

Thursday September 17, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Theme: In the Midst of Difficulties Lies Success and Hope

Ascot High School hopes that you and your family are in good health and that you have found ways and means to cope with the challenges associated with the COVID- 19 pandemic.

We at Ascot are praying for your safety and use this medium to encourage you to be diligent in observing all the COVID -19 Protocols particularly the wearing of mask, proper hand hygiene and maintaining physical distance of 6 feet. Considering that this is something we have to live with and is now considered the ‘New Normal’, we are committed to ensure that your child/ ward gets the best education to prepare them for the future society.

As you are all aware the official reopening of school has been rescheduled for October 5,2020, and so we continue to prepare to engage your child in the best possible way.

The schedule for reopening of school will be as follows.

October 5, 2020	New Grade 7 attend school
October 6,2020	Grade 8 students return
October 7, 2020	Grade 9 students return
October 8, 2020	Grade 10 students return
October 9,2020	Grade 11 students return
October 21,2020	6th Form Orientation
October 26, 2020	6th Form Begins classes

Please take note of the following:

CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Our Principal Mr. Stellavit Ingram is no longer with us, and therefore Mr. Shannell Talbert will be Acting Principal and Mrs. Heather Boyd-Cunningham will be Vice Principal for the academic year 2020-2021.

PROMOTION OF STUDENTS

All students will be promoted to the next grade level and you will be notified of your Form teachers and Grade Supervisors shortly.

METHODS OF ENGAGEMENT

Due to the requirements of the COVID -19 protocols and the need for physical distancing, Ascot High School will be adopting a **blended approach** to teaching and learning. This means that while some students are at school having face to face classes others will be at home doing distance/online sessions. There will be a timetable for both modalities and the details will be explained when you have your respective grade meetings. We are fully aware of the challenges faced by a number of parents/students as it relates to access to the internet and devices and so we are in dialogue with our stakeholders to see how this can be addressed.

At Ascot, we too are having severe challenges with our bandwidth and so we have had to engage the services of professional companies to diagnose and address some of these issues. This is proving to be extremely expensive and so I encourage you to make your contributions so that we can better serve you and your child. You may enquire about payment plans if you are having difficulties making all the payment at one time.

PLATFORMS FOR ONLINE/DISTANCE TEACHING AND LEARNING

At Ascot the main platform that we will be using is the AscotVLE located at the following URL <https://vle.ascothigh.edu.jm> which is a learning management system that facilitates instructions via the internet.

Teachers will be able to conduct classes synchronously and asynchronously for unlimited amount of time.

Parents will be able to monitor their child's progress and feedback from activities will be immediate.

Students and parents are now being enrolled on the system. Parents please ensure that information submitted at the office such as names, telephone numbers, addresses are up to date and current.

To better prepare our parents and students to use the Ascot VLE training sessions will be held as follows:

Training sessions for students

Grade	Date	Time
7	Sept. 21,2020	9am-12noon
8	Sept.22,2020	9am-12noon
9	Sept.23, 2020	9am-12noon
10	Sept.24,2020	9am-12noon
11	Sept.25, 2020	9am-12noon

There will be a schedule published for the training of parents at a later date.

The Ministry of Education Youth and Information has said that students on the PATH programme are to get devices on LOAN – tablets for some Grades 7-9 students and laptops for some Grades 10-13 students. However we have not yet received these to date.

PROTOCOLS FOR LOGGING ON TO ONLINE CLASSES

The management of Ascot is seeking the cooperation of our parents/guardians in encouraging their child /ward to maintain discipline even when they attend online classes. This includes dressing appropriately and ensuring that their full names are displayed when logging in (aliases will not be accepted). A document will be sent out to you giving more details of these protocols.

COMMUNICATION

It is imperative at this time more than ever that there is good communication between the home and school. Please ensure that the school has all relevant information so that we maintain the link. Please take note of the following:

You call us at the following numbers:

876-649-0529
876-649-0526
876-619-8565
876-648-1572

You may also contact us through one of our parent groups on WhatsApp. To get the list of all the parent groups please visit this link: <https://ascothigh.edu.jm/page/view?id=14>. Use your smart phone to access this page. It is easier to click on the link from your smart phone to join the group

rather than to enter the link manually into WhatsApp. **Please note that we do not manually add parents to the WhatsApp groups.**

You may also email us the following email addresses:

ascot.high.sce@moe.gov.jm

admin@ascothigh.edu.jm

You may also contact us through our website at <https://ascothigh.edu.jm/>

COLLECTION OF BOOK RENTALS

The Book Rental distribution has started and we are encouraging parents to collect the rental books on the dates and times specified below.

Date	Grade
September 21,2020	9
September 23,2020	8
September 24,2020	7

Please note that Grade 10 students will receive their books as soon as they have settled in the respective subject areas that they chose at the end of grade 9.

We are asking that you observe the COVID-19 protocols and as such the number of persons admitted on the compound will be restricted so you are asked to exercise some patience as we attend to you.

Please remember to wear your mask.

SIXTH FORM

For students who have recently completed CXC, CSEC examinations and are waiting on their results to enter Grade 12, please note that the application forms are online. The site is <https://ascothigh.edu.jm/sixthform/>. You may download the application or complete it online.

CXC results are scheduled for release on September 22, 2020.

Students awaiting the CAPE Unit 1 results are to contact the school as soon as you have these results if you plan to go to Grade 13.

Looking forward to a successful year as we continue to 'work for success'.