



Alexander Road High School

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Dear Alex Family Members

Freedom Day Newsletter

With our celebration of 30 years since the first democratic elections in South Africa looming, we could be forgiven for having lost a little faith in the idea.

It is essential that we never lose sight of the alternative. There are so many aspects of our currently elected government's performance that can be found wanting. With so much at stake, we need to hold fast to the idea and ideals of democracy. If we take a moment to evaluate what other systems of governance are on the menu, there are many so perfectly conceived and succinctly documented in manifestos, yet oblivious to the one frailty that hampers every form of governance, the human factor. As soon as self-serving ideas are allowed to fester in the hearts of any person placed into high office, the entire system is vulnerable.

We are responsible for our choices. We are compelled to take the responsibility to heart. The world is precariously poised on the brink of disaster on so many fronts, from the conflict zones all over the world to the climate and the ideological contest between the super powers. If South Africans can stand together and put our isms aside for a moment and pick leaders, and hold them fully accountable, we can demonstrate how well democracy can work. If we put people of integrity into the government, there is so much potential in this beautiful country of ours that we could model utopia.

If you have time off tomorrow and get the opportunity to take a breath, spend a moment appreciating how far we have come, how far we must still go and what you can do to help us get there.

Our strings players gave a good account of themselves last night at Summerwood. Thanks to the team that got them ready and there for that occasion. We hosted nearly 600 people in the local version of the UCT Maths competition. It is always fantastic to see young people from so many different schools coming together to push their brains with tough, higher-order Maths problems. This undertaking is fantastic for the brain. They also got the opportunity to mingle and chat and share a few moments; also fantastic.

Provincial Awards

On Friday last week, the MEC for Education in the province held his annual awards ceremony for the top performing schools in the Eastern Cape. An award for excellence in education was made to Alex for our results from the end of last year. We were one of

the only schools that did not get 100% pass rate to receive such an award from GQ. We had 279 Matrics last year. Between them, they generated a larger number of bachelors passes and passes in Maths and Science than some schools that did get 100% pass rate.

The award is a tribute to the fantastic work done by our teachers over the five years that these Matrics were at Alex. Part of the award is a vehicle that will be delivered to the school in the next few weeks. We should all be very proud of our Matrics of 2024 and our incredible teaching team.

Front office deliveries

Please could you make every effort to avoid dropping items off at the reception desk. There are times when our children need to face the consequences of not packing correctly for the day. This is of particular importance when dropping food off. We often have food dropped off that is never collected or collected two days later when it has turned into a very interesting science experiment. In a world where food waste is close to 50% globally, we need to be more diligent in this regard as a community.

Parents' Club

There is a meeting for parents' club on Tuesday 30 April at 17H00 at Cordingley House. We are planning for term 2 activities. Please feel very welcome to join us. We are appealing for sponsorship of spot prizes for our Bingo evening this term. No prize is too small. If you have any items to offer, please drop them off at reception or contact Mr Kleyn on his email (kleyn.tiaan@arhs.co.za).

Congratulations

We are very proud of Graydon van Niekerk and Deron Williams for their achievements. Graydon was picked for the future stars football team set to tour Gauteng later this year. Deron was picked for the Men's U21 provincial hockey team as a non-travelling reserve. Well done to both of you!

Visiting school

We hosted Renish Girls High from Stellenbosch today. They are on a tour of the Eastern Cape and spent some time with us. We enjoyed an assembly together at the end of today where our concert bands played together. We debated against them and played soccer against them this afternoon.

Please look after yourself and those you love this week.

Fond regards



Matthew Ridgway
Principal