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## AMBERFIELD COLLEGE MEMORANDUM 20210127

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**TO:** ALL PARENTS  
**FROM:** ACADEMIC DIRECTOR / COLLEGE DIRECTOR  
**SUBJECT:** RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS  
**DATE:** JANUARY 27, 2021

Dear Parent

### 1. Background and previous communication

- On **12 January 2021** a parent memorandum was sent out to set out the re-opening dates for our school as originally communicated to parents in 2020.
- On **15 January 2021** the Department of Basic Education (DoBE) announced that **ALL SCHOOLS** will only be allowed to re-open on **15 February**. On this day a parent memo was sent out to communicate that our schools will only re-open on 15 February and that online learning will be offered from 1-13 February.
- On **22 January 2021** the Minister of Basic Education announced and gazetted that **PRIVATE SCHOOLS** will be allowed to re-open on **1 February**. On **25 January** a parent memo was sent out to inform parents that our school will re-open on 1 February. On the basis of an earlier directive, we further communicated that all **PRIMARY SCHOOL** learners can return while the **HIGH SCHOOL** will return in a staggered manner at 50% capacity.

### 2. Subsequent events

Subsequent to the distribution of the memorandum of **25 January** (indicating that all **PRIMARY SCHOOL** learners can return while the **HIGH SCHOOL** will return in a staggered manner at 50% capacity), the following transpired:

- The School Management Team received various phone calls, e mails and WhatsApp's from parents expressing their concerns on re-opening the entire primary school on 1 February. Some of these messages were very aggressive and of a threatening nature towards our people and school.
- There were various incidents of intimidation of school leaders and managers reported in the media. However, these were more targeted at private schools that remained open regardless of the Minister's request to only open on 1 February.

### 3. Amended plans

As a result of the above-mentioned events the School Management Team is **compelled** to amend our plans as follows:

- The **Pre and Primary School (Gr RRR-7)** learners will return to school in a staggered manner from 1 February as per the attendance schedule below.
- The **High School learners (Gr 8-11)** will return to school in a staggered manner from 1 February (as communicated in the previous memorandum) as per the attendance schedule below.
- On the day of attendance the learners will have **face-to-face classes**. They will then be given **written work** to complete at home on the days that they are not attending.
- Our educators will use the Google Classroom application to load the written work and homework that the learners need to complete on the day that they are at home. You will soon receive more information on this.
- All COVID rules and regulations will be strictly adhered to.

#### Attendance Schedule: 1 February – till further notice

Day	Date	Attendees
Monday	01/02	Gr RRR-11 Girls
Tuesday	02/02	Gr RRR-11 Boys
Wednesday	03/02	Gr RRR-11 Girls
Thursday	04/02	Gr RRR-11 Boys
Friday	05/02	Gr RRR-11 Girls
Monday	08/02	Gr RRR-11 Boys
Tuesday	09/02	Gr RRR-11 Girls
Wednesday	10/02	Gr RRR-11 Boys
Thursday	11/02	Gr RRR-11 Girls
Friday	12/02	Gr RRR-11 Boys

#### School times

- Pre Primary (Gr RRR-R):** Monday – Thursday: 07h30 to 13h30  
Friday: 07h30 to 13h00
- Primary School (Gr 1-7):** Monday – Thursday: 07h30 to 13h30  
Friday: 07h30 to 13h00
- High School (Gr 8-11):** Monday – Thursday: 07h30 to 14h00  
Friday: 07h30 to 13h30

Please note that the above-mentioned plan will be in place from **1 February to 13 February**. During this time the School Management Team will assess the situation on a daily basis. On or before 13 February the plan from 15 February onwards will be communicated to you. This may include returning a larger percentage of learners, depending on the circumstances. If anything changes before then, you will also receive communication from the school.

Once again, we apologise for this change in plans. Please understand that these are not easy decisions to make for us as a School Management Team. Circumstances literally change on a daily basis.

On the one hand we have parents criticising us for re-opening the schools as they are concerned for the health and safety of their children. However, on the other hand we have parents criticising us for not opening the schools earlier as they do not have anywhere else for their children to go or no one to look after them. Further to this we as a school are committed to the health and safety of our learners, staff and parents and we want to be responsible

citizens. But we also have a commitment to our parents and learners to provide quality education. Most of our learners can't wait to come back to school as the school is a safe place for them where they can be in a social environment and have a balanced life.

We really hope that you understand the immense pressure brought about by the unprecedented circumstances created by this pandemic. Nobody has ever encountered a situation like this. We are simply doing the best we can to satisfy all our stakeholders.

#### **4. Management Contact Details**

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact one of our managers:

##### **Principal Pre Primary School (Grades RRR-R)**

Mrs L Pretorius : [lemaine@amberfieldcollege.co.za](mailto:lemaine@amberfieldcollege.co.za)

076 800 2205

##### **Principal Primary School (Grades 1-7)**

Mrs B Derbyshire: [bronwend@amberfieldcollege.co.za](mailto:bronwend@amberfieldcollege.co.za)

072 288 4602

##### **Principal Secondary School (Grades 8-11)**

Mrs S Bulwan: [sanet@amberfieldcollege.co.za](mailto:sanet@amberfieldcollege.co.za)

083 235 6368

##### **Finances**

Mrs G Xekalos: [geni@amberfieldcollege.co.za](mailto:geni@amberfieldcollege.co.za) OR [debtors@amberfieldcollege.co.za](mailto:debtors@amberfieldcollege.co.za)

076 236 2006

Kind regards

Mrs K Panayotakis  
College Director