



Alexander Road High School

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Newton Park
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South Africa

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Dear Alex Family Members

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Term 2 and autumn are here with a bang

After a late and long summer and a jam-packed Term 1 we have the first nibbles of the season change at our extremities in the morning and a very exciting start to Term 2.

I hope that your children did some dishes for you and cleaned the house at least once last week. Perhaps getting them to clean their room was all you could expect. We had a wonderful meeting with Grade 8 parents last night. It was so good to be able to welcome the parent body onto the campus again and to greet each other in person.

If you have any concerns or questions about your child's progress in Term 1, please don't hesitate to email the teacher concerned from our Teams page at www.arhs.co.za/teams

I will see many of you early tomorrow as you drop off everyone who is travelling to George. Please don't feel that you need to get out of your pajamas to drop them off. We would like to leave at 03H30, so do what you can to get them here promptly. Please accept my apologies for the early start to your Saturday. We have fantastic fixtures against York High. The experience of a big away fixture has a positive effect on team spirit. Your sacrifice is not in vain and is much appreciated.

I am sure that you are all aware of the increasing security risk in our town. The increase in unemployment and steadily rising food prices have had a significant impact on crime, which had already been on the increase since the start of the pandemic. While I don't want us to live in a state of perpetual fear, there are important things that we can do to help mitigate the risk. Newton Park is not immune to increased activity. The area around the school has been affected several times over the past year by incidents involving members of the Alex Family. If your children need to walk from school, please impress upon them the need to hide cell phones, not to wear earphones and to be alert. Walking in groups as far as possible also helps to deter criminals.

If you are waiting in your car for fetch someone, please remain alert; don't sit with your windows open or allow yourself to be distracted by your phone. I know this is easier when it is cooler. Most of the incidents seem to be opportunistic and not well planned. Let's reduce the opportunities for them to act.

Please conduct regular searches of your child's bags and pockets. There is a concerted effort by some people to target schools for the sale of drugs and to recruit school children for use as drug mules to carry and sell drugs in school. We follow up when we are aware of incidents and we need your vigilance to keep the threat at bay. Any significant change in the behaviour of your child needs to be a matter of concern.

It could easily be related to anxiety or depression but it could just as easily be experimenting with drugs. Keep effective lines of communication open with your children so that they have a safe place to share when things have gone wrong. Just as sexual predators groom children to facilitate their own abuse, these people have stealthy ways of coercing children to do their bidding and to keep it a secret from friends and family.

Our children don't always appreciate our vigilance, but they need us to stand guard against the forces that seem to prevail if left unchecked.

On a much more positive note, congratulations to Daniel Nash, who was chosen for the EP A-team for Biathlon. He is ranked 5th in the U17 age group; impressive, considering that he is only 14. Daniel's times for his run and swim are at national competition level. We are very proud of him and wish him every success as the season continues.

Kacy Rogers was chosen for the Eastern Cape Children's choir. Congratulations to Kacy from all of us.

We announced the opportunity to apply for a bursary to attend coding and robotics courses with CodeABot a few weeks ago. Congratulations to the following Alexans who were awarded the opportunity:

- 🎓 Lisa Gerber
- 🎓 Tyler Griffith
- 🎓 Hlumokuhle Bululu
- 🎓 Storm Geldenhuys
- 🎓 Thimnathi Dlula
- 🎓 Fallon Fillis
- 🎓 Mayuran Pillay
- 🎓 Cayleb Naidoo

We hope you enjoy the opportunity and gather valuable skills along the way. A big thank you to CodeABot for including Alex in the contest.

Please avoid paying money intended for purchases at the school shop into the Alex school account. The shop is a separate entity and has a separate bank account. Sometimes people forget to change the reference on the deposit, so it ends up in the school fee account. Please communicate with the ladies in the shop, get an invoice, and then settle the invoice with the account number and reference on the invoice.

I put out a call a few weeks ago about getting the Parent's Club running this year. If you are interested in participating, please join us on Tuesday 12 April at Cordingley House at 17H00 for the planning meeting for events this year.

Please keep the donations for the Table of Sharing rolling in. Also, don't forget to send us your used cooking oil.

Yours sincerely


Matthew Ridgway
Principal