holiday until after the Easter weekend.** We have made preparations for the fact that our boarders may need a bit more time to make travel arrangements and therefore boarding will be available until Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2020. The length of this holiday pends further announcement from our President, although the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2020 was mentioned. **(Note that our scheduled break from the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2020 to the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2020 is now amended to accommodate the earlier closure).** We will continue to communicate with you as more information on a National level, becomes available. The current scenario and unfolding events have led us to have to cancel and/or postpone a number of scheduled activities, such as sporting activities, our matric dance, the careers exhibition and the World Scholar's Cup regional round. As we are not able to complete all Term 1 assessments due to the closure of the school on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, our Term 1 reports will be made available during Term 2, once we have completed all the necessary assessments and submission of assignments.

In preparation of a possible announcement of the closure of schools continuing after the estimated 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2020, academic staff will be working for the rest of this week to strategise and plan remote teaching protocols and contingency plans. Our school's infrastructure allows for learner and parent access to Engage, as well as the use of commercial conferencing and collaborative tools – ensuring we are prepared for continued academic teaching and learning. This will be set up and ready for use, should the closure of the school continue after the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2020. The normal holiday work required from learners will be on Engage by Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2020. **We give you our further commitment as part of our contingency plans, to assist all learners after we return to school by re-teaching any work set as remote teaching and learning exercises.**

Please anticipate changes to our school calendar for the rest of the year in order to make up teaching time that could be lost during this international health crisis as well as for further

academic support. Further communication will follow this week, as soon as we have been given guidance by ISASA (the Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa).

We urge our families to be safe and continue to take the necessary precautions and limit your movement as a family.

We request that you advise the school if you or your children are travelling abroad and/or if you were/are in contact with someone who has travelled to high and medium risk countries. We will continue to post resources and updates on Engage.

Please feel free to make contact with me or the respective heads of the schools, should you have any concerns or queries.

Kind regards,



Mrs Karen Ehlers  
Acting Executive Head and Head of College