

MARYVALE COLLEGE

Independent Catholic Day School
P O Box 51698, Raedene, Johannesburg, 2124
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Pre-Primary and Primary School

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High School

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NEWSLETTER 1/2021

19 January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

As communicated with you in 2020 the Board of Directors have appointed a new principal to manage and lead Maryvale College as from 2021. I am excited to be part of the Maryvale family and aspire to continue the Maryvale legacy. A change in school leadership brings with it anxiety and expectancy and I want to assure parents and learners that I will serve to the best of my ability the interests and aspirations of every learner. I look forward to personally meeting each one of you and trust that together we can sustain and improve our education offerings to every learner and the compliments of the new season and for the year are extended to all of you.

The COVID-19 pandemic brings with much anxiety, uncertainty, and in many cases also a sense of loss. During these trying times we find strength in the words of Jesus who continually reminds us that He is our hope. Maryvale has always prided itself in offering staff and learners a haven where we can experience peace, hope and love. Maryvale, despite the pandemic challenges will continue to provide a safe, secure, loving and nurturing environment where staff and learners will continually grow in academic, cultural and sporting activity. The pandemic has also forced us to change, adapt and be bold in our decision-making to maintain and improve on the holistic education of our learners in which we have for decades prided ourselves. I am excited to be part of a community that confronts the challenges that each day brings knowing that together we will overcome those dark moments in our lives knowing that Christ is the light of the world and that we will overcome the challenges confronting us as a school, a country and the greater world.

Our community expresses our deepest condolences to our Primary School Principal, Mrs Smith on the loss of her father, to Ms (TK) Mthembu whose mother passed away and to the Mujaji family who lost their mother and grandmother/great-grandmother. We are also deeply saddened by the passing of Samuel Mametja, one of our primary school staff, we express our sincere condolences to Sam's family and the staff of our Primary School.

The resultant impact of the COVID-19 virus has forced us to reprioritise our commitment to the safety of our staff and learners and so we have had to engage at a level of planning that will ensure the safety of our learners and our commitment to provide quality education despite the COVID challenges. To this end, please note the following:

- Orientation for Grade 8 learners will take place on Monday 1 February 2021 at 8: 30 to 10:30 in the school hall. Parents of our new learner cohort are invited to attend and we look forward to welcoming you to the Maryvale community
- Grade 12 Learners will commence **on-line** learning, from Wednesday 3 February 2021
- Learners from Grade 8 to 12 will commence with on-site teaching and learning from the 15 February 2021 as per the Department of Basic Education directive and details will be communicated to you closer to the time.

Parents, guardians and learners, the COVID times have impacted dramatically on all lives and every family has in one way or another been affected. In all of this heartache and turmoil we need as a community to find opportunity to find meaning and expression in the world that we live in. Opportunity to think differently, to value each other more deeply and to know we all serve a greater purpose for the common good. In so many ways we



have become more resilient and our continued yearning for a better world has made us appreciate our definition of 'normal'. I believe that there is every reason to have hope and that together we will continue to make a difference in our homes, places of work and above all in our school. I look forward to this academic year and meeting each one of you.

Yours in education

Dr. R. Looyen

