

Date: 12 June 2020

Issue no.: 16

Dear Parent / Learner



Usually, the sound of children's voices resounds around the different blocks in the school throughout the day. The absence of this was rather eerie and distressing over the last few weeks before re-opening for our Grade 11 and 12 learners.

The addition of laughter (although muffled through masks) to our school buildings is already making a huge difference in the atmosphere at school. It made me realise over the last two weeks just how much I missed the

interaction with my learners. Teaching is not merely the conveying of subject matter or the assessment thereof. It is the process of attending to people's needs, experiences and feelings, and intervening so that they learn particular things, and go beyond the given.

Though the reopening of our school involved a number of administrative complexities, including how to manage infection risks for learners and adults that facilitate schooling, including teachers, school managers, administrative staff, transport workers and tuck-shop workers, the immense benefit of face-to-face teaching makes all the procedures and guidelines worth it. It's a whole new re-learning curve for our learners — they can't touch friends or share sweets or stationery or equipment. We realise that children are far more resilient than we often give them credit for.

We teach a subject not to produce little living libraries on the content, but rather to get a student to think mathematically for himself, to consider matters as an historian does, to take part in the process of knowledge-getting. I believe that the forced online learning we all had to adapt to very quickly actually made us relook at how we teach and learn and hopefully made our learners take ownership of their learning, viewing knowledge not as an end-result, but rather as a process.

So, what do we do when our learners do not see the point of learning things – for example, around grammar or even our new COVID-19 safety requirements? The obvious response to this question is that we must ask and listen – they may have point. However, we also must weigh this against what we know about the significance of these things in life, and any curriculum or health and safety or other requirements we have a duty to meet. In this case, we have a responsibility to try to explore their relevance and to encourage participation. Ultimately, teaching involves creating an environment for learning and engaging with others, so that they learn particular things. Whether at home or in class, it is vital that such an environment allows for focus, knowledge sharing and the ability to engage with others.

A blend of online and face-to-face learning is fast becoming the new norm, therefore the home environment will also become a learning environment for at least a portion of every learner's school week. In a home learning environment, children learn to investigate the world through a family context and are provided a blueprint for learning, behaviour, and attitudes. Creating a positive

learning environment in your home can thus foster new skills and encourage active learning among children.

A distraction-free zone that has excellent light, low noise, and a comfortable temperature is vital. Make sure there is a place to sit and lay out work. A home office, den, or quiet kitchen nook or even the unused end of a dining table make for good options. Children differ vastly in their needs. For some, you may need to avoid using a bedroom as their learning space: not only are there too many distractions but bringing work into a personal space can turn a safe zone into a stressful environment for some children. **It is important to create an orderly environment by decluttering the learning space.**

Online learning does require a lot of self-discipline, time management and following the structure provided. These are valuable skills to master. In a world that has become increasingly technology-driven, it makes sense to harness the opportunities of online learning in a school set-up. More than 6 million students are currently in online courses as part of their higher education program. Almost half of all students enrolled in online courses are educated exclusively through distance education.

At Curro Aurora, we are proud of our online offering and work hard at improving it. Thank you to our parent body and our learners who have embraced this new normal – together we can do this!

SCHOOL CALENDAR

All Curro schools will adhere to the term dates which Executive Heads announced to their respective school communities in the letter to parents dated 26 May 2020 as follows:

Grades R to 12						
Term 2	Days	Term 3	Days	Term 4	Days	Total days
1 Apr – 31 May (ONLINE ONLY)	(40)	6 July – 23 Sep	57	28 Sep – 9 Dec	53	129
1 Jun – 26 June (BLENDED APPROACH)	19	(BLENDED APPROACH)				

Please note that we will abide by the dates as indicated above and Term 2 will therefore close on Friday 26 June.

Schools will open for Term 3 for staff and learners on **Monday 6 July 2020**.

