



Principal's Newsletter

27th May, 2022

Dear Parents & Guardians,

The following excerpt comes from the 'Our Daily Bread' reading from the 21st of May 2022, and it really appealed to me. It said, "A nursery owner set out to sell peach trees. She considered various approaches - should she line up the leafy saplings in sacks in a beautiful display or should she create a colourful catalogue picturing peach trees in various seasons of growth? At last she realised what really sells a peach tree. It is the peach it produces which is sweet-smelling, deep orange, fuzzy skinned and juicy. When they taste the fruit, they will want the tree.

This got me thinking about what sells the school. Having pictures of the school (much like displaying the saplings) could be a factor in promoting the school. A far more significant factor are the students themselves - their appearance, confidence, achievements, character and social interactions (much like the fruit). At Hillcrest, we offer a truly holistic education which seeks to develop the full person so that they will thrive in any environment they may find themselves in.

1. CHISZ HEAD'S CONFERENCE

I was privileged to attend the Heads' Conference up at the Victoria Falls, together with Mr. Vickery and his wife. It was great to meet with other Headmasters/mistresses and share our experiences of this past year. There were many lessons learnt but perhaps the greatest for me was from the Chairman of the ATS Parents' Association who made certain pertinent points for us to consider;

- There was no downtime for students with the pressure of sporting, cultural and academic demands being placed on students.
- He expressed concern over the exposure of students to drugs and due to various pressures placed on them to partake of drugs.
- He expressed concern that students seemed to spend an unhealthy amount of time on 'screens' engaged in games, pornography, etc. He even went on to suggest that some of the games were not suitable for children.
- He expressed concern about increasing cases of absentee parents. Parents forced by circumstance to work elsewhere and leave their child in the hands of guardians.

He advised School Heads for the need to educate children on these and other issues.

2. SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Our ageing bus fleet has encountered a number of challenges leading to various breakdowns and causing some inconvenience to staff, children and parents. I do apologise for the inconvenience it has caused and want to assure all concerned that we are looking into this matter and trying to come up with a more permanent solution.

3. INJURY & ILL HEALTH POLICY

I would like to kindly remind Parents and Guardians that whenever students, especially Boarders, either fall ill or suffer injuries during sporting games etc., the School will strive to seek medical attention and have the affected students treated. However, the medical fees incurred thereafter will be charged to the respective students' school fees account.

4. FLU BUG

We still live in the midst of Covid-19 and should therefore remain vigilant and pro-active. The cold weather has affected some of our students who have caught a cold and in the process display Covid-19 like symptoms. May I kindly ask that parents and guardians at home continually monitor their children and, if at all the children display flu/Covid-19 symptoms, to keep the children at home until the symptoms have cleared.

5. SCHOOL ANORAK

The School has introduced an Anorak to the School Uniform. However, the supplier omitted to include the College Logo on the Anorak. We have requested that the supplier rectifies this error. I therefore kindly ask all the parents who bought anoraks for their children from our official uniform supplier to submit their anoraks to Ms. Patience Bandama at the end of Term 2 so that we send them back to the supplier for branding. Please make sure that you have your anorak labelled with your child's name.

6. HALF TERM

The school will break on Thursday 16th June, 2022 at 1.00pm and resume lessons on Tuesday 21st June, 2022. The Hostel will be closed during this period and will allow us to have the hostels fumigated. Boarders will be expected back in Hostel on Monday 20th June and to have signed in by 4.30pm.

7. ACADEMICS

- **High Achievers**

We have received Certificates for our High Achievers from Cambridge and, today, I presented two of the certificates to their recipients, Sharon Marufu and Mpho Tsvakanyi. Sharon attained the Top in Zimbabwe Award for IGCSE First Language English and Mpho attained the Top in the World Award for 'AS' Level Travel & Tourism. Congratulations.



Mpho Tsvakanyi (left) & Sharon Marufu (right) with the Principal

- **'AS' Level Global Perspectives & English Language**

Please note that all our AS and A2 Level pupils do either Global Perspectives & Research or AS English Language as a compulsory subject in addition to their Three AS/A2 Level subjects. This is a school policy and learners should not fail to duly register for the Cambridge examinations in either of those two subjects. These subjects will help learners in collecting more points for their entry into university.

