



16 March 2020

Dear Lebone II Community

Notice: Closure of Lebone II – College of the Royal Bafokeng under South African Government State of Disaster Declaration, due to COVID-19 Pandemic

On Sunday evening, in an address to the South African Nation, President Cyril Ramaphosa, announced a number of mandatory restrictions under the declared State of Disaster in terms of the National Disaster Management Act, 57 of 2002, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic facing our country. These include:

1. **Schools' Closure:** Schools will be closed from 18 March 2020 until after the Easter weekend.
2. **Travel Avoidance:** All non-essential international and local travel should be discouraged and travelers from high-risk countries will not be allowed to enter the country.
3. **Public Gatherings:** Public gatherings of more than 100 people are prohibited.
4. **Testing of High-risk Travelers:** All of those who have visited high risk countries in the past 14 days are requested to test for the virus.
5. **Self-quarantine:** Self-quarantine is suggested for anyone who is not critically ill but presents with mild symptoms.
6. **Contact Prevention:** Please follow prevention suggestions and keep contact with others to a minimum.
7. **Enhanced Hygiene Measures:** Thorough and regular hand-washing with soap and/or suitable hand sanitiser is encouraged.

President Ramaphosa appealed to everyone that we cannot allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by fear and panic and that we must stop spreading unverified and fake news. "While we are facing a medical emergency far graver than we have experienced in recent times, we are not helpless. We have the expertise, means and knowledge to fight this disease. We also have partners, various countries and institutions, working with us. If we act swiftly we can limit the effects of the disease". (Cyril Ramaphosa)

What this means for Lebone II College:

School Closure: Lebone II College will be closed from 12h00 on 18 March 2020 until after the Easter weekend. The closure of ALL schools is almost aligned with our original schedule. It does mean that we will now close two days ahead of schedule and reopen on Wednesday, 15 April as per the original schedule. Staff and boarders will return to school on 14 April as per usual arrangements.

- **Sports and Holiday Activities:** All sporting and holiday events will be postponed/ or cancelled.
- **Extra-mural Activities:** Effective today, all sports activities and extra-mural activities are cancelled.
- **Boarder Arrangements:** Boarders may be collected from 12h00 on 18 March. Boarders must take **ALL** their clothing and personal belongings home with them.
- **Botswana Boarders:** The Botswana bus service for boarders will run as normal, though parents are welcome to collect their children if they prefer. We are reliably informed that the borders at Tlokweg/Kopfontein and Skilpadshok/ Pioneer Gate will remain open at present.
- **Lower School Aftercare:** We obviously want to limit contact amongst students as much as possible. Sherpa Kids, our aftercare service provider, will provide aftercare until close of day on Tuesday, 17 March, but we respectfully ask that you collect your children as early as possible each day. There will be no aftercare on Wednesday, 18 March – please make arrangements for the collection and supervision of your child on this day.

A member of the Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa (ISASA)

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LEBONE II
College of the Royal Bafokeng

- **Date Changes:** Any further changes to these dates will be communicated with you, timeously via our D6 platform. We urge all parents to ensure they have the D6 App - instructions on installing this App can be found on our Lebone II College website.

Academics: We are requesting that our students take **ALL** their books and learning materials home with them. The teachers will prepare learning packs for each student, **should the need arise for schools to remain closed after the 15 April opening date.**

- **Collection of Academic Packs:** Each child will be issued with a relevant academic pack. If your child is not currently at school we ask that you collect the pack from your child's teacher or tutor at 12h00 on Wednesday. All parents are welcome to keep their children home if they prefer, and collect the academic packs on Wednesday.

Health and Hygiene: Lebone has already been educating our community members through our D6 communicator under the guidance of our Wellness Centre, Heidi Janse van Rensburg (Head Nurse). Parents were informed on the D6 communication about the Covid 19 virus, symptoms, spread and preventative measures. Posters were displayed all over the school and daily short talks/discussions with students, tutors on symptoms, preventative measures and what to do when they feel sick is, was undertaken.

- **Relevant Hygiene and COVID-19 Information:** Please see the attached information as to safety and hygiene practices to be followed. We kindly ask that you acquaint yourself with all the relevant terms and necessary interventions, including **testing** and **self-quarantine** - every effort is needed to contain the virus and slow the spread, and consequently save lives.
- **Local Occurance of COVID-19:** It should be noted that, at present, there are no reported cases of COVID-19 in Rustenburg or the North West Province.
- **Travel Declaration:** All non-essential travel is discouraged. Should you have to travel outside of South Africa during this period please let the Principal of the Upper School or the Principal of the Lower School know about your travels.

I trust that this decision addresses any concerns you may have about the recent declaration. We wish to reassure you that the safety of our students and Lebone II Community remains our top priority and that we support the sensible and responsible actions by the government to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We thank you for your support and understanding around this matter and ask that you place your own family's health first, and that of your immediate community, in the coming times, so that we may welcome you all back safely to school in the second term.

Please direct any queries you may have to Mrs Di Roberts, Principal of Lower School or Mr Mike Eisen, Principal of the Upper School on 014 566 1510. Boarding queries may be directed to Mrs Amanda Goosen, Director of Boarding, or Mr Luciano Antonio, Deputy Head – Upper School Pastoral Care, also on 014 566 1510.

Best regards

Mr Melvin King
Executive Head

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