



15 January 2021

Dear Saints Families

We greet you warmly and trust you and your families are well, under the circumstances.

Immediately after the address this morning from the Department of Basic Education (DBE), in which the Deputy Minister conveyed the directive from the NCC that all schools, state and private, delay their opening, the College ExCo met this morning to determine our response. We also consulted yesterday evening with over 500 school Heads affiliated to the National Alliance for Independent Schools Association (NAISA).

To make our contribution to mitigating the spread of COVID-19, the College is committed to supporting the appeal that independent schools delay returning to school onsite by two weeks. Therefore, College ExCo has taken a considered decision to start the academic school year **online** for all our schools on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January.

It is the intention of College ExCo to bring students back on to Campus on Monday February 1<sup>st</sup> subject to further consultations with ISASA and directives from the NCC and DBE, as the situation unfolds.

We believe our educational offering will in no way be compromised by this weighty decision made in the interests of safeguarding the lives and health of our students, parents, staff and other stakeholders in our community.

Each school has provided details of their preparations for the commencement of online schooling, and where relevant, boarding, over the next few days.

### Boys' College

To successfully prepare our boys for online learning, we need to ensure that all Grade 8 and new students in other grades (9 - 12) are competent in navigating their email, Google Classroom (including attending Google Meets) and Google Drive. In order to facilitate this, we need to ask for some very important time with your sons on Campus tomorrow morning, Saturday 16 January 2021. We will bring the boys in small House groupings; they will be screened upon arrival and social distancing protocols will be observed at all times.

There will also be some time for the boys to meet their House Director, Tutor, Head of House and their Foundation Matric and establish these important connections too.

The schedule for Saturday 16 January 2021 will look as follows:

GROUP	HOUSES	DROP OFF TIME	COLLECTION TIME
1	Henning, Mears, Pitts	7:45	10:00
2	Webb, Penryn, Krige	9:45	12:00
3	Mountstephens, Collins, Tucker, Wesley	11:45	14:00

The boys are to please be dropped in Chapel Drive and proceed directly to the Cheetah Slopes (the grass embankment next to Chapel Drive). Here they will be met by their House Director and Tutor and be taken through the screening process. They will need a smartphone to be able to register and have their temperature captured (kindly ensure that he does have some data in the event it is required). A friendly request for your son to bring along a small bottle of hand sanitizer to ensure optimum safety during his time with us. They may bring a snack/lunch and water with them.

The boys can be dressed in civvies, must be wearing a mask (no buffs) and must have their devices (iPads/Laptops) fully charged and ready to work on. It is vitally important that all the Google apps as per the [list](#) are installed on iPads prior to arrival if that is the device, they will be using. If they will be using a laptop, please ensure that Google Chrome has been installed. A reminder that a smartphone is not a device that can be used for online teaching and learning.

Parents will have an opportunity to meet the House Director and Tutor of their son immediately after the drop off. After this brief meeting parents will be asked to leave the Campus and to then return at the allocated pick-up time. We would appreciate it if parents can operate on a strict drop and go policy as well as to collect and leave without lingering to avoid congestion in Chapel Drive.

We thank you for your understanding and flexibility during these trying and uncertain times.

If you have any queries regarding the programme for tomorrow, or are unable to make it due to comorbidities or logistical reasons please contact Mr Chris Fontaine at [cfontaine@stithian.com](mailto:cfontaine@stithian.com)

## Girls' College

We are excited to officially welcome our new students onto Campus. While these are trying and unprecedented times, it is still important that we set our students up for success in 2021. As such, the purpose of the orientation on Saturday is to ensure that students have the necessary information and resources they need to begin learning online. We are fortunate that our teachers have spent the last week planning the student orientation programme for Monday, so even though it will be taking place two days earlier, you can rest assured that we have a great programme lined up for our new students.

### ARRIVAL INFORMATION

In order to minimise the number of students on Campus at a time, we will stagger the start time for the orientation programme according to houses as follows:

- 08:00 – 10:30 Cambourne and Kenwyn
- 10:30 – 13:00 Stratton and Trewen

Please park on the Lower Dam Field. Signage will be erected to guide you. Your daughter's tutor teacher will then welcome you in the Girls' College carpark. They will accompany you to the screening stations at reception. After screening and registration, students and parents should please meet around the Bell Tower (please observe social distancing) for a short address from myself.

The *Cupped Coffee* trailer at the GC Carpark will be open for the duration of the morning.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The formal orientation programme for students will commence after my address. You may view this programme [here](#).

