



Alexander Road High School

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South Africa

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Dear Matric Parents and Guardians

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Update on the last few weeks of Grade 12

I am sure that you are still a little shocked by the sudden arrival of your children in the last stretch of Grade 12. It seems not very long ago that they were still so young and small. I feel it important to focus your attention on the details as we approach the end of the year.

Most of the exams end on 23 September. There are still a few on Monday 27 September but we expect everyone back in class from Monday 27th. They will be allowed to dress in their pyjamas on Monday. They can dress as their favourite activity type on Tuesday. We will have normal timetabled classes and there is plenty of work that must be done in that week.

On Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 September we will have our traditional 40 days' celebration. We will continue with all lessons, but they may come to school in their most creative outfits. We will have a little parade at the end of each day to allow the rest of the school to see their efforts. The photographer will only be at school on Thursday 30 September to capture an official record of the day.

On Friday 1 October at 08H00 we will have our final Matric assembly. We would like all the Matrics to be in the hall. There are a number of formalities that will take place. <https://youtu.be/OF5ngAMHuTc>

From 08H30 we will start the rehearsal for the awards assembly. I will publish the list of awards winners next week. We need all the award winners as well as the house captains in the Winter Sports and Cultural Awards assembly. We would normally hold a separate assembly as the final House Assembly of the year, but we are combining it with the awards assembly this year.

The awards assembly will start at 09H30. <https://youtu.be/pkX6bGPAUSc>

Looking into the start of Term 4, we start school again on Monday 11 October but we do not expect Matrics to attend class. If they would like to see their teachers, they should make an appointment and come in wearing full school uniform to see them at the time agreed upon.

The Celebration of Excellence for Grade 12s will be on Friday 15 October from 09H00. The award winners must be at school from 08H00 in order to participate in the rehearsal. We will invite one adult per Matric to join us on the field for the celebration.

Other supporting family members will need to join us via our live feed on YouTube. We are only allowed 500 people and we already have 234 Grade 12s.

The Valedictory assembly will also take place on 15 October. We will start at 11H00 and again we need to ask that each Matric is accompanied by only one adult.

The Matric Dance will take place on Saturday 23 October. We are so pleased that we will be able to host the event this year but we cannot stick to our normal hours of 18H00 to 00H00 because the curfew is in place at 23H00. We will run the event from 16H00 until 21H00. We still need to pack up and get our staff home by 23H00. This will have an impact on the atmosphere but once everyone is in I am sure they will have a great time.

We fully understand that there are likely to be after parties in various locations. I must appeal to everyone involved in organising these events that the transport arrangements are very carefully planned in advance and that they do not fall foul of the Disaster Management Act.

I have been at two different schools where a Grade 12 pupil was killed as a result of too much alcohol and the use of vehicles. Please make sure that you know how your child is getting to where they need to go and who is driving. We do not want to have to bear that pain just because we were not careful enough in checking the details. Our Matrics are excited and might be inclined to cut corners in planning or might change plans during the evening.

The first set of exams will be written on 19 and 20 October, with the main body of the exams starting from Wednesday 27 October. The final timetable is [here](https://bit.ly/3khTd59). (<https://bit.ly/3khTd59>)

We do not expect our Matrics to be in uniform to write the finals. They can be in their most comfortable gear.

We are expecting results to be announced in January. The exact date will be published later. If you are keen to register for a remark, recheck or a rewrite of some papers, please can you do that through the school? There is the option to work directly through the District Office. We find it better to follow up if we have your original applications.

We wish our Matrics every success in their exams and we wish you the best as you manage them through this challenge.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards



Matthew Ridgway
Principal

