



1 April 2021

Dear parents and guardians,

After a rocky start to the year, I am pleased to see a much more normal end to the term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience as we have navigated some hiccups during the course of the term.

COVID-19

WHO (World Health Organisation) reports for Zambia show very little change in the incidences of confirmed COVID-19 cases. This means we are not out of the woods yet and must continue to observe all health protocols as issued in official MOH (Ministry of Health) and WHO guidelines for the safety of ourselves and our children. I would like to assure you that the school will continue to adhere to these protocols as children return to school in April. I implore you to insist on children staying at home whenever possible and for them to maintain good hygiene through regular handwashing. The wearing of masks when in public is an effective safety measure; please insist on it for the children and yourselves.

Reports and Parent Teacher Consultation

Reports will be uploaded onto the parent portal today. Please log on to access your child's report. Going forward, we will also be publishing interim assessment results onto the portal. You will receive a notification when this happens, so you can keep a closer eye on your child's performance. Primary students and parents have already had their Parent Teacher Consultation; Secondary PTC will happen in the early part of Term 2, with Solwezi-based parents coming in and parents of boarders consulting via Zoom or a similar platform.

There is no Finish Line!!

Whilst I acknowledge and indeed agree with the need for rest, I encourage you to continue to champion the need for some academic time for your child during the break. Those exam classes need to be engaged in serious revision, preferably with a friend. This will ensure a continuity of study which will make for a smooth transition into the revision term (which is what Term 2 is) and preparation for the mock exams. I would like to state that, - used properly- social media can be a powerful study tool, which can keep students motivated and connected whilst at home. Those preparing for Physical Education exams should continue to practise skills and keep up their fitness. Ideally they should record themselves and share this with the PE staff upon their return.

Term 2 Dates

If you keep an eye on the website and read these emails, you will have noticed that Term 2 dates have been changed slightly. School resumes on the 26th of April and travel dates will be arranged around this date. For those who may send their children away for a break, please endeavour to have them back at home before the resumption of the school term. As always, we hit the ground running.

Cycling

As a school, in association with the Kansanshi Foundation, we will be marking out our own cycling and fitness route within the 40 hectares of the school campus. This means we will be able to train and compete on campus; furthermore, other competitors will be coming to us. I therefore encourage you to get your child



involved in cycling by getting them a good, strong mountain bike. We are constructing cycle racks all over the school to ensure safe storage of bikes. A chain and lock or a locking chain are compulsory should you choose to take this option.

Golf

Golf coaching has commenced for a limited number of students. This started with the golf club providing some rudimentary equipment support; however, this is not sustainable. If your child has been signed up for golf, please ensure they are adequately equipped.

Swimming Pool Construction

I'm sure you will be pleased to hear that construction of our very own pool commences in May, once the wet season is over. This is a project which will rely heavily on donations and contributions from stakeholders within the local and wider community. Whilst we have managed to procure the requisite materials for construction, there is still a need for more if we are going to have changing rooms, and sheltered areas around the pool. The dream is to eventually build a sporting complex with the pool as the centrepiece. The proactive ones amongst you are encouraged to reach out to potentially magnanimous sponsors or reach into your pockets to aid the success of this project.

Invitation to a Family Fun Weekend

The long Heroes and Unity Day weekend in July (3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th) offers an opportunity to get together as a school community. Boarding parents will receive an invitation to come and camp on campus whilst visiting their children. Fun activities are planned which can involve all parents and students within the community, so please do keep those dates clear on you calendar. E-vite coming out shortly!

Let me take this time to wish you all a blessed Easter. I look forward to welcoming the children back on the 26th of April.

Kind regards,

Dr Matshakaile

Headmaster: Sentinel Schools