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Dear Alex Family Members

Could it really be Summer?

My garden seems to think that it is summer, there are plenty of new flowers and lots of new growth. The weather does not seem to have received the memo. It feels a bit like it did in July. We have had some spectacular wind, my mind goes to the wind turbines, I love the idea of electricity being made from wind. Luckily my hair is short, but I do sympathise with anyone who is not almost bald when the wind does its craziness.

We had a fantastic presentation from KPMG on cybersecurity today. I know that not everyone felt that the warnings and advice applied to them. We need to be the adults in the lives of our children. The digital lives that they lead is often lived in secret even though it happens at the dinner table and in the car on the way to and from places. The dangers are not as obvious as they once were. Criminals and exponentially improving technology have made their efforts more effective and stealthy than ever before.

Please check on your child's phone. Look at their contacts on social media. Foster an open and healthy relationship between your child and their phone. Keeping of secrets empowers abuse. There is definitely a place in the world for privacy, especially as they grow. Privacy must be balanced with trust. Trust is earned through sensible choices and an openness to engage with the real dangers that lurk.

Please check that your child has access to their exam timetable and the scope of work to be covered in each exam. If they cannot tell you what they need to learn then they cannot adequately prepare.

Please could you make sure that all the textbooks are accounted for. Once the last exam is written in each subject the book must be returned. By the 5th of December, there should not be any textbooks in your child's room, especially under the bed.

Please make sure that there is a quiet place for studying to take place. Please check that healthy food is the norm and not the exception. Please remember the Covid-19 protocol for exams. If your child shows any symptoms, they may not come to school. We only have the facilities to host the Grade 12s who are symptomatic, or in

quarantine. No other grades can be accommodated. If there are any symptoms, then please let us know first thing in the morning so that we know not to expect them.

We have an exciting project starting early next year. Generally used cooking oil is sent to landfill, where it can be very damaging and tends to linger for exceeding long periods of time. A significantly better way to dispose of used cooking oil is to use a fairly simple chemical reaction to create biodiesel and glycerine. The Biodiesel can then be used to run our mowing equipment and the glycerine can be used as an input for industrial processes. The service provider will pay the school R3 per litre and will conduct the conversion process and supply the biodiesel. Please keep an eye out for the start of the project. We will send all the details as soon as the systems are in place to receive the oil.

Please have a good voting day weekend. We might be standing in a queue in the wind or rain on Monday but we must appreciate the opportunity to vote, and the rain on our heads, because we need it, and the wind because it is making electricity to help offset load shedding.

Please look after yourself and those you love this long weekend.

Regards

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

Matthew Ridgway
Principal