



RONDEBOSCH

BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents, Boys and Staff,

2 July 2021

It is Friday the 2nd of July and the school is completely empty of the usual noise of boys and teachers going about school business. There is however a lot of noise, much drilling and banging as work begins on renovating the staffroom; a job that has been put off since last year but is desperately needed. We have increased our staff complement as pupil numbers have grown and the staffroom is creaking under the strain of too many bodies in too small an area. We are moving some dry walling to make the space bigger and realigning and adding furniture. There is also noise on the roof as the new solar panels go in. These will be up and running shortly and will allow the school to make significant saving in electricity costs over time. Work also continues on the enlargement of the Mears Centre.

This has been a long, hard term and I am grateful that, in spite of the lockdown, we have been able to continue sustained teaching of the full school for the first half of the year. It is also encouraging that by the end of next week most of the staff, both teaching and non-teaching, will have been vaccinated. Unfortunately, as a public school, we are bound by departmental regulation and must close and open on the dates required by the DBE. Given the data, I am of the opinion that it is unlikely that we will reopen on the 19th but if this is indeed the date, to what extent we are allowed to open; whether fully or by rotation or with online classes will be indicated by regulations issued by the education departments.

Depending on what information is given to us, we may have some wiggle room and we will try to find a path that is both educationally sound and safe and suits our school and our context. For the first few weeks of next term, we are planning to run a shorter day with a single, shorter break so that boys spend less time in social settings at school. If we stay away until the 26th, we will see this extra week as a bonus holiday period and we will not do any teaching until after that date because both staff and boys have worked a long period and need a proper break. If we continue to stay away after the 26th we will go online. Given the anxiety out there, my hope is that an extended break is in the offing and that we will be able to return in full and that the sports and extramural programme will be able to resume. Perhaps this is asking too much but please be assured that whatever the circumstances, we will adapt in such a way that as far as possible your boy is taken care of.

In the midst of all of this madness, the POPI act has become law, from the 1st of July. While much of what is required by this act is already in place in terms of security and policy at school, it is required that assurances are made to our community that we take the care of your personal information very seriously. There is an Information and Privacy Committee in place and the principal by law is the Chief Information Officer. Those in charge of areas where sensitive information is stored and disseminated, in Finance, Administration, Marketing and IT have been deputized and policies, measures, procedures, mechanisms and initiatives are either in place or are in the process of being approved by Governors to be put in place. It is important to recognise that in the information cycle, there are legal rights that are tempered by legal obligations. As a school, we are obliged to hold and at times disseminate information about our pupils to legal authorities. In the cycle of activities at a school, it is widely understood that at times pictures and information about achievements or activities of individuals or groups will be published to credit them for good work done. It is important for parents who do not want their boys' faces or names to appear in such publications to make us aware of this. A new conduit to report or raise concerns about matters pertaining to POPI has been established at the address privacy@rondebosch.com. Please use this to report or raise any concerns in this regard. There is so much more to learn in the POPI process and the implications this has for a largely online world. We will offer as much assistance as we are able to assist our parents, teachers and learners to understand what this new act means to them going forward.

Dr Teubes has covered much of the information I would normally have spoken to in an end of term letter in his Pastoral letter, please read this. There is also a new link on the website which will take you to activities of Civic and Social Engagement at the school. Please take time to read this: <https://rondebosch.com/high/pastoral/civic-and-social-responsibility/>. The latest news link will keep you updated on activities at school. Scroll down on the landing page of the high school website to read this. Most recent and pertinent news is that of the sad death of the much loved and respected past headmaster, Mike Reeler. <https://rondebosch.com/high/2021/06/15/a-tribute-to-mr-michael-reeler-rbhs-headmaster-1977-1985/> Mike was deeply committed to the school many years after his tenure ended and he has touched uncountable lives across the decades that he has been associated with Rondebosch. Our deepest condolences to the Poulter and Reeler families at this time.



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Also mentioned is the exciting news of three Old Boys who are representing South Africa at the Tokyo Olympics; Luke Daffarn, Zain Davids and Ross Stone, as well as two further representatives in the Water Polo and Hockey coaching staff: <https://rondebosch.com/high/2021/06/25/bosch-boys-to-represent-sa-at-olympic-games/>

At the end of this letter you will find the arrangements for the start of term 3 and the interim daily routine times set out by the Academic Management Committee. In this regard it is important to know that Mr Ebrahim and his family have been particularly hard hit by Covid and that he has been off work for the past three weeks. I would like to thank the members of the AMT and the other Deputies who have taken on much of the planning and end of term wrap up duties in his absence. We wish him strength as he recovers.

