



# Khanyisa Education Centre

Primary - Secondary - Boarding

*"Learning to Care, Do and Achieve"*

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Gazankulu Private Schools Trust (Association Incorporated under Section 21 - Registration Number: 1990/005435/08)

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16 January 2021

To all parents and learners of Khanyisa Education Centre

The school year for 2021 has kicked off under very difficult circumstances for everyone in South Africa and indeed, the entire world. Given this rapid rise of infections recently, the concern of the Department of Basic Education centred around the safe reopening of schools for learners and staff in our country. The Department of Basic Education, the teacher unions, Parent Associations, and the medical fraternity have shared concerns about the reopening of schools under present circumstances and have indicated with a united voice, that schools cannot, under the present circumstances, be reopened safely. This has led to the Department of Basic Education taking the decision as communicated on Friday 14 January 2021 to delay the reopening of schools for both public and independent schools for a certain period. Both the Independent School's Association of Southern Africa (ISASA) and the National Alliance of Independent School Associations, (NAISA) have also agreed to the postponement

In the local context we have seen a sharp spike in the number of Covid-19 infections over the Christmas period in Limpopo, to the extent that the Greater Mopani District, which includes both Mopani East and Mopani West, and the Vhembe district, have been declared Covid-19 hotspots at the present time. After consulting medical opinion in Giyani, it has been advised that any attempt to re-open schools under the present circumstances would be extremely risky. In the light of this, the Khanyisa Governing Council in consultation with the leadership of the Khanyisa Parent Association have endorsed the temporary delay to the re-opening of Khanyisa Education Centre, in line with the national decision.

What this means is that the start of the school year will be delayed and that school will not reopen as normal on Monday 18 January as was initially planned. Unfortunately, at this time, the specific terms of the postponement has not been gazetted as yet, and it is therefore not clear yet, as to exactly how this will affect independent schools in South Africa. It is expected that this will be gazetted by Monday 18 January 2020

### **How does this impact Khanyisa?**

1 Khanyisa, like all other schools will have to delay the re-opening of schools, although the length of the delay is not clear. This will depend on the terms as they will be gazetted in law. At this stage the education department has indicated that the initial delay will be up to 15 February, but it is still unclear whether independent schools will be allowed to reopen a little earlier than this. We will keep our constituency informed as this will be clarified in future.

2 Since the delay has not been legally enacted, Khanyisa has an opportunity to complete the administration of learner enrolment, and the issuing of text books and other learning materials to learners before the school, is closed for the delay. The hand-out of text books and learning materials will therefore go ahead on Monday 18 January 2021 as planned for both the primary and the high schools in a safe manner with the observance of all Covid-19 protocols. Minimum contact between persons will be strictly regulated. In the high school all learners will collect in the following manner:

**Grades 7 and 10 will collect on Monday between 08h30 and 10h00**

**Grades 8 and 9 will collect on Monday between 11h00 and 12h30.**

**(Learners and parents must please adhere strictly to these time periods to ensure effective social distancing, and must please not arrive earlier or later than specified. Where parents have learners in more than one grade, all material can be collected in a single visit). Only one learner or parent will be allowed to collect.**

3 While learners or parents are collecting materials, the administration offices will be finalising the organisation of all parent and learner contact details, in order for the school to communicate effectively with parents and learners while the school is closed. Parents and learners must bring along to the collection, all contact details, (cell phone numbers, email addresses and particularly Whatsapp telephone numbers) and give this to the school on Monday 18 January 2021 to ensure that we can communicate effectively with all parents and learners, particularly for the distribution of work, while the learners will be at home.

4 Unfortunately, as per the school policy we may not re-register any learner who still has fees for 2020 outstanding. Parents can make arrangements for the re-registration of learners as soon as the outstanding fees for 2020 has been taken care of.

5 After the collection of learning materials and the confirmation of contact details, the school will close for learners and staff on Monday 18 January 2021.

6 Educators will thereafter register learners on the various electronic platforms to be used for the teaching and learning, as we did very successfully last year. Learners will be registered on the Google Classroom, and on the learner Whatsapp groups based on the contact details provided for parents and learners, and the staff will thereafter deliver the curriculum electronically. Each learner re-registered in the high school will form part of a Google Classroom and will be registered on a mentor teacher WhatsApp group. In the primary school, teachers will organise parents into whatsapp groups to liaise with parents about the work of the children.

7 As indicated earlier, we will advise parents and learners as to the date upon which in-contact learning can be safely resumed, and after advice from both ISASA and NAISA on when independent schools may resume in contact learning.

8 **All correspondence and notifications will also be posted on the school's website at [www.khanyisaeducentre.co.za](http://www.khanyisaeducentre.co.za)**

Where parents have any further queries regarding any matter this can be directed as follows:

**Secondary School: Mr. H. Weber (Principal) 082 200 4625 / 082 200 4592**  
([admin@khanyisaeducentre.co.za](mailto:admin@khanyisaeducentre.co.za) / [headsec@khanyisaeducentre.co.za](mailto:headsec@khanyisaeducentre.co.za))

**Primary School: Mr. RP Shivambu (Principal) 082 562 8941 or 083 541 3360**  
([admin@khanyisaeducentre.co.za](mailto:admin@khanyisaeducentre.co.za) / [packie@khanyisaeducentre.co.za](mailto:packie@khanyisaeducentre.co.za))

**Finance Office: Mr. S. Ampong (Bursar/ Finance Manager) 073 769 6249 / 066 204 7377**  
([admin@khanyisaeducentre.co.za](mailto:admin@khanyisaeducentre.co.za) / [bursarsc@khanyisaeducentre.co.za](mailto:bursarsc@khanyisaeducentre.co.za))

Thanking you

From the Khanyisa Management