

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Alumni

We recently received a letter of support from a senior executive at Old Mutual plc, Ms Maserame Mouyeme, who is Director of Group Marketing, Public Affairs and Sustainability at Old Mutual. Here is an extract from her letter: *Your school is a pivotal part of the Pinelands community network and ... we thought it apt to acknowledge and celebrate your ongoing commitment to diversity as an inclusive school community. The updated design of the crest, which symbolizes your values and goals, is a beautiful gesture which is much needed in these dire times. Belonging is ultimately a deep human need.*

We were delighted to receive this communication which further cements the strong ties which we have with the company. Many of our parents and guardians work at Old Mutual, and the company has been supportive of the school over the years. The fact that the company recognises our school as one which has a strong commitment to diversity and inclusivity is encouraging affirmation for the work that we are doing with our young people and in our wider community.

Should you have missed the video which launched our new school crest, please view it here: <https://youtu.be/RfT4ReHAaU4> As I write, the first new crests are being ironed onto the blazers of our Grade 8s, the digital rollout is nearing completion, and new signage is being erected. It is an exciting phase in our school's development.

Transformation remains one of our priorities in the school. Over the past months we have focussed our staff professional development on equipping staff to manage in an increasingly diverse classroom and school, with an emphasis on gender, and cultural and social difference. Our school vision remains one which seeks at all times to be inclusive and accepting, rather than simply tolerant of difference.

On the sporting front we were very saddened last week to have had to cancel fixtures following the announcement from the

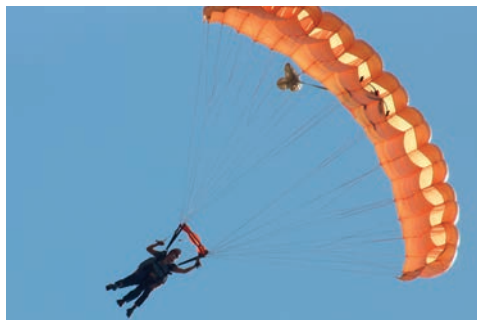


Department of Basic Education that all contact sports may not continue until further notice. We were just getting back into the rhythm of inter-school competition, and so this latest regulation, whilst completely understandable, has caused much disappointment amongst our young people. We are continuing with non-contact training and skills sessions until further notice.

I wish you and your families all of the best as we face what seems to be an inevitable third wave of Covid-19 in our country and in various parts of the world. As a school we remain strong and resilient through these extraordinary times, fully committed to providing an excellent education to all of our young people, regardless of the factors beyond our control.

We thank you for your support of your *alma mater*.

With warm regards
Dave Campbell, Principal



PHS principal, Mr Campbell, "dropping in" to the 2020 open air Valedictory Assembly.

FOUNDERS' DAY

In March 2020, we were very grateful to have been able to hold our Founders' Day assembly and several reunions just before the country was subjected to hard lockdown regulations. Sadly, this hasn't been possible in 2021, though the hope is to do some form of virtual Founders' Day assembly a little later in the year and we will communicate about this nearer the time. Meanwhile, stay connected.

ADJUSTMENTS TO SCHOOL WEEK



In mid-April, following lengthy consultation with academic staff, students and health professionals, a decision was made by the senior management team of the school to return to an almost five day school week. This decision was endorsed by the SGB and was made in the light of a reduced COVID infection rate and recognised the need to help students return to a better academic rhythm and recover lost academic time by having more contact with teachers. Matrics will be at school 5 days a week, with the other grades having one day a week of distance learning from home. It is also a flexible option, allowing for the possibility of bringing all students back five days a week or to return to an increased distance learning approach should the infection numbers spike in the months ahead. Whilst the goal is to ultimately return to "normal" schooling weeks, as has been implemented in several schools in Cape Town, Pinelands High has several constraints with regard to venue sizes as well as staff capacity to be able to manage the volume of students indoors and the increase in non-academic duties.

SOCIAL MEDIA





PHS CARES

During 2020 a number of Alumni responded generously to an appeal from the school to help support families in our school community who were in financial crisis as a result of lost employment and income due to the pandemic and lockdown. We were able to offer a number of fee bursaries to students as well as support many families with food parcels and grocery vouchers. We are sincerely grateful to those Alumni for their support.

While many guardians and parents have been able to return to some level of employment in 2021 we have a number who, despite brave efforts, are still not able to provide basic essentials for their families. Understandably we have seen a significant drop in donations to PHS Cares but we hope to still offer support for the next several months, where needed. To make donating easier for those who would like to offer support, we have set up a Backabuddy profile. R750 can help us provide basic food stuffs for one family for a month, but any amount will be enormously helpful. So, if you would like to provide assistance, here is the link to our Backabuddy site.

<https://www.backabuddy.co.za/pine-high-fundraiser>

For donations to support bursaries for students, please continue to deposit in the school bank account: Pinelands High School, Standard Bank Pinelands, 036309, Current Account 073023671 – with the reference: Bursary (your) SURNAME, or via our GivenGain site: <https://www.givengain.com/c/phs/>

For more information, contact cfranck@phs.org.za

OPEN DAY AND ADMISSIONS

The pandemic has forced (and enabled) us to look at different ways of doing school admissions and Open Day. All applications for 2022 have been submitted online, cutting

out the need for in-person visits to the school and, while it is a steep learning curve for many, this seems to have gone relatively smoothly.

Open Day, with more than 1000 visitors anticipated each year, wasn't possible this March so alternative plans were made. In addition to the usual talks given to Grade 7's at local schools, an information evening was held for limited numbers of prospective students and parents and many signed up for small socially distanced tours of the campus. For others for whom these options weren't possible, a short video was available. Alumni may also enjoy hearing a few of our students speak of why they chose to study at Pinelands High.

<https://www.phs.org.za/blog/entry/why-i-chose-pinelands-high-school.html>

SPORTING CHAMPIONS



Lara Goodall (matric 2013) plays for the national Women's Cricket team, the Proteas, and was part of the successful tour to India where they won the One-Day series 4 – 1. We are

very proud of her and the many runs she has scored of late.



Jason Mulder (matric 2007), has been named the Head Coach for the U.S.A men's indoor hockey team. Jason played for the first team at Pinelands High for many years and represented Western Province in all age groups as a player.

He pursued coaching science at ETA College with a concentration in coaching hockey, and he is also a qualified Level 2 Coach and Level 1 Coach Facilitator. To add to his field hockey experience, Jason was also the chief operating officer of Sportways SA, the biggest field hockey coaching company in the world.



Unathi Radebe (Grade 10) has become a regular member of the South African U-17 football squad. In November of last year he played a number of

internationals, and earlier this year he was in training with the squad in preparation for the U17 African Cup of Nations which was unfortunately cancelled due to restrictions on international travel. We will be following Unathi's career with great interest.



Liam Buck (Grade 11) represented Western Province at the recent SA Athletics National Track and Field Championship. He

sprinted to a close finish in the U18 100 metres race, where he placed third, and raced away to a win in the 200 metres race. Blitz vinnig!

Umar Edwards (Grade 8) Represented Western Cape in the SA Amateur Mixed Martial-Arts Championships and won a silver medal. He is hoping to make the SA squad to compete in Turkey in June/July 2021.

MYSCHOOL CARD

Thank you to all Alumni who have signed up for a MySchool card and nominated Pinelands High School as beneficiary. For those who are holders of Woolworths Rewards Cards, your card can be linked to the MySchool scheme raising the same benefits for the school.

For further details and a quick sign up go to the site:

www.myschool.co.za.

Every Swipe counts.



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HIGH SCHOOL**
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