

# **PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER**

**DATE 7TH SEPTEMBER '07**

**Dear Parents,**

## **Welcome**

For some one hundred additional new students and their families it is a welcome: for others a welcome back. For all there will be many changes not least that of the arrival of our new teachers. These first three days have gone smoothly largely thanks to the teacher's preparation and your support. Apologies for the Wednesday traffic problem which was due to the contractor working on the entrance to Kabira Club sealing off one lane – since rectified.

## **Uniform**

One of our suppliers received a huge order which would take them two months to complete – they dropped all other orders including ours –so we will have delays. We will inform parents and students when all orders are complete and, shortly thereafter, will expect universal compliance.

## **School Outdoor Ed Trips Cancellation and Rescheduling**

Due to one border security problem (although apparently resolved) we decided to change the year 9/10 trip. Following the tragic death of a student caught in a freak accident while white water rafting we decided to cancel that trip for the Year 8's. The Year 8 trip to an alternative venue will still go ahead at the same time .The Year 9/10 trip will be finalised and announced very soon

## **End- Of- School Pick Ups.**

There have been behavioural issues in the past involving students going to the club and car park after school. Students must wait in school –they are advised of options – until they are picked up –this ensures a greater degree of security and monitoring.

## **Parent Teacher Introductory Meetings Next Week**

These will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> for KG –year 2, from 5pm-6pm: and for Year 3-Year 6 from 6pm-to 7pm. The secondary meeting will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> from 6pm in the hall. These meetings are not intended for the discussion of individual students. They are for you to meet the class/form teachers as a group .They will cover house business and suggestions for how to help your children etc...

## **Primary Parent Teacher Meetings 27<sup>th</sup> September**

Details will follow from Mr.Peterson. These are individual meetings. Obviously they cannot be progress meetings. They are for teachers to say briefly how your child has settled etc... but more importantly for you to describe how you view your child. This can give the teacher insights at the beginning which can be of useful reference for the teacher for the full year. The secondary will get to meet their teachers on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November following interim reports.

## **Headlice!**

The nurse will conduct a check next week of all students. Where headlice are found the child will not be informed as some children get embarrassed – the parent will be advised. The nurse will conduct a check at the beginning of every term. All my children have had headlice at one time or another and sometimes several times. I have found it in every school in every country I have worked in without exception. The only way to keep it in check is via regular precautions. We got into the habit of giving our children a dose of the special shampoos once in a while as determined by my wife

## **Discipline In Clubs**

Clubs will start soon. I understand that there were some discipline problems in clubs last year including staying behind for clubs but not actually attending. Inappropriate behaviour, which will be defined for students, will result in a three month ban from clubs. Following non- attendance at clubs for two sessions without any notified reason will result in a call to parents and possibly a three month ban depending on circumstances. Students will be reminded that if they sign up for a club they must attend.

## **PTA Picnic Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September From 3pm To 6pm.**

A chance for all the school community to get together. This is an early notification – the PTA will be sending you details.

## **Students Late To School**

Everyone is late at some stage .However, please be aware that late arrivals disrupt lessons particularly in secondary and it is also disruptive for the late arriving student themselves. Students arriving after 8am are asked to go to the office on arrival. They get a 'late slip' to take to their teacher. In primary it notifies their teacher that the office will record their attendance if the teacher has already sent the register down. For secondary it ensures that their attendance will be recorded.

## **Communication**

The mode of communication is changing. Every Friday you will receive relevant information such as the above informing /reminding you of events, developments, the kind of expectations we are advising students of and so on. You will know it is information you will generally need to know. Primary and secondary will contact you with their specific items when appropriate. The previous newsletter contained information and news of things which had already happened. It was a burden on the staff and admin to produce each week and a straw poll indicated it was not always read by teachers and parents. Every week, apart from teachers, it tied up one secretary for two days and the photocopier for a day. The above largely frees staff and resources for more concrete student related matters. A separate school magazine will be produced this year by year 11 as a journalistic project and will come out as and when they decide on their own schedules and deadlines –well that is plan A and we are giving it a try.

Best wishes,