Monday 15 June will be a normal academic school day (we will be welcoming Grades 3, 4 and 9 back to school). Please enjoy the public holiday on 16 June.

The last day of school is scheduled for **9 December** at this stage, but some learners will finish a bit earlier, depending on the examination timetable which we will compile as soon as we have a final version of the Grade 12 timetable, as it impacts on venue availability.

Our online schooling will continue in terms of our commitment that no child is left behind:

- Our goal is to include all our learners and families, and any special provisions necessary will be made to ensure a continuation of learning for all the children under our care;
- We will continue uploading work for those still in lockdown to ensure that no work is missed by the learners during this time;
- We will continue to deliver the curriculum to our learners to enable them to progress to the next grade;
- We ask all learners to commit to their studies to ensure that they keep up to date with their curriculum and assignments as much as possible until such time as their grades are able to return to the classroom.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Until further notice school uniform is to be worn on **Mondays** and **Fridays**, allowing enough time to have uniform cleaned. Should you (the learner) have PE on a Monday or a Friday, please wear your full school tracksuit with your blue pride T-shirt. We ask that learners are dressed neatly (and warmly) for school.

50% CAPACITY MEASURES:

GRADE 12:

The group of learners at school will receive the daily teaching face to face, learners not at school due to comorbidities in the family will receive the same teaching via MS Teams,

GRADE 10 & 11:

From 22 June to 26 June:

- **Grade 11** learners will be taught online
- **Grade 10** learners on campus – this is to support Grade 10 learners who may need assistance after an **extended lockdown period** and to ensure that they are ready to tackle the third term.

From 6 July (Third Term):

The group of learners at school will receive the daily teaching face to face, learners not at school will receive the same teaching via MS Teams

Grade 11

- At 50% capacity, our **Grade 11** learners will be at school for face-to-face teaching on days 1; 3; 5; 7 and 9 and continue with online learning on days 2; 4; 6; 8 and 10 and rotate with Grade 10 learners as from 6 July. This will limit the number of bodies on campus for each day.

Grade 10

- Our **Grade 10** learners will be at school for face-to-face teaching on days 2; 4; 6; 8 and 10 and continue with online learning on days 1; 3; 5; 7 and 9 as from 6 July.
- For all learners to be taught by their teachers at school, we will be following our **normal timetable**, practicing social distancing as far as possible and making use of bigger venues for bigger groups whenever possible.
- The group of learners at school will receive the daily teaching face to face, learners not at school will **receive the same teaching via MS Teams, online.**

GRADE 9

- Our Grade 9 group will be joining us on **15 June** for on campus learning.

GRADE 8

- Grade 8 group will be joining us on **22 June** for on campus learning.

From 15 June to 19 June: (Week 2 starts 15 June)

- **Grade 8** learners will be taught online
- **Grade 9** learners on campus.

- 50% of learners in a tutor class to be at school on any specific day. This will limit the number of bodies on campus for each day.
- **Grade 9 learners will be stationary in one venue and not move classes**
- For all learners to be taught by their teachers at school, we will be following a normal two-week cycle whereby each class is split into two groups, **Group A and B.**
 - **Group A** will have face-to face classes on days 7 and 9 and online classes on days 6; 8; 10.
 - **Group B** will have face-to-face classes on days 6; 8 and 10 and online classes on days 7 and 9.

From 22 June: (Week 1 starts 22 June)

- 50% of learners in a tutor class to be at school on any specific day. This will limit the number of bodies on campus for each day.
- **Grades 8 and 9 learners will be stationary in one venue and not move classes**
- For all learners to be taught by their teachers at school, we will be following a normal two-week cycle whereby each class is split into two groups, Group A and B.
 - **Group A** will have face-to face classes on days 1; 3; 5; 7 and 9 and online classes on days 2; 4; 6; 8; 10.
 - **Group B** will have face-to-face classes on days 2; 4; 6; 8 and 10 and online classes on days 1; 3; 5; 7 and 9.
- After each two-week cycle, the groups will swop around.

