



23 September 2016

Dear Parents

It seems way too soon to be contemplating the short break that is the Michaelmas holiday - and for many who are involved in the tournaments and tours that take place during this time, this will be even shorter. For our Matrics, this is no break at all, as they face but twenty days until the Interfaith Service and their Valediction Ceremony. They need real focus now and I am sure they will find that.

The departure of our Grade 12 leaders heralds the appointment of the next group of prefects for 2016/17. The Grade 11 boys who have chosen to act as prefects now have the choice to have their names placed on the ballot for the prefect election that will take place at the start of next term.

It is important to recap how the election process operates.

In essence, boys have three constituencies from which they can be chosen. The boys' votes are cast and counted, as are the votes of the staff, along with the management team. Each boy's vote has an equal weighting, regardless of grade, because we realize that different leaders are effective within different age groups in the school and the range of support allows us that representation. The election is run, IEC style, as a secret ballot, boys are allowed to cast a maximum of ten votes, and, thereafter, the votes are counted by independent auditors. As an aside, the experience is fine preparation for our future participants in South Africa's democracy.

The top twelve candidates in each of the three categories (pupils, staff, and management) are automatically selected as prefects. In theory, this means that there could be thirty-six prefects but most leaders find commonality of support in at least two of the three categories. As a result, we usually end up with a group of approximately twenty prefects. Together with the Student Council (elected by the boys and by grade in the First Term of each year), the House Captains (also elected by the boys early in the new year) and our various sport, service and cultural leaders, the prefect body serves our community as ambassadors of the School.

Boys and staff also vote for a Head Boy and a Deputy Head Boy at this time but these appointments are only made at Speech Night, following a chance to see the leaders in action and a chance for the prefects to vote for their peers. While I take full responsibility for these appointments, I can assure you that the choice is never difficult, as support from the boys and the prefect body has always been clearly evident.

The role of leadership has come under real scrutiny over the past months. Our Matrics and Grade 11's dealt with aspects of leadership in their orals and I was a guest in many of those classes. I have also held focus groups with staff and boys to gauge opinion. In addition, our management planning sessions gave the topic deep consideration. It is clear to me that the leadership education that we offer on grade excursions – and in the Grade 10 experience in particular – is at the heart of how we should continue to develop our leadership

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model. This will require significant involvement from the Grade 11's in particular and I look forward to their taking up that challenge next year.

I am aware that the selection of any leaders in the school invariably leads to disappointment for some. For that reason, we do not close off opportunities and boys in Matric, who prove themselves as leaders during their final year, remain eligible for subsequent selection. Equally, I am aware that different occasions require different leaders and that it is more than probable that the vast majority of our young men will lead in one way or another during the course of their lives. So it is, that we have to find as many opportunities for our senior boys to take up that mantle and we remain committed to doing this.

That is a challenge for next term and beyond. In the pause that comes between seasons, may you have a restful and reflective break and may you be safe. Our Jewish families celebrate Rosh Hashanah during the holidays and we wish them L'Shanah Tovah.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Mitchell".

BRIAN MITCHELL
EXECUTIVE HEADMASTER



23 September 2016

Dear Parents

Spring has started and the change in season hopefully brings more energy and hope to everybody.

The College has had another very successful term on so many fronts. From Founders' Day, through to soccer, rugby sevens, chess, indoor hockey, debating, cricket, grade excursions and the Clifton Water Polo Tournament; it has been both exceptionally busy and productive.

We look forward to a busy holiday period as well. Our First Tennis Team is competing in the annual Hilton/St Anne's Doubles Tournament. The Under 16 Water Polo players are taking part in a tournament hosted by DHS. As our boys compete in our pool, so the Under 15 Water Polo Team will be representing us at the tournament at the Ian Melliar Cup Tournament at Wynberg and our Basketball Team will be playing in the Independent Schools' Stayers Tournament at Kearsney. Our First Cricket XI players are defending their title at the St John's College RamSlam T20 Tournament in Harare, Zimbabwe. This is followed by their participation in the Michaelmas Week, hosted by Maritzburg College. At the same time we have a Development Cricket side going to the High Performance Centre in Pretoria followed by the Under 16A Cricket XI taking part in the Kooka Cup Festival in Durban. Our debaters will also be in action at the National Individual Debating and Public Speaking Competition which will be held at St Mary's DSG, Kloof. A very busy holiday on so many different fronts. We wish all our boys and the staff accompanying them the best of luck.

