



BEGINNING OF TERM 3  
1<sup>st</sup> September, 2025

## Principal's Newsletter

Dear Prep & College Parents and Guardians,

I sincerely hope that this finds you all well and having had a wonderful break with your children. Our holiday revision classes were absolutely packed for two weeks, which indicated the dedication of our teachers and our pupils to getting the best possible marks for their external examinations coming up next month.

### **Fee Payments for Term 3, 2025**

Many thanks to all those people who have already paid their fees. Our offices are open on Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> of September all the way to the start of the term if anyone would like to come in and pay their fees.

We are also open on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2025 from 0800hrs to 1200hrs if parents would like to avoid the queues on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of September.

Entry into the school next term will be strictly monitored and will depend on the presentation of a fee clearance pass (FCP). Your child will not be able to start school without evidence of this pass when term begins. Fees from Term 2 must be completely cleared before another payment plan is put into place for Term 3.

There is a Payment Plan system in place if you need to spread your payment over a few months. Please note that there is a fee to this service as well as interest on fees that are not paid on time. This is to cover administration fees for the Payment Plan to be monitored by our accounts team and to encourage parents to pay their fees in full at the start of each term.

### **SDC College Tuck Shop**

As I write, the SDC Committee is still in the process of appointing a new operator for the College tuck shop. There is a possibility that the tuck shop may not be fully operational at the start of the new term in one week's time.

If your child typically relies on the tuckshop for lunch, we kindly encourage you to consider registering them for our Hot Meal Programme to ensure they are well catered for during this transition period. Alternatively, you can send your child in with home-made lunches. Should you wish to apply for a place on the Hot Meal Programme or require further information, please contact the school office as soon as possible, so that the kitchens can prepare meals for the correct number of children.

### **Electric Perimeter Fence**

To increase security around our school premises, Baxtile Ltd has installed a magnificent electric security fence. In addition to electric fences now enclosing Farmcrest and the Laverock, Prep and College buildings, Safeguard have dispatched security guards at all our gates and during the night we have extra guards on patrol as well as two dog handlers.

### **Principal, Line Manager, Pupil and Parent Gatherings for College pupils**

I have scheduled dedicated meetings for each year group to take place in Mutare this term, with both parents and pupils in attendance. All boarders will also be present for these important gatherings. These meetings are intended to provide an opportunity for open and meaningful discussion around matters relevant to your child's current age and stage of development. Topics will include academic progress, social growth and emotional wellbeing. We greatly value your partnership and look forward to these conversations as we continue to support your child's journey through school.

Please save the dates of the meeting relevant to your child/children and do come and join us at Lighthouse Church at 1730hrs.

- 11<sup>th</sup> September - Form 3
- 18<sup>th</sup> September - Upper 6
- 25<sup>th</sup> September - Form 4
- 2<sup>nd</sup> October - Form 2
- 9<sup>th</sup> October - Form 1
- 23<sup>rd</sup> October - Lower 6

### **Water Bottles**

In our quest to reduce the use of single-use plastic bottles, especially during sports fixtures, I would like to appeal to all parents to send their child to school with a named water bottle that can be refilled during the day and used throughout the school day. Research has shown that keeping hydrated with fresh water is essential for healthy development, optimal brain activity and general well-being

### **Medical Aid Cover**

It is essential to have medical aid or medical insurance in place for your child. In the event of an emergency, having this coverage can be truly life-changing. We appreciate that many parents have already been proactive in securing medical aid to support their child through various medical situations.

Please be advised that, effective January 2026, all boarders who are not registered on a medical aid scheme will be required to pay a deposit to the school. This deposit will cover any expenses related to external medical assistance and medication provided during their time at school. Further details will be communicated directly to the affected families in due course.

We kindly ask that you make the necessary arrangements to enrol your child in a suitable medical aid scheme as soon as possible to ensure their wellbeing and avoid any inconvenience.

