



Dear Parents

Exams are around the corner...

Our pupils should be starting to get into exam-preparation mode at home. The examination run commences at the end of May, as such I encourage our parents to check that their child has put together a study timetable and is beginning to organise their work-station at home to optimise their revision time.

Any child who needs assistance with their preparation for examinations is encouraged to speak with their tutor teacher or subject teacher who will gladly help.

Tips on effective studying

Reading is not studying

Simply reading and re-reading texts or notes is not actively engaging in the material. It is simply re-reading your notes and leads to quickly forgetting.

Active studying does not mean highlighting or underlining text, re-reading, or rote memorization. Though these activities may help to keep you engaged in the task, they are not considered active studying techniques and are weakly related to improved learning (Mackenzie, 1994).

Ideas for active studying include:

- Create a study guide by topic. Formulate questions and problems and write complete answers.
- Become a teacher. Say the information aloud in your own words as if you are the instructor and teaching the concepts to a class.
- Derive examples that relate to your own experiences.
- Create concept maps or diagrams that explain the material.
- Develop symbols that represent concepts.
- For non-technical classes (e.g., English, History, etc), figure out the big ideas so you can explain, contrast, and re-evaluate them.
- For technical classes, work the problems and explain the steps and why they work.

Organization and planning will help you to actively study effectively. Organize your materials first and then begin your active exam preparation (Newport, 2007). For example, gather all of the materials for one topic (e.g., PowerPoint notes, text book notes, articles, homework, etc.) and put them together in a pile. Label each pile with the topic and study by topics.

Spacing out is good

One of the most impactful learning strategies is “distributed practice”—spacing out your studying over several short periods of time over several days and weeks (Newport, 2007). The most effective practice is to work a short time on each class every day. The total amount of time spent studying will be the same (or less) than one or two marathon sessions, but you will learn the information more deeply and retain much more for the long term—which will help get you perform at your best on the exam.

For example, you may do a few problems per day in math rather than all of them the hour before class. In history, you can spend 15-20 minutes each day actively studying your class notes. Thus, your studying time may still be the same length, but rather than only preparing for one exam, you will be preparing for all of your exams in short stretches. This will help you focus, stay on top of your work, and retain information.

Finally, if you have to memorize material for an exam (names, dates, formulae, etc), it is best to make flashcards for this material and review periodically throughout the day rather than one long, memorization session (Wissman and Rawson, 2012).

Cited

Mackenzie, A. M. (1994). Examination preparation, anxiety and examination performance in a group of adult students.

International Journal of Lifelong Education, 13(5), 373-388.

Newport, C. (2006). How to become a straight-a student: the unconventional strategies real college students use to score high while studying less.

Three Rivers Press.

Wissman, K. T., Rawson, K. A., & Pyc, M. A. (2012). How and when do students use flashcards? Memory, 20, 568-579.

RIDGEWAY COLLEGE

**Blanket Drive**

A reminder to our pupils and parents to support our Winter Blanket Drive. Please forward any extra blankets to the school so that we can spread a little warmth in our community this winter.

Edugro Winter Sports Festival

Our teams are preparing in earnest for our annual trip to Ashbury College in Benoni for the festival next weekend.

This year our team of delegates will include:

U15 Netball

U17 Netball

U14 Soccer

U15 Soccer

U17 Soccer

Junior Chess Team

Senior Chess Team

Team of Public Speakers

Indemnity Forms and Information Letters (including event arrangements, departure and expected return times) will be issued to our delegates today and Monday.

Saturday Classes

This Saturday our Grade 12 and our Grade 11 pupils will be attending their Saturday Classes at school – please remind your child to check their timetable.

Hockey

Congratulations to Parth Patel who has been selected to play for the Limpopo Provincial U16 Hockey Team. Well done Parth.

**Rugby**

Nhlayiseko Hlavangani and Pascal Junior Bessong have made it through to the 3rd Round of the Limpopo Provincial Rugby Trials taking place on Tuesday 9 May. Well done gents and good luck.

Matric Jackets

The Matric Jackets arrived to great excitement last week.

Forest Walk

Thank you to all of our pupils, parents and community members who were able to join us for the Forest Walk on 22 April – it was a lovely morning enjoying the beauty of our Hanglip Forest.

Have a super weekend

KIND REGARDS

Dr. G.W. Elliott

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RIDGEWAY CALENDAR

*Academics***Test Timetable (Term 2)**

Test Timetable has been sent on D6

Exam Timetable

The Exam starts on the 29th of May. The timetable has been sent on D6

Winter School (Grade 12)

Our annual Winter School for Grade 12 will run during the week

Mon 26 June – Fri 30 June.

The timetable has been sent on D6

*Sport***Edugro Winter Sports Festival – Saturday 13 May**

We will be travelling to Ashbury College (Benoni) this year to participate in the annual Winter Sports Festival.

The festival comes at a no cost to our parents and our delegation of netball, soccer, chess and public speaking children will be finalised soon.

Details regarding logistics will be forwarded in due course.



Believe...