

Dear Parents and Guardians

As we settle into the extended lockdown period we all face the most extraordinary circumstances as we speak to you in your homes, from our homes, all because of the global pandemic which has affected our learners and families in unimaginable ways in such a short time.

In times like this, we believe that it is really important to maintain a sense of continuity and make steady progress through as many of our routines and tasks, as we can, to combat the effect of the lockdown, without many of our usual activities. Though formal school-based learning has been put on hold, there are many opportunities for the learners to continue their online tasks and contact sessions as arranged in the day to day routines of the home.

The situation regarding the duration of the lockdown is very uncertain and will be determined by the Government. As a result, we intend to organise schoolwork programmes on an age and phase appropriate basis. Irrespective of the eventual official return date to normal school operations, Curro has structured the school days for the remainder of the year in such a way that the total number of annual school days would be the equivalent of the original academic calendar for 2020; in other words, no “days at school” would have been lost due to the lockdown. This is additional reassurance that the 2020 learning process is being comprehensively covered both in terms of actual days at school and the various online learning opportunities created and made available. Consequently, there is no loss in actual teaching time and all of our learners continue to benefit from the educational input offered by our schools, and still enjoy the educational value offered by Curro.

We would like to reiterate that we are committed to providing all of our learners with a full year’s schooling; and all stipulations in terms of the enrolment agreement between parents and Curro will remain in place. The time that learners have lost not being able to attend school, will be made up throughout the remainder of the year. Strategies to make up for lost time may include shorter holiday periods and school days held over weekends.

Our schools have technically re-opened, so we will continue uploading work that can be completed at home; we ask all learners to take advantage of this to ensure that they keep up to date with their curriculum and assignments as much as possible. In the more senior classes parent help should be minimal, while in the infant and junior classes some support will be needed. The work should be an enjoyable experience and should not be the cause of any anxiety. We have already seen how many learners embrace this approach – well done!

Most schools have contact with their learners and parents. Learners who are on TEAMS will continue with contact sessions organised by their school. Schools, where learners do not have the required devices and connectivity, will try their best to get information on work and tasks to learners. Learners in the FET Phase received work before the lockdown. They will also receive academic content throughout the extended lockdown period. By making use of Teams they can collaborate and connect with teachers directly.

We do not want to overload the learners but to make the restart of school easier for all our learners we urge all learners to make use of these online learning strategies.

We hope that you will find these programmes helpful and that they will provide good support and routine for our learners. We are continuously monitoring the situation for the rest of the lockdown and will do our best to adapt our support to what we feel is best for our learners and families.

If, for any reason, you do not have access to a laptop or computer or have restricted internet access, please contact the class teacher, phase head or school head so we can help you make alternative arrangements to ensure that your child receives the work they need. We are here to help you.

We understand that these are difficult times for all our families; circumstances vary greatly from home to home. We have no intention of creating any additional stress and ask that you please contact us to discuss any concerns you may have – there are few problems that cannot be resolved by a discussion.

Please do not hesitate to contact the following staff members at Curro Aurora

Subject teacher

Phase Head (Grades 8 & 9) - Donne Valkenburg (donne.v1@curro.co.za)

Phase Head (Grades 10-12) - Sarah-Jane Olivier (sarah-jane.o01@curro.co.za)

School Head - Dion Kotzé (dion.k@curro.co.za)

Executive Head - JC Engelbrecht (jc.e@curro.co.za)

Curro Aurora's priority remains the safety of its learners, their families and staff. For the health of everyone in our space, we ask you all to keep up the great work with washing hands, good cough etiquette and maintaining social distance, even when the schools re-open. We will have to be careful for several months to come this year.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your support in what is a very difficult situation. We will continue to keep you informed on a regular basis.

We wish you and your family good health and hope that it won't be too long before we are all back in our classrooms, enjoying the friendship and love of learning which is the backbone of our schools.

Kind regards

**JC ENGELBRECHT
EXECUTIVE HEAD
CURRO AURORA**