

Dear Parents & Guardians,

There have been a lot of first encounters or experiences since my move to Hillcrest Schools; normally, I am not too sentimental about such landmarks. However, being part of my first Final Awards Assembly was truly special and got me to reflect on the depth of talent and the rich diversity of abilities present amongst the staff and especially the student body. When looking from afar we often miss what actually happens and I can say how lucky I feel to be a part of the Hillcrest Schools community. I want to give a brief synopsis of a speech I made at that function. Tendai 'The Beast' Mtwarira is the most capped Prop for South Africa and the third most capped player of all time for the Springboks Rugby. He started his senior school at Churchill, was offered a scholarship to Peterhouse and certain staff members facilitated his move to the Sharks Academy in South Africa and the rest is History. Imagine if his parents did not support his rugby playing, if he was coached poorly at Churchill, was not offered a scholarship to Peterhouse and was not given the opportunity to go to the Sharks Academy. Imagine if his teachers and friends showed no interest or offered no encouragement with respect to his rugby. Where would he be now? My point is simple; we all play a part, however small, in someone's progress and have an effect on their future. This Awards ceremony highlighted this aspect and we can all feel proud of what these students achieved and will hopefully inspire other students to try harder.

**1. United Nations Zimbabwe Junior Representative**

Special mention needs to be made of Valerie Lobo, a Lower 6 Student, who has been selected for the above post and will be participating in a virtual meeting in a couple of days' time. What a privilege and honour this is.

**2. School Ecocash Number 0772 249 007**

Please note that this number is no longer working for ecocash transactions due to the new regulation requiring a person to have only one Ecocash number.

**3. Early Departures from the College**

Students will only be allowed to leave the College premises at 1.00pm even if their examinations finish early. If an exception is to be made please contact Mr. Chipato or Mr. Nhema who will then furnish you with a gate pass.

**4. Examinations**

Cambridge examinations have started with no issues reported to me to date. So far so good.

**5. Non-Examination Class Break in Lessons**

There will be a break in lessons for non-examination classes from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October till the 11<sup>th</sup> of October. Lessons will resume on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> of October.

**6. Form 2 CHISZ Shona Examinations**

These examinations will be a sit-down examination and **not** online. They are scheduled for the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of November.

**7. Google Forms**

It has been mentioned that a Google Form is sent to parents each week to help us evaluate the online lessons being conducted; we are not getting any responses to these. Please take the time to fill in these forms.

## 8. Fee Issues and Voting

The voting form, budget summary and Letter from the Board Chair were sent out at least twice on three platforms (d6 Connect, Emails and the various WhatsApp groups). The vote was extended by a further 5 days and this was mentioned in the last Newsletter. It is my belief that everyone received these documents and therefore had the opportunity to vote.

## 9. Commendations

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the awards winners for their achievements this year, which are listed in the separate document attached. The awards were presented at our Final Assembly held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>, September.



**FINAL ASSEMBLY IN PICTURES**



## OFF MR. MUTANGADURA'S DESK

### 1. Cambridge Checkpoint Examinations

The final preparations for the examinations are at an advanced stage. Candidates and their teachers will attend school during the break to polish up for the examinations scheduled from Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> October. They will have their break soon after the last paper and resume lessons on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> October. They will be joined by the Grade 6 pupils whom we can't wait to welcome back. All systems and protocols are in place for them.

### 2. Medical Health Assessment Form

Please ensure that your child's health card is filled in, signed and brought to school every Monday.

### 3. Grade 1, 2021 Interviews

It was a lovely day on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September as we assessed readiness for our Grade 1, 2021 prospective learners. Many thanks go to Mrs. Rupiya and her team in the Infants Department for running this exercise. Results are being communicated to the parents directly. The attendance was pleasing and gave a good view of the drawing effect our school has in the country.



Grade 1, 2021 Interviews



### 4. Uniform & Clothing Items

With the on-set of the rainy season, please prepare for your child accordingly. Please also make sure that all items are legibly labelled with the child's name.

### 5. Merit and Effort Badge Winners

Please find attached to this newsletter, a list of this week's winners. Congratulations to them all.

With the external examinations having officially started, I would like to wish our children and students the best in their exams as they put on paper all they have mastered in the last couple of years. I wish them all success and to the parents, thank you for the continued support of your children and the school.

Please remain safe and do have a good weekend.

Kind regards,

*O. Fernandez*

Orlando