



Principal's Newsletter

20th August, 2021

Dear Parents & Guardians,

I recently became partially deaf for several hours, nothing serious, but it did get me thinking; with the temporary loss of hearing, I suddenly did not trust myself. I had to take more care when walking as I could not hear traffic or people. I distrusted my eyesight to be the sole judge of what is going on around me, my whole body in a sense was affected and the body's effectiveness was diminished. It drove home a lesson that we all have a part to play, especially with regards to our children's education and if one part is affected the whole system struggles. We all need to play our part to ensure a better future for our children.

I have been remiss in informing parents of a significant event in Hillcrest Schools. Mr. Joshua Mutangadura will be leaving us at the end of his contract period at the end of August 2021 having arrived at Hillcrest in October 2011. During his time here he focused on improving all facets of the Prep School, particularly the academics. Hillcrest Prep successfully hosted the Interprovincial Owen Davies Rugby Festival and a Hockey Festival under his guidance. During his tenure the Prep School opened the ECD A and ECD B making Hillcrest a one stop institution for one's total educational needs. He was also active in collaborating with other schools (in RSA and the UK) through Connecting Classrooms. The Board of Governors, Hillcrest Schools, myself, and I am sure the parents, would like to thank him for his service to Hillcrest Schools and wish him all the best for his future. The school will have a farewell get together for Mr. Mutangadura and I regret to advise that attendance will strictly be by invitation only as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions.

The incoming Prep School Headmaster is a Mr. Ryan Vickery and his wife Hilary. They come to us from Falcon College. He has held senior positions at St. John's College and then at Falcon College. In between he was Deputy Headmaster at Twin Rivers Primary School. He is an avid rugby follower and believes in doing the basics well. His wife is a qualified ECD teacher and has also been heavily involved in the counselling side at Falcon College.

1. Reopening of Schools

Please refer to the audio message from Tim Middleton of ATS which accompanies this newsletter.

2. School Fees

I would like to remind parents to pay their tuition fee deposits as invoiced on the 28th of June 2021. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the accounts office.

3. Start of Lessons

The Mid-Year examinations are done and lessons should have resumed by now. If there are any issues, please do not hesitate to contact me or any one of my staff.

4. **Communication**

I would like to emphasise that parents are welcome to contact me by WhatsApp, phone, email or pop in to see me. If you have any concerns or you simply want to pay a visit, you are welcome to come through and have a chat.

Communication is vital if we are to work effectively together. However, communication does not mean that we will always agree; we can beg to differ. Each of us has a unique perspective which affects the way we see things. By communicating our eyes are opened to these different perspectives and we gain a better understanding of the issues we face.

Communication needs to be immediate. We should not wait for a crisis to arise before we start communicating. Issues that are small can be dealt with better than when they are allowed to build up.

5. **Reports**

Assessment cards for Form 1 up to 4 and Interim Reports for the Lower and Upper 6 students should be available on Senatical and have been since the 11th of August. They may be cases where there are no marks for some subjects and it might be a case of a child not submitting the work required. If that is not the case please do say something and contact me, my Deputy Heads or the Director of Studies.

Full reports based on this term's tuition and the mid-year examinations will be out shortly and you will be informed when they are ready.

OFF MR. MUTANGADURA'S DESK

1. **School Fees**

Kindly check with accounts office if you are uncertain about actual balances in order to plan accordingly before the imminent opening of schools.

2. **N.I.A.A Speech & Drama**

Hillcrest Prep Speech and Drama team and staff gave a very commendable showing at this year's virtual edition despite numerous challenges faced in putting everything together locally.

Organizers of this Annual Cultural Festival of the Arts, had their work cut out for them. They were compelled by national circumstances to chop and change timelines to match the official term calendar (which up to now is in the air) due to Covid-19. Ultimately, this "new normal" had an all-round knock on effect on everything.

3. **Examinations Timetable**

Every family was forwarded a copy and hopefully you had a chance to go over the document with your child in order to prepare adequately.

4. **Conduct for Examinations**

These are **ONLINE EXAMINATIONS** and as such, must be administered under conditions similar to face to face exams.

5. **Progress Reports**

They will be compiled fully with appropriate and diagnostic comments.

Do have a good weekend and remember to stay safe.

Kind regards,



ORLANDO FERNANDES
PRINCIPAL – HILLCREST SCHOOLS