The syllabus will continue as normal through-out face-to-face and online classes

SECONDHAND UNIFORM SHOP

Kindly note that the secondhand shop at Curro Aurora is operational as follows:

Hours of Business

Mondays:	07h00 – 11h00
Wednesday:	11h00 – 15h00
Friday:	11h00 – 15h00

Only one family unit (parent and/or pupil) will be permitted access to the shop at a time. A system has been put in place for appointments of 15 minutes per visit. Any visits outside of appointments may result in parents having to wait outside the shop until they can be served. Every effort will be made to accommodate all requests.

Should you wish for your child to purchase clothing without you, the parent, present, you are requested to send a letter which must include your family code authorising the transaction to be debited to your school fee account.

Strict Covid 19 precautions will always be in place. Parents entering the shop must be wearing a mask, sanitise and complete a register upon entering the secondhand shop. No entry will be allowed without a mask.

Please WhatsApp or phone the shop coordinator (Andy Watkins 083 783 3653) for appointments or for any other information you may need regarding the secondhand shop.

CULTURE

Mrs Saskia Snyders

Curro Create Arts Superhero



Thank you so very much to all our creative learners for submitting their entries. For those of you who still need to submit your SOLO performance entries, please note that the final due date is **26 June 2020**. All submission entries (Write It! Tweet It and Shoot It!) that have not been submitted, please note that you need to send your entries to Mrs Snyders (Saskia.s@curro.co.za) or hand them in in person at school. These submission entries must please reach Mrs

Snyders by the **25th of June** so that she can send it to Curro CAS adjudicators by the 26th of June. #bluepride #involved

National Eisteddfod of South Africa

The National Eisteddfod of South Africa for 2020 is going ahead with exciting changes and new opportunities.

**ENTRIES
ARE
OPEN**



Closing date for online entries: 31 July 2020

#Learners2Leaders

CURRO

Aurora

We need not reiterate that we are living through a lot of change and uncertainties. One thing is certain, and that is that arts and culture have always been able to overcome turbulent times and that the arts are a positive force for our community.

Therefore, we encourage our talented learners to enter this year's National Eisteddfod. Entries are completed online, and step-by-step instructions have been sent through to all the high school families via MyHub.

Entries close: **31 July 2020.**

For more information, do not hesitate to contact Mrs Snyders (Saskia.s@curro.co.za).

– Curro Arts –
SUPERHERO
2020

– CURRO –
CREATE
ARTS SUPERHERO

CAS Has Gone Virtual

Check out Curro Create's YouTube channel for tutorials and learn from the masters.

#Learners2Leaders

CURRO

A BIG creative thank you to every learner who has submitted their Curro CAS entry. Solo Performance Entries, please make sure that you follow the steps that have been communicated on the Microsoft Teams platform. Stay Creative! Stay Healthy!

SPORT and CULTURE



Mr Ferreira and Mrs Snyders - sending a social distanced high five to all our sport and culture learners! As we eagerly awaited to hear from Mr Nkosinathi Emmanuel 'Nathi' Mthethwa, Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, about the way forward for our active and involved sports and culture learners, we realized that we are all united: as a school; a community; a country.

We have all sacrificed so much for the safety of our people. For that, we salute you.

We encourage all our talented sport and culture learners to continue to create, practice, develop and engage whilst adhering to the safety regulations. We are excited to see you all back on the stage, screen, field, course, and track soon.

CURRO SPORT INITIATIVES

Please join the Curro Sport Facebook (https://web.facebook.com/CurroSport1/?_rdc=1&_rdr) and Instagram pages (@curro.sport) to #getinvolved with some exciting initiatives:

- **INTER-CURRO RELAY CHAMPIONSHIP**

Date: 9 to 30 June 2020.

Venue: your neighbourhood

Distance: 4 x 1km in your neighbourhood at any time of day but on the same day.