### **CrestCan 2025**

Every year the College stops to take time to think about people who may be suffering from cancer. On September the 14<sup>th</sup> at we invite families to gather together at the College to walk around our beautiful premises in the fresh spring air. There will be entertainment and an area provided to prepare and eat your lunch together - thus celebrating our good health and wellbeing together as well as acknowledging those who may be suffering from cancer. Please join us for this special event.

### **Leo & Interact Club Appeal**

On the 5th of October, the Interact and Leo Clubs will be visiting Daisy Dube Children's Home, which cares for children ranging from approximately two weeks old to 18 years of age. This home recently suffered a devastating fire, and an urgent appeal has been made to support their recovery.

Our Clubs have a longstanding relationship with Daisy Dube Children's Home. We kindly invite you to donate second-hand clothes, blankets, kitchen utensils, and similar items. Donations can be dropped

off at the school or sent with Hillcrest pupils early next term. All contributions will be carefully recorded by Mrs. Mtisi or Mr. Pasipamire, the Club patrons.

Thank you sincerely for your ongoing support of the Interact and Leo Clubs and for helping us make a difference in the lives of the children at Daisy Dube Children's Home.

### **Laverock & Farmcrest Christmas Dinner 2025**

This will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> November starting at 7.00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Christmas and a sense of community in our boarding houses. Pupils will come together to celebrate with a wonderful meal and music. US\$10.00 has been charged to cover these as well as decorations and other non-food items that might need to be paid for. This charge has been included in the invoice for boarders at Laverock and in Forms 1, 2, 3 and Lower 6.

### **Complaints protocol**

If anyone has concerns that they would like to raise within the school ecosystem, I would encourage you to follow the complaints protocol and reach out to the following offices in the first instance:

- a) Anything academic or pastoral - reach out to the tutor
- b) Anything sport or cultural related - reach out to the coach and staff manager
- c) Anything financial - reach out to the accounts office
- d) Anything logistical - reach out to the front office
- e) Anything boarding related - reach out to the duty staff member and house-parents
- f) Anything not covered above - reach out to the deputy heads

The people referred to above will then assess the situation you are reporting and follow due protocol. Please make use of our email to file complaints, so that we can act on them professionally and follow them up correctly. Making use of Whatsapp groups is not a recognised, formal platform for complaints and I would discourage people from using it for this reason. All our complaints will be dealt with discretion and professionalism.

### **Term 3 Dates**

- Start of Term 3, 2025 - Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September
- End of Term 3, 2025 - Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

### **Other Important Dates in the Calendar for the College next term**

- Crestcan Walk - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September
- Academic Luncheon - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September
- Inter-House Swimming Gala - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September
- Form 1 Camp (Tree of Life) - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September
- Cambridge Exams Begin - Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> September to 13<sup>th</sup> November
- Upper 6 Leavers' Dinner - Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September
- Fixture Free Weekends - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September & 7<sup>th</sup> November
- Sports & Cultural Dinner - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October
- Speech Night & Prize Giving - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October
- Mid-Term Break - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> to Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October
- Swot Leave - Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October
- Form 1 Great Zimbabwe Trip - Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October
- Fireworks Night - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November
- End of Year Internal Exams - Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November
- Tree Planting Day - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November
- Farmcrest Christmas Dinner - Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November
- Form 2 Matopos Trip (Byo) - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November

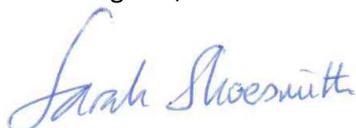
- Form 3 Camp (OBZ Chimanimani) Monday 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November
- Schools' Carol Service - Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

**Study Leave for Examination candidates**

This will begin from the Mid-Term Break on Tuesday, 21 October 2025. Boarders will remain in hostels under supervision. Day scholars who return for study or teacher support must be in full school uniform. We encourage all learners to use this preparation period productively to enhance their performance in external examinations.

Please feel free to contact me at any time via my wonderful PA, Patience Bandama [bandamap@hillcrestcollege.net](mailto:bandamap@hillcrestcollege.net) or on 0772249007.

Warm regards,



**SARAH SHOESMITH**  
**PRINCIPAL**