



GROOTE SCHUUR HIGH SCHOOL

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Newsletter 07/2021, Gr. 12 edition
3 June 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

MID-YEAR EXAMINATIONS

The media is buzzing with the Minister of Basic Education's announcement that there are no June/mid-year examinations. This announcement caused widespread confusion and unnecessary panic. The minister's announcement is not new news. The adjusted school calendar that was published earlier this year did not make provision for mid-year examinations for any grades.

Our school took a particular stance with regards to the mid-year examination. In our experience with the Class of 2020, we saw the gaps that showed in their preliminary examination in September. They did not write a mid-year examination.

Unlike the Class of 2020, who only missed the mid-year examinations, the Class of 2021 missed the mid-year and end-of-year examination of Gr. 11. Their last full scale examination was in November of Gr. 10. We will not be doing our learners any favours by only writing shortened assessments in the form of controlled tests. If we should be preparing them for tertiary study, then the shortened assessments will not serve the purpose.

A further consideration is that our Gr. 12s have had a steady and stable run since September of Gr. 11 when they attended school every day. Our school has had no downtime, no disruptions, even no extra-murals due to COVID regulations. In addition, Gr. 12s were

allocated more class time for every subject since the beginning of this academic year.

We trust that your understanding of this matter will help in allaying fears and easing stress that our learners might be feeling. Gr. 12 is a stressful year, and this is necessary preparation for what is lying ahead.

PARENT MEETING

Several parents could not join us on Tuesday due to loadshedding and connectivity issues. Here is a recording of the meeting.

<https://youtu.be/PwoowGBtw7Q>

You are encouraged to speak to your Grade Heads (Mr Kronenberg and Ms Williams) should you have any concerns or questions. Please know that our social workers are available to assist your child and advise you on matters pertaining to your child. You are welcome to access their assistance by emailing Ms Binza (ibinza@gshs.co.za) or Mrs Trent (jtrent@gshs.co.za). Attached to this letter is *Tips for Parents/Guardians to promote adolescent wellness* prepared by our social workers.



Candle of Hope

Our vision of success:

GSHS learners are accountable, well-balanced people striving for academic excellence, while living lives of significance and service.

EXAMINATION ARRANGEMENTS

Learners need to arrive well before 8 o'clock to be screened. Late arrival causes unnecessary stress for both learner and educator. Learners are introduced to and familiarized with the pre-examination procedure. External invigilators and educators will invigilate the examination.

In the event of an emergency that will cause the learner to arrive late for an examination, the Grade Head must be informed.

Learners need to wear their winter school uniform. On cold days learners may bring a knee blanket. We advise against bright colourful blankets that may be a distraction to sensitive learners.

COVID-19 and SPORT

Please watch this clip prepared by the Head of Sport and convenor of the COVID-19 task team, Mr Gallant.

<https://youtu.be/h89QZIO28uU>

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AH5myTDN48w>

Stay Safe, Healthy and Blessed!

Marius Ehrenreich