

Date: 19 February 2021

Issue no.: 6

Dear Parents, Guardians & Learners

The wait is over for former Independent Examination Board (IEB) pupils. They received their Grade 12 results just after midnight on Friday morning!

Curro Aurora congratulates the Matric class of 2020 with their stellar results. The 2020 academic year presented more than its fair share of challenges, but our learners, teachers and parents were amazing.

Our matriculants have worked incredibly hard, pioneering the hybrid teaching and online teaching methodologies and we are very proud of their achievements. The notion of personalised learning catered directly to the needs of individuals is now more relevant than ever. The support and dedication of the learners, staff and parents have directed a Bachelors' Degree pass rate of 94% and an increased ratio of distinctions per candidate, enabling our matriculants to gain places at universities of their choice.

BLUE PRIDE

Not only have our students attained an incredible 100% pass rate, but they have also had the opportunity at Curro Aurora to grow and develop into well respected, confident, and delightful young adults, ready to face the challenges of the wider world.

#BluePride

We are exceedingly proud of Nicole Krause and Nicola Jackson who achieved seven distinctions each, while Mikaela Jerg, Ujitha Mithal and Aiden Schutte each boast six distinctions.

Nicole Krause also achieved a position in the top 1% of IEB results in five subjects, namely Accounting, Afrikaans First Additional Language, English Home Language, Life Sciences and Mathematics, and the Top 5% of the IEB in Physical Sciences, earning her a spot on the IEB Outstanding Achievements list. Nina Luis achieved a position in the top 1% for Mathematical Literacy and Aiden Schutte for History.

Twenty-four of our ninety-six candidates achieved three or more distinctions and their achievements were celebrated this morning at school in Galaxy Hall. We are very proud of all our top achievers!

A successful school fosters broader dimensions of learning critical to students' overall success. Despite the upheaval and the anxiety that the turbulence of this year has provided for learners across the grades, the impact has been significant for Grade 12 learners. However, not all has been bad. They have had experiences that few learners before them have had to develop skills and emotional maturity that will serve them well for the rest of their lives. We would like to congratulate our matriculants and wish them all the very best in their future endeavours. We are sure to watch them closely as they spread their wings!

**TOP
ACHIEVERS**



Mikaela Jerg
6 distinctions



Ujita Mithal
6 distinctions



Aiden Shutte
6 distinctions



**Ushmitha
Bhugwandeen**
5 distinctions



Meghan Fourie
5 distinctions



Prashan Rajaratnam
5 distinctions



Maesela Sekoele
4 distinctions



Mikyle Fourie
4 distinctions



Nicole Krause
7 distinctions



Nicola Jackson
7 distinctions

Curro Aurora

congratulates the world's future leaders

The Class of 2020

100% IEB pass rate | 94% bachelor's degree (BD) pass rate

Nicole Krause: IEB Outstanding Achievement, IEB top **1%** in Accounting, Afrikaans FAL, English HL, Life Sciences and Mathematics

Aiden Shutte: IEB top **1%** in History | **Nina Luis:** IEB top **1%** in Mathematical Literacy

#Learners2Leaders

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A NEW GRADE 8

Caitlin Pankhurst

Never would I ever have thought that, as a new high schooler, I would be asked to write about it. Being new in the high school is tough at first, but you learn to handle it. A day in the life of a Grade 8, waking up early to make sure you look good and presentable for your friends and teachers. Once you get to school, you enter a whole different world, so many people and new places. I am lucky that my best friend has been with me since the beginning.

You get to first period with all the energy in the world, adrenaline pumping, all the excitement for learning and by the time first break comes, you are totally finished. I love the High School mainly because of the people in it. In the primary school, you hung out with your grade and your grade only, but now it is a whole different experience – we are making new friends in higher grades and getting to know them. Everybody is so supportive; you don't have to be nervous to speak to anybody about anything.

Just like Jack Canfield once said: "Don't worry about failures, worry about the chances you miss when you don't even try." Remember to ALWAYS have a positive mindset and try your best. From my short time in the high school, all I can say is that it really is a new and fun beginning, and I hope everyone makes the most of it.