Please be assured that whatever the complications are going ahead, we will do our utmost to keep the ship stable. Please communicate with us through your son's Grade Head if there are any concerns along the way. When we do open, please ensure that your sons are neat and smart and ready for school. I trust that all of our families will look after themselves over this break and hope that we are not separated for too long.

Kind regards



Shaun Simpson
Headmaster

Arrangements for Start of term 3:

- School will re-open on Monday 19th July.
- Boys who missed assessments in Term 2 must be given an opportunity to write during the first week of Term 3. Please liaise directly with the relevant subject teacher.
- Reports to be issued on Monday 2 August 2021.
- In term 3 we will implement a shortened timetable, to minimise socialising during lunch break.
- Should schools re-open on 26th July, this timetable will be moved one week on.
- Should we start teaching online, alternative arrangements will be made. This will be communicated to you in due course.

Mon 19 July	Tue 20 July	Wed 21 July	Thu 22 July	Fri 23 July
07h55 Register 08h05 Virtual Assembly 08h25 Normal school day. Return of scripts. during lessons. Shortened timetable. 13h30 School ends 14h00 – 17h00 Gr 12 Art Practical	07h55 Register 08h05 Normal school day. Return of scripts. During lessons. Shortened timetable. 13h30 School ends 14h00 – 17h00 Gr 12 Art Practical	07h55 Register 08h05 Normal school day. Return of scripts. during lessons. Shortened timetable. 13h30 School ends 14h00 – 17h00 Gr 12 Art Practical	Assessments from 1 & 2 July to be written. Morning Test Session 07h55 Register 08h05 Boys to test venues 08h20 Reading 08h30 Writing Afternoon Test Session 13h00 Report to test venue 13h20 Reading 13h30 Writing Boys to leave as soon as their test is complete.	Assessments from 1 & 2 July to be written. Morning Test Session 07h55 Register 08h05 Boys to test venues 08h20 Reading 08h30 Writing Afternoon Test Session 14h00 Report to test venue 14h10 Reading 14h20 – 17h20 Writing Boys to leave as soon as their test is complete.



Mon 26 July	Tue 27 July	Wed 28 July	Thu 29 July	Fri 30 July
07h55 Register 08h05 Normal school day. Shortened timetable. Return of remaining scripts during lessons. 13h30 School ends Boys who missed assessments to write in this week.	07h55 Register 08h05 Normal school day. Shortened timetable. Return of remaining scripts during lessons. 13h30 School ends	07h55 Register 08h05 Normal school day. Shortened timetable. Return of remaining scripts during lessons. 13h30 School ends	07h55 Register & mark check 08h05 Normal school day. Shortened timetable. Return of remaining scripts during lessons. 13h30 School ends	07h55 Register 08h05 Normal school day. Shortened timetable. Return of remaining scripts during lessons. 12h30 School ends.

Assessment Details:

Date	Grade 8	Grade 9
Thu 22 July	History (1hr 30min)	Life Orientation (1 hour)
Fri 23 July	Physical Sciences (1hr 15min)	Geography (1 hour)

Date	Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12	
Session	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
Thu 22 July	Physical Sci (2 hours)	Art Practical (3 hours)	Afrik/Xhosa (1hr 30min)	Geography (2 hours)	Afrik/Xhosa (1hr 30min)	Economics (1hr 30min)
Fri 23 July	Maths B (1 hour)	none	English (1hr 30min)	AP English (3 hours)	Life Sciences (2hr 30min)	AP English (3 hours)

School Timetable for Term 3:

	Monday		Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday			Friday		
Reg	07:55	00:10	P1 TEST	07:55	01:05	Reg	07:55	00:10	Reg	07:55	00:10	Reg	07:55	00:10
P1	08:05	00:40	P2 & Reg	09:00	00:45	P1	08:05	00:50	P1	08:05	00:45	P1	08:05	00:40
P2	08:45	00:40	P3	09:45	00:40	P2	08:55	00:50	P2	08:50	00:45	P2	08:45	00:40
P3	09:25	00:40	P4	10:25	00:40	P3	09:45	00:50	P3	09:35	00:45	P3	09:25	00:40
P4	10:05	00:40	P5	11:05	00:40	P4	10:35	00:50	P4	10:20	00:45	Break	10:05	00:25
Assembly	10:45	00:20	Break	11:45	00:25	Break	11:25	00:25	Break	11:05	00:25	P4	10:30	00:40
Break	11:05	00:25	P6	12:10	00:40	P5	11:50	00:50	P5	11:30	00:40	P5	11:10	00:40
P5	11:30	00:40	P7	12:50	00:40	P6	12:40	00:50	P6	12:10	00:40	P6	11:50	00:40
P6	12:10	00:40	End	13:30		End	13:30		P7	12:50	00:40	End	12:30	
P7	12:50	00:40						End	13:30					
End	13:30													