Categories: Girls; boys; mixed teams from the same Curro school. Once completed, send name and surname, a screenshot of phone, watch or any other device to prove that activity has been completed.

Age groups: U/10; U12; U/14; U16; U/18 and even a category for Curro staff (2 men and 2 ladies).

There will be a leader-board on social media displaying best times in each category and challenging teams to beat this time.

Prizes (vouchers) for winning teams of each category.

Grade 10:

Surname	Name	Position
Rudman	Ciara	1
Ragoobeer	Rae-Kyndra	2
Bhugwandeem	Sonali	3
Ababio	Frema	4
Daniels	Joshua	5
Kekana	Oratilwe	6
Koyana	Achumile	7
Thangamuthu	Reeya	8
Khan	Furqaan	9
Phupheli	Kundani	10

Grade 11:

Surname	Name	Position
Freeman Agliotti	Sabrina	1
Mahlangu	Siphesihle	2
Mathebula	Thuthuka	3
du Pont	Rebecca	4
Winterbach	Megan	5
Myburgh	Erique	6
Moodliar	Sonali	7
Hillebrand	Alika	8
Turgut	Kim	9
Cilliers	Eugene	10

Grade 12:

Surname	Name	Position
Krause	Nicole	1
Jerg	Mikaela	2
Jackson	Nicola	3
Schutte	Aiden	4
Fourie	Meghan	5
Sekoele	Maesela	6
Fourie	Mikyle	7
Rajaratnam	Prashan	8
Bhugwandeem	Ushmitha	9
van der Merwe	Gabriella	10

Congratulations! Classroom successes get etched into our memories forever. Sometimes, they even shape our career paths. Your hard work and diligence are commendable and noted with pride!

Please note:

In Grades 8 and 9, we work on the overall average, while in the FET phase we use an aggregate mark out of 650 with a weighting of 80% for Mathematical Literacy, 50% for Life Orientation, 0% for Advanced Programme Mathematics and 100% for the remaining five subjects.

COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS / RETURN TO SCHOOL



We assure you that all the necessary precautions are being taken and that we will be ready to receive more of our learners.

Please pay a visit to our website for the latest on Curro during the time of COVID-19.

<https://www.curro.co.za/covid-19/>

Curro Aurora has been implementing the necessary safety precautions and procedures as detailed in a Standard Operating Procedures document.

These procedures include safety aspects and procedures that teachers, learners, parents, visitors to

the campus and auxiliary staff will need to adhere to strictly.

The wearing of personal protective equipment (PPE) is compulsory and face masks have been provided to our Grade 12 learners by Curro, and will be provided to our Grade 11s next week.

Temperature screening and hand sanitising has become part of our daily routine upon entering the school premises and continued social distancing and regular washing of hands is a way of life for the foreseeable future.

Please take note of our school procedures – please talk your child through them at home so that they feel prepared upon returning to school.

PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS:

Parents to please follow this process when doing the morning drop off:

1. Have a pen and your temperature card ready.
2. Drive into TEMPERATURE CHECKPOINT 1, 2 or 3.
3. Once a temperature of 37.5°C or lower has been confirmed, drive through to a parking bay for drop off.
4. Learner move to SANITISING STATION 1 or 2 for screening and sanitizing.
5. Once screened learner may proceed to enter the school grounds maintaining SOCIAL DISTANCE.

Other notes to include:

1. Drop off times: Grade 12s 7h30 to 8h15; Grade 11s 6h45 – 7h30; Grade 9s 7h15 – 8h00.
2. Aftercare is fully operational from Monday, 8 June 2020. Parents arriving at school will need to follow the same procedure as a visitor, temperature check and recorded, sanitise and then enter campus, collect learner and leave.

3. Private transport companies:

- **Drop off** – Learners will follow the normal arrival procedure (temperature check, screening and sanitizing).
- **Pick up or aftercare collection** – Driver to complete the visitors register, temperature check, sanitise, collect the learner and leave.

