



HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL

CIRCULAR 5 / 2025 – 25 APRIL 2025

**DREAM
BELIEVE
ACHIEVE**

HHS VISION

To be a leading co-educational **high school**, providing exceptional **physical** and **social** environments in which **all** learners have the **opportunity** to become the **best they can be**, academically, culturally, socially and in sport.

HHS VALUES

H-onour | **H**-ard work | **S**-ervice

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that you have all had a relaxing long Easter weekend and are ready for another bonus week with your children from the 28 April to 2nd May. School will resume on Monday, 5 May – Day 4.

Our second term is packed with lots of academic, sport and cultural activities. We have already had the Grade 8 and the Grade 9 Parents Information Meetings – thank you to all who attended. In the next month we have the PSG Super 8s Sporting fixtures, the History excursion, the Drama House Plays, the Garvin Goldstone Comedy Show fundraiser and the RCL Movie Night. Please keep an eye out for the details of these in all our various sources of communicate.

ABSENTEEISM

I was extremely disappointed with the high rate of absenteeism during the last week of school last term (and on the two days before the Easter weekend). We as a staff chose to make up any lost teaching time for the benefit of the children, so that their academics would not be negatively affected. Staff did not get the Friday off after the heavy rains, they were all at work – and yet the staff were prepared to delay their desperately needed holiday for your children. Despite this over 200 learners a day were allowed to stay at home by their parents in the last week.

I need to remind you that the Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Act emphasizes the importance of regular school attendance and outlines specific responsibilities for parents. According to the Act, parents are legally obligated to ensure that their children attend school regularly. If a learner is absent for three consecutive school days without a valid reason, the class teacher must report the absence to the principal, who is then required to investigate and address the issue with the School Governing Body (SGB).

Additionally, the Act stipulates that a parent who, without just cause, prevents their children from attending school may face penalties which may include being fined or even imprisoned. The Act aims to hold parents accountable for their children's education, and to reinforce the critical role of parents in supporting their children's education, ensuring that they meet compulsory attendance requirements.

The Department of Education really do try to accommodate parents by allowing schools to close early for special long weekends (e.g. Easter weekend) so that people travelling can get away earlier. It is disappointing that so many people chose to then stay away for the entire day therefore losing more teaching time. On Thursday, 17th April 427 learners were absent from school. This is NOT acceptable, and I need parents to support the school by ensuring your children are not staying at home without valid reasons.

EXAMINATIONS

The Examination timetable will be coming out shortly, along with all of the instructions for the examination block. However, all learners already have a good idea of what will be examined so revision should be in progress. Learners are reminded that extra lessons and peer-tutoring are on offer every day except Fridays. The information for this is available daily in the captain's bell.

ACHIEVERS

Congratulations to the following achievers:

Touch Rugby

The following girls have been selected for the SA Touch Rugby Invitational Under 21 Women's Team to participate in the South African Touch Rugby Senior Nationals from 26 April 2025 until 28 April 2025 in Pretoria.

- Kayden Carson
- Macayela Johansson
- Grace Humphreys
- Thingo Dlamini
- Keira Du Plessis
- Piya Brown
- Kayla Manning
- Megan Maher

The following boys have been selected for the SA Touch Rugby Invitational under 21 Men's Team to participate in the South African Touch Rugby Senior Nationals from 26 April 2025 until 28 April 2025 in Pretoria.

- Aphelele Chiliza
- Nishal Pailath
- Bayanda Gumbi
- Kwandile Gumbi
- Sibusiso Mapotse
- Uyanda Hlongwa
- Rudy Klijnstra

In addition to the players, we are happy to inform you that four young referees from Hillcrest High have also been selected to officiate at the tournament — a commendable opportunity for learners at this level:

- Tamuka Chovuchovu
- Luthando Blose
- Siviwe Luthuli
- Sphesihle Hlambisa

KZN Men's Open Team

- Azola Shandu

KZN Mixed Open Team

- Lola Klijnstra
- Tanner Evans

Touch Rugby Coach, Mrs Telise Tonkin has also been selected to play for the Women's Open Team. We wish them all the best for the tournament.

