

Date: 10 July 2020

Issue no: 18

Dear Parent / Learner

The one thing that stood out for me during COVID was how much our personal environment influences our daily lives. Being confronted with one's own thoughts, own environment and only immediate family members for company, it becomes easier to forget those around us who may need our support as we focus on our own lives.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) affects us all – ourselves, our kids, our communities and beyond – we are affected in some way. Many of us have lost friends or family members and where, a few weeks ago, COVID seemed to affect people far away only, the radius of that circle is decreasing, impressing more and more upon us the realities of this pandemic.

With learners, parents and teachers affected by the virus, it is evident, now more than ever, that this pandemic needs to be taken very seriously and that it is up to both parents and teachers to provide clear, concise and factual information that is age-appropriate to our learners without causing panic and stress. **We need to remind ourselves and our kids to practice patience, kindness and mindfulness; and as more people we know get infected, to encourage others to do the same! COVID-19 is the enemy, not the person suffering from it.**

With numerous restrictions in place to promote social distancing, such as avoiding crowds and avoiding close contact with anyone outside of immediate family, it is becoming more and more important to stay in touch and communicate with family and friends by phone, mail or technologies like FaceTime, Zoom, Skype or WhatsApp. We all have an added responsibility to **check on neighbors and family members**, especially those who live alone, are elderly, have health or mobility issues or are caring for children.



Many neighbourhoods have community forums that allow for active involvement. One simple way to lend a helping hand to those who are self-isolating or to the more vulnerable people in your community is to offer to pick up their groceries for them.

Because supermarkets are so busy right now, vulnerable people may avoid going. Picking up some extra shopping for your neighbours can help to reduce their stress. We also ask that you **provide support to frontline health workers and first responders**: Many health workers are not able to stay at home and are working around the clock, so take on tasks that they don't have time to do as an expression of gratitude.

Most importantly: **Stay informed and stay calm**: Only share information from credible sources where required to do so. Remember, when you stay calm, others will follow.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: CHANGE IN TEST TIMES

Due to the number of families who have indicated that their children will only be coming to school to write assessments, we have moved the test slots to the beginning of the day in order to maintain the stringent check point procedure. Note the old assembly slot has been moved to the beginning of the day on Tuesdays, and the Wednesday Cycle Test slot returns to its original time at the start of the day. To further facilitate testing where necessary, the Enrichment lesson on Day 10 has been moved to the last lesson on a Friday. Should your child not be writing during this time, or be involved in a pre-arranged school activity, you make collect your child at 13h40.

Please note that the Grade 12s have an hour-long Cycle Test on Wednesdays, so they must be registered and seated in their tutor class for the start of the Cycle Test at 8h15.

Please see the detailed information below:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday			
Time Slot	Activity		
07:00 – 08:15	Arrive; Temperature screening; Sanitising		
08:15 – 08:30	Tutor & Admin; Recording of temperatures		
	Monday, Thursday, Friday (Day 5)	Tuesday	Friday Day 10 (Enrichment)
08:30 – 09:15	Lesson 2	ASSEMBLY TEST	Lesson 2
09:15 – 10:00	Lesson 3	Lesson 2	Lesson 3
10:00 – 10:45	Lesson 4	Lesson 3	Lesson 4
10:45 – 11:05	BREAK – SOCIAL DISTANCING		
11:05 – 11:50	Lesson 5	Lesson 5	Lesson 6
11:50 – 12:35	Lesson 6	Lesson 6	Lesson 7
12:35 – 12:55	BREAK – SOCIAL DISTANCING		
12:55 – 13:40	Lesson 7	Lesson 7	Lesson 8
13:40 – 14:25	Lesson 8	Lesson 8	<i>Enrichment</i>
14:25 – 15:00			
15:00 – 16:00	WEBINAR / ONLINE LEARNING/EXTRA CLASSES / ACADEMIC SUPPORT Grades 8 to 12. Mondays: Grade 12 Cycle Test.		
Wednesday			
Time Slot	Activity		
07:00 – 08:15	Arrive; Temperature screening; Sanitising		
08:15 – 08:30	Tutor & Admin; Recording of temperatures		
08:30 – 09:15	CYCLE TEST PERIOD (Grade 12 one hour slot 8:15 - 9:15)		
09:15 – 10:00	Lesson 2		
10:00 – 10:45	Lesson 3		
10:45 – 11:15	BREAK – SOCIAL DISTANCING		
11:15 – 12:00	Lesson 4		
12:00 – 12:45	Lesson 5		
12:45 – 13:30	Lesson 6		
14:00 – 15:00	WEBINAR / ONLINE LEARNING EXTRA CLASSES / ACADEMIC SUPPORT Grades 8 to 12		

STAFF MATTERS

We welcomed Miss Abigail van Graan as a substitute teacher (facilitating the remote teaching for Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Bentel) to our staff this week.