4. Learners needs to be **collected promptly** at the end of a school day unless attending aftercare.

PROCEDURES FOR LEARNERS:

• Check point 1: (At the main gate)

- Temperature of learner to be measured when arriving at school whilst still in car – NO physical contact is required.
- Learners to have their own temperature card (provided upon return to school) that must be carried on them.
- **Learner needs to have a pen and the temperature card ready and record the temperature on the card while still seated in the car.**
- A mask must be worn correctly by all occupants in the car.
- ANY Covid-19 symptoms **MUST** be declared to the staff member taking the temperature.
- If temperature is 37.5° or higher and/or learner is not wearing their mask, then they cannot move to check point 2 and parents will be asked to take the appropriate measures – please comply with these carefully.
- Any symptoms reported immediately.

• Check point 2:

- Sanitise hands.
- Check that temperature has been recorded on temperature card.
- Check correct wearing of face masks.
- Recording of temperature and complete check list of symptoms on control sheet.
- Any symptoms reported immediately.

• Check point 3: (Pedestrian entrance gate)

- Check that temperature has been recorded on temperature card.
- Check correct wearing of face masks.
- Reminder of applicable social distancing rules.
- Any visitors to the school (including parents) directed to main reception area for screening.
- Any symptoms reported immediately.

• Check point 4:

- Sanitise hands.
- Tutor class for admin – record temperatures from COVID CARD onto an Excel spreadsheet, in the applicable date column.

- Complete Curro Temperature and Symptoms check sheet.
- Any symptoms reported immediately

• Check point 5:

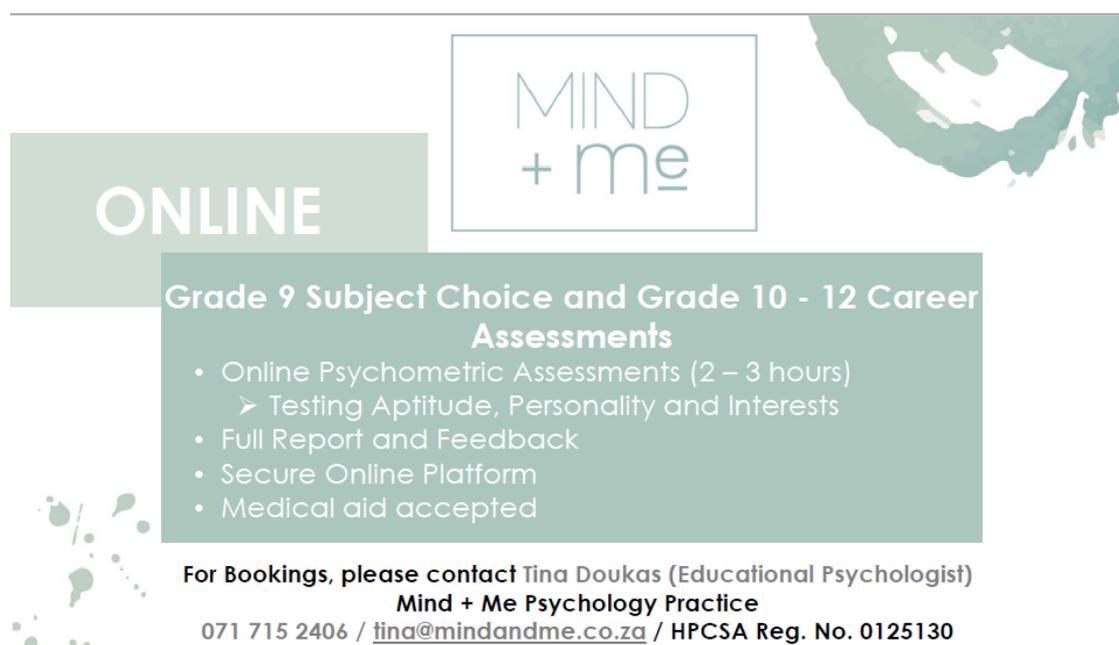
- Sanitise hands before entering classroom.
- Lesson times are 45 min – please ensure that all lessons (online and on-campus) are recorded and shared via MS Teams platform.
- Sanitise hands when exiting classroom.
- Any symptoms reported immediately.