ACADEMIC ARRANGEMENTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

50%

(subject to change)

Grade 10,11 and 12 (FET Phase):

To limit numbers on campus and ensure that more bigger venues are available for teaching, we will continue with reduced capacity measures in **Grades 10 and 11**:

- **Grade 10** learners are to be at school for face-to-face teaching on days 1; 3; 5; 7 and 9 and continue with online hybrid learning on days 2; 4; 6; 8 and 10 and rotate with Grade 11 learners. This will limit the number of bodies on campus for each day.
- **Grade 11** learners are to be at school for face-to-face teaching on days 2; 4; 6; 8 and 10 and continue with online hybrid learning on days 1; 3; 5; 7 and 9. This will limit the number of bodies on campus for each day.
- After each two-week cycle, the attendance days will swap. Please refer to the Assessment Planner for a quick reference to online and in-person days.
- 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.

ONLINE and On-CAMPUS LEARNERS NEED TO BE IN TUTOR CLASS BY **07:45** PLEASE – LEARNERS WHO ARE **LATE** FOR TUTOR CLASS WILL BE MARKED AS **ABSENT** AND WILL BE RECORDED AS SUCH ON END-OF-TERM REPORTS.

50%

Grade 8 and 9 (Senior Phase):

- 50% of Senior Phase learners in a tutor class will therefore be at school on any specific day. This limits the number of bodies and allow for the increased social distancing required on campus for each day.
- 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**.
Schedule from Monday 8 February:
 - Group A 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.
 - Group B will have face-to face classes on days 1; 3; 5; 7 and 9 and online classes on days 2; 4; 6; 8; 10.
- After a two-week cycle, the groups will swop – Grade Heads will keep learners informed and cycle rotation schedules have been posted on Teams grade groups – for learners to reference.

SCHOOL CAMPUS PROCEDURES:

- The wearing of cloth masks is compulsory. The wearing of screens will only be permitted if worn with a mask.
- The sanitising of hands remains a priority. Sanitiser is provided by the school, but we also encourage learners to carry their own.
- Social distancing must always be adhered to. Staff will be on duty to enforce this rule. In classes where laboratory desks are in use, dividers will be used to ensure social distancing. At this stage, spectators will not be permitted to observe extra-murals.
- Movement on the campus will be minimised as far as possible.
- We kindly ask that learners attend school wearing PE kit on sport and PE days as per teacher instructions.



All COVID19 safety protocols that have been instituted will still be in effect. **We need parents' support to emphasise the importance of adhering to safety regulations.** Though teachers do follow the sanitising protocol between lessons, and the cleaning staff sanitise classrooms 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-emphasised.

Learners are also encouraged to bring their own sanitising wipes or spray to use as they move about.

Learners with comorbidities in the family who are not at school will continue to receive the same teaching via MS Teams. Please notify your Grade Head of any comorbidities within the family, necessitating online learning. **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.
- Should you / the school be affected by load shedding, lesson recordings or learning material will be made available via MS Teams for access by the learners when possible.

Please note that teachers are available for assistance on various platforms, including Microsoft Teams, WhatsApp, e-mail, ITSI and MyHub. We are using this multi-platform approach as we realise that our parents and learners have different access capabilities, restricted by the availability of devices or data. **Please note that Microsoft Teams is our preferred platform for communication with learners.**

We invite parents and/or learners to contact subject teachers, Grade Heads or members of the Senior Management Team with any queries or guidance – you are more than welcome.

If you are feeling overwhelmed or unsure of what to do, please ask for assistance. You are never alone, and everyone is here to help you make the most of your time at Curro Aurora and become your own success story.