Netball – PADSSA

The following girls have been selected for the PADSSA netball teams who will participate in the KZN Trials on 25 and 26 April at Curro Salt Rock

- **U14**
Kady Clemmett
- **U15**
Kellan Boyton
Katelyn Peattie
- **U16**
Michaela Clegg
Piya Brown
- **U18**
Lola Klijnstra
Thandolwethu Sishi
Anathi Ndlovu
Lisakhanya Mncube.

EASTER SPORTS TOUR TO ST DUNSTAN’S COLLEGE, GAUTENG

The 1st Rugby, Netball, Girls’ and Boys’ Hockey Teams travelled to Benoni, Gauteng to participate in the St Dunstan’s Easter Sports’ Festival from 16 – 21 April. The tour was very successful with some excellent sporting results showcasing our team’s abilities playing against teams from other regions. These tours are a fantastic opportunity for players and coaches to judge the performance of our teams against other schools that they do not typically get exposed to, as well as to network with coaches and learners from other areas.

Thank you to our coaches and staff who gave up their Easter long weekend and time with family to travel with our teams and ensure the safety of our learners while on tour. Thank you to the parents who supported their children with various fundraising activities to help fund the tour costs and paid the tour fees. We know that this is a sacrifice for many families but believe that the opportunities experienced, and bonds forged on tour are priceless, so thank you to you all.



Tour Results

The full set of results can be found on our website and will be posted over the next week on our various social media platforms. As an overview, the team results were as follows:

Rugby: Won 3. One of five schools that were undefeated during the tournament.

Hockey Girls’: Won 5, Lost 2.

Hockey Boys’: Won 2, Drew 1, Lost 3.

Netball: Won 8, Lost 5.





Team Sponsors:

We are very grateful for the support of our team sponsors who not only fund the cost of players and coach kit but also assisted with tour costs. They are:

- Northside Electrical
- Splashy Fen Festival
- Floline Cleaning Services
- Romans' Pizza Hillcrest
- Blue Security
- Oxford
- Remax Address
- PJ Silos
- Da Costa Inc
- Gauche Air
- BPB Construction
- Woodfire Hospitality
- Under Control cc
- Travel With Attitude
- Herman's Truck Accident Repairs
- Wakefields Estate Agents
- Dykes Van Heerden KZN
- STBB Attorneys
- Richdens SuperSpar



COLLECTING LEARNERS

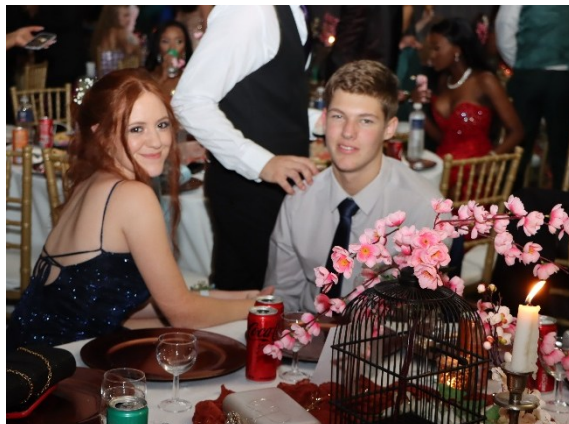
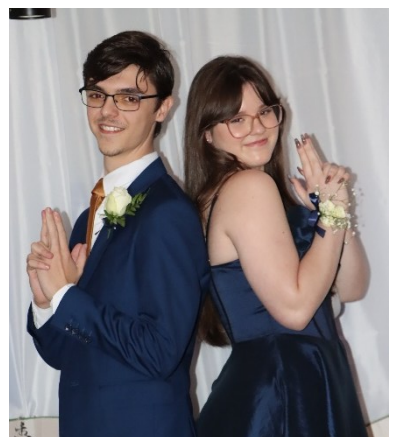
This is just a reminder that all learners should be collected by 17h30 (5:30pm) in the afternoon. The Security staff are on site until 18h00 (6:00pm) and after that the gates get locked. Any children still at school must wait inside the school property and leave through the pedestrian gate. However, with it getting darker earlier now I do urge parents to please arrange for your children to be collected by 17h30, as we cannot be held responsible for their safety after hours.