Mrs Edwards' successor, **Ms Robyn Habib**, will be joining the Curro Aurora teaching fraternity shortly and we have employed the services of Mrs Teixeira Murray, an experienced English Home Language educator, in the interim. This does mean that, as a temporary measure, English classes will possibly be taken by another teacher for a month which is unavoidable. We will return to our "normal timetable" when Ms Habib joins us on 1 August.

Ms Robyn Habib will also be taking over as the Head of English when she joins our team, bringing with her many years of Matric and IEB experience. We look forward to welcoming her to our Curro Aurora family.

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 April – 31 May (ONLINE ONLY)	(40)	6 July – 23 Sep	57	28 Sep – 9 Dec	53	129 (169)
1 June – 26 June (BLENDED APPROACH)	19	(BLENDED APPROACH)				

Please note: **Friday 7 August** will be a school holiday for Curro Aurora. We will therefore be closed from **Friday 7 to Monday 10 August** (public holiday). **Main reception** will remain open on 7 August and holiday care will be available for parents who still need support.

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 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 full time.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

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

As all **Grade 8 to 11 learners** are only on campus **every other day**, the learners will be required to wear school uniform.

Please also note that normal hair and nail regulations still apply– let's look neat and tidy.

50% CAPACITY MEASURES:

GRADE 10, 11 & 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,

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

- 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.
- 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 8 & 9

From 6 July:

- 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 have started moving classes again to limit academic time lost as teachers had to move to new venue, do sanitizing procedures for the class and then log on to the school network again and then access MS Teams to allow for hybrid teaching before classes could start. In lieu of this, we ask that learners please bring own sanitizing wipes or spray for their own desks as they move about. Though teachers do sanitise as far as possible between lessons, and the cleaning staff sanitise at breaks and after school, it is only prudent that learners take on the responsibility of looking after their own health too – the educational value of this cannot be over-emphasized.
- 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

MANDELA DAY: CURRO FAMILY 5KM BIG WALK.

Please support our Mandela Day Drive – 5 km family walk in your own neighbourhood.

Friday, 17 July 2020: Wear all the colours of the rainbow to celebrate our rainbow nation.

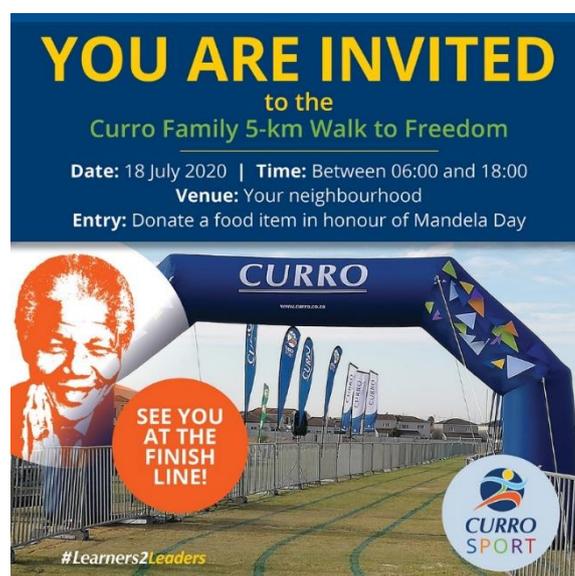
CURRO FAMILY 5KM BIG WALK.

Date: Saturday, 18 July 2020.

Venue: Your neighbourhood.

Time: 06:00 – 18:00.

Entry: Non-perishable food – each Curro school to distribute donations to charity of their choice = Curro cares and social responsibility for Mandela Day.



We will have shopping trolleys at our school entrances to facilitate the drop-off of tinned food.

We ask that you wear Curro/anything blue – maybe dress up. #Bluepride

Once you have completed your walk – send name and surname; a screenshot of phone, watch or any other device to prove that completed the walk/run accompanied by a photo or video of you / your family. We will share your pictures and videos on social media.

MADIBA DAY- Jar of Hope!

For Mandela Day this year, WE would like to ask you to help us feed a family and **Share a Jar of Hope!** Hot 91.9 FM will support Curro Aurora in getting the jars to those in need.

