



Dear Parents

I am in awe of those amongst us who are extraordinary... those who push themselves beyond pain barriers and achieve the seemingly impossible. Lately, our TV screen has flicked between Euro finals, the British Open, Wimbledon, the Tour de France and a sport I am passionate about- Grand Prix racing. I don't want to talk about the last race at Silverston though, which saw the driver I support in a high speed dice that resulted in him crashing into the barrier at 51g. That's g- force, for those who do not care for the sport. The average g-force experienced in a rugby tackle is 21 g. But I digress.

Some would argue that the pinnacle of human prowess is seen at the Olympics, that most ancient of competitions begun by the Greeks in 776 BC. With this extraordinary event around the corner, I came across an article on Simone Biles. She is an extraordinary gymnast from the USA who is widely expected to smash a long-standing record at these Tokyo Summer Olympics by surpassing Larisa Latynina's record of 32 combined world championship and Olympic medals. Biles currently has 30 combined medals and has been hailed by many as the greatest gymnast ever. That is not what impressed me. This was. She said: "I'm not the next Usain Bolt or Michael Phelps. I'm the first Simone Biles."

It takes strength of character to stand apart, to rise above and to be more than ordinary. I think of that sentiment as I reflect on those who followed the looting crowds in KZN and Gauteng last week; of those who knew what they were doing was wrong but did it anyway; of those who fell for hysteria, greed and a warped sense of entitlement, leaving a burning, smouldering, shattered trail of destruction behind them. And then I think of those who rose above the mob mentality; those who stood firm defending the little that was left; those who rose above racial tensions, anger and bitterness to sweep clean the broken streets...

Perhaps they are the truly extraordinary. Perhaps they, the unsung heroes (who will never receive the accolades and public praise of the Olympians and other gods of our time) are the ones who deserve medals of honour, because what they did - those people of all races, colour, creed and age - was stare down anarchy and that is beyond extraordinary.

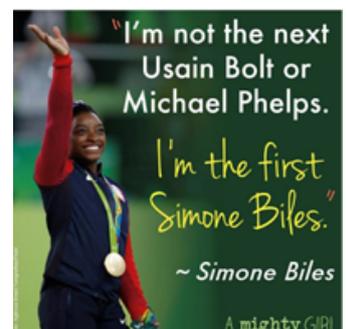
And perhaps we need to show some of that bravery as we face the return to school and stare down the COVID monster that has us all a little afraid.

YOURS IN EDUCATION

*Dionne Redfern*

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# CELEBRATIONS

*We wish a belated Eid blessing on all our families who celebrated this occasion on Wednesday.*



*May this Eid bring the blessings for the entire humanity that we can walk on the way of peace and harmony.*

*Eid Mubarak!*



# OPENING OF SCHOOL

Unless there is a dramatic announcement over the weekend, we will re-open for face to face teaching on Monday. As I said in my last COVID update, pupils will stay in their class pods and those who break the COVID rules will be sent home. If your child is sick or in quarantine, please notify the tutor as we are keeping a register and will accommodate online learning for those who are genuinely unable to be at school. We will ask for medical evidence.



# CONDOLENCES

On behalf of our school, I offer our condolences to the following pupils who have lost loved ones this past week. We hold you and your families in our thoughts and prayers as you navigate this loss.  
Bradwin Moodley      Rabelani Dzambukeri  
Tafadzwa Chiguvare      Atshilaho Ramuthivheli

# NEW STAFF MEMBER

It is with pleasure that I welcome Mr. Willard Mahlatini to our Mathematics Department. You will all know that Mr Gwaza is a highly rated and extremely competent HOD at our school. What you may not know is that his mentor was Mr. Mahlatini. Mr. Gwaza credits his mentor with shaping the teacher he is today so imagine what the two of them will achieve working side by side once more. Mr Mahlatini has a B Ed in Mathematics and many years of experience under his belt. He is a highly innovative and resourceful teacher who will smoothly transfer mathematical skills to learners which they can use to manipulate everyday life situations. He is passionate about imparting not only his knowledge but about inspiring and motivating students to achieve quality grades. We look forward to working with him and know he will contribute a great deal to our school.



# ACADEMIC NEWS

Dede Bessong competed for South Africa in the International Biology Olympiad this week. While we have her results, we are not sure yet where she was ranked. We are incredibly proud of her not only for this achievement but for her dedication and commitment to excellence.



32<sup>nd</sup> International Biology Olympiad 2021 (Online Participation)

Students

South Africa

Leyya Ismail	Marthe Bessong	Raul Govender	Yesol Jeong