

## Westwood Lodge Communique – 27 April 2020

Dear Parents and Students. Happy Freedom Day! We trust that you are well, and healthy.

We are anxiously awaiting an announcement by the Minister regarding the reopening of Universities. This is scheduled for later this week – 28<sup>th</sup> April to 30 April. We are hoping for some clarity from the Minister around this important matter. Currently some of the private, and state-run universities are offering online learning with many students remaining at Westwood having safe accommodation and free data, (which we increased to allow for this form of study).

We, unfortunately, do not know when the state universities will reopen but we expect the academic year will be rescheduled and it is likely that the timeframe will extend through December and January when we are usually closed for maintenance. If December, and perhaps even January, are included as part of the 2020 academic year, we will keep the Lodge operational - without charge, subject to payment being up to date. So, where a person continues to meet their contractual obligations, as the vast majority have and continue to do, they will not pay for the extended month/s. Where, however, a person has been unable to continue with payments, they will be charged for the extended months.

In the meanwhile, if you are in residence, you must continue to meet your obligations as per normal. If you are not in residence, we request that you also please continue to meet your obligations regarding payment so that we too can keep paying our service providers and staff. This is the fairest and best way to assist the economy at this stage. Where, however, a family has genuinely lost their income or cannot earn an income, we will consider a payment deferral which will be done on a case-by-case basis only. If this applies to you, please send an email detailing your circumstances to: [student@sgc.co.za](mailto:student@sgc.co.za). This is in keeping with our policy of principle and fairness.

We realise that this lockdown has had a significant impact on you, us, and on the country but we hope that over the next weeks, better systems will be put in place to more effectively manage this disaster.

Westwood Lodge has remained operational throughout this period and will be able to accommodate all our students who wish to participate in online learning but who do not have the data or facilities at home. This applies to all institutions whether state or private. We are providing additional free data to our students to facilitate online learning.

Measures are in place to try prevent the spread of the virus and any student intending to return to the Lodge for study purposes will be required to complete a Covid-19 Declaration, they will have their temperature taken on every entry and no visitors are permitted. We also urge all students to maintain their social distance and to closely follow the guidelines, instructions and regulations issued by the Government and Health Department. Only by doing this can we prevent further spread and the end to lockdown.

We apologise for the slow communication, but we are unable to make decisions or provide accurate information without the facts to hand. Once the announcement has been made, we will communicate further.

Thank you and please stay safe.

Westwood Lodge  
27 April 2020.