

RIDGEWAY COLLEGE



NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

FEATURED THIS WEEK:

*OPENING OF SCHOOL
ONLINE LEARNING
HAIR & UNIFORM
CYCLING NEWS
HARD @ WORK*

THERE IS ALWAYS A NEW DAWN

“Education is not just about going to school or getting a degree. It’s about widening your knowledge and absorbing the truth about life.”

It has once again been a strange week of silent corridors, broken only by chainsaws cutting the broken boughs of trees after the rains and the laughter of staff meeting for a coffee break in the quad. Our school is a shadow of itself without our pupils and we look forward to having them back.

Opening of school

By now, you should all have received the message sent via WhatsApp on Saturday evening, following the release of the government gazette and a memo from ISASA. The Amended Directions stated that independent schools may only reopen for learners after a two-week period from the date of the pronouncement of the Department of Basic Education, which was 15 January 2021. This effectively means that independent schools cannot reopen for learners before Saturday, 30 January 2021. We will re-open our school as of 1 February, ensuring that all is in order to comply with the Health and Safety regulations.

This comes as good news to the staff and to many parents but I know that for some, there is a degree of trepidation and anxiety around this. I understand that. I remind you that the first line of checking is with you, the parent. If your child shows any symptoms, please do not send them to school. For our part, we will do everything in our power to ensure the safety of your children at school. Our timetable has been arranged to allow for children to remain in a single classroom for the most part while staff move, desks are distanced and sanitised through the day, masks are obligatory, hand washing and sanitising regularly encouraged, break times monitored by staff, daily health checks done on arrival and so on. What we cannot do is offer online as an option for 50% of the school while the other 50% is in class. My staff simply don’t have the hours in the day to accommodate that. For those who are genuinely sick or if your child or a member of your immediate family has a co-morbidity, we will do what we did last year: please send medical evidence and we will accommodate your child to remain online for a while.

I thank those parents who mailed their concerns and wish every one of our families a blessed and safe weekend.

29 JANUARY 2021

Online learning

I am delighted to say that our second round of online learning has been far slicker and better attended than last year. Well done to the students and thank you to the parents for your support. It is good to know that we have a back-up system that works.

Hair and Uniform

Our new uniform has been a smart but expensive change for our school. I would like this uniform to be worn with pride: clean shoes, neat ties and so on. With school opening again next week, I remind parents and pupils that hair needs to look natural and that no dying, bleaching, coloured braids or anything that draws negative attention will be permitted. Please do not allow lightning bolts or other such patterns to be shaved into one's hair. For the girls, hair over the collar must be tied up. The council have revised all of these rules and will present them to the school. If your child does not yet have the uniform or is in Grade 12, they may wear the old College uniform. Attached is a list of what we have in stock in our shop, should anyone still need to purchase items.

A new order will be placed by the school at the end of January. If your child needs a special size of anything, please let us know.

Cycling News

Andani Raphalalani, our star cyclist, recently took part in a training camp to hone his technical skills, where coaches of BICP helped him learn body positioning on rocks, take-off and landing skills and such. We hope he can soon put these skills to use.



In the words of two new girls...

We welcomed some new grade 10 pupils this term.

In asking them how their somewhat strange start to the year had gone, having to begin online, they said:

"It has been nothing but a blessing to be accepted at such a lovely school. We have had the best experience so far.

As boarders, we enjoy the meals, the hostel, the peaceful environment and the love and care we have had from people, including our teachers. Our teachers go the extra mile to help us understand the work. We have faith that we will become the best versions of ourselves in this school."

YOURS IN EDUCATION

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HARD AT WORK

Dede Bessong:

Although I was not happy to start my matric year online, I was just glad be back at school and have my brain fired up again. In between power outages and slow internet, there is still the excitement of learning new topics and getting to smiling at people on Zoom calls. Online learning is the embodiment of "Improvise. Adapt. Overcome."