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS

1.	Learners must take responsibility for their academics by attending all online lessons, completed tasks and assessments by due dates given, and communicating timeously with their teachers should they experience any difficulties. Remaining up-to-date with work is essential.
2.	Online learners need to be ready to start classes at their regular school time each day for the whole day – classes will follow the current timetable. Tutor lessons will be used to communicate grade-specific information.
3.	Learners who do not have access or who have limited access to internet/laptops must please inform their respective Grade Heads.
4.	Specific arrangements in terms of extra-mural activities to be communicated.
5.	Attendance at all classes is mandatory.
6.	Laptops and cell phones are to be fully charged each morning, ready for the day's classes. If learners experience difficulty during the day, admin and IT staff can be contacted for assistance or contact: servicedesk@curro.co.za or 087 285 1699.
7.	Learners who are struggling must contact their teachers or Grade Heads via Teams.
8.	Learners must ensure that all learning material is available to ensure continuity of learning.

CULTURE

Curro CAS 2021



Calling all creatives! Grab this opportunity.

It is the last few days for you to enter for Curro CAS. If you have not joined the Curro CAS team yet, please do so by using the following code:

8z38uuy

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

SPORT

Mr Adrian Ferreira

Extra-mural sports programme:



Based on the current guidelines some sports are allowed skills-based training with no sharing of equipment. Other sports can only do fitness and conditioning. This is a great opportunity for learners to participate and we look forward to these sessions! No matches are allowed at this stage. Mr Hourquebie and Ms Webb's fitness and conditioning sessions will continue and learners who participate in Athletics should attend.

Please note the following arrangements and protocols to be adhered to:

- Learners must attend sport sessions in the Curro PE kit. They are allowed to change after school.
- Learners who are not at school on the day of a session, due to platooning, are allowed to attend practice.
- Learners must submit the Covid-19 declaration form to the relevant sport teacher before they can participate. This form has been sent via MyHub.
- Learners to meet at the allocated bag area 10 minutes before the scheduled start.
- Learners must be collected immediately after their activity is finished.
- School bags must be taken with learners to the allocated area and placed within the allocated bag zone.
- Bags must be placed 1,5 metres apart.

- No child will be allowed back into class to collect their belongings as classrooms get fogged in the afternoons.
- Each teacher will have the following: Sanitiser bottle, signage on safety guidelines, screening forms and thermometer.
- All learners attending must be screened by the allocated teacher.
- A social distance of 1,5 metres must always be applied.
- Specific safety protocols will be applied at the respective codes.
- Learners must bring their own water bottles. No sharing of water bottles will be allowed. Masks must be worn to the screening station. Once screened, masks can be removed while doing exercises with the permission of the teacher, provided that the 1,5 metre social distancing is applied.

VIRTUAL CURRO CUP: ATHLETICS AND SWIMMING

Curro is hosting virtual athletics and swimming events. Learners from the various Curro schools will run and/or swim in races at their own schools and submit their times for the events. Curro Aurora will be having Inter-House events that will supply the times for the Curro Cup. Grades will compete during specified time slots. Learners must attend school in the Curro PE clothing and Curro tracksuits (should it be chilly) on the specified day.

INTER-HOUSE DATES:

Athletics:

Wednesday, 3 March:

- Grade 12

Thursday, 4 March:

- Grade 8 group B, Grade 9 group B and Grade 10

Friday, 5 March:

- Grade 8 group A, Grade 9 group A and Grade 11

Swimming:

Wednesday, 10 March

- Grade 12

Thursday, 11 March

- Grade 8 group B, Grade 9 group B and Grade 10

Friday 12 March:

- Grade 8 group A, Grade 9 group A and Grade 11

CURRO CHESS ONLINE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT:



We are extremely excited about the Curro Chess online tournaments taking place on the following dates:

- 1st league tournament: 27 February 2021
- 2nd league tournament: 29 May 2021

This wonderful event gives all learners from all Curro schools an opportunity to compete against each other online. Anyone may enter using the following steps.

STEP 1: Learners need to go to www.chesshub.org.za to make a booking for the event.

STEP 2: You will receive a booking confirmation email a short while after completing registration. This email will take the child or parent to the Lichess platform to ensure they have joined the team and they can then sign up for their age group. Learners need to make sure that they are registered on the www.lichess.org website. Many of our learners have already done this last year, so they should already be registered. (Please enter correct age group!).

