

Goldridge College

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2021

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Dear Parents

Compliments of the season! I hope you are all safe and strong. Since the advent of COVID-19 there have been some twists and turns that have negatively impacted on the education of our children. It is so sad that after the whole world celebrated the development and production of a number of vaccines recently, a new strain of Coronavirus that spreads rapidly is now ravaging the world, yet vaccination against the disease is not happening at such a fast pace. As a result of the virus now spreading at an alarming rate in our motherland, the school is not opening on 12 January 2021 as communicated end of last year.

PROTECTION AGAINST COVID-19

While it is quite confusing and scary how the virus is now spreading in our country, it is important to continue observing the three protection measures which are: wearing masks correctly all the time covering both the mouth and the nose, physical or social distancing and washing or sanitizing our hands. Let us continue teaching our children about the protection measures.

ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING

Despite not opening physically, we are going to run Online lessons with effect from Tuesday, 12 January 2021. Parents play a very critical role if the lessons are to be a success according to our observation of the previous year. We therefore need parents to take an active role in the child's education. We expect parents/guardians to check on the daily progress of the child and to consistently communicate with the teachers for any clarifications and assistance.

There is need for parents to monitor the child's lesson attendance and timely handing in of all assignments. Please feel free to contact the school if you need assistance on how Microsoft Teams works. If we all positively encourage and motivate the learners, we will navigate smoothly through this period. We need to work together and model a positive attitude towards Online Distance Learning. Remember that a culture is strong when people work with each other for each other.

We remind you to provide your child with either an iPad (tablet) or a laptop that will make it easy for the child to access the video lessons. It is also important to set aside a suitable room that will be conducive for learning. Our timetable for the lessons will be as follows:

Form Tutor's Period	7.30 – 7.45 a.m.
Period 1	7.45 – 8.15 a.m.
Period 2	8.20 – 8.50 a.m.
Period 3	8.55 – 9.25 a.m.
Period 4	9.30 – 10.00 a.m.
Period 5	10.05 – 10.35 a.m.
Period 6	10.40 – 11.10 a.m.
Period 7	11.15 – 11.45 a.m.
Period 8	11.50 – 12.20 p.m.
Period 9	12.25 – 12.55 a.m.
Period 10	1.00 – 1.30 p.m

AUTOCAD lessons for Form One learners will be on Wednesdays, 12.25 p.m.to 1.30 p.m.

AUTOCAD lessons for Form Two learners will be from 12.25 p.m.to 1.30 p.m. on Fridays

The following is the list of the Form Tutors for each of the classes:

FORM	FORM TUTOR
1 Diamonds	Ms Mzemba
1 Gold	Mr Manyawo
2 Diamonds	Mr Madhuyu
2 Gold	Mrs Maripakwenda
3 Diamonds	Mrs Mashanda
3 Gold	Mrs Makurumidze
4 Diamonds	Ms Msutu
4 Gold	Mrs Chiunda
Lower Sixth (Commercials)	Mrs Ntini
Lower Sixth (Arts)	Mr Sakarombe
Lower Sixth (Sciences)	Mr Daka
Upper Sixth (Commercials)	Mr Moyo
Upper Sixth (Arts)	Mr Chatsiwa
Upper Sixth (Sciences)	Mr Chipashu

The Form Tutors will send the timetables to parents and learners through WhatsApp. I hope that parents will provide the school with the WhatsApp Numbers. It is important for parents to be in the parents WhatsApp group to enable easy communication with teachers. All new parents and Form One parents are kindly requested to avail the cellphone number that the child will use to access information from the teachers. In our Online Distance lessons, we use Microsoft Teams and we back it up with WhatsApp. We do appreciate connectivity problems that affect both teachers and learners at times. Teachers will record the video lessons and children who fail to connect during the lessons time can still access the lessons through Microsoft Teams. The teachers and Form Tutors will provide you with further information.

TO ALL THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO HAVE ONLINE LESSONS WITH GOLDRIDGE FOR THE FIRST TIME

Goldridge College has a valid Microsoft 365 license, where the Microsoft Teams platform is available. All learners are licensed to use the platform. Your child needs the following to successfully connect for the Online Learning:

- A laptop or tablet or cellphone (Windows, Android or iOS). If the learner is to use a Desktop computer, it should have a microphone and speakers.
- Internet Connection (at least 2Mbps to allow smooth video conferencing).

The school will provide Microsoft Office 365 Software which will be installed on the technological gadget the learner will be using. The username and password together with guidelines on how to download and install Microsoft teams will be send to you by email. Where you face difficulties, please contact the school on (055 25 21363). Please note that due to the current lockdown the school office will be open until Friday, 15 January 2021. We will only reopen once the lockdown conditions are relaxed.

FORM ONE LEARNERS

Ms Mzemba (One Diamonds) and Mr Manyawo (One Gold) who are the Form Tutors who will provide all learners with information on the class they should join.

There are three practical subjects that are done by all Form One pupils which are: Design and Technology, Food and Nutrition and Fashion and Textiles. Each learner will do each of the practicals for two terms. The rotation from one practical to the other will be done until they finish Form Two. This will enable them to acquire the respective basic life skills taught in each of the subjects. When they get to Form Three, the learners will then select the preferred subject for IGCSE. All Form One learners will know the first practical subject they will do when they access Microsoft Teams for the Online lessons.

STAFF

We want to thank the following staff members who retired from Goldridge College after a long service:

- ◆ Mrs Chiyanka who was Deputy Head / Fashion and Textiles Teacher.
- ◆ Mrs Senderai who was Senior Tutor / Biology Teacher.

They helped and inspired so many learners during their time at Goldridge. We wish them happy retirement.

We also thank Mr Muradzikwa (Physics Teacher) and Ms Zidenga (Catering Manageress) who left the College at the end of the year 2020. We wish them the best.

I am pleased that we are fully staffed. We have been joined by the following new staff members:

- Mr Nyamayevhu - Biology / Science Teacher
- Mr Tirivabaya - Physics Teacher
- Mrs Ndhlakama - Fashion and Textiles Teacher
- Ms Chinhoyi - Catering Manageress
- Ms Muchimwe - Hostel Matron

We extend our warmest welcome and wish them a happy and successfully stay.

SCHOOL FEES

Please note that you are expected to pay the tuition fees, levy and all other special fees e.g AUTOCAD, before Friday, 15 January 2021, to avoid inconveniencing your child. If a payment plan is needed please write an email to the school.

All those who still have school fees arrears for third term are expected to clear them by Monday, 11 January 2021, otherwise your child will not be able to access the lessons.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are available at the school from Wednesday, 13 to Friday 15 January 2021 for all those who can afford to collect them. We appreciate that due to the lockdown, it is difficult to visit the school, but we hope that the situation will improve in the coming weeks. In the meantime, the teachers will find ways of assisting all learners until they get their textbooks. Please note that learners can also access most of the required information through internet. If we get some online textbooks and other resources, we will send them to the learners.

Stay safe and strong. Let us all keep on praying to the Almighty God to overcome all challenges we are facing. God bless you and your families. For any suggestions or queries, please feel free to contact the school.

L. Mashanda

HEADMASTER