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Dear Alex Family Members

The end of the beginning newsletter

It has been a bit of whirlwind week at school. We have all forgotten what it was like at the start of 2020 when we had everyone on campus at the same time. I am sure that you all felt frustrated at the traffic build-up. I will discuss the traffic a few paragraphs below.

Your children brought home a school fee letter that we need to have signed and returned to school. This is an acknowledgement that you are aware of the school fees for the year and of your liability for the payment of them. Everyone must sign and return these, so please ensure that you find it in the bottom of their bag and make sure that it gets back to us.

Our 2021 Matric results arrived today. We are very proud of our pupils who have excelled in so many ways. Our biggest measure of the success of the year group is those pupils who could barely speak any English in Grade 8 and have come to flourish at Alex. Others have struggled for 5 years and have reached their goals. These are numbers lost in the data but stories that are life changing. I must salute the class of 2021, the staff team, and the Matric parents who have supported them right through their Alex Journey.

As you are aware, we are holding our annual Inter-House Athletics day on Monday at the Westbourne Oval. Please get your children there before 07H30 because they need to be seated by 07H45. The traffic in that part of the city is likely to be worse than in Alexander Road on a weekday. Please send along hats and sunscreen. They should wear their house shirts but if they do not have one, then a plain matching colour shirt or variform will do. We will end by 14H00, so please don't arrange to fetch them earlier than that.

We cannot accommodate any visitors, but we will be recording the opening displays and posting them online for general viewing. Please accept my apology for this restriction. My heartfelt hope is that we can all be together for next year's athletics day.

Please encourage your children to leave their valuables at home. We will have the facility at the Oval for them to phone you if they need to. If they must bring valuables, ask them to leave them with a staff member while they are competing and not in a bag.

There will be tuck shop facilities during the day. If we face a weather crisis, I will contact you all early on Monday morning with the new arrangements. I anticipate that it will be very hot and humid. Lots of water at regular intervals is highly recommended to prevent heat stroke.

Our road is very narrow and there are lots of little people who don't think about the danger posed by cars; they cross the road without looking and push and prod each other off the pavement. I must urge you all to drive very slowly and cautiously in Alexander Road at all times. We have a drop-and-go system that operates in the morning. If you drive in an easterly direction, the whole area from the last vehicle gate up to the school vehicle garages is a drop-and-go lane. Please don't angle park in it; you will block the flow. The same applies as you drive in a westerly direction. The area from after the finance brokers up to the Drama pedestrian gate is a drop-and-go lane, so please don't angle park along there in the morning. We need to do everything in our power to keep the flow going.

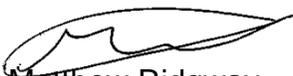
Please do not stop in the road to wait for your child at any time. Not only is this illegal, but you may have cars behind you that have already collected a child and would like to go. Please make very sure that you are polite and patient with each other, especially at high traffic time. We don't want our kids to see us at our worst.

We did not manage to complete the photos today so we will need to allocate another day when the photographer is available. We were trying very hard to keep all the disruptions to this week. If there are still issues with textbooks, please send your child to Ms Felix in GM04 to solve them. Lockers have been allocated, so if your child has a locker, please send the payment with them to TM04 at any break and Ms Labuschagne will complete the process. They will need a lock to secure it from the time that they have paid.

I wish you all the very best for 2022. I hope your dreams come true and that you reach for the stars and grab them.

Please keep yourself and everyone you love safe this week.

Regards



Matthew Ridgway
Principal