

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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Veritas College

(FORMERLY CONVENT AND CBC, SPRINGS)



Learn, Live and Lead with Love

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3 May 2016

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the Second Term. It promises to be even busier, more exciting and more rewarding than Term 1 was.



1. **The European Tour** was a huge success and I would like to thank Mrs Pellizzon and Mr Ngidi for taking such excellent care of all the learners. The learners discovered as much about themselves on this tour as they discovered about countries abroad. What a wonderful opportunity for them; and it is reported that this group of learners was particularly pleasant and easy to travel with.
2. **Matric Dance:** Matric learners will be allowed the day off school on **Friday 6th May**, as is tradition, in order to visit nail bars, hairdressers and so on. Matrics are **not** granted permission to miss school on any other day of this week as they are expected to attend classes to discuss problems on the March examination papers and to cover new and important academic work.
3. **Matric Dance Etiquette:** We want our Matrics to enjoy a memorable evening. We also want them to remain safe and to have happy memories of the evening. Matric learners are expected to **dress elegantly and with dignity** in order to be allowed to remain at the dance. **No alcohol or other illegal substances** will be tolerated. Behaviour must comply with school regulations. Revving of cars/motorbikes poses a risk to bystanders;

please ensure that your child's mode of transport **does not compromise the safety of themselves or the others** at the dance.

4. **Sport:** In every school, learners are expected to balance sport, academics, cultural activities and community service. Learners must not compromise their sports teams by offering such excuses as "I was tired" after the Matric Dance or "I must attend extra lessons", "I didn't know about the fixture", or "I am so busy". Sports fixtures take precedence; please reschedule extra lessons to accommodate school fixtures. Please consult the calendar for upcoming CSO, Aitken and other tournaments.
5. **Homework classes:** The classes ran smoothly in Term 1. Please keep in mind that these classes are optional, and cost R40 per day. Any learner who is on the property after 2.45pm will be billed for the classes. All extra lessons are free, however; they begin at 2.30pm and continue until at least 3.15pm. If a child commits to a free extra lesson, the commitment is for the full duration of the lesson and not simply for 10 minutes. Coaching sessions are also free. Sports teams must be on the fields by 2.35pm and practise from 3pm until 4.30pm.
6. **Loitering:** Learners who wait outside the grounds or on the streets behind the school are in contravention of the rules and will be charged R40 per afternoon because they are expected to be in Homework Classes or at free lessons at this time if their transport arrives later than 2.45pm.
7. **Reports:** Learners will receive their Examination Reports on 13th May. Aitken Hockey learners will receive theirs on 12th May before they leave for the tournament.
8. **Patrick Flanery Lecture:** The Gr 12 learners will attend the lecture of the author of their Matric set-work, at Assumption Convent in May. This is an invaluable opportunity for learners to access information first-hand.
9. **Masses and Outreach Programmes:** Ascension Mass and Edmund Rice Mass will be held in May; Mandela Day preparations are underway and the CSO Bible Quiz preparations are imminent. Preparations are also under way for the Dominican Jubilee in July.
10. **Inter-House Competitions** include Soccer, Athletics, the Poetry Slam and the Quiz; dates are accessible on the calendar.
11. **Leadership courses** include the Spirit of Adventure Camp and the Dale Carnegie course. The new Leadership Council will be voted in at the end of the term and will be announced towards the end of term 2.
12. **The Food Fair:** the PTSA will hold the Food fair on 25th June. The PTSA meeting will be held in the staff room on Tues 10th May. Parents are requested to attend as assistance is required for the Food Fair. The date of the Food Fair is yet to be confirmed by the PTSA.
13. **CASS reports** will be issued on 14th July and **Gr 8 – 11 Exams commence** on 20th July. Matrics must attend vital block teaching lessons during this Gr 8 – 11 examination session.
14. **Mid-term break** begins at 12h00 on 1st July and school recommences on 11th July.
15. **Matrics** have only 3 months of teaching time left before they write Prelims in September and then Final Exams in October. Consequently, it is vital that Matrics do not miss classes. Absenteeism and a lack of commitment are the most significant reason for poor results. Matric learners are expected to focus on their studies;

weekend parties, socialising, TV, TV games, cell-phones and social media must be strictly monitored by parents and there is no more place for these pursuits in the Matric schedule until the Final Examinations have been completed in December. Matric learners should be studying at least 6 hours every single afternoon after school and should be studying 8 hours on a Saturday and 8 hours on a Sunday for the rest of the term, during the August holidays and up until the end of the Final examinations.

16. **Paid Extra Lessons** pose a very serious problem for many Matrics who see the lessons in themselves as sufficient preparation for the examinations. This could not be further from the truth. Class lessons require focus and commitment and commitment to these will take all Matric learners to success in the final examinations. Veritas teaching staff is among the best available and it is very short-sighted for Matrics to pay high school fees simply to forego the expertise of the teachers who are properly trained and well prepared for the exams. Extra lessons are valuable when they are used as enrichment and reinforcement but when they become a crutch, they are counter-productive and may pose a real obstacle to progress.
17. **Sports Points System** – in the interests of transparency, the Sports Department will display the progress of each learner on the board outside the Sports Office. This should alleviate queries regarding calculation of points for each learner.

MRS T A HOLLAND
HEAD: SENIOR SCHOOL

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