

1st May 2020

Dear BIHC Community,

We trust this finds you in good health and that you are keeping well and safe. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has not been completely contained but we stay positive and hopeful that its impact on our operations shall not be as long-lasting as initially feared. Following our previous update, here are the directives set out by the Boma International Hospitality College Management.

May-August 2020 Term

It has been our mission to ensure that learning continues at BIHC and that we find solutions to maneuver through these unprecedented times with minimal impact on our academic and graduation cycle. In order to achieve this, a decision has been made to begin the term via <u>online learning</u>.

Theory lessons: In order to effectively prepare for the opening of the term, we have resolved to postpone the starting date to 18th May 2020. We shall begin with a mandatory intensive Online Orientation Program, for the purpose of familiarization of our e-platforms: Google Classrooms, Google Meet, Dawsonera and the e-Portal.

Practical lessons: As previously indicated, it will not be possible to <u>substitute</u> our practical units without significantly compromising on the level of the learners' understanding; therefore, we have resolved to have a focus on the theory units during this time and majorly work on the practical units once we have a green light from the government to begin face-to-face lectures. This is not to say that practical units will be ignored completely as we strongly believe that students may still gain vital knowledge and information through our re-worked e-resources and the newly-filmed BIHC Video Tutorials.

Internet Data & Laptops: Following the students' feedback collected via our online survey where we identified challenges arising from the high cost of internet data and a lack of laptops, we took the initiative to enter into collaborative agreements with Safaricom PLC and Computers for Schools Kenya (CFSK) to offer data bundles and laptops at subsidized rates.

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We are pleased to have come to an agreement with CFSK to provide refurbished, Grade-A laptops to our students and staff at a cost of KSH 26,000. This figure is payable directly to CFSK, where the laptops will then be delivered to our administration office for collection by the buyer. More specific details regarding laptop specifications, accessories and banking details shall be communicated via email on 1st May 2020.

We are also pleased to inform you that Safaricom has successfully completed the Whitelisting process of mobile numbers, therefore, the subsidized data bundles of KSH 500 for 10GB of internet data bundles per month is now in effect for all our students and faculty staff. The specific USSD code for use, along with purchase details shall be sent to all students in a separate email communication.

Fees

Due to the tough economic times brought about by the impact of COVID-19 on the business climate, we have decided to extend a 23% reduction of tuition fees for the May-August term. This is further to our Board's resolution to introduce a new fee payment option plan, which is still in effect. As the fee terms now vary from one cohort to another, an email shall be sent to each cohort by our Accounts Office with their new payable fees and due dates.

Please note that while we are majorly a practical-based learning institution, all practical units will be covered without compromising on the quality or number of on-campus contact hours once we resume normality.

New Facilities

Before the Kenyan government's directive to halt physical learning in academic institutions, BIHC had embarked on a determined Facilities Development Project, which saw us introduce a new learning resource center (library), two new lecture rooms and an upgrade to all lecture rooms in Phase 1. We are pleased to update you that the installation of our brand new state-of-the-art training kitchen, along with the introduction of a new fine-dining training restaurant and coffee shop are ongoing. We strongly believe that the completion of this final phase will allow for additional and more advanced technical training for our students.

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As an institution, BIHC is withstanding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through progressive and innovative thinking. We thank you for your commitment and trust in us during these trying times and are proud of the dedication you have portrayed throughout. Together, we shall continue to find ways to move forward.

Please feel free to seek further clarification via the following contact details:

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Sincerely,

BIHC Management

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