



**HILLCREST
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Principal's Weekly Newsletter

Edition 1

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**HILLCREST
COLLEGE**

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Dear Parents & Guardians,

Google provides me with various sources of inspiration; when I googled 'GOALS' it came up with, 'Setting Goals is the First Step in Turning the Invisible into the Visible'. My goal is the Hillcrest Schools' Vision Statement, and I don't mind repeating it many times as we need to keep focused on our goals, so that we know why we make the sacrifices we do.

'HILLCREST SCHOOLS ASPIRES TO BE AN INNOVATIVE, SUPPORTIVE AND CARING EDUCATIONAL FAMILY IN WHICH STAKEHOLDERS UNITE TO PRODUCE WELL ROUNDED AND SUCCESSFUL CITIZENS OF TOMORROW.'

Our goal is our children's future success and a team is in place with the right facilities to ensure our children find their niche in society where they will be involved and be productive members of the society. Having a goal focuses our attention, resources and time on what is important. As members of the same team we need to have a common goal so that we all buy in to the same vision so we can be more effective by doing our part in ensuring our children fulfil the potential we all see in them.

To those parents who take the time to fill in the Google Feedback Forms; thank you. Your feedback is important to us and helps us try and modify our approach and efforts to deliver quality education to your children. There have been a number of complaints regarding the whole online education and I would like to address some of them:

1. Online Education Has Not Been Officially Approved

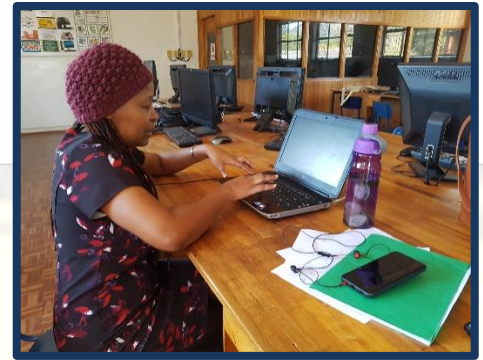
True. We don't want your child to lose out or reduce their chance of success, now or in the future. Examination classes still need to be prepared (syllabi completed, adequate revision done and samples of work on hand in case Cambridge decide on coursework assessments); the other classes need to attain skills and knowledge appropriate to their age and level of development so they don't lag behind in the future. It is perhaps interesting to note that the June ZIMSEC Examinations are scheduled for a time period prior to the official resumption of classes; do we really want our children to be in that position. My teachers are working hard to ensure all this happens and believe me Online Learning takes a lot more time in preparation and marking. Your feedback, plus the feedback obtained from senior teachers help to monitor this process. Close to 95% of students are registered for these Online lessons; the weekly activity varies for a variety of reasons. Parents should have been contacted should we feel your child is not participating.

2. Other Schools Are Doing It Better

Hillcrest Schools have a number of challenges which the schools that are often mentioned don't have. Suitable devices for Online Learning, Internet access, location and quality of internet signal are all factors which affect teacher and student alike and impose constraints which prevent us from offering services some other schools offer.

3. Variety In Lessons

Many parents have expressed the lack of contact time with teachers either in an interactive format or as personalised video or audio presentations. Teachers are constantly encouraged to make their lessons varied and to provide work in keeping with a timetable. Interaction between student and teacher can happen via the Google Class or WhatsApp chats. **It is important that your children submit their assignments** as it provides us with a basis on which to make an objective assessment of student's realistic potential to attain a particular grade should this be the way Cambridge decides is the way forward.



INTERNAL EXAMS

We have scheduled the Mid-Year Exams for all classes to take place soon after the re-opening of schools. This is a tentative arrangement and will be confirmed once the plans around the re-opening of schools is finalised.

EXTERNAL EXAMS

Please be reminded that the **deadline for the payment of Examination Fees for the October/November Cambridge Exams was Friday 26th June, 2020**. A number of reminders were sent out on Email and onto your WhatsApp Tutor Groups and I trust that all payments have been made.

Mr. Munjoma, the Exams Officer, would like to advise parents that the School is permitted, by Cambridge, to consider 'Special Requests' received from a qualified and registered Psychologist/Doctor for children with special needs that need to be taken into consideration during Exams. The deadline for the submission of these 'Special Requests' is 31st July, 2020.

Hillcrest Schools' preparation for the phased re-opening of school is at an advanced stage. In line with this, a COVID19 Preparedness Workshop facilitated by Mr. Andrew Mutamiri of Asmasol Company was held at the School to draw up a comprehensive set of systems to be adhered to by parents, staff and students once school has commenced. I would like to thank Mr. Mutamiri and his team for the time he put into this and for donating his time and effort for free. We also attended an exhibition held by the MOPSE for Mutasa District Schools to demonstrate our readiness for the re-opening of schools. This was held on Friday the 19th of June. I would like to thank Mr. Nhema and Mr. Nyakudzuka for giving up their time to attend and represent the school at the exhibition.

PREP SCHOOL

Mr. Mutangadura would like to inform you of the following:

1. Please visit the National Institute of Allied Arts website (niaa@yoafrica.com) to familiarise yourselves with the changed format and topics for this year's festival. The dates are stipulated for each category.
2. Regarding the Prep School Google Class, it is expected that this service will continue to improve. Please ensure work is submitted within the time frame set and do communicate any issues of concern with your respective Teacher or Senior Staff.
3. Grade 7 Classes are still expected to sit for their ZIMSEC, CHISZ and Cambridge Examinations in phases. You will be advised of the dates in due course.
4. Application Forms for the College for Form 1, 2021 should have been submitted by now. If you have not done so, please submit them as soon as possible. May I advise all the Grade 7 Parents who have applied and indicated Hillcrest College as their School of First Choice for Form 1, that the CHISZ Form 1 Entrance Exam has been postponed to 1st August, 2020 from the 4th of July, 2020.
5. Internal Examinations will still be held and specific arrangements will be made and communicated soon.



Finally, regarding the thorny issue of Fees for both College and Prep Schools, I encourage you to pay the deposit that was communicated to you earlier this term. Hillcrest Schools' has taken to heart the Vision of the school to prepare your children, so that they have a chance to succeed. I am profoundly grateful to the parents who have paid; it has helped us to ensure that we can deliver Online Education to date. However, much still needs to be done, plans to re-open the schools, staff salaries and facilities needing to be maintained. Our economy has not shown any regards to our circumstances yet in order to hold true to our Vision, we still need to keep up our standards. So, I would like to encourage parents to pay their deposits.

I would like to thank you all for reading this long overdue newsletter. Keep safe and healthy and I do look forward to meeting you all in due course.

Orlando Fernandes
Principal – Hillcrest Schools