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### ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING MID TERM BREAK

Our staff and students have been fully involved in Online Distance learning for some time, hence the need for a short break. As a result we kindly inform you that there will be **no** lessons from Friday, 19 to Monday, 22 June 2020.

### Dear Parents

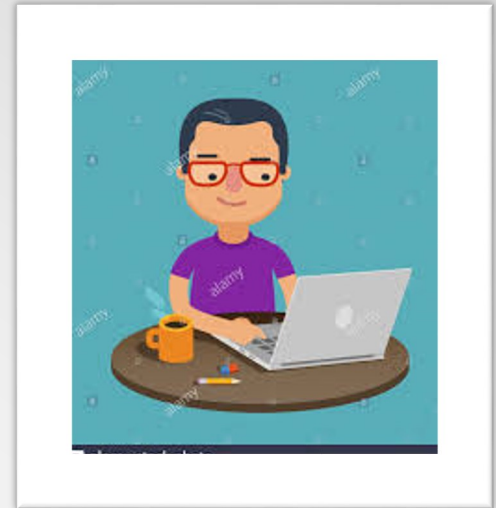
I hope and trust that you are all staying safe and strong. Like a flash of lightning, the COVID 19 pandemic has changed our lives beyond recognition. We all had to adapt quickly to the “new normal” which we expect to come to end soon. Thinking of the number of times you now wash or sanitize your hands, the wearing of masks when in public places and the unprecedented social distancing, you really appreciate the imposed changes that have taught us new lessons. However, the words of Socrates are an encouragement as he once said, *“The secret of change is to focus all your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”*

With these difficulties being faced, we do not forget that the Almighty God is watching over us, and this encourages us to hang in there, as HE will bring better times that lie ahead of us. We are also reminded by J.C. Redwine that *“Losing your head in a crisis is a good way to become a crisis.”*



## ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING

There is no doubt that education is one of the most important and precious gifts that one can give to a child. This is why under the current coronavirus pandemic there has been an eLearning wave in education, that our staff had to quickly adapt to, in order not to disadvantage our children. One of the experiences is that teaching children physically in a classroom, cannot be compared with the effort that teachers had to put in providing online lessons. The switch from the traditional classroom to the computer-based learning in a virtual classroom has not been easy. Remote lessons have reminded us that powerful learning happens best, when teachers and children are engaged as it allows for physical movement around, monitoring and prompting the students, and watching their responses.

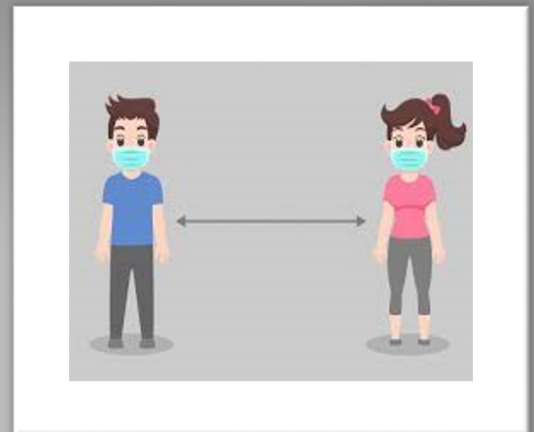


While teachers have been providing appropriate support to the children to learn, it is sad that some students are being affected by poor time management. eLearning requires self-discipline and self-motivation. Children should have a positive attitude to overcome all possible challenges. There are a number of students who have fallen behind in their written work and some who are not attending all lessons. We do appreciate that parents are now busy at work, but we urge you to check on what your child is doing. Feel free to contact the teachers for any clarification needed. The success of eLearning, depends on the partnership between the parent and the teacher. Remember that as parents you are playing part of the role of a teacher. We are happy that many parents have quickly developed the necessary skills to monitor and supervise children at home.

It is disappointing that some students have been affected by poor internet connection, electricity load shedding and low bandwidth at times. Whenever that happens, they can access the recorded lessons when internet becomes available.

## REOPENING OF SCHOOLS

The reopening of schools remains quite a topical issue due to the fact that the current school model was never done with social distancing in mind. We are engaged in thinking of about how to decongest the corridors, during break and lunch times when students normally brush past one another. We are working on the staggered movement of students. We are also looking at improving the new Hall under construction, to manage the social distancing. We have various options that will allow us to manage the social distancing when all students return. Class sizes are going to be reduced to meet the recommended distances between students in class. We cannot yet confirm the staggered return of students to school. We are right now preparing for the examination writing classes (Forms Four and Six) that will be the first ones to come back and thereafter the other classes will follow.



There is need to start educating our children on the requirements of COVID-19, especially social distancing. Children will be expected to wear masks at school, and you need to buy enough for your child. We will give you more details on the school's preparedness once we get close to schools reopening.

## GREAT NEWS

### (a) Cambridge Outstanding Learner Awards

We are very pleased to inform you that Vimbainashe Chimhande was the best student in Zimbabwe in Global Perspectives at the AS level in the 2019 Cambridge Examinations. We congratulate her for the high achievement. Remember that this is the second time, as she was the best student in Zimbabwe for IGCSE Business Studies in the 2018 Cambridge Examinations.

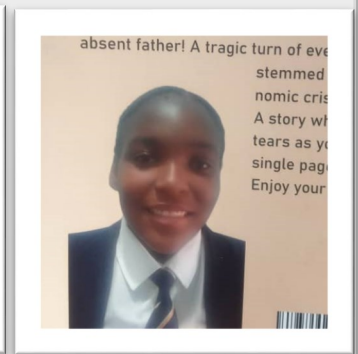
Vimbainashe continues to raise the Goldridge flag high at a national level. It is not an easy feat to be the best in Zimbabwe when one considers the level of competition.



It is sad that this year the awards ceremony will not be held due to the COVID -19 Pandemic.

### (b) Hazel Kachikwa

We are so delighted that Hazel Kachikwa, a form one pupil at Goldridge College, authored a novel entitled “Dear, Absent Father” which was published in Botswana. We congratulate Hazel for such a great achievement and hope that she will continue to nurture her talent.



## SECOND TERM 2020 FEES

You will soon be getting the board of governors' proposal on this matter. Your usual support and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

## CAMBRIDGE EXAMINATION FEES

We are in the process of registering the October/November 2020, Cambridge Examinations. The respective parents of all exam writing candidates for Checkpoint (Form 2), IGCSE, AS Level and 'A' Level were given their invoices. We expect all payments to be done by 31 July 2020.

## SCHOOL OFFICE

Please note that the school administration office still remains closed due to the lockdown. The office staff are only available on Thursday each week, to attend to some pressing matters. We hope to fully open the offices from 6 July 2020, to fully prepare for the reopening of the school. For any urgent matters please contact the school by email.

May God bless you all and offer you and your families protection against the coronavirus. Lets not forget to keep praying for the grace of the Almighty God in these hard times.

Thank you.

**L. Mashanda**

**HEAD**