

REDDAM HOUSE
UMHLANGA



NEWSLETTER | **31 July 2020** | VOLUME 11

FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents

The freedom to choose is a key component of an independent school offering. Independent schools, as the name suggests, are free – to a certain extent – to determine their own destiny without the threat of state interference. Independent schools are thus able to design their own curricula; choose which school-leaving certificate examinations their Grade 12 students will write; which teachers they wish to employ and the dates of their own school calendars.

One of the positive outcomes of the COVID-19 related lockdown has been the state's acknowledgement of the independent schools' autonomy in being able to determine the manner and methods in which to support their students' safe return to school. This was largely due to the fact that most independent schools – having a smaller number of students in comparison to state schools – also have the necessary resources and infrastructure to comply with stringent COVID-19 health and safety protocols. This has not always been possible for many state schools and was, amongst other things, cause for the President's recent announcement to close state schools. Regrettably, in so doing, it has brought teaching and learning in these state schools to a halt. By the end of August the majority of students in this country would have missed half of their school year. According to the Department of Basic Education only 20% of school children in South Africa have access to online schooling and only 10% of households in South Africa have internet access. Sadly, this lack of access to education is disproportionately affecting vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

Teaching and learning has continued in many independent schools – not in the traditional sense of face-to-face instruction in the classroom alone but through further choice provided by the hybrid approach to education. In our College this consists of physical and simultaneous online lessons for those students who, for various reasons, are unable to return to the campus. Sadly, this is a choice that many state schools are not able to provide currently.

Returning to campus or online learning is a choice that only parents can make in keeping with their child's and their family's unique health profiles. For those who are more vulnerable or choose to cocoon their family in the home in order to risk possible infection, online learning certainly provides a short term solution. In addition, there are distinctive advantages to learning online: mornings are less rushed; there is greater freedom surrounded by the comforts of home without having to wear a mask or being instructed to follow school-based safety protocols and rules. Online students are forced to take greater responsibility for their own learning and thus can, to some degree, determine their own pace and gain greater independence in the learning process.

However, we do acknowledge that the hybrid system is far from perfect and the online lessons have come with a degree of frustration. Unlike the online teaching and learning that took place in Term 2 in which every student could be found on the same online platform, this term has required the teacher to try and focus on two vastly different groups of students under different circumstances. To isolate grades in separate zones has meant that teachers have had to give up their specialised teaching venues. It has taken a lot of dexterity to set up multiple devices in venues that are unfamiliar. Obviously, those students who have chosen to return to the College building have done so with the expectation of getting closer engagement with their teacher but, at times, this has come at the cost of those who have remained at home. Connectivity issues both at home and at school provide further challenges and the return of loadshedding has severely compromised lesson delivery. And yet, our Reddam House Umhlanga students have continued to display patience, understanding, empathy and appreciation for their teachers' efforts to navigate their way through these many challenges. Whereas we are currently looking to install inverters to power our server and teachers' computers during loadshedding, and are in the process of migrating

to a larger fiber line for increased speed and bandwidth, it is quite obvious that those in the classroom have the greatest hold on the teachers' focus and attention. It is impossible not to.

There are some who might question the wisdom of the decision to send children to school given the rising COVID-19 infection rates within the country and within our province specifically. The South African Pediatric Association and Pediatrician Management Group recently released their position statement in response to the President's decision to close state schools while independent schools are allowed to stay open. The report makes it very clear that in the opinion of South African pediatricians the Presidential decision "is not based on best available scientific interests and it is not in the best interest of children in South Africa." It can therefore be assumed that his decision was the result of other pressures. It is the view of these pediatricians that it is in the best interests of children to return to school. Some of the evidence quoted in the report is that children (0 – 18 years of age) account for only 1 to 5% of reported COVID-19 positive cases around the world and only 5% of cases in South Africa. In addition the available evidence points towards very limited spread of COVID-19 between children. To date there have not been any excessively large outbreaks in schools in any country. This supports the argument that asymptomatic children attending schools are unlikely to spread the disease.

