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Dear Grade 12 Learners

Your future is based on the decisions you make today

Your final matric year is an important year for you. It is the culmination of 12 years of hard work, the key to further studies and a better future. It is also a stressful year for most Grade 12 learners as you face your final examinations.

I understand that the extended holiday, as announced by President Ramaphosa on 15 March 2020, and the subsequent lockdown period could have caused further anxiety and distress. It is natural to feel that your year has been thrown off course by the COVID-19 pandemic, but you must also see this as an opportunity. There are many reasons why you can make the next few months the most productive learning opportunity of your school career. Success does not fall from the sky. It requires continued hard work, dedication and focus.

During lockdown period many of you kept up with your studies and joined social media groups and other online platforms to continue learning. But I also know that many of you could not do this, for a variety of reasons. Do not despair. Your year is not lost. And here is why...

- a) The school calendar has been amended, reducing the number of school holidays in the June/July and October periods. This has resulted in you **GAINING more school days** than you would have had previously. While we have not yet received a final National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination timetable, if the dates are pushed back a bit, you will gain even more school days.
- b) Due to the lockdown, the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) and the Department of Basic Education (DBE) have worked hard to ensure that there are more resources available to all Grade 12s for self-study. This includes examination papers, lessons, videos and more (please see a list of resources below). No other previous cohort of Grade 12 learners has had as many resources for learning as you have available today. Use these resources for additional learning and practice.
- c) The WCED and your teachers support you and are backing you 100% of the way. We know that this is a stressful time and we will do everything in our power to ensure that you get the support required in this final stretch to the examinations.

I have asked that all schools ensure that Grade 12 learners are attending school every school day and to accommodate the other grades around your timetable. You are our priority right now and we will work together to ensure that you are given the best opportunity to write these examinations. We know you can do it and your teachers are ready to help you by going the extra mile.

If you have not yet returned to school or if you are not attending EVERY DAY, then you are missing out on valuable opportunities. Please make sure that you get to school every day. There is enough time for sufficient curriculum coverage. Make use of the extra time and extra classes that your teachers offer. Also please make use of all the extra learning methods and opportunities on offer to make this year successful for you.

All Grade 12 learners are encouraged to do the following:

- Your teachers are there for you – so attend school every day.
- The WCED is behind you – use the resources on the WCED's ePortal (<https://wcedportal.co.za>) which include previous examination papers, "Tips for Success" booklets with study and examination tips, subject revision booklets, "Mind the Gap" textbooks (also available on the DBE's website), and telematic lessons.
- Access past matric papers and exemplars, and watch videos on the different themes and topics.
- Find out about radio and television support programmes and integrate these into your studies.
- Revise the work covered during the first and second term.
- Work through the tests/assignments completed during the first and second term with special focus on areas of weakness and the feedback from the teacher.
- Read through your textbooks, read the prescribed literature and read for leisure!
- Prepare for what lies ahead – use the "Tips for Success" booklets or curriculum guidelines (both available on the WCED's website) to start reading about the topics and concepts that will be introduced before you write your examinations. Use multiple sources and share good material with your classmates. Research is an important part of learning. Self-research, the analysis of research material and summarisation are all key skills.
- Discuss topics that you find problematic with your teachers and classmates.
- Find a place at home or somewhere else where you can work undisturbed.
- Do school work every day.
- Live healthily, get enough sleep and stay dedicated to work optimally when awake.

Below I have listed some of the available resources that can be used in addition to what you have been given by your teachers:

1. The WCED's ePortal

The ePortal hosts a variety of digital resources for Grade 12 learners, which includes:

- 4 000 resources targeted specifically at Grade 12s.

- A Learner Dashboard for Grade 12 learners where you can register, upload your NSC subjects and have quality content promoted to you to suit your subject needs.
- A list of free resources from various curriculum suppliers during the lockdown period.
- Please visit <https://wcedportal.co.za>.

2. **Matric support resources**

The WCED website has a special page dedicated to matric support. This includes:

- "Tips for Success" which provides advice on preparing Grade 12 learners for the examinations, how to plan your study time and what to cover in each subject.
- Matric revision videos on YouTube covering certain subjects and topics.
- A list of textbooks and prescribed literature.
- Please visit <https://wcedonline.westerncape.gov.za/matric-support>.

3. **Grade 12 revision: telematics videos**

The WCED has a telematics programme that is broadcast to specific schools throughout the year. A variety of these broadcasts have been uploaded onto the WCED's website and ePortal for viewing. It covers 11 subjects and specific content and concepts. It also includes English and Afrikaans Home Language literature and workbooks in various other subjects.

Lessons are rebroadcast to provide learners with more opportunities to watch these sessions. First, second and third term revision materials are being recorded and broadcast in 14 subjects. Each of these subjects will have at least six hours of revision broadcasts. Please visit <https://wcedonline.westerncape.gov.za/edumedia/revision-dvds-telematics>.

4. **Revision materials**

Revision materials are being designed in all subjects and will be available later this month for the second term. Use the revision materials for the first term for self-study. Revision materials for the third term will also be provided.

5. **Examination papers and memoranda**

Question papers and marking memoranda from previous NSC examinations dating back to 2013 are available on the WCED's website. Please visit <https://wcedonline.westerncape.gov.za/grade-12-question-papers>.

6. **Mind the Gap Study Series**

This study guide series, produced by the DBE, provides explanations for key terminology, examples of the types of questions you can expect in an examination, model answers and advice. It is aimed at bridging the gap in learners' understanding of commonly tested concepts to improve pass rates. Please visit:

<https://wcedonline.westerncape.gov.za/mind-gap>.

7. Television and radio broadcasts

A broadcast system involving television and radio is being rolled out to support Grade 12 learners. Radio stations include CAPS Radio, Radio 2000, Radio Namakwaland, RSG and Umhlobo Wenene. Please visit <https://wcedportal.co.za/partners> for broadcast schedules.

In partnership with eMedia Investments, the DBE is broadcasting educational support for learners and teachers on the OpenView HD platform – Channel 122. This channel is available (free of subscription) and will broadcast for a period of six months from 01 April to 30 September 2020.

8. DBE matric support package

The DBE has a matric support package with a variety of resources, including study material, tips for parents and digital resources. Please visit:
<https://wcedonline.westerncape.gov.za/dbe-support-package>.

Dear matrics, remember this year is not lost. Embrace it. In many ways, since you have worked more on your own, you will be even better prepared for next year – whether you intend studying further or going into the job market. Don't waste a single day. Make use of the school days gained through the revised school calendar and the additional resources available. Let us prove to the world that the class of 2020 has found strength in adversity. Your time to shine is now. Make the right decision for you and your future.

Keep safe and warm! And continue to work hard. It's not too late... Have a great learning year – what's left of it! ☺

Yours sincerely



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HEAD: EDUCATION
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