



Alexander Road High School

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South Africa

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Dear Alex Family Members

All good things come to an end

We have another interesting week behind us. With the suspension of contact sport, we have put an abrupt stop to our planning of fixtures and reverted to non-contact practice sessions. We also have had to revisit our plans for the musical. During the planning phase we had always held the possibility of a resurgence having an impact on the show. We felt that even if we didn't get a full run, there is so much learning happening in the run up that it would be worth investing in the preparations.

We have received an instruction from the Director General, Mr Mweli, that included the suspension of contact sport as well as all group singing-related activities. This puts us in the heart-breaking position of terminating all rehearsals. We will continue with the set and lighting design. We would love to be able to pick up again in 2022 and to put the show together again.

Later today the show will be cancelled on Quicket and you will all receive a full refund on your tickets. Thank you for supporting us in this way.

We have seen the steady rise in new Covid infections in our community. We have had very few cases since school started and this week, we have had one pupil test positive and we now have two staff who have tested positive with another three in quarantine. In all cases, the people who have tested positive were isolated from school long before they had any symptoms. We continue to monitor the situation and will keep everyone updated on the risk level. Please could you all refocus your efforts on practices that reduce the spread of the virus. We are still sending pupils home every day that are coming to school with symptoms. It is very important that you keep a close eye on your children and do not allow them to come to school if they are even slightly symptomatic. I know that we all hail from an upbringing that values school attendance and our mothers would never keep us home unless we had one foot in the grave. Unfortunately, we all need to work against these instincts and to do all we can to keep the community safe.

We are running a blanket and jersey drive. If you have any old blankets or jerseys that you don't need, please send them to school. We have plenty of people who will appreciate them now that winter is well and truly on its way. Please remember our

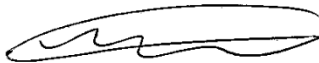
table of sharing. If you have the resources to pick up an extra item while you are grocery shopping and to send it to school, we support Alex families who are facing great hardship.

The new brown jerseys have finally arrived. Both Birches and our school shop now have stock. Please do what you can to get the uniform sorted out so that we can remove the tracksuit from daily use. I would like to have everyone back to normal by the start of June.

Some boys have grown impressive beards behind their masks over the last few months. Please could you address this at home. Our Code of Conduct calls for all boys to be clean shaven. I have instructed my staff not to ask anyone to remove their mask but if a boy takes his mask off to eat or drink or attend a sport practice and he has a beard, he must be issued with a default. There are also quite a few people with their hair in their faces and we are seeing an increase in ornate earrings and bracelets. Please give your children the once-over before they head off to school and support us in keeping them looking good at school. If you are unsure of anything please check the school rules in the Code of Conduct.

With what looks like a chilly weekend ahead, please keep yourself and your loved ones safe and warm.

Fond regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Ridgway', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Ridgway
Principal