



Principal's Weekly Newsletter

Edition 20
20 November 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

I just realised that today is the 20th of the second last month of the year - time flies and with the end of the year approaching, comes with it a lot of retrospect on the months and days gone. We look at goals and targets that were set at the beginning of the year and do an audit of what has been achieved and what could have been but maybe did not go quite to plan. I saw a post the other day that said, 'The biggest thing 2020 taught us is; "We plan and God decides."' We often forget that God's ultimate plan for us is to serve Him; to exhaust all the gifts and talents that He blessed each and every one of us with. Can we look back in retrospect, and see if we treated people around and amongst us fairly, with kindness, with compassion, with gratitude or with praise. Did you give credit where it was due and did you remember to say a simple thank you to uplift someone's spirit? Did you give a helping hand where there was strive or did you help those who were in need? There is so much treasure in these simple gestures than there is in treasures of the world. We have a month to go before the end of the year – let us all go and do a random act of kindness and end someone's year on a better note.

1. External Exams

I am glad to say The Cambridge IGCSE, 'AS' and 'A' Level Exam session ended on Wednesday 18th November without any mishaps. Our Form 4 and Upper 6 Students are now on a well deserved break before the results are released during the mid of January, next year. We will advise you of the actual dates in due course. The Lower 6 Students resumed their lessons yesterday – they are now doing the A2 Syllabus after they wrote exams for A1. This will give them more time to cover the A2 Syllabus with less pressure.

2. Internal Exams

Form 1, 2 and 3 Students will write their end of year exams starting on 25th November and will finish on the 4th of December. There are a few Lower 6 Students who did not write the 'AS' Level exams who will have to write the end of your exams as well – they will start their exams on Monday 30th November and finish on Friday 4th December. Parents and students are reminded that at the end of the term, Staff will meet to discuss the students' performance and based on their performance, promotions and demotions will be effected for the Form 1 & 2 Students.

3. Clearance Certificates

Exam Candidates should have submitted all their Textbooks in to their Subject Teachers, Library Books in to the Librarian and a Clearance Certificate should have been signed by the Librarian and Teachers as they received the books. The Clearance Certificate should have been handed in at the College Reception/Front Office – this will be retrieved upon collection of results next year. The rest of the Students are also required to submit their textbooks to their respective subject teachers and to the Library but do not have to have a Clearance Certificate signed.

4. Library Books

Students should remember to return all the borrowed Library Books by Wednesday 25th November. The deadline has been extended from Friday 13th November. Parents should emphasise this to their children because failure to submit the books by the deadline will result in students being charged an 'Overdue Fine' – please note that the fine is charged per day. This is a standing Library Policy.

5. Sports & Clubs Policy

The lockdown appears to have affected some of our students' memories in terms of the schools' expectations of them with regards to sports and cultural participation. Please find attached a Sports & Clubs Policy which applies to every student enrolled at Hillcrest College. Please take the time to read this and to remind our children of the schools' expectations.

6. Sports Kit

As our Students take pride in the Hillcrest College Uniform, so should they in their Afternoon Kit. I have noted with dismay these past two weeks that some of our Students have chosen to disregard the proper afternoon attire. All students are expected to change into their parachute shorts, penguin shirt, long blue socks for the boys, short ankle socks for the girls, appropriate sports tackies, a College branded cap and a full school tracksuit from 1.00pm onwards, Monday to Thursday. Students will remove their tracksuits at the sports field, courts or swimming pool when they are participating in the practise sessions and once they are done they should dress back into their full tracksuit and zip up the jacket before they leave the school premises. Students attending Cultural Sessions will do so in their full tracksuits or take the jacket off. No student is allowed to walk into the car park or walk to the Hostels without a full tracksuit on and if students disregard this rule they will be put on Friday manual. Tracksuits should be kept as clean as possible.

7. Personal Hygiene

The weather is very hot and all students are encouraged to keep on them a roll on stick, deodorant or some talc powder to try and keep themselves feeling and smelling fresh.

8. Transport

We resumed our Bus Service for Students to and from School on Wednesday 18th November and we still have a few seats available on the Bus for those who may have missed our notification last week. Each Student will have to pay US\$50.00 per month.

9. Hot Meals

Please be advised that Hot Meals for Day Scholars are now fully booked.

Please note that payment for both Transport and Hot Meals will be received strictly in USD.

OFF MR. MUTANGADURA'S DESK

1. Student Leadership

The Prep heartily congratulates those who made College Student Leadership (Prefects). As teachers and ancillary staff who have seen a number of them from day 1 of Grade 1 and others who later joined Hillcrest College, leaves us with nothing but a deep sense of satisfaction as we see them being the fine young ladies and gentlemen. Continue to be great role models!

2. End of Year Examinations

These are underway and learners are giving it all they have got. The timetable helps during preparations both at school and home until exams are concluded next week. Parents, please allow children to get time to be children, even as they engage in this academic combat.

3. Grade 7 Leavers' Party

The School Swimming Pool is this year's venue for the Grade 7 class of 2020. We look forward to a memorable day of fun as a class whilst observing COVID-19 guidelines. Thanks to parents and well-wishers for putting everything together. Hoping the weather will be found agreeable and allow the party begin.

4. Covid -19 Update

The global sharp rise in Covid-19 cases should spur us with determination to fight this trend with all our might locally. It's frightening to observe how relaxed society is becoming all around us.

5. Season of Good Cheer

A long standing tradition we uphold during this season is always to remember the less privileged among members of our community. To this end let us inculcate in our children the need to collect materials, groceries and other requisites for **Nzeve, Zororai, Strickland Lodge** for the **Annual Christmas Virtual Hand Over**. No donation is small therefore kindly give your child something to donate as from the 1st to the 4th of December.

6. Hot Lunches

These are being delivered to the ECD Centre and the rest of the school are collecting theirs from the Swimming Pool Tuck Shop. The Rec Centre will be used on a wet day.

7. Punctuality to School

Thank you Parents for bringing children to school punctually - this improves the smooth running of our core business of Teaching and Learning.

8. Late Collections

There has been a trending rise in late collections. Sadly, late collections, by their nature, regardless of the cause, affect learners psychologically particularly after a very long day at school. We urge parents to make alternative plans and communicate with the school ahead of time.

9. Bus Bookings

By now these have been confirmed and queries can be made with accounts office.



Grade 4M Assembly on "Return to school"



Swimming session in the afternoon

The temperatures continue to soar but we are continually hopeful for some rains to cool and water our lands and may we remember to keep hydrated and where possible remain indoors or in the shade.

Do have a good weekend.

O. Fernandez.

Orlando