

9 April 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

I hope this finds you having a good break.

As you are aware on 17th March Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa announced a 30-day closure of all schools. In accordance with this directive, UWCEA moved to an online learning model with this model set to continue until 20th April 2020.

The first confirmed case of Covid 19 in Tanzania was recorded on 16th March, just over three weeks ago, and as of today there are 25 recorded cases of Covid 19 in the country. The board and leadership of the school has been following the global coronavirus pandemic, and, whilst the rise of cases in Tanzania is slower than elsewhere in the world, this is not unexpected when comparing Tanzania to other countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

At this moment, our planning for Quarter 4 is as follows:

- According to our original calendar, school is due to start on 15th April.
- School will open online on 15th April, further details will be forthcoming.
- We are expecting to receive guidance from the Tanzanian government before the current shut down finishes on 17th April.
- In the event of schools being able to reopen, face-to-face classes will resume on Monday 4th May. This will allow enough time for our students currently outside the country to return and undertake the 14 days of government-mandated quarantine. This means that online learning will start on 15th April and continue until Friday 1st May.
- In the event of schools not being able to reopen, online learning will start on Wednesday 15th April and continue until circumstances allow us to re-open physically.
- We are fully aware that irrespective of the campuses opening or otherwise, some students will not be able to return for quarter 4. For these students online learning will continue until the end of the quarter.

We are living in complex times and it is not easy to make sense of all the information available to us. In recent days we have read conflicting reports as to whether or not school closures reduce the transmission of Covid 19. At one point it was estimated that over 90% of all school-age children were not in school, however now we are beginning to see schools reopen around the world.

There has been a suggestion that if the number of Covid 19 cases in Tanzania remains very low, the school should move to face-to-face learning for PYP and some MYP year levels as soon as possible. This only goes to highlight the ever changing nature of the situation we are in, we will of course communicate any changes to the above plan as soon as they are decided.

Stay healthy,

Tine Hemelings, Chair
Anna Marsden, Director