

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We are living in a time which poses many challenges which tend to stir up our emotions. We tend to say things we would not ordinarily say. We need to remain focused on our vision for stakeholders to unite so our children can become successful citizens of tomorrow. My focus is to be able to offer the best for your children's benefit. I would like to remind parents of our achievements this past year. For the Prep school in 2020, we achieved a 100% pass rate based on units and a 97.5% pass rate based on subjects. For the College we had a 95% pass rate at AL, a 90% pass rate at AS and a 79% pass rate at IGCSE. This makes us comparable to the top schools in the country. We offered online lessons so that students would not lose out in terms of what they needed to cover for their respective ages, unlike what happened in many government schools. Currently, I have a dedicated staff which I am proud of. Hillcrest is a great school of choice that offers competitive education, sports and culture comparable to any other top school in the country. I am proud to be associated with Hillcrest and want it to do even better. As an ATS school and the top school in Manicaland (in my opinion) we need to strive to constantly improve. Times are tough but we really do need to invest in our future.

1. Fees

We had a meeting with the SDC (4 members for the College and 2 members for the Prep school), Finance and Board Management representatives together with the School management to address issues with the budget ahead of the voting process. The **consensus opinion at the end of the meeting with regards to the Fee for Term 1** was:

- We reduce the Fee originally asked for Term 1 by spreading the difference between Term 2 and Term 3. The annual revised budget would remain the same.

We originally asked for:

Tuition Fee due	ECD	Prep	College
Term1	544	1,312	1,883

Now, after the meeting we are asking for:

	ECD	Prep	College
Term 1	456	1,102	1,582

- This takes cognisance of the CBA and its resulting effects. It increased NEC wages by 229%, backdated to February and is USD based at the auction rate.
- It takes into account 6 months of learning and the holidays.
ELearning – 12th January till the 12th of March

Term 1 – 15th March till the 28th of June.

- Parents have already paid or made payment plans as shown in the table below:

Paid/Payment Plan	ECD	Prep	College
	255	636	900

The amount due for Term 1 after all the above is also reflected in the table below:

Due for Term 1	ECD	Prep	College
	201	466	682

- The confusion around billing is regrettable. The situation has been confusing for everyone as you are witness to by the communications you have received from me.
- The Term 2 and 3 Fee will be lower than the amended Term 1 Fee above in terms of USD.
- The Boarding Fees remain unchanged from what was last communicated:

BOARDING:	PREP	COLLEGE
Term 1	1,135	1,455

2. Voting

I still plan on doing the vote by email.

In the past several people have expressed concern over the voting system used, this is noted but is no reason to not vote.

I encourage every parent to submit their votes. The Fee letter plus the voting form goes to all parents via email, d6 Connect and WhatsApp so in my opinion every person has the opportunity to vote, especially in these Covid-19 with times and the restrictions currently in place.

3. Student Planners

Students in Form 1 to 3 all have student planners for taking note of any homework given.

This is meant to be signed by the parent or Hostel duty staff member every night. Please can

I ask parents to ensure their child is using these student planners and that you help monitor your child's work by signing these student planners.

4. Interhouse Monologue and Duologue

Recently we held an Interhouse Monologue and Duologue Competition. These are basically short one act plays done by one or two students respectively. The topic was on addiction and if I had not been told this I would have been wondering what is going on. The students were creative and eloquent which impressed me. I must say that this is the first cultural event I have attended and the first competition of its kind I have witnessed. My congratulations go to Ms. Williams and her team of judges and helpers. The results were as follows:

1st – Bvumba - 919 points

2nd – Chimanimani – 908 points

3rd – Nyangani – 894 points

The next phase of this competition will be held on the 26th of May 2021.

5. Transport of goods

There is a recent Alumni group offering a transportation service for parents wishing to send items to their children at Hillcrest. If you are interested please call +263 782 145 471 and ask for Prominence.

