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Dear Alex Family Members

End of Term 2 Newsletter

All of a sudden, we have a term end thrust upon us. As much as everyone enjoys a good holiday, having one moved forward puts a spanner in the planning works. We have not had the opportunities that we normally build into our term ends. Things like saying thank you and goodbye seem rather rushed.

Monty Owen, who is more affectionately known as Aunty Monty, retires today after faithfully serving in the Heart since the mid-1990s. Her association with Alex started in the 80s when her husband began teaching at Alex. All her children went through the school and are proud Alexans. We are eternally grateful to Aunty Monty for the many years of selfless dedication that she has committed to the Heart and to the Alex community. She wrote a card to the Alexans which reads as follows: 'Please take care, keep warm, eat your veggies and wash handies. Smile forever, enjoy life, I am so proud of you. To all the awesome Alexans, every one of you is amazing, I am extremely proud of you all. It's been an honour to serve and provide a healthy caring tuckshop for you all.'

We will also miss Mr Freeman Peter who started at Alex in May 1996 and has served faithfully on our grounds' team for so many years. He is a skilled cricket pitch manager and has generated a strip for our cricketers every week that is the envy of most cricketers in the city. He will be sorely missed. We wish him a long and happy retirement with his family.

Ms Flatela has assisted us while Ms Kelly has been on maternity leave. Ms Flatela leaves us to start at her next post. I am sure that you can imagine how difficult it is to get quality replacement staff when ours need some time off. We are extremely fortunate to have had access to Ms Flatela this year and we are incredibly grateful to her for her investment in the Alex Family. We wish her all the best.

I must express my gratitude to the staff for their energy this term. It has been another interesting term with so many stress points at play. I am profoundly grateful to them all for the dedication that they have shown to the task of keeping the cognitive cogs in action. I would love to have ended the term and distributed reports, so that everyone can see the fruit of their labour this term. We will need to wait until the second week of next term to get that feedback.

My sincere thanks go to all the parents and guardians for all their support of learning that has had to happen at home. I know that for many of you this particular challenge is one that does not bring great joy. I hope that once the vaccination programme gets going, we will be able to start getting everyone back to school full time. We would certainly appreciate having more access to your children.

To all parents and guardians who have diligently paid their school fees this term, I am grateful to you. We have managed to meet our financial demands in the first six months of this year despite the dire economic challenges that we are all facing with our personal finances. Please know that your sacrifice for your children may not yet be appreciated by them, but I do appreciate it.

I would like to put the 'One cup water challenge' to all the members of the Alex Family. We are facing a dire water crisis and if we take up the challenge, we can make a difference. There is no need to wait for 26 July; let us all start saving water from today.



Join us for the
One Cup Water Challenge

We can change the future of water
by how much we use every day.

Join *Visional Choice* in the
**One Cup
Water Challenge**
26 – 30 July 2021

Step 1: Only use one cup of water to brush your teeth, rinse your mouth and wash the handbasin afterwards. Take a selfie and share your experience with your friends.

Step 2: Tell us about a water initiative at your school. Find us on  or email visionalchoice@gmail.com

Visional Choice
Publishing, Catering, The Classic Cross.
Uniting schools in water conservation initiatives.


While it seems a weird time for this, international exchanges undertaken at school level make a massive difference to the person on the exchange and to the community they come from. Youth for Understanding is a non-profit organisation who works in this area. They are looking for pupils who might be interested in going on an exchange and for families who are willing to host an exchange student. If anyone is interested in finding out more about either scenario, please visit their [website](#).

We are looking for your support in maintaining our textbooks. You will all remember paying a book deposit fee when you were first offered a place at Alex. That money is spent on textbooks every year. We would like to keep our textbooks in good condition to increase their lifespan. Please could you conduct a textbook inspection on your child's allocated textbooks. If you find any textbooks that are not covered in contact plastic, please could you arrange for them to be covered. If you need supplies, just send your child to Ms Felix who will gladly supply them.

We need to spend every cent we have as efficiently as possible. Replacing of damaged textbooks every year is not a particularly effective use of the valuable resources we have. If we can work together to keep the books looking good, then we can spend the replacement funds on something more productive.

To all the Alex pupils who read this newsletter, please wash some dishes, and clean the house at least once in the holiday. It will do you and your family the world of good. Thank you for your contributions to the successes of this term!

Stay safe this holiday.

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

Matthew Ridgway
Principal