The emotional and psychological effects on children during and after the lockdown is immense. Recent international reviews show that lockdowns, school closures and natural disasters raise levels of substance abuse, depression, domestic violence and child abuse. (Fegert J, Vitiello B, Plener P, Clemens V (2020). For anxious children, there is nothing more reassuring than having face to face interactions with their teachers in a familiar learning environment. Learning is further stimulated through the interaction with peers and social engagement during down time is undeniably good for a teenager's mental wellbeing. However, in choosing to return to the brick and mortar school building means continuing to subscribe to our College's highest standards of appearance and behaviour. Scruffy, revealing clothing; make-up and unkempt hair is not in keeping with our College's ethos. Disrespectful or unruly behaviour - together with a lack of academic effort - will not be tolerated. In being understanding and compassionate in the time of an unprecedented pandemic, we will continue to hold our students to the highest standards of accountability. In this regard, it is school as normal.

For some students, the choice to learn online has been one that they have been forced to take. There is a small but growing group of students who, due to the fact that a family member with whom they live has tested positive for COVID-19, are forced to self-quarantine for a period of 10 to 14 days for the safety of others. We are grateful to these parents for ensuring that their children do not attend school until the minimum 10 day quarantine period is over. When faced with the choice to inform the school or not – we are extremely grateful to be told so that we too can make informed decisions. There are other students whose parents are frontline medical practitioners, and thus, due to the higher risk of exposure, have been forced to keep their own children at home to protect other people's children. We also have a few students who have recently undergone medical procedures or have underlying medical conditions that make them more vulnerable to infection. Three of our boarders remain locked outside of South Africa. I know that all of these students long to return to school. But they don't have this choice.

It will be a long time before we see a return to the College that we knew in the first term of 2020. It is clear that the hybrid approach to education will be in place for a long time to come and we are proud to be able to provide this choice to our parents and students. Safety protocols and measures will also need to be enforced for the foreseeable future with no indication of the return of traditional team sports or familiar extramural activities.

For some, the present seems bleak with no hope in sight. Given the constant stream of negative news about the pandemic and its effects, it is easy to feel anxious and uncertain. Anxiety is also an understandable reaction since COVID-19 has not only threatened our safety but has also brought additional financial strain. It can be difficult to let go of these thoughts and feelings. And yet we still have a choice. We can stay trapped in these negative feelings or we can choose to be happy. As Abraham Lincoln said: "Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be." Happiness is a choice. Even when faced with the grim realities of wearing masks, maintaining social distance and refraining from participating in activities that in the past brought joy, happy people intentionally make the choice to be happy. This has been scientifically proven to be true. Our brain has the capacity to change and rewire in response to our experiences. This is called "neural plasticity." If we have recurrent, anxious thoughts, we are establishing neural connections that make thinking anxious thoughts easier for us the next time we do so. Thinking recurring happy thoughts does the same.

If the lockdown conditions have taught us one thing - it is never to take our independence and freedoms for granted. For it is in our independence that we are able to foster innovation, collaboration, determination and resilience. I know that, together, we will get through this and will emerge even stronger than before.

ADAM ROGERS
HEADMASTER

Staff News

With Mr Phil Edmonds transfer to Reddam House Berkshire in a couple of weeks' time has necessitated a number of changes to our staffing. **Mr Callum Robertson** will be taking over as Acting Grade Head of Grade 8s whilst **Mr Kyle Beach** has been appointed as Acting Grade Head of Grade 9 from 1 August. **Mr Ryan Smith**, who will be stepping in as locum teacher of Business Studies will also assume responsibility for Mr Robertson's Grade 8 register class while **Mr Quinton Ribbonaar** has agreed to take on Mr Beach's Grade 11 register class from 1 August.

