



# Alexander Road High School

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Dear Alex Family Members

## **The Final Newsletter in Our 70<sup>th</sup> Year**

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of the first week of December. The year has all but disappeared into history, leaving us reeling in its wake. So much has happened this year that it is hard to make sense of it all. I trust that you have all seen the report for your child for 2025. There is definitely cause for celebration in so many cases. Individual subject improvements, some very exciting achievements and, of course some indication that what we have done this year has not worked. It is very important to me that you take the report and have a good positive conversation with its owner. Pay close attention to any trends that can be seen across the year. Make sure that you find a positive aspect to comment and focus on, even if you have to look a little longer to find one. No report bears only all bad news.

In cases where things have not worked, it is vital not to lay all the blame at the foot of the child. No one can learn in isolation. There are always many factors that contribute to the success and to the failure of any system. Certainly there is a responsibility that must be borne by the child but the school and the home must also shoulder their fair share. Changes to subjects in some cases are indicated, changes to study methods, evening activities on homework and revision or even changes that result in the person feeling more secure could be advocated for. It is important to have a wide ranging conversation, assessing the causes of some things not working. Interventions must be put in place. There is not logic in doing the same thing and expecting a different outcome. We are more than willing to be part of that conversation, if you need us, just let me know.

## **The Start of 2026**

We are very excited to welcome everyone back on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January. Our new Grade 8s and those entering Alex for the first time in other grades have already been invited to orientation on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January. Textbooks will be handed out on the first day. It is very disappointing to see that some people still owe us textbooks from two or three years ago. Please make sure that you look under the beds and in the back of the cupboard to find any outstanding books. The list of what you owe us will be on the booklist sent home at the start of next year. Please take good care of the books issued next year. We do not want to spend money replacing books when we could spend that on many other useful things.

**Athletics 2026**

If you are used to the inter house athletics being on the first Monday back, get ready for the 16<sup>th</sup> of January, the first Friday of next term.

**Stationery Lists 2026**

We have published our Stationery lists for next year on our web page. Please follow the links below to get the one that you need.

[Grade 8](#)

[Grade 9](#)

[Grade 10](#)

[Grade 11](#)

[Grade 12](#)

**The School Shop**

The uniform shop is open by appointment tomorrow, Monday and Tuesday, then from the 7<sup>th</sup> of January. If you would like an appointment, please call them when they are open to see if they can accommodate you. 041 365 6154 is the number to call to book an appointment at the shop. Please don't arrive without an appointment as they don't have the capacity to accommodate too many people at once

**Traveling Sensible**

If you are lucky enough to be able to hit the road this holiday, please do it with a holiday mind-set from the moment that you pull out of your driveway. Be prepared to stop often, even if it is just to smell the flowers. If you are starting your holiday before you start your drive, then other road users who are not polite or even safe will not upset you. Give them space, let them pass and be discourteous, while letting the holiday vibe in your brain keep you driving at a safe speed.

We need your whole family back in one piece next year to continue our journey. Have a restful holiday and make sure your children wash some dishes to give you a break.

Thank you all for the contributions that you have all made to our 70th year. This letterhead will be put into the archives after this letter, then we return to our standard badge for the start of 2026.

**Budget Meeting and AGM**

A quick reminder that the budget meeting and AGM are planned for Tuesday next week, the 9th of December at 17H00. We will run the meeting even if we do not have a quorum because we are allowed to proceed on our second meeting.

Look after yourself and those you love this holiday

Yours in education



Matthew Ridgway  
Principal