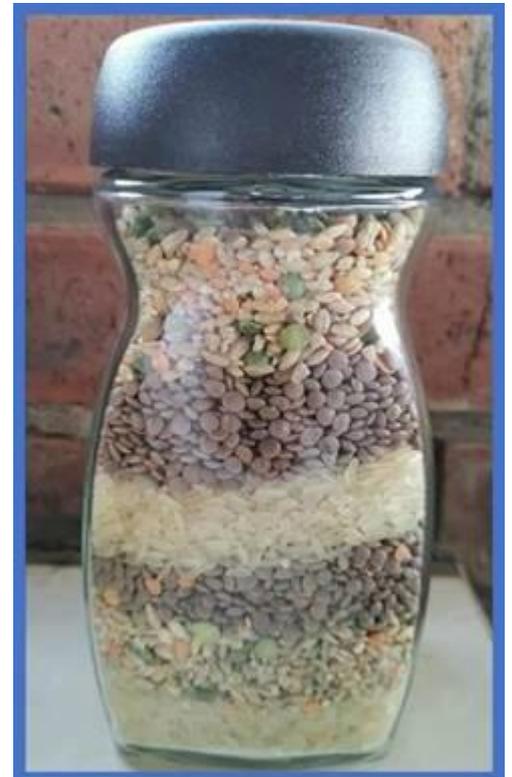
Ingredients:

- half a cup of rice
- half a cup of soup mix
- half a cup of lentils
- one unwrapped stock cube
- one packet of instant soup powder

One of these jars can feed up to four individuals or provide multiple meals to one person. All that needs to be added is hot water (roughly 2 ½ Litres of water), and the mixture needs to be stirred continuously for approximately 45 minutes.

A jar like this is a healthy, nutritious and sustainable meal, especially during winter. While this may not seem like much to us during this time of lockdown, something as simple as a little jar of hope can change the world of someone who was wondering where their next meal would come from.

Please use 67 minutes of your time on Saturday, 18 July to make a Jar of Hope. Jars can be dropped off at school on Monday, 20 July and Tuesday 21 July at one of the entrance gates.



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

CULTURE

Mrs Saskia Snyders

Eisteddfod

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 Academy. Entries are completed online, and step-by-step instructions have been sent through to all the high school families through MyHub.

Entries close: **31 July 2020.**

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

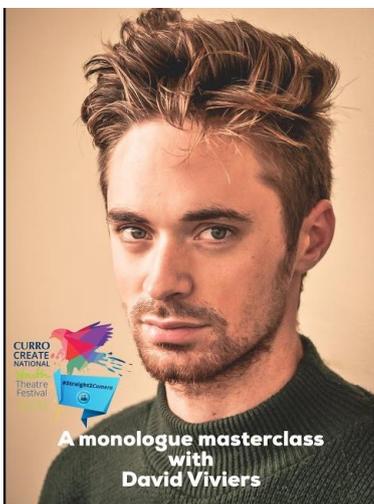
#Straight2Camera Monologue Festival



CCNYTF is continuing.

We are extremely excited to share the CCNYTF #Straight2Camera Monologue Festival initiative with you. It is new, it is fresh and it is just what the doctor ordered!

The #Straight2Camera Monologue Festival is here, and we encourage all our high school learners to grab this opportunity. For all the budding actors in the high school, make sure to watch the Curro Create YouTube channel where professional advice has been shared to make sure that you are guided throughout the process.



The seven masterclasses have been shared already and the first class can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvAN-V3mRzk>

Specific information regarding this exciting opportunity has been shared via MyHub with all high school families.

Closing date for entries: **31 July 2020**

Entry fee: **FREE**

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Snyders (Saskia.s@curro.co.za)

.....and ACTION!!

SPORT

Mr Adrian Ferreira

Exercise: you either love it or you hate it. For those of you who love it, it might feel like the coronavirus outbreak is going to destroy your progress. But don't worry, there are ways around it.



Keep active with Mr. Hourquebie's weekly exercises – it is well worth the effort! For those who hate it, you're probably loving that you can get away with chilling out and watching Netflix since gyms are closed!

But, remember: exercising will strengthen your immune system, improve your mental health, and make you feel better about yourself during this frightening time.

So, keep active: healthy mind, healthy body is more than just an empty saying.

Virtual Relay Challenge

Curro Aurora recently challenged all their learners and staff to take part in the National Inter-Curro 1km Relay Challenge.

