



Stanford Lake College

16 April 2010

Dear All

To paraphrase Peter Drucker, *effective people are not problem-minded, they're opportunity-minded. They feed opportunities and starve problems. They think proactively.*

If ever there was a term in South African educational history when this paraphrase was applicable, it is the second term of 2010. The Soccer World Cup is putting huge pressure on teachers and students, not only at Stanford, but at all schools. We will all have to live with a term of 8 weeks, enjoy a 5 week long holiday and the soccer and try to feed on the opportunities it will grant us. We have tried very hard to take proactive measures, but it will be a stiff term for us all.

Examinations will commence as early as 17 May for Grades 10-12. Our students will be strained, because we will zigzag the province to fulfil our sporting commitments and our staff will also demand quality academic input and results.

Continuous assessment will be done, but these marks will only be used for the marks calculation of the third term. The marks on our July report cards will only reflect the results of the mid-year examinations.

Please note that Monday and Tuesday, 26 and 27 April, are compulsory school days, regardless of whether other schools will take days off or not. We will use the time productively for assessment and our annual Stanford Day. You are all invited to an enjoyable day at the lake. Bring family and friends along and let us celebrate. Activities will continue till late afternoon.

During the mid-year examinations, it will be expected of boarders to be at school and in boarding for the duration of the examinations. Mr. Gumunyu and Mr. Jack are looking at the examinations timetable and sporting fixtures and practices to find practical solutions for the day scholars and how and when we will transport them to and from Tzaneen.

I mentioned during final assembly last term that I was not satisfied with the way we concluded the first term. Let us all work together to tighten up discipline. Today, Mr. Gumunyu will speak to the students about quality and commitment, two of our values. It is, to give but one example, unacceptable to return from sports tours and have the students simply take the following day off to recuperate. It does not say much about commitment. Next week during assembly, we will debate the war on waste, and why some of our students simply do not care about our environment, because litter, specifically at the lake area where they relax, has reached unacceptable levels.

Dress and appearance will have to be addressed as well. I call upon all our parents to assist us with this. During winter, students wear formals and for Adventure, track suits.

Please also note that boarders must vacate their rooms entirely prior to holidays and return to the College in formals.

These are not major issues, but they all add up.

I wish you all a pleasant term.

Johann Ueckermann
HEADMASTER

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Independent
Day/Boarding
High School

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