



WATERSTONE

C O L L E G E

High School May Newsletter 2016

Dear Waterstone family members

As the focus slowly turns towards the mid-year exams, I am sure that all of you are stocking up on rescue tablets and preparing yourselves emotionally to help support your children through the inevitable stress associated with this time of year.

Thanks to all the parents who gave us feedback about our midyear exam timetable. I am sure that you all understand the complexities of drawing up these schedules and the balancing act required in order to meet the requirements of our diverse academic landscape. We have published the final version on the communicator and on your childrens' tablets under educator folders, in the _WholeSchool group.

Academics:

With exams as our focus from the start of June, I would ask you to support us in our efforts to manage the logistics. If your child is ill or injured, please let us know as soon as you can. You can either phone the receptionist or email the grade controller. We need to have a doctor's note in order to prevent the allocation of a zero for that exam.

If your child is ill and a doctor's note is supplied, we may or may not ask your child to write the exam (depending on the return date and available days in the timetable) but this will be for the experience of writing the paper and it will not be included in the report mark because that exam is compromised. The assessed mark for that exam will be calculated from establishing the current position of your child in the ranking of the class and grade, based on all previous assessments.

We have made one change to the start times of the exams. All grade 10 to 12 exams will have the first session start at 08H00 (pupils should be at school by 07H40) and the second session will start at 12H30(Pupils to be seated by 12H20).

All grade 8 and 9 exams will have the first session start at 08H00 (pupils to be at school by 07H40) and the second session will start at 11H00 (Pupils to be seated by 10H50).

The end time of each session will depend on the length of the exam.

Please could you give your child a "once over" before letting them out of the door in the morning. We traditionally have a tough time with dress code. It is rather unnecessary and inconvenient for us to have to issue sanctions during exams so please give us your support

in this regard. Pupils who repeatedly fail our daily dress inspection will lose exam privileges and be required to stay at school every day until 14H30.

Culture:

Our RAPS and EADS team have started with their performances. One on Wednesday 25 May and one on Saturday 28 May. We are also in the initial stages of set up for our annual inter-house plays due to be performed in the third term.

The debating teams have participated in the regional league over the past few weekends and have all grown as a result of the experience.

Sport:

Our winter sport program is drawing to a close as we approach the exam session. We will be playing a full set of fixtures against Marian College this Saturday and we would love to get the whole of Waterstone to attend those fixtures.

The girls' netball teams have done well again this year, winning the league in all age groups and winning the first round of playoffs. Keep an eye on the results feed; to track our progress in this regard.

The football teams have been collecting an impressive set of results as well. The season started later so we will only know if we have won our leagues later in the term.

Our hockey teams have had all had a good season so far. We have seen some exceptional performances from both boys and girls first teams. There has been encouraging growth in the junior girls group, almost enough for a second junior girls team. Our HPP program has also seen some pleasing growth this term. We are excited about the potential that Hockey has at Waterstone

Service:

The blanket drive has been fairly poorly supported by the high school this term. We are having a civvies day on Wednesday 25 May in exchange for any items that can be used by those in need. Blankets are particularly valued by the people who are receiving your kind donations.

General:

I would like to apologise again to everyone who was stuck in the traffic outside the school last week. That was most definitely not our implementation of the proposed one-way system discussed in my last newsletter. It was initiated by the contractors building the pedestrian crossings. We had agreed that it would not happen again on Wednesday but it persisted into Thursday.

I am sorry that we did not have enough control over that situation. I appreciate the patience that was required for all of you to get your child to school and leave the vicinity. Once the pedestrian crossings are complete and the parking is fully functional I hope that things will

improve. Our continued growth will not give us much respite and a longer term solution is still being sought.

Parents of pupils in Grade 9 should be reminded about the career assessment on 10 June, details are on the communicator and a reply slip was sent home yesterday.

The grade 8's outing to the Gateway to Space exhibition will be on the 9th of June.

Many of you would have noticed the improvement that has been achieved in your child's maths results because of consistent use of the intelligent practice system. The system is a very well designed drill and practice platform for Maths, which adjusts the level of difficulty as you make progress. Some pupils have shown a 15 to 20% improvement in maths results because they have made regular use of the platform. If you have not paid the R200 to make use of the system for the year, I would highly recommend that you do. IF you have paid, please encourage your child to make use of it.

Thank you all for your continued support of Waterstone, together we can keep getting better.

Please keep on communicating with us.



Matthew Ridgway

Operational Head

High School