



Alexander Road High School

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Dear Alex Family Members

The delay in the start of Term 1

A very warm welcome to all the new members of our Alex community. We hope that your journey with us will be a long and fulfilling one.

We are all deeply saddened by the loss of several members of our family over the December break, Mr Charles Owen, teacher and mentor to many, husband to 'Aunty Monty' in the Heart, passed away in December.

Zikhona Zweni and Dr Zamian Theunissen, both past pupils, were also lost to us over the break.

Several parents of current pupils have passed away as well.

We were all saddened to hear about the passing of our Provincial Superintendent General of Education, Mr Kojana last week. He was a formidable leader who was doing incredible work.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of these people as they grieve and cope with life after their loss.

Many of you will no doubt have heard the news that the start of the first term of 2021 has been delayed until 15 February.

We have made the following changes to the start of term:
Grade 8 orientation will be on Friday 12 February from 10H00 until 12H30.
New pupils in other grades from 13H00 until 14H00

All the new pupils have been divided into groups. You will either be in the blue group or the green group. You will be notified as to which group you are in, next week.

On Monday 15 February everyone in the blue group should report to school. Grade assemblies will start at 07H45 in the following venues:

Grade 8s - Concrete stands nearest the Heart.

Grade 9s – Hockey field

Grade 10s – Far side stands of the rugby field.

Grade 11s – Swimming pool side of the rugby field

Grade 12s - Hall

The day will end at 14H15

On Tuesday 16 February everyone in the green group should report to school for grade assemblies in the same venues. School will end at 14H15.

A list of academic days will be circulated next week.

I mentioned in my end of year newsletter that we would return to school this year in normal school uniform. I have reversed that decision and I will allow civvies to be worn during Term 1. The motivation behind this decision is to allow everyone to wear clean clothing every day. Not everyone has enough uniform to allow this protocol. Please remember that the normal Code of Conduct rules still apply to hair and jewellery.

We currently do not have a new directive on sport for 2021. The current protocol allows for sports practice but no contact. As such, we will start a fitness and conditioning programme this term. We have withdrawn from sports tournaments during Term 1. We are not going to participate in any inter-school competition until we have a clear directive in this regard. We do, however, place high value on the health and fitness of our pupils.

Non-sporting extra murals will start up again this term as they become practical to engage in.

We have several First Aid courses, subsidised by the school. The details are below:

Levels 1 and 2:

4 sessions, exam on the last day, cost R350 per person.

Group 1: 13,20,27 Feb and 6 March

Group 2: 27, 27 Feb and 6,7 March

Levels 2 and 3:

5 sessions, exam on the last day, cost R350 per person.

13,20,27 Feb and 6,7 March

If you are interested, please check that you are available on all the dates of the course, follow the link below to indicate your interest:

<http://bit.ly/2LD1YIz>

Please rest assured that we have all the required protocols in place for the start of school. Everyone will continue to be screened as they enter the campus. Anyone who fails the screening will be sent to quarantine and you will be contacted to fetch them.

We will continue to observe the one-way corridor system. Hands will be sanitised on entry to every venue. Desks will be sanitised at the start of every lesson. Distancing will be monitored between lessons and at breaks. Masks must be worn at all times. Additional distancing is required when masks are removed for eating and drinking. Several sessions of protocol training have been built into our start of term programme.

We managed to keep the campus a safe place last year. This was only possible because parents and guardians were vigilant about our protocols and they did not send anyone to school if they were feeling ill. I implore you all again to adhere strictly to the rules in order to keep everyone on campus safe.

Please could you be vigilant about reporting Covid positive tests in your family. It is essential for me to be able to report on current cases and to monitor return dates.

We will be supporting those who prefer to have their children work from home to do so again this year. If you would prefer this approach, please wait until the term starts and then contact your child's register teacher to inform them of your decision.

Please remember that if you choose to work from home, you must ensure that all the supporting infrastructure is in place to allow learning to continue. We will make use of the www.arhs.vip site extensively this year to post work and collect submissions.

Everyone will be attending classes only every second day. The day between class attendance is **not** a holiday. It is essential that you monitor and encourage your child to complete the assigned work on non-attendance days. We still have a body of work to complete and we have some catching up to do from last year. Some pupils found it very difficult to work on their own and they need additional support from their family to keep them going.

If we work together for the good of our children, we can make 2021 a productive year.

Please keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

Regards



Matthew Ridgway
Principal