

June 12, 2020

Dear Parents, Teachers, and Students,

SUBJECT: Distance Learning - Week 11

June Schedule:

Today, June 12, is the last day of regular, distance learning classes for students. Next week, Monday, June 15 through Friday, June 19, will be devoted to final assessments and/or assignments; end-of-semester or summative measures of achievement over the time the school has been on remote learning. Semester 2 reports will be prepared and sent home before the end of June.

Cambridge Checkpoint Exams:

Checkpoint exams will be administered in the mornings of Monday, June 15 through Wednesday, June 17. There are three: English, Mathematics, and Science. Form 3 parents have been contacted about this. Precautionary measures for maintaining social distancing and hygiene will be in place.

Summer School:

A summer school program is planned for Enko Bonanjo in August. Classes in English, Mathematics, Science, and Art will be available to returning students and to students new to the school. Classes are planned for mornings in the first two/three weeks of August. This will be a good opportunity for students to prepare for the start of the 2020-2021 academic year and, perhaps, catch up on content from this period of distance learning. The cost per class is XAF 40,000. Interest in the summer school classes will ultimately determine the classes that will be held.

Reopening in the New School Year:

Of course, it is impossible to know if and how school will open in September. It is the plan at Enko Bonanjo for there to be at least some, if not a complete, resumption of in-school instruction. One way to look forward is to consider the experiences of teachers in countries where schools have re-opened. Many have described their circumstances on social media (Edutopia, June 2020). Despite the worry about new virus outbreaks, teachers report that students are glad to be back at school. Maintaining social distancing guidelines has been difficult. It has required some schools to resort to alternate scheduling, some students attending some days and others attending other days. Half the class attends on Mondays and Tuesdays, the other half on Thursdays and Fridays, for example. Wednesdays are for deep cleaning. In this case, in-school instruction is combined with distance learning. In fact, it seems that

no schools are re-opening without some form of online learning. Open schools have established strict health and safety protocols including wearing masks, temperature checks, frequent hand washing and sanitizing. Group activities like extra-curricular activities and canteen lunches have either been cancelled or altered. A "new normal", perhaps, but the principles of effective teaching and learning remain: planning and teaching well-structured lessons; meeting individual needs; and the accurate and productive use of assessment.

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