- **Form 2 Great Zimbabwe Educational Trip**

The Form 2 trip to Masvingo which was supposed to take place on Sunday 29th May, has been postponed to next weekend.

- **October/November Cambridge Examinations Registration**

Registration is in progress and the deadline is 24 June, 2022 for IGCSE, 'AS' & 'A' Level.

8. SPORT

- **RESULTS**

Rugby Vs Hellenic – 20th May, 2022

1 st Team	-	Won 34 – 7
2 nd Team	-	Lost 0 – 3
U16 Team	-	Lost 0 – 3
U15 Team	-	Won 53 – 0
U14 Team	-	Won 50 – 0

Boys' Hockey Vs Hellenic – 21st May, 2022

1 st Team	-	Won 3 – 0
2 nd Team	-	Lost 0 – 4
U16 Team	-	Lost 0 – 7
U15 Team	-	Lost 0 – 2
U14 Team	-	Lost 0 – 3

Girls' Hockey Vs Falcon College – 21st May, 2022

1 st Team	-	Lost 0 – 1
U16 Team	-	Lost 0 – 3
U15 Team	-	Lost 0 – 5
U14 Team	-	Lost 0 – 6

- **TRIALS**

The following students have travelled to Chinhoyi and Esigodini for MCD Trials. We wish them well.

Rugby @ Lomagundi

U18 Trials

1. Alex Matarutse	5.	Kudakwashe Kurehwatira
2. Blessing Dube	6.	Progress Matenda
3. Seth Kodzanai	7.	Asher Nxumayo
4. Dean Macherenje	8.	Ron Munaki

U17 Trials

1. Darren Tsvakirai

Boys' Hockey @ Falcon College

U16 Trials

1. Kundayi Muchenje

Girls' Hockey Trials @ Peterhouse

1. Kimberly Nyagondore	6.	Tanyaradzwa Muhamba
2. Salome Muneta	7.	Bianca Nyanhete
3. Kayla Kodzanai	8.	Divine Gwatura
4. Kumbiraishe Mugwagwa	9.	Joanna Makombe
5. Kundainashe Mugwagwa	10.	Gyal Ndoro

- **Sports Equipment & Attire**

We encourage every student to be fully equipped and appropriately dressed for their respective sporting activities. Every student should have a full school tracksuit, penguin shirt, parachute shorts, school cap, sports tackies and the following for each sporting discipline they play;

Cricket	Rugby	Hockey
1. Cricket Bat 2. White Shorts for the Junior Teams 3. White Knee Length Socks for the Junior Teams 4. White Cricket Longs for the 1 st Team	1. Rugby Boots 2. Gum Guards 3. Scrum Cap (Optional) 4. White Sports Shorts 5. Navy Blue School Rugby Jersey 6. Blue & White Turnover Socks	1. Hockey Stick 2. Sheen Pads 3. Gum Guards 4. School Tennis/Hockey Kit 5. Blue & White Turnover Socks
Tennis	Swimming	Athletics
1. Tennis Racquet 2. School Tennis/Hockey Kit 3. White Ankle Socks	1. School Swimming Costume for the Girls 2. Black/Navy Blue Swimming Trunk/Speedo for the Boys 3. School Swimming Cap 4. Drying towel	1. House T-shirt 2. Athletics Vest

5. CULTURE

- **Inter-House Monologues & Duologues**

These were held on Tuesday 24th May. Results will follow in the next Newsletter.

- **Interact & Leo Clubs Trip to Rusape**

The clubs were scheduled to travel to Rusape on Sunday 29th May to visit and donate grocery items and kitchen utensils to Jairos Jiri Rehabilitation Centre. However, the trip has been postponed to a date to be advised.

- **Inter-House Drama**

The Inter-House Drama Competition which is scheduled for Tuesday 31st May, has been postponed to a date to be advised.

6. THE WEEK AHEAD

Please find accompanying this letter the Week Ahead.

Do have a restful and safe weekend.

Kind regards,

ORLANDO FERNANDES
PRINCIPAL – HILLCREST SCHOOLS