



# LAWSON BROWN HIGH SCHOOL

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*Principal: A.W. NEWFELDT*

**“STRENGTH IN UNITY!!”**

25 September 2020

I am writing to you at the end of our first week under lockdown Alert Level 1, hoping to clarify some of the misconceptions regarding the regulations. The Covid 19 virus did not disappear with us moving to a lower lockdown alert level. We should still be watchful and responsible to stop the infection rate.

Parents, we have received many requests to revisit the possibility of a Matric Farewell. We understand that you would like your child to have this experience. Under the current regulations, it is not advisable to have a farewell. We have 159 Matriculants and considering the regulations announced by the National Command Council, this would mean that the event will have to be split over several sessions. Events companies estimate that it will cost between R400 to R500 per person - accommodating between 50 to 75 people at a time. The above amount excludes the cost of hiring the venue. If we further consider the time we have left - the learners are currently busy with their Trail Exams - it is clear that time of the essence for their academic work. The Final Exams start on 5 November and ends on 15 December, the last day of the Academic year. Taking all of the above into account, we can safely say that it will not be possible to stage a farewell.

Parents, a huge concern is that the learners show little commitment to work with educators to complete the revised curricular. They do not do homework and submission of third - term tasks is slow. Learners also do not keep up with the work to be completed on their off days. This creates a backlog that will be difficult to recuperate. Although the Education Department has replaced the final Examinations with a Controlled Test Series, we still need to assess learners on the work completed. Educators give homework as an extension of the work covered in school. Umalusi, the controlling body for Assessment for Department of Education (DBE), have set regulations that we have to adhere to for a learner to progress to the next grade. We will be expected to follow these regulations - even under this pandemic. We rely on you, our learners' parents, to check whether your children have done their homework. Do not be fooled by them telling you they have nothing to do.

Lastly, another worry for us is absenteeism among our learners. We are following a 'Covid' time-table which means that we have different groups of learners at school on a particular day. Under Level 1, all learners are expected to be back at school. The Department's exemption from attending school was reversed. Parents who are still keeping the children at home, need to make an appointment to speak to the Principal. This you need to do as soon as possible. We are expected to report on absence and reasons therefore to the DBE. The Department has issued an instruction for schools to implement the dropout clause should parents whose children are still at home, fail to make contact with the school.

We hope that we can finish this term with your co-operation, especially with regard to the above- mentioned concerns. We were able to survive the pandemic with your help. A BIG THANK YOU from ALL of us. God bless.

Kind regards

A W Newfeldt  
PRINCIPAL