Furthermore, I would like to appeal to parents to collect their children timeously when they return by bus from sporting fixtures at other venues. The staff are not expected to stay and look after them – they generally do this of their own accord, giving up valuable time with their own families. Parents are always kept updated on the arrival times, so I respectfully request that more effort is made to collect your children as promptly as possible. If an educator needs to leave and is not comfortable leaving the child at school, they may take them to the Hillcrest Police Station according to the policy, but we would prefer not to have to resort to this.

MATRIC DANCE

We had our Matric Dance on Saturday 12 April. The weather was lovely, and the full moon and bright stars added to the ambiance of the evening. The arrivals were very entertaining with some unique and rather expensive modes of transport on display. The outfits were stunning, some very classic outfits and some quite different designs with a range in between. But for me the most significant observation was to see how much fun the Grade 12's had. I do not recall ever seeing so many people dancing the evening away and they all really seemed to enjoy themselves.

There were of course many people involved in ensuring the success of the evening. Thank you to Mrs Edy and Mrs McLaughlin, and the Grade 12 Grade Controllers, Mrs Harmse and Mrs Atkinson for the organising and planning.



I also want to thank the following grade 11's who were the wait staff on the evening:

- Nkanyezi Ngcobo
- Natalie Rees
- Taylor van Tromp
- Asemahle Tshapa
- Shawna Creed
- Janoah Williams
- Tristan Botha
- Anele Sabela
- Akwande Luthuli
- Amahle Zungu

Thank you to the following people who assisted with arrivals and with capturing the moment:

- Amahle Zungu
- Lathitha Njova
- Mr Ndebele
- Mr Windsor
- Mr Marillier
- Mr Burger
- Mr Ngubane
- Mr Majola
- Mr and Mrs Te Brugge for taking pictures and video footage of the arrivals.

We also extend our gratitude to the staff who assisted with Matric Dance:

- Zodwa Khanyile
- Nellie Mbanjwa
- Zethu Cele
- Dudu Shoba
- Bhekani Mkhize
- Nkangiso Ntobela
- Bheki Ndlovu
- Lindo Magubane
- Bongani Nzama

RECEPTION

The staff in the front office are noticing that the number of items that are being dropped off for the learners every day is steadily increasing. Please can I remind you that unless it is an emergency (e.g. medication) parents are requested not to drop off things that have been forgotten at home such as lunches, homework, PE kit etc. The learners know that they are responsible for bringing these things to school and will never learn to be accountable and responsible if the parents are constantly covering for them. It also places a lot of extra pressure and responsibility on the front office staff who then must find your children to ensure they collect their items. I would also like to remind you that we are a cashless school and would really prefer parents not to leave money at the front office or with the security at the gate, for their children to collect.

STAFFING

The transfer of Mrs Tarryn Papé to Hillcrest High School was finally approved and we were pleased to welcome Mrs Papé into our Afrikaans Department at the beginning of the term. I would like to thank

the Afrikaans Department for being so patient and working so hard to ensure that all the classes were taught, despite being one team member short.

On Tuesday we received a new educator from the Department of Education, Ms Thobekile Mvumbu, who joins us as a Tourism and Social Sciences educator.

We hope that they will both be very happy at Hillcrest High School.

IN CONCLUSION

As we find ourselves on the brink of, yet another long weekend followed by some school holidays, I wish you all a wonderful break. If you are travelling, we wish you a safe journey and we look forward to settling down to some serious studying when we return on 5 May, Day 4.

Yours faithfully

D.P. KNIGHT
Principal