While most athletes across South Africa have been unable to train and compete over the last few months, this Inter Curro Relay Challenge provided a unique opportunity for athletes to take part in a virtual competition. Athletes were challenged to complete a 1 kilometer run on Thursday, 25th June 2020, where they needed to run 1 kilometer anytime on the day and submit proof of their fastest kilometer to the school. Most athletes opted to find a suitable route on the road (a decent downhill) and use GPS tracking devices to track their run. **There was an exciting and competitive buzz around the campus on the day. In all, 78 people took part in the challenge.**

There were a few outstanding performances from staff and learners:

Connor Mitchell ran 3:00min for the u/13 boys

CJ Greeves ran 3:53min for the u/14 boys

Joshua Dike ran 3:29min for the u/16 boys

Michaela Smit ran 3:42min for the u/12 girls

Kim Turgut ran 4:10 for the u/18 girls

Matthew Fourie ran 3:13 for the u/18 boys

Reuben Grobler ran 3:14 for the u/18 boys

Mr JC Engelbrecht our Executive Head ran 3:14min for the staff!

The u/18 boys team, consisting of Aiden Petersen, Jason Williams, Brent Barendsen and Siya Mokhosi, finished in a combined team time of 12:19min for their 4km's.

The staff team consisting of Ms Nicole Webb, Mr Anthonie Goosen, Mr Andile Dlaku and Ms Pinky Marais finished in a combined team time of 12:19min for their 4km's to take second place in the staff event. Other staff members who took part included Mr Fryer and Mr Hourquebie with times of 5:17 and 3:44.

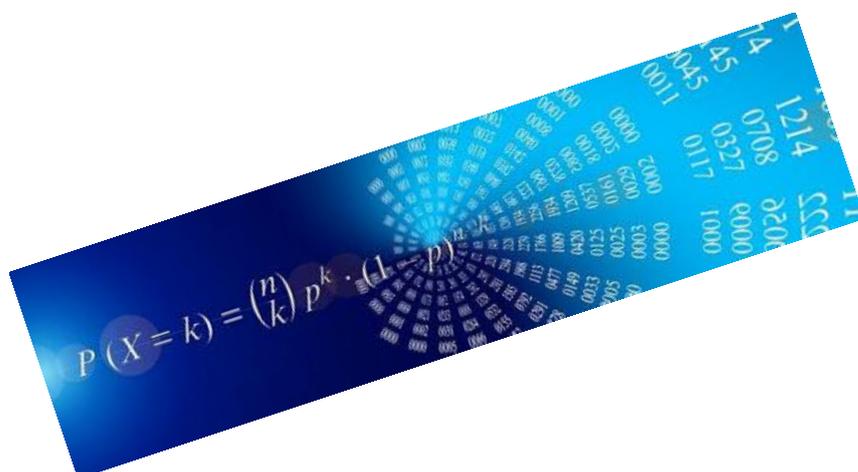
Curro Aurora's athletes did exceptionally well, with all of their teams placing in the top five fastest times for each category in the event. In total, Curro Aurora had seven teams finish in 2nd place and four teams finish in 3rd place. Curro Aurora was also the only school to have been represented in every category!

Well done to all the Curro Aurora families who entered and took part in this initiative to keep families, staff and learners active.

SENIOR MATHS OLYMPIAD – 2ND ROUND

Congratulations to the following seniors who have qualified for the second round of the 2020 Maths Olympiad:

1. Furqaan Khan
2. Oghenetega Akpoduado
3. Ruben Grobler
4. Anton Strydom
5. Eriq Myburgh
6. Siphesihle Mahlangu
7. Kiara Fourie
8. Nicola Jackson
9. Mikaela Jerg
10. Morgan McTiernan
11. Keyana Gounden



COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS / RETURN TO SCHOOL



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 implemented the necessary safety precautions and procedures as detailed in our Standard Operating Procedures document.

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

WE URGE ALL TEACHERS, PARENTS AND LEARNERS TO ADHERE TO THE SAFETY MEASURES – SOCIAL DISTANCING, THE WEARING OF MASKS AND SANITISING IS NON-

NEGOTIABLE. LEARNERS MUST ALSO PLEASE BRING PERSONAL SANITISER / WIPES TO SCHOOL TO ADD ANOTHER MEASURE FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION.

TEMPERATURE SCREENING / SANITISING:

• **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 to 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 social distancing rules applicable
- 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.

WEARING A MASK TO SCHOOL

Mrs SJ Olivier

You have been 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.



COMMUNICATION:

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

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.

THOUGHT TO PONDER:

"Anything you can do to help others meet their need for connection also helps you. There is satisfaction, even joy, to be found in serving a cause greater than self."

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

Yours in education,

Dion Kotze
Head of High School