



Newsletter 10 – 23 July 2015

Dear Parents

We were happy to welcome all our learners back from the winter holidays. We hope that everyone enjoyed the unusually pleasant weather and the days of family togetherness.

AS ANNOUNCED IN JUNE: PARENTS' MEETING ON SATURDAY, 25 JULY

Learners appreciate their parents' attention! We too would like to see you again! The parent-child-teacher team needs to communicate effectively.

Please regard this meeting about your child's academic development as a priority above sport, extra lessons or looking after family members etc.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday. Our teachers will be available in their classrooms from **08:00 to 13:00**. **Please ensure that your child accompanies you in school uniform.** Having the meeting without your youngster present is the cause of much strife in the home because of differing stories – one from the teacher and another from the learner. It leads to avoidable confusion.

A gentle reminder: Please respect the time of other parents by keeping the meeting time focused on the how to improve the learner's effort and academic success.

GRADE 11 AND GRADE 12

Our Grade 12s start their preliminary exams on 4 September with Life Orientation. In effect, they have 28 days of lessons left. No need to panic if the learner has been working steadily!

Our Grade 12 learners who wish to apply for university entrance should have done so during the school holidays. While the closing date for applications differs from one university to another, the June results are vital for early admission. A Bachelor's pass is the minimum required for university entrance – at least 50% for English Home Language and three other academic subjects such as mathematics, physical science, life sciences, business studies and/or EGD. The minimum 50% is, however, seldom sufficient to gain entry to popular courses.

The university route is not the only route to success. My dad was a proud boilermaker on what was then the South African Railways and Harbours (SAR&H). The Oude Molen badge shows the governor invented by James Watt to control the safety of boilers. Our curriculum is very useful in finding work even in the tough economic climate where jobs are scarce. Employers sometimes complain that people want the job but not the work. A positive approach coupled to our curriculum will always be welcome.

Our Grade 11s must make important choices based on their academic performance over the past six months. In effect, they have entered the final phase of their school career. For them, 2016 offers 10 weeks in Term 1, 6 weeks in Term 2, 6 weeks in Term 3 and that's it for matric – like the current Gr. 12s with a total of only 110 days of lessons. A matric pass is only of value if it is of good quality. If an academic matric is not the right route for them, perhaps the TVET college route is.

We must bear in mind that every year there are 670 000 learners writing matric with the hope of entering an economy that is very sluggish and in which cheap imports are very difficult to compete against. Our sluggish economy needs proudly qualified artisans and technicians more than it needs university graduates. South Africa needs more people who can do the job in the field or factory.

GRADE 10

Our Grade 10s have seen the difference between the pace of work and the depth of content between Senior Phase (Gr. 7, 8 and 9) and the far more demanding Further Education Phase of Grade 10, 11 and 12. It's time to move up a couple of gears!

Consistent effort is always rewarded. An inspiring vision for the future should energise each learner to make the effort that will turn that vision into a reality.

GRADE 8 AND 9

Our Grade 8s have written their first high school exam. Like the Grade 10s, many of them seem to have found the required depth of understanding – not just memorising – a challenge. The change from merely memorising to understanding and to identifying similarities and differences must now be a serious goal. Effort is the key – not simply relying on natural talents. We offer 'catch-up' extra lessons and will be monitoring attendance far more effectively from now on.

Grade 9s will have to make subject choices for Grade 10 later this term. A discussion of subject performance strengths and weaknesses at home will make the decision an informed one when discussed with the teachers. The decision to choose a subject does not ensure acceptance into the subject as it is a matter of merit first.

OUDE MOLEN'S GOT TALENT

We have many talented learners at Oude Molen. They are invited to display their talents on Friday, 28 August 2015. We hope you will support them. Rehearsals will take place in the afternoons to ensure that everyone puts in a confident and polished performance. We're hoping that the Staff will also mesmerise the audience with their contributions!

RCL ELECTION

This new term starts with the election process for RCL Councillors for 2016. Mayebongwe Ncongo has had a good term as Head Boy, setting an excellent example as a dedicated learner and a fine public speaker. Having been an elected leader who has made a positive difference in his school strengthens his CV, his testimonial and his application for bursaries to study. His team has shown what it is capable of with their projects and activities.

Sessions with a USA visitor who specialises in promoting the Charter for Compassion will take place in the week of 11 - 15 August for current and prospective RCL Councillors.

We are hoping that the learners who have the ambition to make a positive difference will make themselves available for election. Details will be announced to our youngsters.

We look forward to seeing you and your child on Saturday morning.

Best wishes for a successful term.