



Michael Mount **Waldorf** School

Nurturing conscious, creative, independent thinkers

1 June 2020

Dear Michael Mount Community,

We continue to navigate our way through these uncertain times, with moving goal posts and unexpected roadblocks. The last few days have been filled with conflicting media reports which has created much anxiety amongst parents, teachers and students. We are happy to be able to clarify some of the issues in this letter. Thank you for patience and resilience in supporting our school.

After a weekend of extensive meetings between the Department of Basic Education and the National Alliance of Independent Schools Association (NAISA) we are pleased to confirm that the Minister of Basic Education has authorised independent schools, such as ours, to open from 1 June 2020 in a phased manner, suitable to their individual situation, on condition they comply with the Covid-19 Compliance Monitoring Tool issued by the DBE.

As you know, here at Michael Mount we have been working very hard to put all the health and safety protocols in place. It was disappointing to have to postpone the school's opening by one day, but we felt it best to err on the side of caution. Now that we have clarity around reopening, the following dates are confirmed: Class 12 (matrics) will be returning on Tuesday, 2 June 2020, and Class 11 will return on Monday, 8 June 2020. Distance learning will continue for other classes.

We will take the opportunity to test and refine our health protocols this week. At the same time, we will finalise a timetable for phasing in other classes which will be published by Friday, 12 June. We have adopted a cautious, measured approach to the phasing, and we thank you for your patience and understanding. We miss the children very much and understand how frustrating it is to be home bound for so long. But we will not be swayed to rush things and compromise the health of our community.

The next school holiday has been confirmed. Term 2 will end on 26 June and term 3 will commence on 13 July. Other holidays later in the year will be confirmed once the Minister has gazetted the government school holidays.

I attach a summary of MMWS Protocols for Covid-19 for your information. The full protocol document is posted on the Michael Mount website. <https://www.michaelmount.co.za/covid-19-response/>

My sincere thanks to everyone in our community for holding firm through this confusing, changeable, uncertain and often scary time. We will continue to keep you informed as the term progresses.

Yours sincerely

J W Bester

Administrator