We are excited to announce the appointment of **Mr Raymond Brent** as the permanent teacher of Business Studies from 1 January 2021. Mr Brent is currently Head of Business Studies and GET Phase Head at St Henry's Marist College. He holds a Bachelor of Education degree from UKZN and has considerable experience teaching within the IEB system. In addition Mr Brent has coached the St Henry's First XI Cricket Team as well as the First XV Rugby Team.

Interviews are on-going for the appointment of a teacher of CAT and IT in the place of **Mr Paul Edgar** from 1 January 2021 as well as a permanent teacher of Mathematics when **Mrs Heather Horner** concludes her locum contract at the end of this year.

Drop Off & Collection

Parents are asked to ensure that they drop off and collect their children from the designated areas at the College building (Grade 10 to 12) or on the grass between the College and Creative & Performing Arts buildings (Grade 8 and 9). Our return to school safety protocols dictate that students remain within their grade zones and thus should not be crossing over grades or across the Prep School to be fetched by their parents elsewhere on our campus. Students who fail to adhere to these safety protocols will not be allowed to continue their learning back at school and will have to continue their learning online.

Matric Level 1 Leadership Certificates

We operate on a servant leadership model as opposed to a prefect model at Reddam House Umhlanga. This means that every Matric (Grade 12) student is given the opportunity to play a leadership role in some aspect of the life of the school. The Matrics of 2020 are commended for achieving this despite the challenges of a pandemic and virtual schooling! The overwhelming majority of them remained committed to the programme and these students have gained valuable life experiences, not only in leading projects but they have also developed tenacity and the ability to find creative solutions when the odds seem stacked against them!

On Friday 24 July, those students who had fulfilled the following requirements were awarded Level 1 Leadership certificates:

- Attended all/most of the leadership portfolio meetings
- Made valid contributions to initiatives discussed at these meetings and followed through by taking the necessary action to ensure that the project took place
- Been good ambassadors for the school and assisted with duties at school events and functions
- Worked cooperatively with their peers in the portfolio and, where necessary, with peers from other portfolios on joint projects
- They are students who have lead by example

Those students who did not manage to fulfil all the criteria listed above will have the opportunity to work at meeting these criteria during the course of this term and may be reconsidered for the award later in the year.

The recipients of Level 1 Leadership Certificates for 2020 are:

Yusuf Ally; Kyi Aung; Thoraya Bonnin; Jaime Bowring; Sarah Brewer; Matthew Brown; Hong Luen Chen; Reece Ciaglia; Bronwyn de Sousa; Mdlankunzi Dlamini; Sarah Donkin; Duranne Eaton; Rachel Emond; Muhammad Essa; Muhammad Essop; Hannah Ferreira; Caitlyn Fincham; Luke Gardiner; Amberly Gourlay; Carrie-Anne Govender; Sarah Harding; Josh Hook; Taryn Jabour; Robert Jessop; Dylan Kriel; Kayla Lindsey; Diya Lutchman; Georgia Mackay; Nangamso Maphalala; Freddie Mavimbe; Melba Mavimbe; Kirsten McDonald; Lethuthando Mthiyane; Lerato Mudau; Dashiell Naidoo; Macayla Oakes; Megan Parry; Daniel Peter; Ruan Potgieter; Blaine Pretorius; Daniela Roberts; Jamie Sindt; Ayush Singh; Ayush Sirkisson; Matthew Temlett; Kelly Van der Vyver; Ntokozo Vilakazi; Tiaan Walters; Amy Whittle; Erin Whittle

Visual Arts



Grade 11

ABOVE LEFT: PAIGE SLATER,
ACRYLIC PAINTING
ABOVE RIGHT: TYRA FENDER, OIL
PAINTING
RIGHT: JORDAN JOUBERT,
ACRYLIC PAINTING



Global Competencies Day

On Wednesday 29 July, our Grade 8 to 11 students took a break from the normal school timetable to spend some time considering what the future will look like as digital transformation shapes our ever-changing world. We considered the competencies needed to ensure that we don't just survive this unknown future but thrive in it. These competencies include, but are not limited to: creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication. Each register class went through a series of activities which promote these skills including:

A Cryptic Clue Challenge

Students had 20 minutes to solve as many cryptic clues which required Mathematical concepts, English language nuances and general knowledge. This was a hotly contested challenge with only 10S achieving a full house!



