



# Michael Mount **Waldorf** School

Nurturing conscious, creative, independent thinkers

30 April 2020

Dear Michael Mount Community,

Following the announcement this afternoon by the Minister of Education we will begin returning to school in a phased approach over the coming weeks. At this point only senior office staff may return to work on Monday, 4 May; some of the school's management team (College of Teachers) may return on Monday, 11 May, after which teachers preparing to receive relevant classes may return to work on Monday, 18 May. These stages have been established to ensure school readiness for the students. The first classes affected as per today's announcement will be classes 7 and 12 who are likely to return from 1 June. In the interim the remote learning plan will continue for all classes.

The Department has provided schools with a number of key documents, including the expected Standard Operating Procedures and Health Guidelines which schools will have to follow. With the use of these documents, we are preparing our school for the expected reopening and will, in the coming days, communicate to parents and students the operating procedures in order to be fully compliant with the regulations.

It is worth noting that The National Alliance of Independent School Associations, representing over 1400 independent schools, including the Waldorf schools, has made a submission requesting the Department of Education to allow for some flexibility in the process of phasing in classes on condition that we strictly adhere to all health requirements. Until such time that this submission is accepted, we will adhere to the initial Department of Basic Education's phasing in process. The schools were closed due to the President enforcing the Disaster Management Act and as such we may not act outside of the current pronouncements unless some leeway is given to independent schools' sector.

As we prepare to welcome your children back to school, we will keep you updated and informed on a regular basis.

Yours sincerely

**William Bester**

Administrator