



EDU360 Newsletter – October 2020

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Friends Reunited

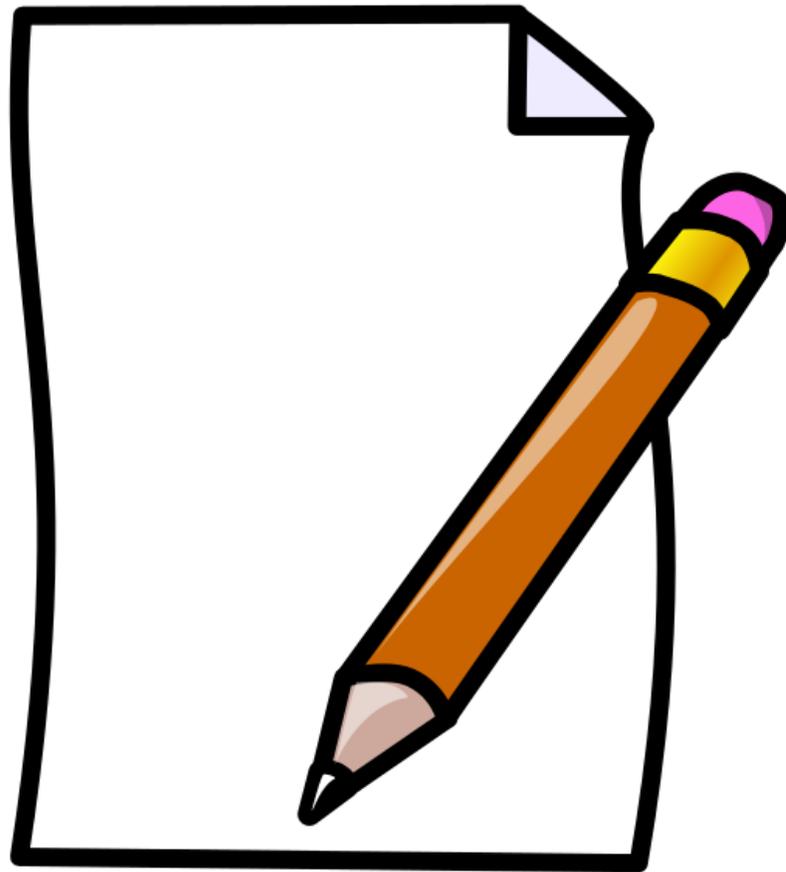


With open arms and wide smiles, our students and teachers returned to onsite schooling this week. The understandable pre-arrival jitters quickly faded into a calm and content state of expectation. Some students and staff have not been in physical contact since March, some even longer! The students rushed to greet each other, and it was pleasing to observe how respectfully everyone 'forced' themselves apart from their peers to adhere to our social distancing requirement, almost as a sudden and unexpected after-thought.

Granted, keeping a respectful distance in a socially acceptable manner is ordinarily a hidden challenge in the EDU360 setting. The operations team is to be congratulated for calmly reinforcing our expectations and protocol for keeping our community strong, healthy and calm.

We welcome everyone back to college, whether offline or online, it is all good. The team are making a concerted effort to make operations feel as regular and as normalised as possible, while maintaining the integrity of our Covid-19 Operations Protocol. Please see the latest update on our EDU360 SOP document attached to this newsletter for your information.

