

Daily Update, Friday 23 July 2021, 9:30am



ST CHARLES COLLEGE
S O U T H A F R I C A

Dear Parents

What has changed since last term and what do we know?

On Monday we resume face-to-face teaching, but we should not forget that we are still dealing with a serious pandemic. However, in the past two months the landscape has shifted positively, despite all our recent distress:

- 96% of all the staff of the college and support services have been vaccinated, and in the education sector vaccination has been carried out very effectively
- In the general population of South Africa, those 35 and older now have access to vaccines
- The delta strain is much more transmissible, but the symptoms are not necessarily more severe
- The vaccines are proving to be highly effective against both dominant strains of COVID

Serious citizenship

The key for the next period of time is serious citizenship. Each person must take responsibility for their own safety. At school we will provide the conditions under which boys can ensure that they are not at risk. With you, our parent community, we have to impress on our boys the need to exercise discipline and care and to help break the chain of transmission. *Each boy must be challenged to take responsibility for his own safety and for those with whom he comes into contact.*

Best case scenario

Within the next six months, spring and summer will have returned enabling more outdoor activity. There is a chance that some sport can resume.

Vaccines are being produced in vast quantities globally and there is likely to be a surplus in the last quarter of the year. At some stage it will be possible for any person in South Africa to go and obtain a vaccination as and when they wish. Together with the efforts of private health insurers and providers, South Africa is daily becoming safer for more people.

Mass vaccination is the only way out of this cycle and South Africa will play a big role in stabilizing the continent as it becomes a site of vaccine production. This will give health-security on the African continent in a way that has never happened before. Workforce stability through health is a major contributor to productivity, and productivity is the way towards Africa's economic future. I heard the slogan of an optimistic company recently which stated:

“Africa is too rich to be poor”

I agree.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allen van Blerk', written in a cursive style.

Allen van Blerk
Principal