



SOUTH POINT HIGH SCHOOL

**An ISO 45001:2018 Certified Institution
Affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education**

Circular No.47/P&G/2020-21

February 10, 2021

Circular for Parents / Guardian of the pupils of Classes IX to XII

Sub: Reopening of School

Dear Parents / Guardian,

After nearly eleven months of closure brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have finally come to that point when our State Government has allowed schools to reopen their doors for pupils of Classes IX to XII from February 12, 2021. In some other states this was done earlier and now those states are also contemplating bringing back lower classes to school. Schools in our State will begin functioning for Classes IX to XII with guidelines and protocols in place.

Despite all efforts to use the digital teaching-learning process effectively by all stakeholders, you are aware that not all aspects of the process can be covered satisfactorily online. With the gradual reopening of the economy amid presently waning number of the pandemic-affected, schools have also been waiting to bring back pupils to classroom teaching. The Central Board of Secondary Education, understanding the constraints, has curtailed the syllabus to perhaps make the process less strenuous for the student body. On the other hand, the Board has chosen to keep the assessment/evaluation process offline. From March 01, 2021 the evaluation process of those taking AISSE and AISSCE 2021 will begin. One must underline the fact that the Board has chosen the pen and paper mode of evaluation for the above examinations.

We as a School have tried our best in the last eleven months to effectively carry on the teaching learning process online such that our pupils progress with their academic activities. These efforts have also been appreciated by parents at large. We had also devised an evaluation process in Term-1 which could give us a holistic feedback about what our pupils have assimilated. Assignments, Quizzes, Oral Evaluation, Projects and also Parent Proctored Tests were some of the tools we employed such that a complete assessment could be achieved. We also made the entire evaluation process non-competitive such that the pressure to score more than the peer group was taken off. But we as teachers have realised that, at least in the present times, nothing could replace the onsite paper and pen testing for an efficient and effective evaluation of senior students, and especially because the Board seems to think the same.

In our earlier notice to you, we have stated clearly that at first our focus will be on those taking the Board Examination this year, i.e., Classes X and XII. To begin with, Class X will attend a series of classroom sessions from February 13, 2021, in which teachers will try to clear doubts of pupils arising out of what has been taught earlier. Because the syllabus was curtailed by the Board, a number of revision classes have already been held online. While in School, each section will be divided into three groups and sit in three different rooms. They will attend classes for two hours at a stretch after which they will be sent home. The detailed plan of classes to be held as well as the room allotted to each pupil will be shared individually through the School App. Class X will begin writing their Practice Test from February 19, 2021. After they have completed attempting all subjects, some pending internal evaluation work will continue in the School. Based on the performance of each pupil in the Practice Test, remedial and reinforcement classes will continue, including written evaluation as far as possible till they begin writing AISSE.

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Class XII Science will begin attending their hands on Practical Classes from February 12, 2021. Each section will have a fixed routine following which they will come to School to cover Practical work for one or two subjects in a day. A series of Practical work will be completed for all sections, after which the pupils will begin writing their Practice Tests from February 18, 2021. The pupils of the Commerce and Humanities streams who study subjects which are Practical based will also attend their Practical classes. All other pupils of Class XII will be asked to come to School for doubt clearing and revision classes as also there will be special emphasis on the Project work done by the pupils. Detailed instructions regarding the schedule and room allotment to be followed, will reach each pupil individually through the School App. Practical classes will continue in the month of March 2021, to prepare the pupils to appear for the Board Practical tests over different subjects, which will be held in the months of March and April. Practice for Viva Voce for different subjects will be built into the reinforcement and remedial classes. Like every year, the School will try to equip each pupil to score more as per their strengths as well as overcome their weaknesses.

It is an earnest request to all guardians to take advantage of these carefully planned classes as well the Practice Tests which are held solely for the benefit of the pupils who are to appear for their Board examinations.