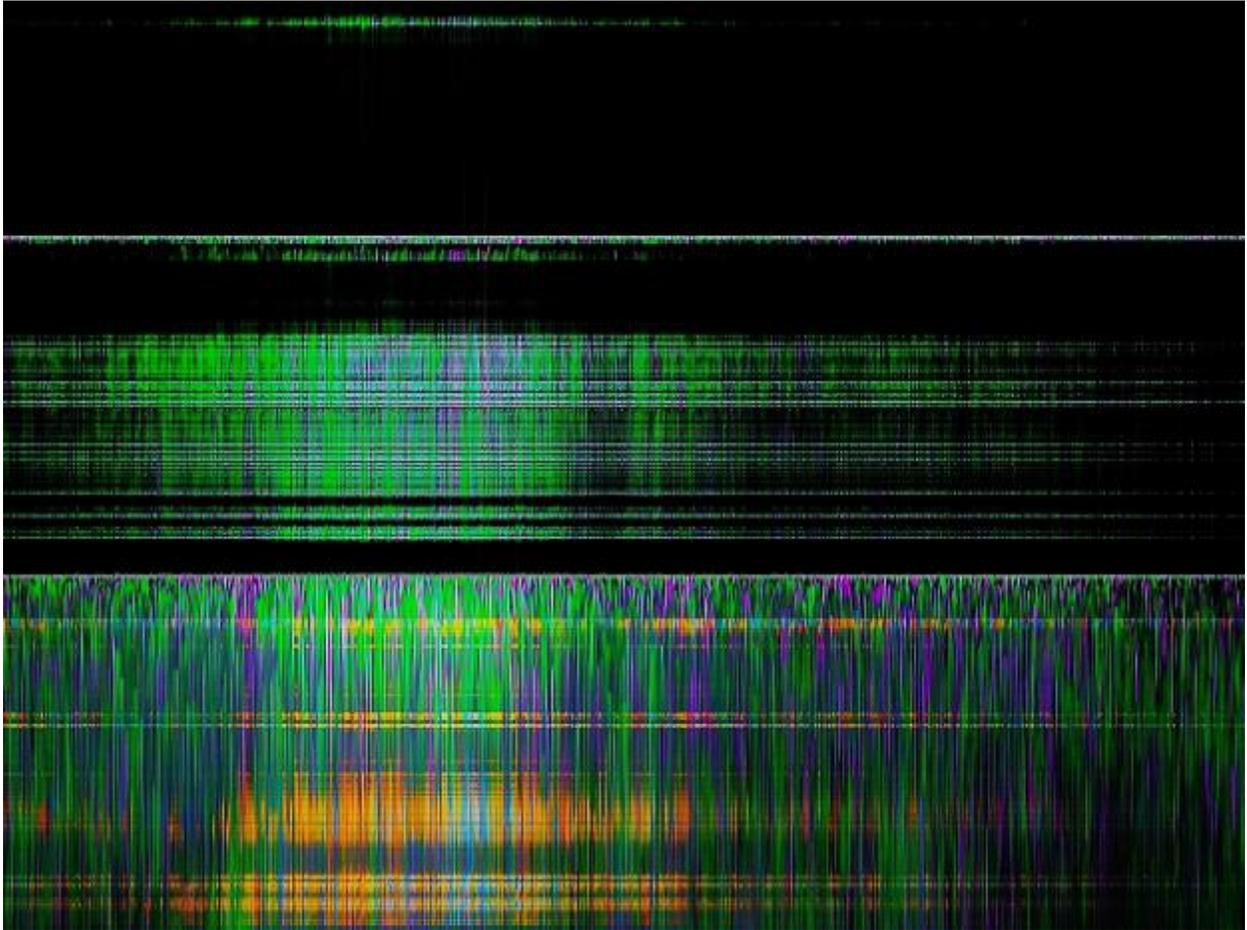
EDU360 Nexus Staff Launch



We often talk about the importance of families and the community keeping a positive mental approach, especially when facing a challenge. Keeping focus on positive aspects requires practice and reflection. The onset of the Coronavirus in March prompted the rapid deployment of our existing plans to make better use of the MS Teams platform. This in turn has inspired our Learning Management System (LMS) research, which means that we are in a strong teaching and learning position - we will be launching our LMS online teaching platform in 2021, which is two years sooner than planned.

Another example of a positive outcome from a challenging situation, is the introduction of our School Management Information System (MIS), called Nexus. This year we initially postponed the development of our School MIS until 2021, and with the onset of a surge in online resource demand, jeopardising traditional communication channels, we reopened our intention to launch our Nexus School MIS in 2021. Today, we are pleased to inform our community that we have launched our Nexus Staff portal. Our team is undergoing training and learning on a live portal - live data is recorded and distributed between team members in a secure and intuitive manner.

Email Outbox Glitch - an apology to all families



We are aware of a second email glitch. Our edu360.education email outbox appears to have self-deleted emails - new outbound emails and email responses to received email messages.

We apologise unreservedly for appearing to not respond to your email requests and can only imagine the potential confusion and delay that this may have caused your family.

To remedy this email server issue, we have formatted our email settings, changed laptops where possible hardware conflicts are presumed, and will shortly be adding an additional edu360.co.za email domain to our server, to catch erroneous server address items. Of course, the demand placed on digital resources this year is unprecedented and we acknowledge that minor digital conflicts may have become exacerbated during this time, resulting in the system self-deleting emails over two specific periods.

Our solution is the introduction of the Nexus Parent Portal this term. It will elevate this communication concern - a secure and reliable system will be made available to parents as part of our School MIS, as an alternative to email communication.

Congratulations! And, thank you



We unite in proudly congratulating our IGCSE students on completing their first major course exam. What makes this more remarkable, is the fact that this is an external exam - perfect strangers are supporting our students in an unfamiliar setting. Additionally, the exam date was delayed due to Covid-19 and a last-minute venue change occurred. This is what we calmly refer to as 'learning for life!'

Regardless the outcome, the mere fact that our Year 11 students report a favourable assessment experience says much about the measured intensity and 'long-played confidence building techniques' deployed by our professional teaching team. We congratulate our students and our teachers for making this energy intensive undertaking a meaningful and worthwhile experience. You all are greatly appreciated.

Goodbye Ms. Bosman - good luck!



We say goodbye to a member of our Operations Team. Thank you Mpho for assisting to maintain the team momentum during the pandemic Level 5 period. During lockdown, her interests changed towards entrepreneurship. She is now the proud owner of a cereal company - manufacturing, marketing and selling her cereal products. Her plans are developing at an exciting pace and we wish her well in turning her dreams into reality.

EdHead - Between the Waves



The EDU360 management team realise that the eye of the pandemic storm is passing over our region. The central part of a tropic storm is characteristically eerily calm. It is a time to reflect upon the first wave and quietly prepare for the next pandemic wave, or two.

Of course, we prepare for the next wave while reinforcing safe operating protocols and without magnifying and publicly broadcasting the expectation that further potential national lockdowns or pandemic school management interventions loom, in the first half of 2021. For now, the plan is to support our students to feel a sense of calm and encourage social stability. Now is the time for students to safely engage with each other in a safe, controlled setting.

We are developing our 'EDU360 Digital22 Strategy' to fortify our communication channels, develop secure data collection and analysing processes, and implement teaching and learning practice that is suitable and highly geared for students requiring learning support - online and offline!

Exam Timetable



examtime

The Term 4 exam schedule will be confirmed and published in the next week. Please keep an eye on your inbox. This will be emailed to students and parents. Hardcopies will be distributed to offline students. If you have a query, please contact celine.naicker@edu360.education in the first instance.

Clubs in 2021



We look forward to resuming our busy sporting and activity club schedule in January 2021. There are currently no regular club meetings taking place due to our Covid-19 SOP. There is however a once-off experimental computer game club initiative taking place on Friday, 16th October. Participation is by invitation only due to the experimental nature of this student-driven event.

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