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17 October 2025

Dear Alex Family Members
Start the Term with a Bang

We seldom start a term on a Monday, this term was the exception. I enjoyed the company of those of you who attended our Cultural Awards Assembly on Tuesday. It was a delight to host the first ever Service Awards Assembly on Wednesday. We heard from Ms Ricky Woods, who was our guest speaker and recognised the many Alexans who thrive out of the spotlight, doing the important but often taken for granted work that needs to be done in any organisation. My thanks to the parents who were able to join us for both of those assemblies. They made a wonderful start to the term.

Today we said farewell to our Grade 12s at their Valedictory Assembly. It was lovely to see over 300 parents and guardians join us for the occasion. We wish our Matrics all the very best as they begin their exams next week.

Exams Preparations

We have published the exam timetable. Please check to see that your child has one. The front page has an empty table that is intended for them to extract their personal timetable from the whole document. Detailing the start time of each exam. Please could I ask that you check the front page once they have completed it. Please make sure that they have not missed an exam. Check the start time for each paper to ensure that the detail is correct.

All of them should be in possession of a scope for each subject that details the exact topics that are to be covered in each question paper. Please also ensure that your child has one for every subject. There have been a lot of absentees lately and it is possible that on the day the scope was handed out that your child was away from school.

They need to have the scope and the exam timetable to ensure that their exam revision schedule can be constructed and followed. Grade 8s and 9s may still be getting homework in some subject, which should be taking up to 90 minutes per evening. There should be at least another 90 minutes of revision on at least 4 days per week and possible one session over the weekend.

From the 27th of November all classes will stop and they will have time in the day to add revision time. Please supervise the structure of this time. If they don't have a plan they will easily waste a whole day by dithering.

For seniors, there should be between two and four hours per week day of homework and / or revision and at least another four to five hours over the weekend.

These are just guidelines some people need more time and some need less. I am confident that you can tell that is required.

Pulling Strings – A Night of Musical Connection

On Wednesday 1 October, the Jeff Ilesley Auditorium was filled with the rich sounds of strings as students from across the department came together for Pulling Strings—an evening of solos, duets, trios, and quartets spanning a wide range of genres.

The concert, organised by Mr Green and Dr Meyer, was a celebration of teamwork and growing independence, as students took charge of rehearsals and preparation in the lead-up to the event. They performed to a full house of supportive family and friends, with extra chairs added as the audience grew. It was especially encouraging to see fellow strings teachers from Port Elizabeth in attendance, adding to the sense of community and shared purpose.

The relaxed atmosphere was made even better with cupcakes and coffee during the interval, and thoughtful quotes from famous composers read between performances gave the night a reflective touch. Younger players left feeling inspired by their more experienced peers, and the event as a whole was a heartwarming success—leaving everyone excited for what's to come.



Big band

On Monday, the Big Band travelled to Knysna to perform at Amble Ridge Village. The proceeds from their concert were donated to Thand'usana Babies Safe Home, a Gqeberha non-profit organisation caring for abandoned, abused and neglected infants



Spring Concert

Please book next Saturday evening for our annual Spring concert. You will get to see all our ensembles putting their best performances of the year on display. The proceeds of the concert are going to the honorary rangers who do such excellent work in protecting our natural wonders.

Celebrations of Excellence

A reminder about our annual Celebrations of Excellence on Monday. If your child is in Grade 8 or 9, they need to be at school at normal time (07H45). The event will be over by 10H00 and they will be allowed to go home. Anyone in Grade 10,11 or 12 should be at school by 11H00. They will be able to go home by 14H15.

All parents and guardians are invited to both the Junior Celebration of Excellence, starting at 08H30 and the Senior Celebration of Excellence, starting at 12H00.

There are no academic lessons on Monday next week in order to accommodate these two very important events. It is an official school day and thus we expect full attendance.

Please do not assume that the academic work for the term is over because the Matrics are no longer in class. We still have valuable work to cover in all classes until the last lesson on Friday next week. Please do send your child to school every day next week unless they are dreadfully ill.

On Tuesday 21 October there will be a 08H20 start in order to accommodate staff training. The rest of the week will proceed as normal.

Please look after yourself and those you love this week

Yours in education,


Matthew Ridgway
Principal



**SPRING
CONCERT**

ALEX MUSIC DEPARTMENT

25 October 2025
Percy Walker Hall
6pm

Choir
Strings
Big Band
Wind Band
Concert Band
Contemporary Band

Tickets @ R50 on Quicket
Limited tickets at the door




A FUNDRAISER FOR THE SANPARKS
HONOURARY RANGERS

