



Alexander Road High School

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26 November 2021

Dear Alex Family Members

The Black Friday Newsletter

If you have your heart set on a new piece of technology and you have been waiting for Black Friday to see what the retailers can do for you, I can understand your excitement. If you have forgotten that it is Black Friday today and need to top up your groceries, please brace yourself for a little madness.

All parents and guardians of Grade 8s, please take note of the change in the start time for the Natural Science exam on Tuesday next week. It is marked on the timetable as starting at 10H30 but there is no exam before it and the venues are available. Please have your Grade 8s at school by 08H00 for an 08H30 start of that one-and-a-half-hour exam.

As we approach the end of the exam session, some groups will write their last exam for the year. Once the last exam is written we do not require any pupils to attend school again after that. We will be sending out the reports from 10 December. A reminder to all parents and guardians of Grade 11s: the last opportunity for a single subject change is between 10 and 15 December. If you request a subject change after that, we will not be able to help you. Please have a hard look and a good think about what will best suit you for Matric. Current Grade 9s and 10s will be able to change subjects in January and later if the need arises. This deadline only applies to current Grade 11s going into Grade 12 in 2022.

We will be sending to all the families of pupils who are taking Maths in 2022, the raw exam result from these exams as soon as they are ready. This is not the report mark. The report mark will be weighted 60 per cent with marks from the year's work and 40 per cent exam mark. The reason we send this exam mark out is that we need you to have a realistic view of the achievement level of your child in an exam. This will help you to make the right choice between Maths and Maths Literacy in 2022. Once you get the raw exam result, if you have any questions, please contact us to discuss the situation.

Please remember to support our textbook retrieval efforts. The books are arriving back in numbers, so please keep them rolling in. If we can get 100 per cent of them back in good condition, then we can avoid spending any money on topping up the stock for 2022.

You will no doubt have noticed the alarming increase in the number of new infections of Covid-19 in South Africa and in Europe. The inclusion of the antibody test in the reported results of new cases has had a large impact. We now have a much clearer view of the situation. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we will conduct a survey

in January to take the temperature of our community as it relates to perspectives on a return to everyday attendance for the junior grades in 2022.

Much can change in six weeks, so we need to know how you feel when we are getting ready to start 2022. Please look out for the survey; it will arrive as an SMS link and an email early in January.

The SGB will then consider the results of the survey and can make the right decision for us all.

We are very proud of Julia Cohen who was chosen for the EP u19A water polo team and Jamie Coetzee who was picked as a reserve for the EP u14A water polo team. All the hard work has paid off. We wish them all the best at the inter-provincial tournament.

I was lucky enough to have a sneak preview of the 2021 version of the Alexan. Your copy will be on its way home to you via your child. I am very grateful to the editorial team who have put many, many hours into collecting all the content and massaging it into a shape that is so easy and enjoyable to access. The richness of content is an indication that, in spite of the adverse conditions at certain times this year, we have managed to get quite a lot done. Well done to the whole Alex Family for that.

Enjoy the moment, if you get your Black Friday deal. Enjoy the peace, if you avoid shops this weekend. Please keep yourself and those you love safe this week.

Fond regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Ridgway', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Matthew Ridgway
Principal