Please also note:

- Learners to be collected from the same areas at the end of the school day – sanitise upon leaving the school property.
- Two twenty-minute breaks are in place on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and a thirty-minute break on Wednesdays. During break times, learners are required to practice social distancing and also wash their hands with soap and water.
- It is recommended that learners bring own hand sanitizer to school.
- Learners who have Primary School siblings are to collect their siblings from the quad area in front of the Primary School office where they are under supervision and move straight to transport collection point(s) – social distancing is vital.

ONLINE CAREER and SUBJECT CHOICE ASSESSMENTS

Mrs Tina Doukas, our campus-based educational psychologist is offering online Grade 9 subject choice and Grade 10 to 12 career assessments.



ONLINE

MIND + me

Grade 9 Subject Choice and Grade 10 - 12 Career Assessments

- Online Psychometric Assessments (2 – 3 hours)
 - Testing Aptitude, Personality and Interests
- Full Report and Feedback
- Secure Online Platform
- Medical aid accepted

For Bookings, please contact Tina Doukas (Educational Psychologist)
Mind + Me Psychology Practice
071 715 2406 / tina@mindandme.co.za / HPCSA Reg. No. 0125130

WEARING A MASK TO SCHOOL

Mrs SJ Olivier

You will be provided with two masks by the school. You are welcome to wear your own mask. Remember that your cloth mask must have a minimum of two layers. You may not re-use a single use mask.

Always wear your mask correctly! The mask must cover your nose and your mouth and fit snugly over the bridge of your nose and against the sides of your face. 

Before you put your mask on, wash or sanitise your hands properly.

Remember that you will have to be wearing your mask when you arrive at the school gate to have your temperature checked.

Avoid touching your mask while you are wearing it. Make sure your mask fits correctly so that you do not need to adjust it. If you do touch your mask, be sure to sanitise your hands immediately.

When removing your mask, do not touch the front of the mask. Remove it by using the ties around your head or behind your ears.

Wash your mask after every use.



WINTER WARMER INITIATIVE



Curro Aurora High School's Culture Council is fully behind the community service winter warmer initiative!

They are inspired to create for the benefit of others. You too can join the Culture Council in supporting this - dare to start creating today and change someone's life for the better!

#currocares #learners2leaders #bluepride

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.

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
Snr Phase Head	Donne Valkenburg	Donne.V1@curro.co.za
Head of Sport	Adrian Ferreira	Adrian.F@curroholdings.co.za
Head of Culture	Saskia Snyders	Saskia.S@curro.co.za
Grade 12 Heads	Nicole Webb	Nicole.W2@curro.co.za
	Maria Chou	Maria.C@curro.co.za
Grade 11 Heads	Judy Beeston	Judy.B@curroholdings.co.za
	Anita Bornman	Anita.B@curro.co.za
Grade 10 Heads	Janine Tobin	Janine.T@curro.co.za
	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

HAMPERS OF HOPE

Hampers of Hope

Each hamper costs R150 and is going to be donated to the Fountainebleau community church. The church helps shelters for the homeless.

Curro Aurora's Grade 10s are putting together food hampers, but we need all the help we can get!

How can you help? We would love for you to sponsor a hamper or more!



For more information, please contact:
janine.t@curro.co.za or wendy.l2@curro.co.za

#Learners2Leaders

www.curro.co.za

CURRO
Aurora

THOUGHT TO PONDER:



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

Yours in education,

Dion Kotze
Head of High School