



Alexander Road High School

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Dear Alex Family Members

The winter season arrives in style

The delight of being able to have our full range of activities has filled my soul this week. We have a full range of sport, music and debating on this weekend. Alex has not been active like this since March 2020, and it is a fantastic buzz when everyone is preparing for a busy weekend like this one.

We would love to have you come to support us. We have an U14 festival here at school; our netball and the first rugby team is playing in the Despatch festival. Our hockey teams are all over the city. There is a music concert tonight and tomorrow night. We are debating in East London. Some of our musicians are playing at Grey on Sunday afternoon. Our junior hockey team is in Grahamstown on Sunday morning. Your support of our pupils is very much appreciated.

You will have seen my letter this week relating to dress and the Code of Conduct. We are moving towards enforcing the Code of Conduct more strictly. We will conduct an inspection today and grace periods will be in place to address certain issues. It is a little painful to move towards better adherence to the Code of Conduct, but we will all be much happier when we have our dress standards working better.

The new batch of blazers have arrived at the school shop. If you are still in need of one, please pay them a visit. They cost R580 each.

We will be holding our annual summer sport awards assembly on Thursday 17 January at 07H55. Parents and guardians will be welcome to join us in person or via the YouTube link (<https://youtu.be/IVxfVh5Qwz8>) The award winners are here (<https://bit.ly/3t2wqPh>)

We are part of a national programme to conduct a systemic evaluation of education in South Africa. Some Grade 9s will be called out of class to be assessed for the evaluation. Please don't be alarmed if they come home and report that they wrote a Maths and English test on Tuesday for which they did not get a chance to learn. The pupils are chosen by the evaluators and not by the school. We are being evaluated as a school; the pupil involved is not. Please calm anyone down who feels upset.

With just two weeks left of Term 1, I need to draw your attention to the first weekend of next term. On Saturday 9 April we will be travelling to York High for our derby against them. This means a 03H30 departure in the morning. We will only be finalising teams

in the first week of the term. Most pupils in our winter sports teams will be going. We are just confirming the number of teams that York High has to match us. It might seem onerous to have to get up so early to make this trip, but there is a lot of excitement in playing so far away from home and participating in the day is an especially important part of the Alex experience. I appreciate your support of us in this way.

Grade 8 parents are invited to a meet-the-teacher evening on Thursday 7 April. This will be a chance to chat with your child's teachers and to plan interventions that we may need in time for the exams in June. Other grades will be accommodated on 20 and 21 July. Please do not hesitate to contact any teacher you need to before that by visiting our Teams page at www.arhs.co.za/teams

On 25 March we do not have an academic day planned. No pupils will be required at school. We will have our final assembly at 08H00 via this link:
<https://youtu.be/FCG9ii-X13o>

Once the assembly is over, I will start the sending of Term 1 reports. Please be patient. It takes us a few hours to complete the report sending. If you would like a hard copy of the report, then please pop into reception at any time from 5 April. I can also email you the report. If you have not had it by 14H00 on 25 March just let me know that you still need it.

The usual reminders about:

- the used cooking oil collection
- the table of sharing
- the drop-and-go system in the morning
- not to do a U-turn in Alexander Road at peak times

Most importantly, to find a moment to spend quality time with your children; they need it; you need it. trust me!

Please keep yourself and those you love safe this week

Yours sincerely



Matthew Ridgway
Principal