



# Alexander Road High School

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Dear Alex Family Members

## End of Term 2 2022

Phew! What a term. We have had some very moist Saturdays on the sports fields with some fantastic results to show for it, an excellent musical production, a full set of exams, and now a change in pace.

As fantastic as it is to be able to be back in full swing, we can definitely see the impact of the last two years on our academic data. The work ethic is not where it needs to be. Senior teachers have noted that much of the foundational work is not in place for many pupils and this is having an impact on their ability to build new skills and knowledge. We will be implementing some strategies in order to address some of these global issues. We are confident that, with the extra time and energy invested in an efficient manner, we will get everyone where we need them to be in good time.

We will welcome Ms Mandy Loubser to the Alex family next term. She comes to us from Kingswood College in Makanda and joins our Afrikaans department. We look forward to her contribution to this dynamic and highly productive team. Our sincere thanks to Ms van der Walt for stepping into the void after the departure of Ms Smit in term 1.

We wish our sports teams well who are participating in the Westering sports festival this weekend. We also send our best wishes to the 1<sup>st</sup> boys' soccer team who are participating in a tournament in East London this weekend.

We are engrossed in the planning for Term 3 and would like to draw your attention to the weekend of Friday 26 and Saturday 27 August when we celebrate our Founders' weekend. On Friday we have a very special assembly with visiting old Alexans who are celebrating their reunions. We have a special programme for the pupils during the day and a games night on the evening of 26 August. (More details to follow). Saturday 27 August is Family Day. If you are new to Alex, since 2019, this is something to look forward to. We have inter-class soccer, lots of food, and there will be heaps of fun. On

Saturday evening, you should bring your dancing shoes as the staff present a pop and rock evening. Expect music from the 70s, 80s, 90s and noughties, performed by some of our most talented staff. (Not all of us are talented at singing). Tickets are R60; seating will be at tables of 8; you can bring your own picnic baskets and drinks, but a limited bar will also be available. Booking opens at the start of Term 3, so don't delay.

Please remember that we will host our parent-teacher meetings on Wednesday 20 July for pupils with surnames starting with A to M. Everyone else will be accommodated on Thursday 21 July. We will start both evenings at 17H00 and end at 19H30. Please keep your discussions short as we have many people to see and do not want anyone to leave without having seen everyone they came to meet. The invitation to have a longer and more detailed conversation is always open. Please contact the teacher via our Teams page at [www.arhs.co.za/teams](http://www.arhs.co.za/teams)



The mask mandate has been lifted and your face is free to smile again indoors. While it is no longer compulsory to wear a mask inside, we will not insist that everyone should take their mask off, at first. I know that coming out from behind your mask can be a scary prospect and may take some time. Please take note of the implications for those pupils who have hidden nose piercings and unacceptable facial hair growth behind their masks. We will not hesitate to sanction those who are in contravention of the Code of Conduct.

I have encouraged your children to wash some dishes this holiday, so please expect to get at least one night off during the next three weeks, but hopefully more.

Please keep yourself and those you love safe this holiday.

Yours in education

  
Matthew Ridgway  
Principal