3D Puzzle Solving

Students were presented with 13 different 3D puzzles and had to try to solve as many as possible in 20 minutes. Although some of these puzzles had only 4 to 5 pieces, the challenge was putting them together to fit so that all the pieces were used.

A Matchstick Problem Solving Challenge

Here students were required to move a pattern of matchsticks with only one directed change to create an entirely new shape. This really engaged visual perception and required much creativity.

20 Words Challenge

In this challenge students were encouraged to list only 20 words with which to do life. They then shared these words with a partner, discussed why those words were important and then attempted to hold conversations with only these words. They also investigated “would you rather challenges” such as “would you rather have everything you want or know everything you want?”



Reddam House Umhlanga Advantage Learn High Performance Mathematics Academy

Applications for Term 3 are still open to Reddam House Umhlanga students – go to www.advantagelearn.com/maths-academy. New applicants will still be able to access lessons from the beginning of the year.

BOARDING NEWS & INFORMATION

Weekend Activities: 25 & 26 July

Saturday morning was spent surfing or skating on the promenade while the afternoon was ‘device free’ as our students enjoyed an afternoon of tie dyeing. The boarders worked on pillow cases to donate to a women’s shelter.

Free Weekend: 7 – 10 August

Boarders must depart by 16:00 on Friday 7 August and return on Monday 10 August between 16:00 and 18:00. The Reddam Res is closed for this long weekend.

Cultural Honours Award

Thoraya Bonnin won first prize in the prepared art section of the DNC Eisteddfod in October 2019. This is a provincial competition and she was then selected to represent KZN in a national competition this year where she achieved a gold certificate. Thoraya also competed and won a national competition run by DALA in collaboration with the South African Artists magazine and has had her artwork published in this magazine. In recognition of her exceptional achievements she was awarded Honours for Visual Art.



Come Dine with Me Reddam Interhouse Competition

This week our "Come Dine with Me Reddam" teams worked together to create their menus for their final video submissions on 21 August. Menus were judged by Lauren Machanick from The Chocolate Garden.

Menu Winners:

Junior Teams

- 1st: Amico Chef (Thongathi)
- 2nd: The Food of July (Ohlanga)
- 3rd: Mexican Table (Umdloti)

Senior Teams

- 1st: Green (Ohlanga)
- 2nd: Chefs from Around the World (Thongathi) with bonus points for the best restaurant.
- 3rd: Master Cooks (Umdloti)

First Mystery Box Challenge Winners Week 1 and Week 2

Our judge, Chef Giselle Prinsloo, was incredibly impressed with the dishes presented in video form in the last two weeks. Well done to all our young cooks for taking on the first two challenges.

Junior Chefs:

- 1st: Faye Ellis (bonus points for best video)
- 2nd: Ruth Kusene
- 3rd: Skye Pencillah (bonus points for best presentation of dish)

Senior Chefs:

- 1st: Kari Kriel with bonus points for best item (blueberry panna cotta and peaflower tea infused jelly)
- 2nd: Diya Lutchman
- 3rd: Jessica Martin (bonus points for best video & instructions)

Mystery Box Challenge Week 2

Juniors:

- 1st: Joshua Ribbonaar (bonus points for technique)
- 2nd: Ella Matthews (bonus points for Creativity)
- 3rd: Georgia Whitley (bonus points for technique)

5 Bonus points to Amber Lewis for best video with instructions.

Seniors:

- 1st: Sisanda Nkala (bonus points for technique)
- 2nd: Ruby Karon (bonus points for technique)
- 3rd: Georgia Mackay

5 Bonus points to Palesa Seoposengwe for best video with instructions.



“Footloose”: Postponement to 2021

Many theatres and performance companies around our country and the world sit in limbo as they try to work out how to stage productions with current curfews and restrictions. After exploring different options of staging the show later this year, we have come to the decision to put the show on “standby” for 2021. We would like to stage the show as originally intended and are grateful to our Matric students, lead characters, dancers and chorus who have agreed to take on their roles next year. We look forward to auditioning our Grade 8's of 2021 to include them in the cast. We look forward to a huge celebration of our students' talents and we promise that “the show will go on.”

