



# Principal's Weekly Newsletter

Edition 21  
27 November 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Falcon College have sent students home today and will continue with online lessons until their end of term on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December for fear of Covid and the possibility of the students being quarantined at Falcon for some time. Girl's College has also closed the school after a student was found to have tested positive for Covid at a Leaver's party. These are just two ATS schools; there are several Government Schools affected around the country. Folks, **this Covid-19 pandemic is serious**, and we have been lucky so far. I do not want Hillcrest to be affected and particularly the Boarders, some of whom come from outside the country who we would not want to be detained as a result of a quarantine. There are only a couple of weeks left in the term and we would like to end the term incident free. At Hillcrest, which is both a day school and boarding, there can be a lot of loopholes in the systems that are in place but as parents and staff we have an obligation to ensure we adhere to the Covid prevention protocols as closely as we can. We have a social obligation to do so and failure to adhere to the restrictions imposed puts other lives at risk. We have all seen people's adherence to the Covid prevention protocols relax and to some extent we have all become complacent. The fact that schools are being affected should drive home the seriousness of this whole situation.

## 1. Health Checks

It is important that the health of your child is checked daily. If for any reason you are concerned, **do not send them to school**. The signs or symptoms to look for are: fever, shortness of breath, headaches, coughing, sore throat, chills, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea. Whilst these do not confirm Covid infection, they are symptoms associated with it. If your child has any one of them, be cautious, for **your child's and other people's sake and do not send them to school**.

## 2. Transport

I am concerned about the mode of transport used by parents to bring children to school. There are two minibuses, in particular, which transport children to and from the school and are overcrowded. My concerns are the lack of social distancing, lack of adult supervision and whether or not those buses are sanitised. The lack of school transport to ferry children has necessitated that parents make a plan, but we need to take the Covid threat seriously and should not be allowing our children to board overcrowded buses.

## 3. Hostels

Being both a day and boarding school makes life complicated. However, for fear of having boarders quarantined at the school for an extended period we have to minimise as much as we can movement of students to and from the hostels. In the remaining days of this term, we will not allow visitors on the hostel campus. We will

not allow parents to take their children out unless for some medical emergency which should be cleared by the Hostel Superintendent, the San Matron or myself.

#### **4. Internal Exams**

The end of year exams started on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November and will end on the 4<sup>th</sup> of 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.

#### **5. External Exams**

Results for the 2020 October/November Exam Session will be released on the following dates;

- 'AS' & 'A' Level - 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021
- GCE 'O' Level - 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2021
- IGCSE 'O' Level - 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

#### **6. Library Books**

In my previous Newsletter I made mention of the submission of Library Books – the deadline for submission was Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Please note that, for those who have not submitted their books a daily fine of ZWL\$50.00 will be charged to the individual student's Library Account. If a book has been lost, it should be replaced.

#### **7. Term Dates**

We will end the 3<sup>rd</sup> Term on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December, 2020 but we have applied to the Ministry of Education for permission to start Term 1, 2021 on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January, 2021. The CHISZ & ATS Office has also applied for the same starting date to be considered for all ATS Schools. We await feedback from both offices but would like to advise that we work with the 12<sup>th</sup> of January at the opening date.

### **OFF MR. MUTANGADURA'S DESK**

#### **1. Post Exams Programme**

The last exam paper for the rest of the school was written on today, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and it's now back to normal class teaching and learning. Lessons will continue in order to enhance consolidation of syllabus coverage for 2020 in each grade, so missing class is not an option whatsoever! All learners are also encouraged to access reading books on line to boost their literary appreciation, vocabulary etc. They may also practice reading expressively (with expression) and send their audio clips to the class teacher for comments. Class teachers will be delighted to receive a review of any book/s read.

#### **2. Grade 7 Zimsec Exams**

The Exams will commence on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> till the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2020. Judging from preparations on hand, we are confident of a good set of academic results. An Exam Time Table was sent earlier to all the Grade 7 pupils.

#### **3. Virtual Ceremonies**

- ECD Graduation – The tentative set date is the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2020. Plans are at an advanced stage in these preparations and we will keep you posted.
- Grades 1 and 2 Speech & Prize Giving - Tentative date is 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2020.
- Grades 3 to 7 Speech & Prize Giving - Tentative date is 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2020.

#### 4. Christmas Goodies Donation

We trust that you, as a family, have started collecting Christmas Goodies that shall make our less fortunate have a worthwhile festive season.



