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Dear Alex Family Members

A week for the dark side

With the death of Alexei Navalny last Friday, the fight against tyranny was set back. Mr Navalny was an opposition leader in Russia. He was not afraid to call out Mr Putin for his decisions that ran rough shod across the human rights of Russian citizens. After having been poisoned with a Russian toxin known as novichok, Mr Navalny was airlifted to Germany where he survived the poisoning even though it left him with permanent injuries. Once up and about again, Mr Navalny returned to Russia, knowing full well that he faced arrest and brutal conditions in a Russian prison.

Mr Navalny faced his tormentor without backing down. He died in Russian State custody, defiant to the end. It may seem that Mr Putin has finally silenced all his political opposition. Some Russians ventured out to place flowers at significant Russian memorials to pay tribute to Mr Navalny. Many of them were arrested and brutalised. It is a dark week for democracy when a leader of a country can so obviously and savagely mistreat his citizens and have the rest of the world too preoccupied or too afraid to challenge such behavior.

My ardent hope is that for our elections in May this year, enough people will make the effort to cast their vote for any leader who stands firmly against injustice. We owe it to ourselves and our children to stand shoulder to shoulder on this issue.

Tragedy struck yesterday when a bus carrying waterpolo players from a local school was involved in an accident on the way to Knysna. One pupil was listed as being in critical condition last night. Our thoughts and prayers are with the school community as they grapple with the impact of the accident.

We all pray for traveling mercies as both our boys' and girls' waterpolo teams are traveling this weekend.

Test week

We begin our term 1 test week on Monday. We have normal school from 07H45 until 13H10 and then an hour long test. Please note that these tests are not exams. In some subjects, the timetable does not allow us to test everyone at the same time. Test week is the only opportunity that we have to conduct a standardised test. There may also be

another class test on any day in test week. We are allowed to have two tests on any one day. The test written in the test week slot is not more important than any other test. Please do not allow stress levels to rise without reason.

Please be aware that we will not have a late start on Tuesday. Registration on Tuesday will be at 07H45. Anyone who is late will be issued with two late defaults.

Please find the email from Mr Mitchell that contains the detail of what tests are being written on each day. If your child is not writing a test in the test lesson, they may leave school at 13H10, with your permission. If they must remain at school, there is place to relax and a place to study.

All sport will continue as normal. No permission will be given to miss a practice or a match in order to prepare for a test.

Games Evening

The STUDS and Parents Club are hosting a family games evening on 12 March. You are invited to bring your children and enjoy a fun and relaxing evening with us. More information will follow next week, but please diarise this event.

The Parents Club will be selling supper and snacks and are looking for parents who are willing to help serve on the evening.

If you are able to help for an hour, please fill in the form by using the following link <https://forms.office.com/r/hRL5b2gYbG>, or email Mrs McVitty Brown (mcvittybrown.jucintha@arhs.co.za).

Congratulations

We are very proud of Mija Kliment who was chosen as the goalie for the senior ladies indoor hockey team traveling to Cape Town this weekend.

Caiden Adams has been chosen for the U21 women's team participating next weekend in East London.

Cassidy Perring is off to Pretoria tomorrow to participate in the National Judo tournament this weekend.

We wish Mija, Caiden and Cassidy all the best and safe travels.

SGB Elections

Please remember that we need nominations for anyone who is willing to stand for SGB elections.

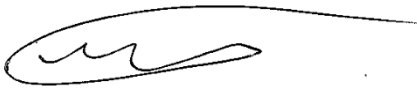
The elections have been called for 6 March and we need all the nominations submitted by 29 February. I have received six nominations so far. My thanks to those who have already put their hands up to serve this community. Please let me know if you have any

questions about the work of an SGB member. I will happily answer. We need to have a fully constituted SGB in order to function this year. Your community needs you! Please follow [this link](#) to get the nomination form.

Please remember our used cooking oil collection and our table of sharing.

Stay safe and stay sane this week.

Regards

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

Matthew Ridgway
Principal