



# Alexander Road High School

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Dear Alex Family Members

## **Perseverance, Gqeberha and Matric results**

It has been an interesting week. We have a new Mars rover named Perseverance, more affectionately known as Percy; our city has a new name, and we have a new cohort of graduates.

All three events have stirred our emotions and will have a significant impact on the future. There were times last year when we all felt a little overwhelmed. It was difficult to see past the next set of Covid daily infection data. At the time that we were focused on keeping ourselves safe, Percy was hurtling towards Mars, our Grade 12s were building capacity, and our city's new name was lurking in the administrative engine.

These things seem inevitable now, but we struggled to see clearly that life would continue. If anything, I have a stronger resolve and a more robust confidence in our power as a community to do the right thing for all of us.

The SGB elections are a week and a half away. If you feel you have a contribution to make, I would encourage you to put your hand up and make yourself available to be elected. If you know of Alex parents whom you feel would be able to serve, please approach them and discuss their availability to stand for election. This is such important work. The SGB provides the vital service of oversight, governance, and most importantly, advice and guidance to the management team of the school. We are all here to serve you, by educating your children and your election of the SGB gives them the mandate to ensure that Alex is able to serve this community effectively and efficiently.

My sincere apology goes to Tamarah Ajam who was in Grade 12 in 2019. I did not check my submission to the 2019 magazine team and Tamarah's name was left off the list of A averages in the publication. Tamarah achieved 5 As and an 82% average.

Please remember the drop-and-go system that we use in the morning. I sent out a map on Monday to illustrate the idea. Please avoid angle parking in the morning. Please do not do a U-turn in Alexander Road, it is quite quick to use Second or Third Avenue to get on your way to work. Any turning in front of the school hinders the flow.

In the afternoons we do not operate the drop-and-go system, but I would implore you not to stop in Alexander Road to wait for your child. Stopping halts the entire flow of the road and backs cars up into Third Avenue and into Burt drive. Please remember that you can also fetch your child in King Edward Street. This is much quieter and almost as close to the exit gate.

Our applications for next year are progressing well. We have had close to 400 applications since the first of February. I will be making the first set of offers early next week. We will be hosting a class of 240 grade 8s in 2022 This will replace the 236 Matrics who will graduate this year. If you know of people who are keen to join us next year, please encourage them to apply sooner rather than later. Anyone who would like to apply should visit [www.arhs.co.za/apply](http://www.arhs.co.za/apply) or visit us to get the process started. Applications will close on 2 April. After that date, all applicants will be placed on the waiting list.

The provincial and national daily new Covid infection rate is quite low at the moment. While I am very grateful for this trend, I would remind everyone that our next spike in new infections is always lurking close at hand. We must remain vigilant and stick to our protocols. Please monitor your child's health closely and keep them at home at the first sign of symptoms. If we all keep ourselves alert, we might have a better chance of preventing new infections. Please could you keep me informed in this regard.

We are holding our version of Societies' Day on 11 and 12 March. Each society will put together a short video to explain and promote themselves. Once everyone has had a chance to see the stream, they will be allowed to sign up for these activities. We will also be collecting winter sport sign-ups during the same session. In order to sign up, you child will need to log into our school database, Adam. They will need their school email address and password. Please encourage your children to take the opportunity to get involved. We have such a wide variety on offer, that it would be a terrible shame to miss out on the new experiences or opportunities to pick up new skills.

Sport is not compulsory at Alex, but we strongly encourage as much participation as possible. Under the current lockdown regulations, we are not allowed to participate fully in sporting activities. We are focusing on conditioning and fitness at the moment. We hope that when the lockdown regulations are eased, we will get permission to run our winter sport programme with the required protocols in place.

Please keep yourself and your loved ones safe this week.

Yours faithfully



Matthew Ridgway  
Principal