Parents are invited to join me and a member of staff from the Academic Support Department for an optional overview of our approach to online learning and our expectations in this regard. The venue for this presentation is the Girls' College Gym (next to the carpark). Given the Covid-19 restrictions regarding indoor events, there is only capacity for 50 parents to join the talk. We therefore ask that only one parent per student attends the talk.

**INSPIRING EXCELLENCE. MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE**

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### **Important notes**

Students must arrive in full summer school uniform.

Students must adhere to the hair and jewellery guidelines.

Students are to bring a charged device for the IT and tech training.

Students are to please bring their own water bottle and snack. Please note the Girls' College is a **nut-free zone** due to students and staff with severe allergies.

The sessions will be recorded, and the recordings will be made available to families who are unable to make the event.

Everyone who comes onto campus must adhere to strict Covid-19 safety regulations with regard to social distancing, wearing of masks and sanitising.

### **PICK-UP INFORMATION**

- Parents are welcome to collect textbooks from the D&T Block (near the GP Carpark) from 10:00 onward.
- Parents are to collect students from the Girls' College carpark or depart from Lower Dam Field.

The year is calling for resilience and flexibility, and we thank you in advance for responding in that way. We look forward to engaging with you and your daughter.

### **Boys' Prep**

Saint Stithians Boys' Preparatory would like to offer our new students as well as the Grade 5 boys the opportunity to join us on Saturday, 16 January for a brief training session on the use of our online platforms; Seesaw (Grade 3 and 4) and Google Classroom (Grade 5 - 7). Boys must please attend with **only 1 other parent or guardian and bring a device**. Please arrive 20 minutes prior to your allocated slot for Covid screening. Boys may wear casual clothes. The training will cover the following so that boys are able to get online confidently on Monday:

- Usernames and Passwords (connecting to WiFi)
- Joining individual Google Classrooms / Seesaw
- Using Google Meet and Google Hangouts
- Set up Stithian Email accounts

The specific training programmes will run as follows:

<b>Grade 3</b> <b>(Please bring a device along with you)</b>			
<b>Times</b>	<b>Grade 3 J</b> <b>BP 30 Mrs James classroom</b>	<b>Grade 3T</b> <b>BP 33 Ms Temlett classroom</b>	<b>Grade 3R</b> <b>BP32 Miss Rashama Classroom</b>
9:00-9:40	Kevin Armstrong Thys-Unathi Bango Luca Boerma Gabriel Carpenter Thomas Douglas Joshua Dumaresq Nicholas Froneman Malik Kitule Nathan Kok Daniel Logan	Ohioze Adeoye Damola Akinlabi Moeketsi Badiroang Joshua Bennet Owen Brighton Caleb Fountaine Owen Franc-Stevens Eli Gradidge Rory Grainger Diego Habib	Giancarlo Acquisto Ayomide Adebajo Daniel Benecke Lulo Boqwana Daniel Botha Luca Botha Jared Downing James Fowler Alexander Krijnauw Yash Kuseal

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10:00-10:40	Moeketsi Madiseng Rikhil Maharaj-Moodley Logan Masters Samuel McGavin Kwano Mononela AWele Mqolomba Owen Muratori Abhay Naidoo Gangumzi Ntuli Michael Parker	Sebastian Iles James Laburn Nikhli Lalbasanth Dylan Lourens Ethan-Lo Maduray Rushil Maharaj-Moodley Harrison Makepeace Khaya Maseko Qamisa Matshaya	Libo Matai Teyo Matsose Mokaedi Mekwa Zanda Mkize Callum Moss Sayur Naidoo Marc-Mudjir Palmi Joshua Parker Reagile Ramodike
11:00-11:40	Thomas Penny Aerah Phillips Matodzi Phungo Carl Schroeder Lesego Sefanyetso Keith Snyman Rupert Sowry Joshua Steeneveldt Mwila Yumbe	S'phetho Mhlongo Langaletu Motsumi-Dayimani Snethemba Abednigo Isaiah Mpofu Evan Muratori Finn O'Flaherty Reuel Pillay Kian Ronquest Nduvho Sikhauli	Oabile Raphiri Zayd Rasool Rhys Robson Dean Schoeman James Sinclair Tyler Veldman Ryan Wanyoto Luke Williams Luke Wilson

<b>Grade 4</b> <b>Venue: Miss Dryden's Classroom (BP25)</b>	
10:00 - 10:40	New boys only
<b>Grade 5 (Whole grade, including new boys)</b> <b>Venue: New Block - Upstairs and Downstairs</b>	
09:00 - 09:40	Grade 5B
10:00 - 10:40	Grade 5C
11:00 - 11:40	Grade 5H
<b>Grade 6 &amp; 7</b> <b>Venue: New Block (Lime Green Classroom)</b>	
11:00 - 11:40	New boys only

All existing students from 2020 in Grade 4, 6 and 7 must utilise the class Google Meet links that will be communicated in the grade specific "Welcome Letters" to join their class' Google Meet on Monday, 18 January by 7h45 for registration and further instructions.

