



1 May 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Learners

COVID 19 – Updated Official Statement – S.A. MARITIME SCHOOL AND TRANSPORT COLLEGE

With the commencement of level 4 lockdown on Friday 1 May 2020, the Department of Higher Education and Training has decided not to resume campus-based activities as yet. Accordingly, we are not able to return to school as intended. We therefore continue to adapt and make the necessary adjustments in our strategy.

Whilst the planning and preparation is being considered in terms of remote learning, delivery of learning materials, etc. by the Department of Education, we understand that this applies specifically to public colleges and universities (and not private colleges).

As mentioned in our last statement released 14 April 2020, we aim to continue with teaching and learning.

We are committed to completing this academic year successfully and to ensuring that the personal circumstances of learners during lockdown do not negatively impact on your ability to complete your qualification.

In order to accommodate these two priorities, the following arrangements are currently in place:

1. As soon as we may, we will allow learners on to campus to use the infrastructure on the campus to study and consult with staff. This will be dependent on regulations as set down by the government and may only include limited group numbers.
2. Teaching in the form of videos or audio messages will be in place in the new week and will continue until **it is safe for learners to return to school**. Learners will be advised as and when the videos and audio messages are available and upon which platform it can be accessed through.
3. An intensive catch up programme will be instituted for those learners who have not been able to participate in the online process. Preliminary dates for the catch up sessions will be communicated to you. These dates depend on when we are permitted to have learners on the campus.
4. We are mindful of the need to keep learner numbers low on campus and thus the timetable for these sessions will probably include extended hours and/or Saturdays to ensure that learners get the support they need in conditions that allow social distancing.
5. All holidays will be shortened or cancelled to accommodate teaching and/or assessments.
6. Formative assessments of various unit standards per qualification have already been sent to learners. You were required to submit proof of completion to your facilitator via the instructions on your workbook. The deadline for the declaration of completion was Thursday 30 April 2020.
7. A Survey was also sent to you to determine internet access, email addresses, etc. This was due 28 April 2020. We encourage you to please complete this and send to the relevant contact if you have not done so already.

8. Amended Assessment Strategy: For all unit standards received thus far in the form of workbooks, video presentations and audio teaching will be conducted. Summative assessments and tasks will be given to you to complete and submit. Details on submission of tasks will be communicated to you. Exams for these units will not be viable during this time. However, we will use assignments and other reasonable forms of assessment techniques to assess these unit standards. The conditions under which summative exams for second term, will be written are still being planned but will probably include standard examinations where relevant.

Please note, however, that as the progress of the COVID-19 pandemic is uncertain, further changes are likely. At all times we will make our decisions based on our commitment to your successful progress, recognizing that some learners face additional challenges.

The amended Assessment Strategy and Policy which applies for this period will be explained during the video presentations and in the forthcoming workbooks. We will not leave any group of learners behind and will thus respond to whatever changes are required of us in order to achieve this.

Please keep safe and compliant with the regulations in respect of personal safety that are in place – our best chance to return to school as soon as we can, lies in all of us assisting in combatting the spread of the virus.

Once we have received any further communication from the Department of Education or our SETA, we will inform you.

Please contact one of the following members of senior management should you need any further information:

Academic Director michelle@samaritime.co.za General Manager andre@samaritime.co.za

Academic Manager jin@samaritime.co.za

Kind regards

M. Fitt

Academic Director