#### Grade 7 Leaver's Party in Pictures



Congratulations to the following **Merit and Effort Badge Winners!**

Class	Merit: Name of Pupil(s)	Merit: Reason for Commendation	Effort: Name of Pupil(s)	Effort: Reason for Commendation
1M	O. Magumise	Accurate and neatly arranged work in Mathematics.	T. Kumbirai	Remarkable effort and interest in all her work.
1T	B. Tsarara L. Sipanera	The way she approaches her school work shows a sense of maturity Great improvement on Shona syllables reading and word building.	K. Musikavanhu M. Mautsa	For being steady and very positive towards his work during the examinations. Great improvement on Shona syllables reading and word building.
2M	R. Nhimura	Wrote a very interesting story	B. Mudotsa	Improved greatly in his spelling
2R	M. Chuma	For doing well in spelling and language test.	T. Munyai T. Mawoyo Z. Zviuya	For getting high marks in comprehension test.
3C	A. Dhlakama	Working diligently in all subjects	L. Kanjanga	Slow but steady progress noted in his school work & a good attitude too.
3M	A. Mungaraza M. Nyamatore A. Nyakonda	Being helpful and responsible.	N. Yard(Kuwanda) K. Zambira	Showing remarkable improvement in their work.
3M	M. Kudzai N. Mhangara F. Ruwoko A. Tsondai	Impressive concentration and focus during exam-writing.	M. Kuzomunhu S. Chipinza, M. Fernandes E. Alamwar	They went an extra mile in revision, researching and asking for help.
4D	A. Muwandi	For trying very hard in all her areas of study	S. Sigxoza	For doing his very best in his mathematics
4M	E. Mandimutsira	Settling in very well in the new environment.	All Grade 4M pupils	Great, lovely, lively, informative and entertaining assembly presentation.
5M	M. Bvunzawabaya	Great application of mathematical operations.	C. Pemhenayi	Great participation in revisions.

<b>5N</b>	<a href="#">K. Chakandinakira</a>	For setting a high standard of work and exerting herself fully.	<a href="#">M. Kapondeni</a>	For being well focused and working diligently in Mathematics.
<b>6N</b>	<a href="#">M. Mashavave</a>	Excellent progress in Mathematics.	<a href="#">C. Nyamayaro</a>	Working diligently in all subjects.
<b>6W</b>	<a href="#">N. Mudzviti</a> <a href="#">H. Amos</a> <a href="#">C. Mutama</a>	For getting top marks in the weekly tests	<a href="#">P. Kabungaidze</a>	Steady progress in her work this time around.
<b>7N</b>	<a href="#">L. Musasa</a>	For consistency in his studies	<a href="#">T. Zvinoitavanhu</a>	For working very hard and improving her grades.
<b>7W</b>	<a href="#">T. Chinoperekwei</a>	Doing well in Revision papers	<a href="#">N. Mautsa</a>	Great improvement in Maths
<b>ICT</b>	<a href="#">All Grade 7 pupils</a>	For working hard in preparation for their CHISZ ICT Exam		
<b>Music/ Library</b>	<a href="#">N. Mudzviti</a>	For displaying highest level of responsibility in recently shelving library books	<a href="#">M. Mutsemi</a>	An improved interest in musical expertise
<b>SHONA 5, 6, 7</b>	<a href="#">C. Mutama 6W</a>	For working diligently and hard throughout the week.	<a href="#">L. Dube 7N</a>	For writing well expressed and exciting stories.
<b>SPORT/ P.E.</b>	<a href="#">M. Makiwa 1M</a> <a href="#">N. Sango</a>	Excellent participation during swimming lessons. Outstanding level of fitness.	<a href="#">M. Mandizha 1T</a> <a href="#">R. Bezuidenhout</a>	Good effort during swimming lessons. Always eager to better her techniques and for the positive attitude during swimming practice.
<b>Laverock House</b>	<a href="#">M. Masamha</a>	Keeping his surroundings neat and tidy, as well as being smart.		

I am grateful for all the hard work that the teachers continue to put into the teaching and preparation of our pupils and students. Times are difficult and the pandemic we face does not make it any easier - it takes commitment to manage the situation. I trust parents share the same sentiments and will continue to play your part in support of the school.

I wish you all a restful weekend. Please remain safe.

Kind regards,



**Orlando**