Interhouse Visual Art Competition

Our first Interhouse Visual Art competition is based on an initiative started by the Getty Art Museum during lockdown restrictions in the USA this year. Since visiting an art gallery was out of the question, the folks over at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles came up with a creative way to keep art lovers occupied — by challenging them to re-create famous artworks at home. Well done to those who entered this novel ‘in da house’ competition.’

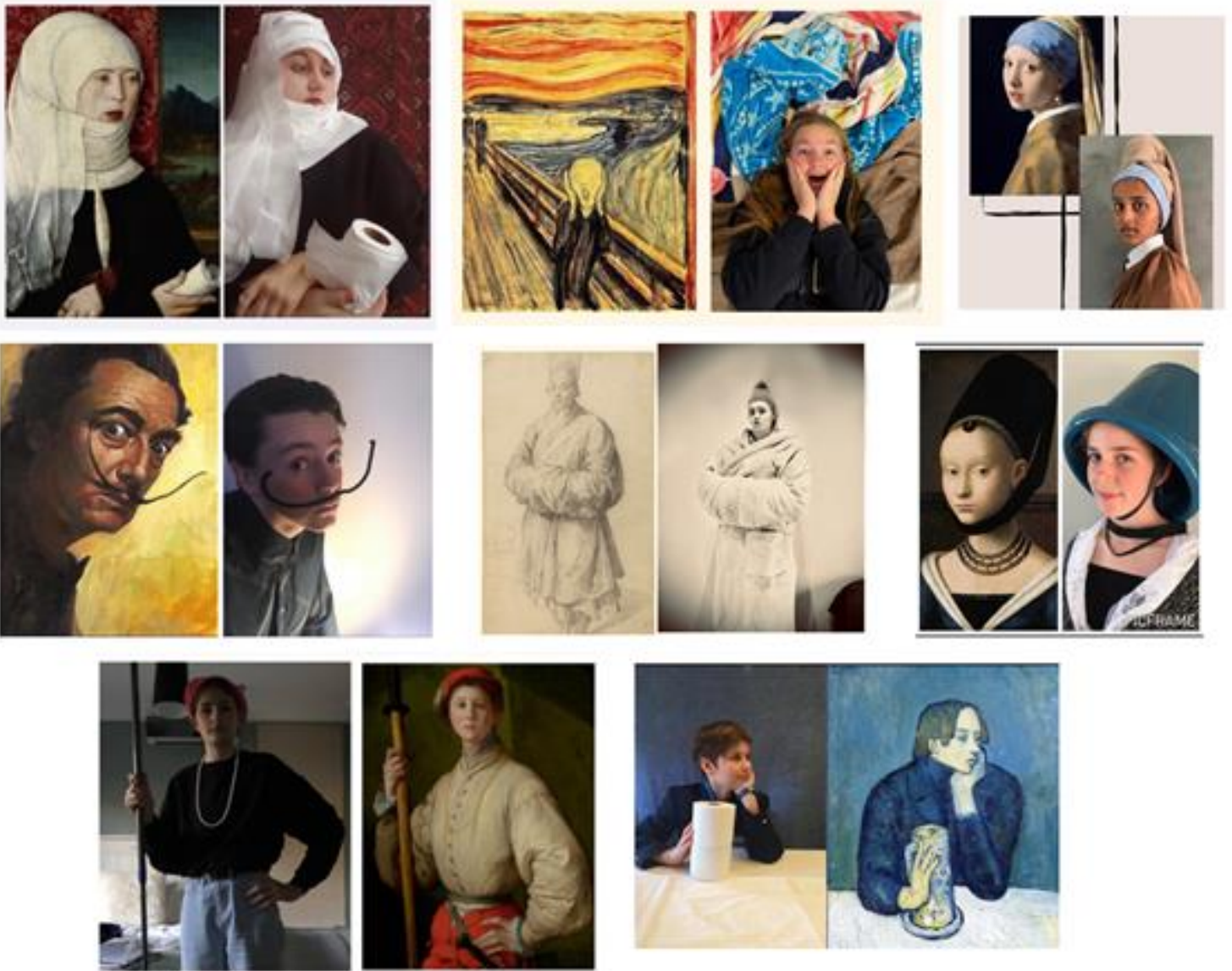


Interhouse Art Winners

ABOVE LEFT: 1ST LARA
BACKMAN

ABOVE RIGHT: KAYLA HENDRICKS
RIGHT: ELIZABETH RETIEF





Row 1: Layla- Ann Sachse, Erin Scott, Natanya Kisten
 Row 2: Caden McEwan, Duranne Eaton, Kelly van der Vyver
 Row 3: Caitlin Roden, Brittany Moorcroft-Minnaar

COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWS & INFORMATION

Mandela Day 2020