For the Matrics, the last two weeks have been very important. They finished their Trial Examinations and are busy going through their papers to see where they can improve. These have been most worthwhile and have given the boys a taste of what to expect at the end of the year. Some boys need to take the remaining time seriously and get down to some hard and focused study. Please note that the Matrics only have two weeks left in the Fourth Term in which to consolidate their work.

The Interfaith Service and Valedictory Ceremony both take place on Friday 14 October where we wish the Matrics all the best as they prepare for their Final Senior Certificate Examinations.

At this stage the teachers are consolidating and revising sections of the syllabus in their respective subjects. Cluster and Regional moderation is also taking place across a number of subjects. This process involves portfolios of work being moderated across all IEB schools to ensure that the standard of work at schools is appropriate and of a similar standard. Once these moderations are complete, the schools submit their CASS (Continuous Assessment) Portfolios to the IEB. These count 25% of the final mark and include tests, examinations, class work and projects written over the course of the year. The final examination counts 75% - the exception being the languages where a 50% CASS and 50% Final Examination result is the norm.

The Matric reports are available on Tuesday as previously communicated. These are effectively the final school reports for the Matrics. Matric parents are encouraged to take careful note of these and to discuss them with their sons. The final IEB Examination Timetables have also been given to your sons. Your support and encouragement is crucial to your son's preparation for Finals and working out a realistic study timetable will set an appropriate tone and help him to structure his approach in order to achieve to his potential in the Final Examinations. The atmosphere at home is a vital part of his preparation for these finals. The Matric

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teachers at school are there to give support and will be available at school during the examinations to help with revision. More information will be given closer to the time.

The Grades 8 to 11 boys have their Mark Slip reports enclosed. These are based on continuous assessment for the term.

Please note that College gents return to school in their summer uniform next term.

In conclusion, my sincere thanks to you all: parents, staff and boys of Clifton. Enjoy the short break.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Goedeke".

HUBERT GOEDEKE
COLLEGE PRINCIPAL



23 September 2016

Dear Parents

The Third Term draws to a close and once again the boys and staff have had a wonderful 8 weeks. There were two first-time events this term that I would like to highlight.

The Senior Prep choir, 64 boys and 6 teachers, embarked on their first choir tour in 9 years. The boys were hosted for two nights in the Howick Prep Boarding Establishment. They performed at Cordwalles, Clifton Nottingham Road, Howick Prep School and Nottingham Road School with great aplomb. The boys also had the opportunity to visit the Nelson Mandela Capture Site, Howick Falls and had loads of fun at Piggly Wiggly.

I think it is also pertinent to mention that we fired our first salvo in formal debating. Our two teams, composing senior boys, participated in 8 interschool debates, winning six. Debating is now a 'club' in the Prep School and I am sure this valuable life skill will continue to go from strength to strength.

A personal highlight was the opportunity to attend the annual Heads' Conference in Cape Town. The conference was themed "Conversations" and was certainly both rewarding and worthwhile. Dr Max Price and Professor Adam Habib initiated the conversations with a precursor to our current news headlines. The debates and conversations around the challenges our country faces in providing Higher Education grew from there.

It is with sadness that I announce the resignations of Kath Scott and James Hulley. Kath leaves us after an amazing 12 years. She will be traveling overseas next year and James heads for the Mother City after 5 years of service. We wish them well as they embark on their respective new journeys in 2017.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Helen Mennie as the Prep School music teacher. Mrs Mennie is a dynamic and experienced teacher who spent nine years at Clifton Nottingham Road and now joins us from Cowan House.

Please note that boys will return to school in their summer uniform for the Fourth Term.

Have a wonderful Heritage Day and enjoy a restful break with your families.

Yours faithfully

VICTOR WHITE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

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