

12 April 2010

Dear Grade Eight Parents

Academic Matters

Welcome back to the new term. We trust that even though the holiday was shorter than we are used to, that you have come back refreshed and ready to embrace Term Two. Enclosed please find a copy of the first Grade Eight report which reflects the marks from both class tests and assessment tasks carried out in the first Term. The Grade Eights have settled comfortably into the High School and have adjusted positively to the new Secondary School demands gleaned from the wide SAHETI experience in the academic, sporting and cultural arenas.

We draw your attention to a number of matters pertaining to academics which will assist you understand better the way in which we assess and monitor your son's/daughter's progress throughout the year. Please peruse the contents carefully and contact either myself or Mrs Karamichael, the Grade Controller, should you have any questions in this regard.

✓ **Promotion Requirements:**

The legislated promotion requirements are as follows: At least 50% in English and any two other Learning Areas (other than Computers) **and** at least 40% in Mathematics and any two other Learning Areas (other than Computers). Apart from the Languages and Mathematics, subjects have been grouped in Container Learning Areas e.g. Natural Science is a subject which has marks equally distributed between Science and Life Sciences; HSS between History and Geography etc. Please be aware that Accounting counts 20% of the EMS Container Subject mark.

✓ **Term Weighting:**

The final Promotion mark at year end will be calculated from marks throughout the year.

Term One	10% of the final promotion mark	Class Tests and Task Assessment (Jan – March)
Term Two	20% of the final promotion mark	Class Tests, and Task Assessments (April – June) ending with Winter Summative Assessment (August)
Term Three	20% of the final promotion mark	Task Assessments (September – October)
Term Three	50%	End of Year Summative Assessment (November)

No condonation may be granted at year end.

End of year Prize Giving will be based on the Promotion Mark. Details of the criteria are on our website.

✓ ***Parents' Meetings:***

As part of our process of open communication, our Parents' Meetings have been scheduled soon after the distribution of the reports. A reminder that the meeting will take place on WEDNESDAY 14 April at 14h30 – 17h00 in the Bylos Music Centre. We encourage our Grade Eights to attend these meetings with the parents so that information necessary for academic well-being may be discussed in each subject. It also offers our pupils an opportunity to discuss any support that they require.

✓ ***Task Schedule:***

We have redesigned the Task Schedule to ensure that there is greater clarity in the diverse tasks set per subject. We would welcome feedback on areas that you feel have made the task schedule easier to follow. Please be aware of our policy that should a test be scheduled for a day and your son/daughter is absent a doctor's note (with reasonable explanation) must be forwarded to the Grade Controller so that arrangements may be made for the test to be written. Failure to do so, will unfortunately result in a zero.

✓ ***Leave of Absence:***

Leave of Absence during school terms will only be granted under the conditions as outlined in our policy: Special Leave of Absence. The policy is available on our website. Extended vacations do not qualify for Special Leave of Absence.

We look forward to a continued year of commitment and hard work. As the Grade Eights pace themselves towards their first winter Assessments, we encourage them to plan in advance and to put into practice the suggestions from the Study Skills Workshop to be held this term.

A reminder also that reading remains the core essential skill in all learning and that we expect all our pupils to read for a minimum of thirty minutes a day to keep the gremlins at bay. Have wonderful productive term.

Sincerely

Mrs Daniela Pitt
Director: Academics