International Mandela Day was commemorated on Friday 17 July. As we were unable to get our hands dirty in large groups, students at school and online worked independently to make face masks for underprivileged children and teens. The face masks were made by upcycling old t-shirts into a double layer face mask.

Approximately 500 face masks were quality checked by the Outreach Portfolio before they are donated and distributed through the Bhambayi project.



Georgia Gregory (Grade 10)



Aidan Johnson (Grade 8)

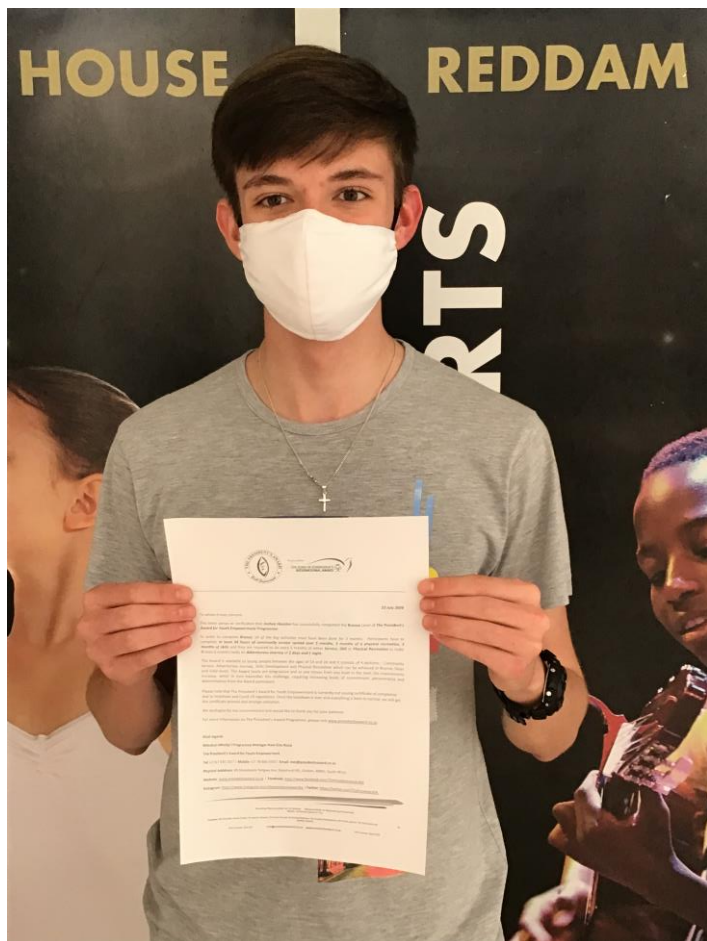
Some of our students went on to be involved in further outreach initiatives the following day: Demi De Charmoy (Grade 11) made food parcels in support of an organization feeding homeless children. Demi made 115 meals with each meal feeding up to 6 people. Jonno Hicks (Grade 10) spent his 67 minutes making sandwiches in support of the Grace Family Church Mandela Day initiative. Aidan Johnson (Grade 8) sold 67 bottles of homemade lemonade on Mandela Day in support of the Bhambayi Project.

