

Dear Parents & Guardians,

I recently had the opportunity to visit several parents who had voiced issues on a Chat Group. Let me be clear, I have no problem with this, nor do I want to stop parents from voicing their concern. My sole purpose is the vision of the schools which talks about stakeholders uniting. There is a quote that says; "Teamwork begins by trust" and effective teamwork has a lot to do with communication. A Chinese proverb says, "A lot of problems in the world would be solved if we talked to each other instead of about each other." Whilst there is merit in airing our grievances to each other at some point we need to engage the people who have issues so we can work on a solution. Tommy Lasorda says, "It is important to make sure that we are talking with each other in a way that heals, not in a way that wounds." That is my intention when I visit parents. Here are a couple of quotes I found of Google which have made an impression on me over the years:-

- i. Communication must be HOT. Honest, Open and Two-way. (Dan Oswald)
- ii. The biggest communication problem is that we do not listen to understand. We listen to reply.
- iii. No relationship can prosper without proper communication. And you cannot be the only one communicating.

That having been said I truly would like to build a bridge between the school and the parent body so that we build Hillcrest Schools to be the great school it is meant to be – for the sake of our children.

1. Resumption of School for Form 3 Students

The Form 3 Students returned to School on Monday 26th October and they seem to have settled in well. We continue to emphasise the need for each and every one of us to observe the Covid-19 Protocols.

2. Return of Form 1 & 2 Students

The Form 1 & 2 Students are expected to resume lessons at school on the 9th of November. Boarders will be expected to have signed into Hostel on Sunday 8th November by 4.00pm.

Please note that the Accounts Office will be open on Sunday 8th to attend to Parents and Students who will want to make School Fees payments. They will be open between 9.00am and 4.00pm so do make sure that you arrive well before 4.00pm to ensure you get a Fees Pass for your child to be able to get into Hostel. I would like to implore Parents to make sure that they are not late as late comers will not be entertained and Students will not be allowed into Hostel without a School Fees Pass.

Day Scholars will also be required to obtain a School Fees Pass to be able to have access into the classroom for lessons. Day Scholar Parents should also take advantage of the opportunity to make payment on Sunday 8th at the College Office.

3. External Exams

The Form 4, Lower 6 and Upper 6 Students are still writing their Cambridge Exams and the process this far has been smooth with no major issues. We hope to continue with the quiet set up which allows for our students to concentrate and write their exams in a peaceful environment.

Students should return Textbooks as soon as they have finished writing their last exam for each subject. A Clearance Certificate should be signed by each subject teacher upon the return of each subject's textbook(s).

4. 6th Form Leavers' Event

We held our 6th Form Leavers' event last week on Saturday 24th October at the Prep School Pool. We had to compromise and have a braai instead of the usual lavish and elegant evening we normally hold for the leavers because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was different but the children seemed to enjoy the more relaxed environment while they swam, listened to some music and enjoyed their meal.

5. Online Speech Day

The Covid-19 pandemic has taken most of us out of our comfort zones and most certainly out of our normal routines. This year has seen us, if not most schools, not holding the usual Speech & Prize Giving event where all stakeholders gather to celebrate the achievements made by our students.

We are currently putting together a pre-recorded Speech & Prize-Giving Event that we intend to air on several social media platforms. You will be advised towards the end of next week the date on which we will air the event as well as on which media platforms you will be able to access the event.

6. Students' Dress Code

May I take this opportunity to remind parents and students of the expected dress code to school on a daily basis; Students are expected to come to School in their School Uniform everyday – smartly dressed and well groomed. This includes the Exam Candidates (Form 4, Lower 6 & Upper 6 Students). Tracksuits are not permitted in the mornings and can only be worn in the afternoons at 1.00pm onwards.

Boys are expected to be clean shaven at all times.

I implore parents to check that children adhere to the school rules. With effect from Monday 2nd November, Staff will be on the lookout for students who have not taken heed of our reminder and anyone found breaking the rules will be put on manual.

OFF MR. MUTANGADURA'S DESK

1. Masking Practice

With only a week to go before the Grades 1 to 5 and ECD children return to School where they will spend the major part of their day at, learners even from ECD, should practise spending the day masked up. Parents, please encourage this new normal at home.

2. **Virtual Graduation and Prize Giving** - ECD Graduation, Infants and Junior Prize Giving ceremonies are slotted for this term. These will be virtual presentations broadcast on our social media platforms.
3. Video clips to prepare your child to acquaint themselves with Covid19 protocols will be sent to your groups next week.
4. **Assembly Times**
Assembly times have been adjusted to comply with the Ministry of Health Regulations,
 - Monday - Senior Assembly
 - Wednesday - Junior Assembly
 - Thursday - Infants Assembly
5. **Hot Lunches**
Hot lunches need to be booked and paid for in advance at the Accounts office. You will be issued with a ticket/pass which should be presented when getting lunch.
6. **School Times**
The ECD and infants department end their lessons at 12.00 noon and should be collected then. The rest of the school has extra academics and light sport in the afternoon. Their drop off points are also their pick up points. They can be collected at 4.00pm.
7. **Lost & Found**
Please label your child's personal property as unclaimed items have to be disposed of in accordance with health guidelines if they are not collected. Items from last term are yet to be identified and claimed.

I would like to thank the parents and guardians who are timeously paying their School Fees – you help make the running of the school a lot easier. I am aware that the world out there is not as rosy as we would want it to be but the fact that you see the importance of your children's education and future, and that you proceed to make the effort and sacrifice to pay their School Fees is not taken lightly. We do not take your efforts for granted. We endeavour to impart our expertise in order to produce well rounded students and world class citizens.

I wish you all a restful weekend and please, do remain safe.

Kind regards,



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