Curro Sport will send all relevant information regarding the tournament to you (on the Teams platform) and on the Lichess teams forum.

All learners need to sign up before Tuesday, 23 February 2021 at 17:00

If you have any questions, please email mercia.a01@curro.co.za or for technical support please contact Kenneth Willenberg (WhatsApp: 064 362 1817)

Please also confirm your entry and participation (name and tutor class) to Adrian.f@curro.co.za

.High School Sports Programme

- This programme is subject to change depending on changing sport protocols
- Swimming sessions will be included ASAP
- Cheerleading resumed on Friday, 19 February

Sport	Teacher in charge	Days and Times	Practice/ Fitness & Conditioning
Fitness and Conditioning/ Athletics: February & March	Ms N Webb & Mr C Hourquebie	Monday & Thursday: 14:45-15:30	Fitness & Conditioning
Cheerleading: February & March	Mr S Krause	Monday & Friday: 15:00-16:30	Fitness & Conditioning
Cricket: February	Mr H van Rooyen	Monday & Thursday: 15:00-16:00	Practice No sharing of equipment
Boys' & Girls' Hockey: February & March	Mrs N van Biljon	Monday & Thursday: 15:00-16:00	Practice No sharing of equipment
Netball: February & March	Ms I Strydom	Monday & Thursday: 15:00-16:00	Fitness & Conditioning
Rugby: February & March	Mr W Hammond	Monday & Thursday: 15:00-16:00	Fitness & Conditioning
Softball: February	Ms D Lobo	Monday & Thursday: 15:00-16:00	Fitness & Conditioning
Street Dance February & March	Ms M Chou	Thursday: 15:00-16:00	Practice
Boys' and Girls' Tennis: February & March	Mr A Neethling & Mrs J Tobin	Monday & Wednesday: 15:00-16:00	Practice No sharing of equipment

We encourage all learners to participate in sports or fitness and conditioning. It's important to get moving when we spend so much time learning online!

2021 National English Olympiad – Change of Examination Date

Mrs Sharon Weber



Because of recent changes to school term dates, the date of the English Olympiad examination must likewise be changed to ensure that teachers still have sufficient time to brief their candidates and to allow candidates to prepare themselves through group discussion and self-study.

Following consultation with educators, **Tuesday, 16 March 2021** has been identified as the most appropriate day for the examination. This is fourteen days later than the original examination date. (Note: The length of the examination will be three hours, and the starting time will be communicated in due course).

WEARING A MASK TO SCHOOL

Mrs SJ Olivier



A mask **MUST** be worn at all times. 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 must wear your mask when you arrive at the school gate to have your temperature checked and recorded.

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.

CONTACT DETAILS OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENT AND GRADE HEADS:

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	Judy Beeston	Judy.B@curroholdings.co.za
	Anita Bornman	Anita.B@curro.co.za
Grade 11 Heads	Janine Tobin	Janine.T@curro.co.za
	Geneva Schmidt	Geneva.G1@curro.co.za
Grade 10 Heads	Kelsey Gallon	Kelsey.G2@curro.co.za
	Loutjie de Wet	Loutjie.D@curro.co.za
Grade 9 Heads	Kyla Hayter	Kyla.H@curro.co.za
	Warrick Hammond	Warrick.H@curro.co.za
Grade 8 Heads	Hayley Dawson	Hayley.D2@curro.co.za
	Craig Hourquebie	Craig.H2@curro.co.za



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

Yours in education,

Dion Kotze
Head of High School

Love is a Four-legged Word

Show some love for the community this Valentine's Day

Curro Aurora High School is working together with JustOneThing365 in aid of World Sterilisation Day.



Let's show our furry friends the kind of love they deserve.
Donations will be accepted until the end of the term.
These can be handed in to Cindy at the high school office.