Community Service Initiatives: Term 3

The Outreach Portfolio has launched the events for the term ahead. All information on these events can be found on the Grade Google Classrooms and the Reddam House App under the College Outreach tab. All students are able to claim one hour of service on Friday 7 August by donating two cans of food that will be donated to the TAFTA fundraising drive in support of Corona affected individuals.

President's Award

Well done to Joshua Houston and Kieran McAlery on the completion of their Bronze Awards. Both of these boys have managed to complete these awards through their involvement in school activities and events. Students interested in the President's Award are able to sign up and begin working towards their portfolios even under lockdown restrictions. Information on the award can be found on the Reddam House App under the College Outreach tab.



Joshua Houston (Grade 10)



Kieran McAlery (Grade 10)

WELLNESS INFORMATION

Emotional Wellness

Accepting that anxiety is a completely normal emotion to feel in such a time of uncertainty is important. Normalising and trying to regulate this emotion may be helpful. Being aware of your thinking is a useful coping mechanism. Identifying thoughts that may be escalating your anxiety as well as challenging them is something that we can all put into everyday practice. Making sure that we are not catastrophising and reality checking with ourselves is a good way to try keep our anxiety levels down.

If you start to notice your children's anxiety escalating – it is advisable to minimize their exposure to time-consuming social media. Rather rely on the odd reliable resource for information in small, bite-size chunks. The school counselor, Ros Lowry is available to assist further – please email.ros.lowry@reddam.house or telephone (031) 566 5736.

SPORTS NEWS & INFORMATION

Interhouse Gaming (FIFA) Competition

The first round of interhouse gaming takes place on Saturday 1 August at 15:00. Participants will battle their way through group stages in order to make it to the much awaited play offs. All students must remember to sign up on the tournament page or else they cannot play.

Sport Honours Award

Braden Delomoney has been awarded Honours for Waterpolo. In 2019 Braden was selected for the KZN Men's u18 Currie Cup Team and went on to be selected for the SA u16 Boys' Team that traveled to Egypt to participate in the African Championships. In 2020 he was again selected for the KZN Men's u18 Currie Cup Team and was selected to represent the SA u17 Team that was due to compete in the Junior Men's EU Nations Cup in the Czech Republic.

Cycling

Well done to the interhouse cyclists who competed last weekend. All participants had to cycle 30 kilometers individually and had to submit evidence of their times.

Girls:

1st: Kirsten Stead

2nd: Gemma Coleman

3rd: Amber Lewis and Jessica Pooler

Boys:

1st: Robert Jessop

2nd: Luke Moretonas

3rd: David Duvenhage



Interhouse Trick Shots Competition

Our first interhouse trick shot competition took place with the most entertaining videos received. Congratulations to the following winners in the individual categories:

Golf Trick shots

1st: Keshav Lutchman

2nd: Diya Lutchman

3rd: Josh Collins

Hockey Trick shots

1st: Samuel Pienaar

2nd: Christian Elsner

3rd: Kyran Taylor

Rugby Trick shots

1st: Kari Kriel

2nd: Chad Reinach

3rd: Nico Willemse

Waterpolo Trick shots

1st: Jamie Sindt

2nd: Braden Delomoney

3rd: Christy Dudas

Cricket Trick shots

1st: Heath Maclou

2nd: Noah Schwartzman

3rd: Tristan Daly

Soccer Trick shots

1st: Muhammad Essop

2nd: Grace Doxey

3rd: Tai Narsey

Tennis Trick shots

1st: Ben Pretorius

2nd: Zara Moodley

3rd: Sajana Sirkisson

Netball Trick shots

1st: Ella Matthews

2nd: Sinqobile Nxumalo

3rd: Jamie Lofstedt

Sports Awards (from Term 1)

