

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2020

To Our Parents.

**RE: PROPOSED E-LEARNING DURING THIS LOCKDOWN**

The above matter refers. As the staff of Light Academy Secondary School, we recommend the work that the Ministry of Education and Sports has done in ensuring that students remain focused on academics during this COVID-19 lock down since schools and other academic institutions temporarily closed on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. These include providing the guidelines on education during the lockdown period, providing Television and Radio broadcast revision lessons to students, as well as availing print self-study revision materials to students.

As a way of complementing the efforts of the MoES during this unprecedented situation which has adversely affected teaching and learning, Light Academy Secondary School adopted innovative ways to keep our students engaged via digital platforms since we went into the lockdown. These included providing additional weekly self-study materials accessible on <https://secondary.lightacademy.ac.ug/e-light> as well as video clips with different teachers re-explaining concepts to further support our students, accessible on [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVkqoCY\\_CBym2\\_uwVrohW0Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVkqoCY_CBym2_uwVrohW0Q) and <https://www.facebook.com/LIGHTACADEMYSCHOOLUG/>

All these are supplementary efforts done for the good of our students, accessible to all our students and parents at **NO COST**. We are proud that every single week, these online study materials have on average attracted a viewership of hundreds.

However, there have also been some challenges along the way and these include:

- a) Lack of a proper student-teacher interaction or consultation which enhances effective learning.
- b) Lack of a proper feedback system. The teachers couldn't check on the students' progress or respond to any queries

In order to improve on the effectiveness of our efforts, we came up with a **proposal** to incorporate a supplementary initiative; that is the idea of **e-Learning** with the use of **Google Classroom** which is becoming the most powerful tool in educational technology together with **Zoom** used for video conferencing (Webinar) to bring about a real-time interaction between teachers and students as they all stay in the safety of their homes.



Below are some of the fruits we thought we can reap in embracing this e-Learning initiative:

1. It will provide students with exposure to online learning systems which is the way to go during these challenging times as well as in this modern era. Since our graduates at Light Academy go on to join both National and International universities all around the globe, we can be certain that this will prepare them to fit in well and even give them a competitive advantage over their counterparts in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
2. Teachers will be able to give assignments at a more controlled pace, monitor the students' progress in these assignments, and even provide appropriate feedback on their work.
3. Through Google classroom, teachers can also communicate with parents through individual emails on issues like class students' attendance, due dates, and performance in various assessments.
4. It will also provide numerous ways to make learning interactive and collaborative.
5. Also through Google classroom, teachers are able to analyze data from assessments to ensure that students are understanding and achieving the learning objectives.
6. The virtual student – teacher interaction sessions can be automatically recorded and therefore students can be able to review them over and over.
7. A more active parental involvement in the learning process.

In preparation for this initiative, we have – through the use of zoom meetings – trained teachers on how to use Google Classroom effectively for the past two (2) weeks. We are ready and set to start the training sessions for parents and/or students.

However for the successful implementation of this e-Learning program, we need parents' support in form of equipping their respective students with a laptop or desktop computer as well as internet to help them through this. Because e-learning requires some facilitation, we also proposed that we request our parents to support the initiative with this facilitation. We want to clarify that this is at proposal level, and still being developed. It is not compulsory, and indeed if it works out, for students who will not be part for various reasons, we plan to organize for them extra lessons at no cost when schools resume, in order to catch up.

In conclusion, at Light Academy, we are really committed to continue supporting learning from home together with the support of our parents using only those possible and fair methods. At the time of developing this proposal, information had not reached us that the MoES does not approve any initiative that necessitates parents to pay. We want to take this opportunity to reaffirm our readiness to abide by all guidelines as provided by the MoES and all other authorities. Whenever parents come on board and want us to implement the program, we are ready to do so in line with the guidelines of the MoES.

Thank you so much for your continued support and cooperation as we keep safe and stay home.

TEACHING STAFF