



# Berea Group of Colleges

**19 March 2020**

## **BEREA COLLEGE ALIGNMENT TO THE PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON COVID-19**

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians and College Stakeholders

Thank you for your support during the postponed lecture period while we monitored the COVID-19 situation at campus level, in the country and globally. We would like to assure you that any decision taken by the college is in response to facts and expert insights in the interest of our students, staff and stakeholders.

As an update to our previous communication on COVID-19, please take note of the following interventions that the college has taken:

### **ACADEMIC**

- Our student's safety and education continue to be our priority and in line with this, the College Management team together with the College COVID-19 Task Team has taken a decision to suspend all contact-mode classes until Monday, 30 March 2020.
- Lessons will not stop during this period and will continue via our WhatsApp. classrooms and blended learning.
- Our academic staff are available on these online platforms between 7:30am-3:30pm from Mondays to Thursdays and until 2pm on Fridays to assist with preparation of assignments, tests and exams.
- During this time, we are calling on the support of our students and parents. To gain maximum benefit from the WhatsApp. classrooms, we need you to be a participant in one of the Groups. Please contact the college immediately to add or update your details.
- We also ask each student to follow the protocol of the online classrooms and use it strictly for academic purposes and not for personal and social engagement.
- The campus remains open for administrative services only.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

During this very critical period, we are requesting that you continue to implement the basic health measures published by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to keep you and your family safe:

- ✓ Hands – wash them thoroughly & regularly with soap and water or use an alcohol-based sanitizer (above 60%).
- ✓ Elbow – cough into it.
- ✓ Face – don't touch it.
- ✓ Feet – stay more than 3 feet away from other people.
- ✓ Don't gather in areas with large crowds (sport events, clubs, concerts, socials etc.)

Remember when using the campus environment for administrative services, use non-physical greetings (no handshakes, hugging or touching). Keep a safe social distance from other people.

If you or your family have travelled to another country or if you have come into contact with someone who has, please self-quarantine for 2 weeks. If you tested positive, please share the results via WhatsApp to the Department of Health's hotline number **0600 123 456** and also inform the College immediately, so we can take the necessary steps as a responsible College.

- Hand sanitizers are available on entrance at each of our campuses. Please ensure that you use them at all times.

- We have introduced extra cleaning shifts to ensure our toilets and campus environment are cleaned regularly.
- We have trained all our staff on the impact, the symptoms and the precautionary measures to be taken.
- We have launched an in-campus and online awareness campaign to educate our students, staff and stakeholders on the COVID-19 epidemic and how to stay safe.

## HOW TO CONTACT US?

We have received large volumes of queries and a higher than normal demand on our communication resources. We would appreciate it if you would address all academic queries in your WhatsApp classroom, but direct other customer related queries to the Centre for Student Relations, which is a free customer service to all our students and parents.

Contact your adviser directly on WhatsApp. or email:

- ❖ Nomagugu Mbhense (0603353113) - [nomagugum@bct.ac.za](mailto:nomagugum@bct.ac.za)
- ❖ Zandile Mahlobo (0824906062) - [zandilem@bct.ac.za](mailto:zandilem@bct.ac.za)
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- ❖ Romell Jaganathan (0767773032) - [romellj@bct.ac.za](mailto:romellj@bct.ac.za)

We look forward to seeing you in person again and in good health once this period of preventative measures is no longer necessary. Thank you once again for your continued support as we work together to ensure a successful education journey.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. C Kistan  
Rector



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