For more information: www.justonething365.com | inspire@justonething365.com

#Learners2Leaders

087 087 0355
info.aurora@curro.co.za
[@curro.aurora](https://www.curro.co.za) | [@justonething365](https://www.justonething365.com)

www.curro.co.za

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Aurora

Want to work as a team?

Club together to donate R800 to sponsor the sterilisation of a furry friend.



What to do:

- Write a card to thank your furry friend's human for loving them so much.
- Sign your names.
- Place the card in an unsealed envelope with your R800 and hand it in to Cindy.

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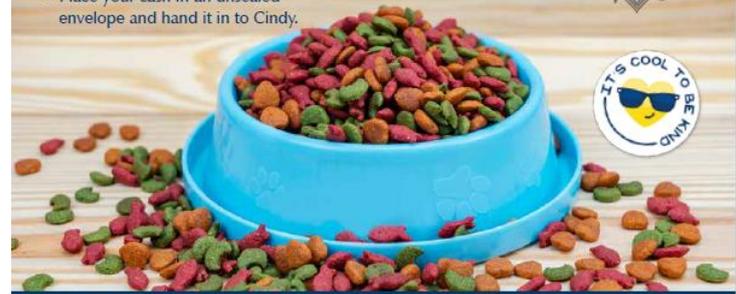
CURRO
Aurora

Didn't quite make the R800 total?

Thank you for doing your best!
Your money will go towards buying much-needed dog and cat food.

What to do:

- Place your cash in an unsealed envelope and hand it in to Cindy.



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Upcycle, recycle or shop

Donate items to our furry friends and their loving humans.



What to donate:

- New or used collar and/or leash
- New or used blanket and/or bedding or cushions
- Something for our furry friend's human:
a bag of sweets, non-perishable food items, used clothing, toys and stationery in good condition

What to do:

- Hand in your (washed and cleaned) items to Cindy in a clearly-marked bag.

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Coronavirus (COVID-19)

What you need to know

By staying informed and taking the necessary precautions, you can keep yourself and others safe.

Please check your child for any of these symptoms before school:



High fever
(over 37,5 °C)



Headache



Cough and
sore throat



Shortness of
breath



Muscle pain



Diarrhoea



Loss of taste or smell

Please do not send your child to school if they are displaying any of these symptoms.

Top tips

1. Wear your mask so that it covers your nose and mouth at all times (buffs are not effective and are not a replacement for masks)
2. Perform good hand hygiene
 - Wash your hands regularly with soap and water or make use of alcohol-based (70%+) hand sanitisers
3. When greeting each other:
 - No handshaking, hugging or kissing – rather just wave
4. When coughing or sneezing:
 - Cover with a flexed arm or tissue and wash your hands
5. Avoid crowds and maintain good social distancing – at least 1,5 m
6. Ensure that there is enough fresh air as well as good ventilation in all venues
7. Drink plenty of water and eat nutritious food

Protect yourself and others – be responsible.



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www.curro.co.za

CURRO
Schools

Recycling Plant

Dear Parents/Guardians

We would like to extend the use of our recycling plant to our Curro Aurora families.



Kindly only use the Puttick Road entrance to the recycling plant.

We only accept paper, plastic, glass and cans!

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www.curro.co.za

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**ENROL
NOW**

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OPEN DAY

From 2,5 years to Grade 12

Date: 27 February 2021

Time: 08:00 – 14:00

Venue: Curro Aurora (Taurus Road entrance)

Limited visitors allowed on campus.
Bookings essential: mags.t@curro.co.za

High school scholarship applications for 2022 now open.
Closing date: 27 February 2021

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ROBOTICS CLUB



ALPHA ROBOTICS CLUB

Now hosting both physical and online classes!

You can learn both basic and advanced programming and building techniques in a creative and supportive environment.

Dates: Monday to Friday | **Time:** 14:00 – 16:00
Venue: Online Discord server / Robotics Lab
Cost: R78 per hour

Limited space available – register today!

For more information, please visit:
www.alpharoboticsclub.com
Grade 3 to 11 only

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