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9 Alexander Road | Newton Park
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ALEXANDER ROAD

High School

27 March 2026

Dear Alex Family Members

Term 1 dusted

Term 1 is done and dusted. Reports were sent this morning. If you do not have yours yet, please email me and I will resend it. This term was a bumper one. Full to the brim with opportunities and incredible Alexan talent. I am well aware of the fact that most of you will not be lucky enough to get a few days off next week. Hopefully the following weekend will offer you some opportunity to catch your breath and possibly eat a sticky bun, even if you don't celebrate Easter. I must thank the Alexns who have put so much time and effort into this term. They can be collectively justifiably proud of the output for term 1. My sincere gratitude must also go to all of you for the support that you have provided, along with the food, shelter and money. Without your support we are fighting an unwinnable fight to prepare our children for the big world.

Our grounds and administration staff are due a very big thank you from all of us. They have worked tirelessly all year long to keep the campus clean and neat and functioning. We would be absolutely lost without them.

Our teachers are some of the best. We have the largest number of teachers who are appointed at a sub examiner every year, of all the schools in town. They spend the last part of the year marking Matric exams and return to class the next year with a wealth of insight and experience. All of their sacrifices go to better preparing our children for their very best possible result. We owe the academic staff a massive debt of gratitude for their work this term.

Summer Sport Awards Assembly

Thanks very much to everyone who joined us for the Summer Sports Awards Assembly yesterday. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the effort and talent of our sportsmen (both genders). We have already got our winter sport season off to a solid start. We have a rugby team in Cape Town, U16s of all winter sports at a tournament at Westering today and tomorrow. We have 3 soccer teams at the VP tournament starting tomorrow. We expect some very exciting results from these outings. We wish our teams all the best and safe travels.

Phone Free School

We are ready for the implementation of our phone free school from the 8th of April. We are installing all the required infrastructure over the holidays. We have updated our code of conduct. Please check our downloads page on the website, if you have not yet read the



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updated document. Our internal policies are ready to be executed. We anticipate a few side effects in the early part of the term from some of our children who may have a psychological addiction to the content on their phones. There may be some physiological symptoms from the withdrawal. Once they get over the hump, it is going to put them into a space that will allow them to achieve the potential that may have been latent due the distraction of the device.

Please do what you can to put a stop to phone access overnight. The lack of sleep because of anxiety related to the phone can be curtailed because the phone is not available. I am happy to be the bad guy. Our combined phone outages during the school day and at night will have a significant and positive impact. Together we can protect our children from those who would do them harm.

Parent and Teacher meetings

We have Thursday the 9th of April planned for our parent and teacher consultations. We will open the hall at 16H30 and we are off duty at 19H00. Please remember that the purpose of these meetings is a quick check in. Meetings are limited to 5 minutes each. If you encounter a need for a longer time, then please make an appointment with the teacher for another time. This is especially important if there is a queue behind you. We need the lines to move in order to give everyone a chance to see the teachers that they need.

You do not need to wait until the 9th, you are welcome to email the teacher with concerns right now. They may not respond until the 8th of April, but they will all get back to you and address any concerns that you have. We depend on the link between home and school. Our communication with each other must be excellent in order to create safe environment for our children to be educated in.

York Derby

This year we play York High School in George, away. They visited us last year and this year we are travelling. I will send out detailed information about the trip in my start of term newsletter, these are the broad strokes. We need your child at school at 03H00. (Sorry!). They must have their match kit. The school clothing shop will be open on Thursday the 9th of April in order to accommodate any last minute items. Please check that you have what you need today so that we can avoid panic later. We travel to George on 6 Blundens busses. We will stop once at Stoms River, this is only a toilet break, no shopping will be allowed. We will arrive at York High between 08H30 and 09H00. We play all our matches, York will provide a packed lunch and we will depart for home around 14H00. We should be back between 18H00 and 19H00. We will get Alexans to contact you when we get close to PE so that you don't have to wait longer than necessary for us. Please don't forget to fetch them! We will be dropping



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them off at the charge office in the Mount Road Police Station if you do not fetch them in good time. This is a very exciting trip for everyone. There is a good spirit between Alex and York. The games are all tough, but played in a positive manner. This is what makes it worth the trip.

My apologies for the length of this newsletter. I prefer not to go over 2 pages. There is a lot to let you know about. Thank you for making it this far.

If you celebrate Easter, please have a very special time with your family and friends. If not, please at least enjoy a long weekend.

Please look after yourself and those you love this week, and the next.

Fond regards

Matthew Ridgway

Principal