



Alexander Road High School

Private Bag X34377
Newton Park
6055
Port Elizabeth
South Africa

Tel: 041 365 1270
Fax: 041 365 1196
E-Mail: info@arhs.co.za

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Dear Alex Family Members

Its beginning to feel a lot like April

I have been really enjoying the rain of the last few weeks. The fairly warm dry weeks in February were welcome, particularly when the beaches were opened up. With the rain has come a distinctly chilly edge to the breeze, very much a reminder that autumn is just around the corner. We normally get our winter sport season off to a solid start in March and play our first round of tournaments at about this time of year. Some of the very warm days in March have landed on tournament days and reminded me why we play rugby, hockey, netball and soccer in the winter - so that the spectators don't get too hot.

We have our winter sport programme off to a robust but no-contact start. There are rumours doing the rounds that we will get permission to start full-contact winter sport quite soon. Some of our avid sports enthusiasts have been desperately waiting for a chance to get going again. Regulations regarding fixtures will be promulgated and we will adhere very strictly to them.

My thanks to those parents who made it to the SGB elections of Wednesday evening. We were unable to achieve a quorum, so we will convene our second round of elections as we had anticipated in the original notice. On Thursday 18 March at 17H30 in the Hall we will meet to conclude the SGB elections. At this meeting we do not need to achieve a quorum; you will be able to go ahead and cast your votes.

We hosted our delayed but very much anticipated Societies' day yesterday and again today. The morning consisted of a series of adverts, elegantly woven together into a 33-minute video. Each society produced their own advert to explain what the group is about. The Events team put together the best advert and take the prize for best production. Everyone had an opportunity to sign up for their preferred activity and they chose their winter sport. Once the sign-up data is complete, I will circulate those choices to you, so that you are aware of what they have chosen. I am very excited about our societies; they offer such diversity and make a massive contribution to the ALtogether EXperience. My sincere thanks to Mr Everard and Mr McCoy who mastered the technology to make to all happen. If you would like to see it:

<https://youtu.be/4cNhOawt7jE>

My apologies to everyone if my letter about the Celebration of Excellence was a bit obscure. I sent the letter to everyone because your Wednesday will be affected by the event whether your child is a prize winner or not. If you would like to check the list of prize winners, you can [check here](https://bit.ly/3vdlrjR).(<https://bit.ly/3vdlrjR>) I would love to have you all at the Celebration of Excellence but unfortunately, we are limited to the total number of people that can be hosted. Only parents of prize winners are invited to the two separate events. Please limit your numbers to two adults per family. We will be outdoors and well-spaced, but we are at the mercy of the weather. If it looks dire, we may have to postpone but I will circulate information in that regard timeously.

We have had to postpone our Matric leadership seminar planned for today. Some of our Matrics were at a gathering over the weekend and yesterday one of the guests (not an Alexan) tested positive for Covid. All the people involved are in quarantine. They have all been at school since the weekend, but we have stuck to our protocols and will be deep cleaning the school today. Our protocols are designed on the premise that everyone who enters the school is an asymptomatic carrier of the virus. Sticking diligently to the rules protects everyone. Please be very circumspect about allowing your children to attend gatherings, particularly where Covid protocols are not being enforced. We have all become a bit more blasé about the pandemic because the number of new infections has been low. There seems to be a new escalation underway, however, and we all need to stand united against the spread of the virus.

Have a safe and restful weekend with your loved ones; it is going to be a steamy one so enjoy the last burst of summer.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Ridgway', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Ridgway
Principal