



# Alexander Road High School

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Dear Alex Family Members

## Less turmoil more toil

In a week with fewer disruptions the flow begins to settle. The exam timetable has been published and printed. The preparations have begun to focus everyone on that goal. You may have seen a news article this week announcing that the Minister of Education has cancelled June exams for Matrics this year. This may seem confusing in the week that we publish our June exam timetable. In our modified assessment plans that we have had since the start of the year, many subjects in all grades did not require a June exam. There were mostly tests and projects called for in Term 2. The management team sat down with the requirements and determined that we would still like to run an exam session. We feel that exam practice is a useful skillset. If you look closely at the exam timetable you will notice that not all subjects have an exam and that many are reduced, either in the number of papers or in duration or both. We have maximised teaching time by reducing the exam block to two weeks. There are many days when our children will write two exams, but some are only an hour long and are effectively tests that could have been written in class. We feel that this is the best balance of the various factors that are at play.

We are very proud of our netball fraternity: Gcinani Headbush was selected for the U15 Eastern Cape Netball team; two of our coaches, Juanit van Tonder and Jean-Mari Mull made the U19 Eastern Cape team; and Sonet Jordaan was appointed as the U19 team coach. We congratulate all of them on these achievements.

Adri Beukes was placed first in the SANESA High School level zero equitation and show jumping competition. Very well done to Adri!



The number of new Covid-19 infections and the number of current cases have shown significant increases over the last week both nationally and in our province and city. It may sound like a stuck record, but I need to remind everyone again to be very vigilant with regard to non-pharmaceutical interventions. Please check that your children wear a mask when going out. They need to keep their distance from everyone else. They should be discouraged from visiting friends where large groups of people get together.

Parties and other outings into public places should be minimised as far as possible, at least until the third wave is on the decline. When they are getting ready for school, please check that they are feeling good and are completely symptom free. If there is any chance that they are not well, they should rather stay home. We have several pupils in quarantine because they have family members who have tested positive for Covid-19, and at least two children who have tested positive. We need to take care in this context to prevent anyone from bringing the virus to school and sharing it.

The same instruction applies during the exam session. If there are any symptoms on an exam day, then please keep them at home and let us know as soon as you can. There is a chance that if someone does not feel like writing the exam, they could suddenly feel more symptomatic. Unfortunately, we cannot take the risk. We would rather have someone fake their symptoms and miss an exam than have someone bring the virus to school.

My sincere thanks to all the families that have paid their school fees diligently this year so far. I am very well aware of the financial pressure that we are all under with rising food prices and no sign of a salary increase on the horizon. Your dedication to this function is very much appreciated.

The blanket and jersey collection has gone very well. We have distributed a lot of love and warmth this month because of your generosity.

The table of sharing stock is stable thanks to the items regularly supplied by the Alex family. Please consider adding an extra item of food to your basket and sending it to school for this very impactful undertaking. This service makes a real difference to the lives of the families who benefit.

Please keep yourself and those you love safe in these perilous times.

Fond regards



Matthew Ridgway  
Principal