### Girls' Prep

We are excited to welcome our Grade 3 girls, and all Grade 4 to Grade 7 girls who are new to St Stithians, to join us for an Orientation Programme on Saturday, 16 January, from 9h00 – 11h00. Girls

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will have an opportunity to meet teachers, meet the new Head of School, and run through the process for using Microsoft Teams for online learning.

We ask Grade 3 girls to meet their teachers in the main GP carpark (there will be signage). Grade 3 girls will be screened in the GP 17 venue, before going to their respective classrooms. Grade 3s will meet the new Head of School in their classrooms, and their teachers and our Digital Learning Coach will inform them of what they need to know for online learning. Further information for Grade 3 parents will be communicated through a webinar session over the weekend (SMS notification will be sent regarding the details). Parents, together with their daughters, are encouraged to attend this webinar from the comfort of their homes. Additional videos and information will be sent to our parents, so they can assist their daughters.

We ask new Grade 4 – 7 girls to please meet in the carpark alongside the Grade 3 classrooms (there will be signage) where they will be taken to our GP 3 venue for screening. Grade 4 – 7 girls will meet the new Head of School in the GLT, and then move to the Girls' Resource Centre, where they will be assisted with logging in to Microsoft Teams for online learning. We request that all Grade 5 – 7 new girls bring their iPads with the Microsoft Teams application installed to this session. They will then meet their teachers or tutors for an informal welcome and information session. New Grade 4 – 7 parents will also be invited to a webinar over the weekend, together with their daughters. SMS notification will be sent, detailing the times and arrangements for these webinar sessions.

Grade specific letters detailing online learning programmes will be sent to parents over the weekend.

It will be wonderful if our girls wear their beautiful school uniforms tomorrow, to encourage a sense of belonging and sisterhood. We look forward to seeing our GP carparks alive with pretty Saints floral dresses, as a symbol of our hope for bright days to come.

Lastly, a reminder to parents who ordered stationery through Cruising Edu, that you are able to collect your orders tomorrow between 12h00 and 15h00 from venue GP 17.

### Junior Prep

The Junior Prep will be providing online education from Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> January. We are mindful that in our phase of education, children need primary adult care and are not able to work independently with technology.

To assist with this, we will have hard copy packs available for collection on a weekly basis. These hard copy packs provided printed copies of the activities your child will be completing together with instructions on our SeeSaw App. Please may you note that the class teachers will be at the collection points and we encourage you to bring your children in their uniform so that they can give us a cheerful wave as you drive by. Please may you collect your first pack tomorrow at the following times and venues:

GRADE	TIME	VENUE
RR	08h00 – 09h00	Uniform shop car park
R	08h00 – 09h00	Astro/ Gateway car park
1	08h00 – 09h00	Drop off zone near the Dace Hall
2	09h00 – 10h00	Astro/Gateway car park

There are two further aspects of our online programme: Zoom sessions will be a time for your children to both check-in with their class teacher and peers as well as to receive instructional teaching in small groups. The teachers will send you the log-in details via your class WhatsApp group.

Our online programme is via the SeeSaw App. A daily timetable is provided and there are videos and activities that need to be viewed and completed. We will be emailing you a hyperlink to our tutorial so that you know exactly how the App works. We have deliberately chosen a very simple and effective way of engaging with our little children so that they experience success with online learning.

The class teachers will be contacting you shortly via your class WhatsApp group and will guide and support you and your child during this extraordinary time. If you have any questions with regards to the online learning programme, please contact your child's class teacher and if necessary, she will direct you to the appropriate person who will assist you.

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This is not the start to 2021 we planned and hoped for however we are grateful that we are ready to begin the academic school year online. We thank you for your understanding as we navigate these uncertain times, and we continue to pray that we will be a beacon of hope, light and strength for the Saints Community.

Kind regards,  
Celeste



**Celeste Gilardi**  
**Rector: St Stithians College**