Action Netball

Jamie Loftstedt (Half Colours)

Tyra Horn (Half Colours)

Wamandla Bluebird (Half Colours)

Ayanda Chiliza (Half Colours)

Sisanda Nkala (Half Colours)

Bridget de Sousa (half Colours)

Michaela Ehrich (Half Colours)

Nontobeko Mohuli (Full Colours)

Biathlon

Joshua Swart (Full Colours)

Life Saving

Tyra Fenger (Full Colours)

Karate

Joshua Houston (Full Colours)

Swimming

Amber Lewis (Half Colours)

Touch Rugby

Kari Kriel (Full Colours)

Waterpolo

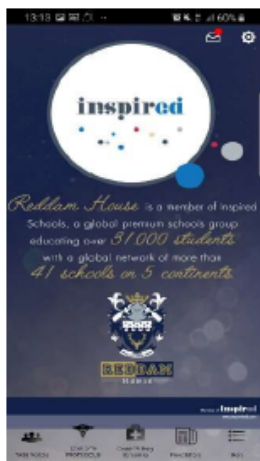
Jordan Maehler (Full Colours)

Jamie Sindt (Full Colours)

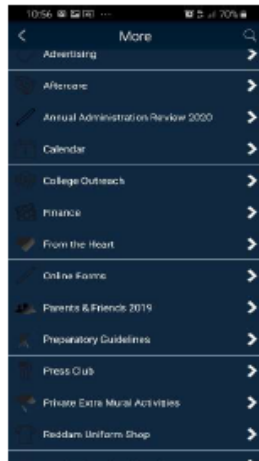
PARTNERSHIP NEWS & INFORMATION

The Press Club has resumed business and College students will be allowed to place orders via the Reddam House App. The Press Club will operate through an online order system as outlined below.

**STEP 1 – Go to Reddam App
Select “More”**



STEP 2 – Select Press Club Tab



STEP 3 – Look at the menu Tab



**STEP 4 – Go to the Order tab
and complete your order**

PRESS CLUB ORDER FORM
*Required

Untitled Section

CHILD'S NAME *

Your answer

CHILD'S SURNAME *

Your answer

**STEP 5 - Give method of
payment**

PRESS CLUB ORDER FORM
*Required

PAYMENT OPTION

Please select your payment option below:

Option *

☒ Zipper (QR appears on Press Club menu)

☐ Cash (clearly marked envelope with child's name)

Back Next

STEP 6 - Put in total and submit

PRESS CLUB ORDER FORM
*Required

Amount paid

Please indicate the total due for your order in the space below:

Final total: *

14.90

Back Submit

Payment Method:

A copy of the menu is available on the App with the QR code if you wish to print it out and pay electronically. Alternatively, an envelope with the student's name and register class can be handed in with the exact cash amount each morning, when having their temperatures checked on arrival.



**SUPPORTERS GEAR
AND
PRE-LOVED ITEMS**

All orders must be done online and paid for by 08:30am. The food will be individually packaged and delivered to each grade entrance at the start of break.

Gold Navy Online Second Hand & Supporters' Store

It is with great excitement that we announce the imminent launch of the Gold Navy online store. Given the new COVID-19 safety protocols which do not allow parents into the College building, the online store will offer a full range of pre-loved uniforms for ELS / Prep / College, as well as supporters gear. We look forward to going live with this new concept, and will advise as soon as it is up and running. In the meantime if you require any pre-loved uniforms, please contact Karen on 076 811 6878 to assist you.

DATES TO DIARISE

8 – 10 August

Boarders' Free Weekend

10 August

Public Holiday (school is closed)

13 August

Grade 8 – 11 Entrepreneurship Curriculum Enrichment Day

REDDAM ADS



Please click on this button to see our Reddam House Umhlanga Advertisements