

# RIDGEWAY COLLEGE

## NEWSLETTER



13 January 2023

*Dear Parents*

Welcome to the new school year. Welcome back to all our returning pupils and parents and a special welcome to our 'new' Ridgeway parents; we trust that this year will be our best yet.

The commencement of the school year is always a very busy time and ours at Ridgeway, was no exception. Your child should have received their stationery packs, exercise books and most if not all of their different subject textbooks. This year we run a ten-day cycle, have a new subject combination offering in both grades 10 and 11, offer Tshivenda as a new subject in grades 8-10 and have introduced a new 'colours' tie and blazer scrolls for our pupils awarded this honour at the end of 2022. The start of a year allows us the opportunity to re-focus our attention on moving forward and growing stronger in 2023.

We have adopted a 'theme' for the school for 2023 that speaks directly to our motto and becomes a constant reminder of our philosophy. We have bottled it into a hashtag for the year: #believe.

### 'Parental Involvement is Key to Student Success'

An article written by Grace Chen came to my attention over the summer break and I would like to share some of her thoughts in this first newsletter of the year...

Extensive research has shown that students achieve more in school when their parents are involved in their education. Her article discusses the critical role moms and dads can play in their child's education.

The critical role of parental involvement in a child's education has been examined in countless studies and reports. The research overwhelmingly supports the following conclusions:

1. Academic achievement increases when parents are involved in their children's education – the more extensively involved the parents are, the greater the positive impact on academic achievement.
2. Parental involvement leads to better classroom behaviour – parental involvement not only enhances academic performance, but it also has a positive influence on student attitude and behaviour. A parent's interest and encouragement in a child's education can affect the child's attitude to school, classroom conduct, self-esteem, absenteeism, and motivation.
3. Parents should stay involved in their children's education from preschool through high school – the involvement of parents in high school can influence whether a child stays in school to completion and whether they continue into tertiary studies.
4. Reading together at home greatly improves reading skills – while reading together is commonplace in the primary school phase, high school children who observe their parent reading for enjoyment, have a much greater chance of becoming 'readers' themselves.
5. Parental involvement lifts teacher morale – schools and teachers also benefit from parental involvement because involved parents develop a greater appreciation for the challenges that teachers face in the classroom. Teacher morale is improved. Communication between home and school helps a teacher to know a student better, which in turn allows the teacher to

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teach the student more effectively. Communication also helps to dispel any mistrust or misperceptions that may exist between teacher and parent.

6. Parental involvement benefits children and parents – when moms and dads are involved, they get the satisfaction of making a contribution to their children’s education and future. They have a better understanding of the school curriculum and activities and can be more comfortable with the quality of education their child is receiving. They spend more time with their child and become able to communicate better with them. Some studies show that a parent’s participation in a child’s education may inspire the parent to further his or her own education.

The following are some tips that Grace provides for parents to be more involved:

- Read with your child and talk with them about the books and stories you read.
- Help your child work on homework assignments/projects.
- Assist your child to organize and monitor their time.
- Attend and actively support school activities.
- Volunteer for special events at school.
- Continue to be involved as your child moves through high school.
- Attend parent-teacher meetings.
- Talk with your child about school on a daily basis.
- Be an advocate for your child to make sure that their needs are being met.
- If a problem arises, address it quickly by requesting to meet with the teacher.
- Advise your child’s teacher of any issues that may affect the child’s school performance.
- Encourage your child on their successes and support them when performance may be below their best.

Parental involvement in a child’s education is an advantage that money cannot buy. Being involved in your child’s education not only helps your child to achieve more academically, but it also lifts teacher morale and provides you with the satisfaction of making a difference in your child’s education.

(Taken in part from <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/blog/parental-involvement-is-key-to-student-success>)

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF

We have some new teachers that have joined the high school this term:

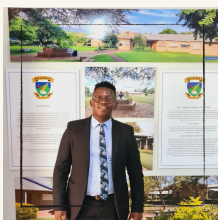
Mr. L Kupeka will be teaching Natural Sciences, Technology and Mathematical Literacy.

Ms. V Netshitungulu will be teaching our Tshivenda classes and Life Orientation.

Mr. A Lunga will be teaching Mathematics and Further Studies Mathematics.

Mr. B Stoltz, our new Head of Department Commerce, will be teaching Economic Management Sciences and Accounting.

I wish them a smooth start and trust that they will find Ridgeway to be a really special environment filled with amazing children and supportive parents and staff.



*Mr. L. Kupeka*



*Ms. V. Netshitungulu*



*Mr. A. Lunga*



*Mr. B. Stoltz*

## ASSESSMENT TIMETABLE TERM 1

The Assessment Timetable for Grades 8-12 will be issued to our pupils on Monday 16th. A copy is attached for your convenience.

## SATURDAY CLASSES TIMETABLE

The Saturday Classes Timetable for Grades 12 and 11 will be issued to pupils on Monday 16th. Pupils are expected to be present for their relevant subject sessions.



## D6 COMMUNICATOR APP

I urge all parents to download the D6 Communicator App to their cellphone; please link to Ridgeway College. This is a FREE app. We will shift over to the 'app' by the end of January for all correspondence to parents. Parents can download the app from their play store (android devices), or use the download link: <https://onelink.to/school-communicator>

## FIELD TRIPS (20-24 FEBRUARY)

Just a reminder that our Grade 8-10 pupils will be going on their grade field trip during this week. As agreed, parents have been given three installments to cover the cost, starting in January. Some parents may have missed the first installment deadline, we ask that they catch it up at the end of this month so that we can make deposit payment on bookings. We will send out more details during the course of next week.

## UPCOMING DATES

- Monday 16 January – Athletics afternoon timetable begins.
- Monday 16 January – New Parent Information Evening (Shandukani Hall @ 18:00)  
Time will be available after the presentation to meet-and-greet your child's teachers.
- Wednesday 18 January - Grade 12 IEB Results (2022) released to pupils from school.
- Tuesday 24 January – Inter-House Athletics @ LTT High School (08:00-13:00).
- Friday 27 January – Independent Schools' Athletics Meet @ PEPPS (Polokwane).

## KIND REGARDS

*Dr. G.W Elliott*

EXECUTIVE HEAD

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## GRADE 8

# ORIENTATION DAY



*#awesome #believe #2023 #newbeginnings*



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