Classes IX and XI which are also considered to be under the direct purview of the Board will begin their physical classes from February 23, 2021, while at the same time have few classes conducted online, details of which will be shared separately through the School App. We intend to bring them at par with our normal classroom teaching and hence hope that those who have not been able to reap the entire benefit of our detailed online teaching, will make the most of the onsite teaching. Since we will like to devote more time to this mode of teaching, we are postponing the beginning of the Annual Examination of these classes to March 15, from March 02, as announced in our earlier notice. We will also hold retests, as per the guidelines of the Board for unsuccessful examinees. In the past also retests have been held on compassionate grounds for those with genuine medical reasons, for which the relevant documents are required to be submitted. The School will also begin classes in the next academic session 2021-2022 for Classes X and XII in the month of April, 2021.

Following the protocols issued by various authorities, we would like to assure all students and their parents that while opening its gates to its students and teachers, due care is being taken and diligence exercised by the School to ensure a safe environment for all of them. Our School is already certified for ISO 45001:2018 for its occupational health and safety management systems. We have also obtained the “Workplace Assessment for Safety and Hygiene” (WASH) certification developed by the Quality Council of India (QCI) after assessing our preparedness to restart and run operations safely. Some of the key steps being taken by us include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. No guardians/visitors will be allowed entry inside during school hours, without prior appointment.
2. No student, teacher or staff should come to School if they have fever, cough or cold or have been in touch with any COVID patient. It will be a mandatory requirement to fill in a health declaration form online by parents of all students and staff who are required to attend school on any day. A detailed notice about this is being issued separately.
3. Enough interval is being provided between the morning and afternoon sessions and separate entry and exit points will be earmarked for the pupils to use.

4. Wearing of an effective mask will be compulsory for all persons inside the school premises at all times.
5. Soap and sanitiser dispensers shall be made available at all points of need. All pupils must carry their own bottles of sanitiser liquids as well.
6. Mandatory temperature checks will be done for all at the point of entry. Those detected with temperature above 98.6C will be kept in separate isolation rooms. Parents will be informed to personally collect any child running a temperature, from School.
7. Number of pupils sitting in one classroom will be limited to 1/3rd of the original strength.
8. All pupils must bring their own food and water bottles from home. The school canteen will not be available for the use of the pupils. Food must not be shared with others.
9. Bus service will be provided to all those who have continued to remain enrolled for the same. Buses will be regularly sanitised and temperature check of students will be done at the point of boarding the buses. We will continue to charge fee after giving a 50% waiver following the pattern of this year.
10. The School premises have been thoroughly sanitised by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation.
11. Extra cleaning and sanitisation will be continued at regular intervals. The School has also taken the extra precaution of the anti-microbial BIO BUBBLE COAT 90D which is a treatment based on retentive Silane technology which makes all surfaces virus free for a specified time period with a coating. The efficacy of this treatment has been found to be 99% and the treatment does not allow virus to accumulate. All desks, benches, doors in classrooms and laboratories as well as common areas, handrails, banisters of staircases have received this treatment as an additional precautionary step by the School.
12. All members of staff shall be extra vigilant and keep monitoring the pupils about the necessity of social distancing and sanitisation at regular intervals.

We hope that all the above precautions will keep our pupils safe in School, because like you we too are anxious about their health and safety, as well as that of our teachers and staff. We would like to make it clear that while attending School at this critical juncture of their academic life in the current year will be quite beneficial for all pupils, the final decision whether to send your child to school or not after doing a fair evaluation of the risks and benefits, rests with you, their parents and guardians.

At the beginning of the year 2020 we did not know what awaited us, and the same can be said for the year 2021 and beyond. But at the same time every Institution needs to plan its progress via a calendar and we at our end will have to do the same. The plan of any organisation during the course of a pandemic cannot be drawn out based on apprehensions and possibilities but on guidelines and advisories issued by appropriate authorities and the Board. Similarly, an Institution is not blind and insensitive to any emergency. South Point closed its doors in the month of March 2020 for its pupils, perhaps among the earliest one to do so at the initial whiffs of threat. It is well aware of its responsibilities towards the greater community but at times it may not be possible to frame policies as per individual demands. At the same time, we will request all stakeholders to cooperate and make the efforts of all concerned a success.

Thank you.

Principal