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Dear Alex Family Members

The Matric Events of 2021

I have had several enquiries relating to the Matric Dance, and I would like to give everyone a status update, as it were on the event.

If the Matric Dance were this weekend, it would be illegal for us to host it and, as such, it would not take place. We cannot predict how the current wave of the pandemic will progress; as a result, it is difficult to anticipate our level of lockdown and your level of comfort with such an event.

We would very much like to host the event this year. It was exceedingly difficult last year when we had to cancel. Here are a few scenarios and their potential consequences, just to give you some idea of how we are thinking.

If we are still on Level 2 or 3 lockdown at the start of August with no prospect of the level being adjusted downwards, we will postpone the Matric Dance to Saturday 23 October, two weeks after the start of Term 4.

If we are still in Level 2 or 3 lockdown at the start of Term 4, we will cancel the dance for 2021 and refund the money paid for the tickets.

There have been some suggestions that we move the event outdoors. We just cannot rely on the weather enough to plan an event of this magnitude for outdoors.

Our annual 40 days celebrations will take place on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 October. The Valedictory and the Matric Celebration of Excellence will take place on Friday 15 October. The Celebration of Excellence will start at 09H00 and the Valedictory assembly will start at 11H00.

Some other important assemblies that we still have planned include the summer sports awards assembly on 30 July and the combined winter sports awards and cultural awards assembly on Friday 1 October. Only the prize winners will be in the hall and parents will need to join the live stream. We will send you the link a little closer to the day.

On a more academic note, the trial exams will start on 30 August and end on 23 September with the final exams starting on 1 November and ending on 7 December.

All these events are subject to Covid-19 protocols and will only be staged if they are safe and legal.

We will not expect your children to return to class after the start of the trial exams. Their teachers will be available to support them in their studies in the time slots that are allocated to their lessons and by prior arrangement in the lead-up to the final exams.

After the Valedictory service they may attend exams in civvies but please remind them to carry themselves with dignity during the exam session.

I hope this has given you a little insight into our plans for the next six months. Please let me know if there are any questions.

Regards

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

Matthew Ridgway
Principal