OFF MR. MUTANGADURA'S DESK

1. **Civvies** - We are pleased with the participation by all learners in this noble cause last Friday.
2. **Open Day** - Potential 2022 parents not exceeding the regulated number attended and confirmed their future partnership with Hillcrest next year.
3. **Covid 19** -World-wide news reports on Covid 19 new variants, 2nd /3rd waves and shortage of oxygen paints a harrowing scene. Let's continue to play our part in combatting this at home and school. Please have your child stay at home if unwell. Your efforts are appreciated thus far.
4. **SDC Annual General Meeting** - Please stand guided by the SDC Chairman's communication on the above subject matter. **Monday, May 10 · 2:30 – 3:30pm; Google Meet link: <https://meet.google.com/hnd-hsus-qxh>).**
5. **Inter-house Athletics** -Improved techniques, fitness and allocation of athletes into A, B and C races in their houses are almost complete in preparation for the 26th and 28th May 2021 Interhouse Athletics.
6. **Hello/Good Bye** – Mr. Mamvura formally in Charge of Music department at The Grange School in Harare has joined Hillcrest Prep in charge of Music and Library from 1st May 2021. We look forward to his wealth of experience in teaching theory and practical music lessons. Ms. Odendaal (Bure) in Charge of sport has left to join another organisation locally. We wish both staff well.
7. **ECD Late Collections** - ECD staff would like to remind parents that late collections of the little ones from the hostel way after 5pm is so stressful for both teacher and learner and should be discouraged at all cost please.
8. **Homework** - Our teaching programme includes homework for the purpose of consolidating concepts learnt in class. Do insist to see it daily and please sign.
9. **Class Support** - Some classes continue to provide learning/teaching materials for their children in consultation with their teachers and class reps on a voluntary basis. Thank you for the support.
10. **Adaption** – It is so heartening to see how so many new pupils to the school are blossoming in such a short space of time. Hopefully they will have their new personal property permanently marked or embroidered in case of misplacement.
11. **Car Park Etiquette** –When dropping and picking up children at school, you are reminded not to block others but park fully in the bays. Let us protect our children and guard our 100% accident-free carpark so far.

Congratulations to **Merit and Effort winners** for this week!

Class	Merit: Name of Pupil(s)	Merit: Reason for commendation	Effort: Name of Pupil(s)	Effort: Reason for commendation
1M	R. Chafesuka , C. Dodzo	For mastering subtraction to 10 with ease and neat presentation of work.	I. Haukozi	For an impressive effort and interest in English reading.
1T	J. Daniels	Making good progress in English reading		
2M	M. Chibaya, A. Mukahanana	Neat presentation of work.		
2R	T. Katonda, C. Phiri	For getting everything correct in Number test.	B. Masarirambi	For improved handwriting.
3C	R Saunyama	Working diligently in all subjects	E Tatayi and A Mvududu	Improvement in letter and figure shaping
3M	L. Nakhozwe, A. Musikavanhu	For good Shona reading.	B. Swikepi	Outstanding improvement in Long multiplication.
4D	L. Kanjanga.	For trying his very best in presenting neat work.	N. Chidodo	A fluent and eloquent reader
4M	W. Cogburn and K. Chimombe	A great improvement in presentation of work	T. Nyambo	For finishing all his work on time daily. Keep it up!
5N	K. Chimbetete	Great attainment in Maths & neat presentation of work.	W. Franklin	For his effort in improving his presentation of work.
5S	J. Dhliwayo	Remarkable mastery of Maths concepts	T. Dzenga	Impressive Chess Skills
6B	L. Matiashe	For artistic representation of the coat of arms	B. Mangwiro	Improved accuracy in Comprehension
6C	K. Taziva, D. Chiwambutsa	Excellent results in most revision exercises.	R. Machumi, L. Matiashe	Neat presentation of work.
7N	C. Nyamayaro, M. Mashavave	Working diligently in all subjects.	M. Mahara	A positive attitude towards his work.
7W	H. Amos , N. Mudzviti and R. Ganda	For outstanding performance in the weekly tests	P. Kabungaidze and R. Evans	Steady progress so far
ICT	E. Alamwar, A. Mungarazi; 4M & I. Haukozi; 4D	Lovely standard of work.	W. Franklin 5N	Improved standard of work in presentation and accuracy of answers. Keep it up
Laverock Hostel	R Jonasi and T Muzawazi	Giving a helping hand all the time.	N Chigova & D Mandipira	Settling well into Hostel life.
SHONA 5, 6, 7	H. Amos 7W	For being consistent in her work and showing maturity in approaching her work.	P. Bryer 7 W	She has shown tremendous effort and Good attitude towards the subject. Quite encouraging indeed.

Thank you for taking the time to read through the letter. I also appreciate the support that you give to the school as a whole.

Do have a good weekend and remember to stay safe.

Kind regards,



ORLANDO FERNANDES
PRINCIPAL – HILLCREST SCHOOLS