



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Friday 17 July 2020

### Message from the Headmaster

Quote:

“To build and maintain hope, we need three things: a sense of control, a belief in the value of something, and a community.” — Mark Manson

I thought this quote by Mark Manson appropriate, especially with the fact that we are in the peak of fighting a global pandemic and our concerns are mounting over our own health and safety. Many articles have been written on anxiety, uncertainty and fear. These articles are written with the best of intentions — to acknowledge how people are feeling and help them cope. But there’s only so much fear-validation one can take before our own anxiety spirals into overdrive. To keep one’s outlook steady, we need to look towards reading articles that offer signs of hope or examples of people who are engaging in generous acts to help others.

Mark Manson clarifies the three elements needed to build and maintain hope. First of all, we need to have control of our own life so that we can affect our own fate. Secondly, we need to find value in something important enough to work towards and finally we must become part of a group or community that values the same things we do.

With many more grades returning to school, it is so wonderful to hear the sound of children around the school. I would, once again, like to thank our parents, staff and the broader community for the patience and support that you have given the school during this transition period of phasing in the different grades, as boys return to school.

I understand that this has been a challenging time for all and I apologize for the inconvenience and the indecisiveness which has led to much frustration and increased anxiety. Our overriding aim is always to ensure the safety of the entire school community and we rely on the vigilance and cooperation of everyone.

I challenge everyone to see this time as an opportunity for teachers, parents and the community to work together – for these unique and wonderful boys we have at Graeme College. It is only through conquering the fear and working as a community that we can turn this enormously negative “thing” into something positive. Let it be a platform for the growth of our children which will stand to strengthen our community and uplift our spirit.

K.Watson

## Academic:

### Update on Grade 8s and 9s returning to school:

The Grade 8s and 9s are due to return to school on Monday 27 July 2020. In order for this to work, their days have been altered so that social distancing norms and procedures may be respected and adhered to. The Grade 8s and 9s will attend school on alternate days, and classes will take place in set venues and seats to ensure the safety of everyone. The Grade 8s and 9s need to report to the senior quad at 08h15 on the days that they are expected at school. There, they will have their temperatures taken and will complete the screening procedures. They will attend five lessons. School will end for them at 13h05. As indicated above, Grade 9SA and 8JvM will attend school every Monday and Wednesday and then on the Friday of the first week. Grade 9PdL and 8MP will attend school every Tuesday and Thursday and also on the Friday of the second week. Teachers will probably allocate work to be done at home for the days that these boys are not expected at school. Orientation will be done on the first day that the boys are expected back. We look forward to seeing the Grade 8s and 9s then.

End of Term Two Term will end on Friday 7 August at the end of the school day and will resume at 07h30 on Wednesday 12 August. While this is a very short break, boys must maximise on their ability to learn as so much time has already been lost this year. The Grade 12s need to start preparing for their preliminary examinations. As soon as the department has finalised the timetable, this will be disseminated to parents and boys.

## Proposed phased in return to school including various grade orientation plans:

### Grade 2

DAY	DATE	GRAD ES	START	END	CLASS /GROUP	NOTES
MONDAY	20 July	2	07H50 - 08H10	12H00	½ CLASS	Classes divided into 2 groups in a 10 day cycle

Groups : Blue Group comes Monday, Wednesday, Friday during week one, with Gold Group coming Tuesday and Thursday; during the second week the Gold Group will come on the Friday.

### Grade 4

DAY	DATE	GRAD ES	START	END	CLASS /GROUP	NOTES
MONDAY	20 July	4	07H45	12H00	½ CLASS	Classes divided into 2 groups in a 10 day cycle

Groups : Blue Group comes Monday, Wednesday, Friday during week one, with Gold Group coming Tuesday and Thursday; during the second week the Gold Group will come on the Friday.

## Grade 8 & 9

Start Orientation:

DAY	DATE	GRADE	START	END	CLASS /GROUP	NOTES
MONDAY	27 July	8 & 9	08H20	13H05	½ CLASS	Classes divided into 2 groups in a 10 day cycle

Groups : Grade 9SA and Grade 8JvM will come to school on Monday, Wednesday and Friday during week one. Grade 9PdL and Grade 8MP will come to school on Tuesday and Thursday and on the Friday of the second week of their return.

Uniform changes (from 29 June onwards):

- Full school uniforms will be worn on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Full school tracksuit will be worn on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Campus Facilities:

- Unfortunately, a reminder that all campus facilities are off limits/ out of bounds to our community members; as per the state regulations.
- Mr Watson has allowed affiliated coaches and staff to use various facilities, adhering to strict protocols which are busy being established depending on the facility.
- Sadly, this is very much out of our control, and in the meantime we are going to ask parents to be patient, as we work through the logistics of this.
- Slowly but surely the Graeme staff, will get our learners involved in activities that will have very strict social distancing and sanitization procedures.
- The safety of our learners and community members is always our priority.

## Library for Grades 4-7

Gr 4-7 Library:

The library will be open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:00 to 10:30 if your son wants to exchange books. Numbers entering will be limited and sanitizer will be on hand. Pls see that all books are returned next week.

Some boys have had the same book since lockdown started in March.

## Website update & academic progress

We are attaching a breakdown from teachers in specific areas to this newsletter.

Kindly refer to that document re academic work that needs to be covered. As mentioned last week, we have launched our new website and are currently getting it up to date. Follow the link below for e-learning and online resources:

<https://www.graemecollege.co.za/online-resources/>

Mr Wille has also created a Youtube channel solely devoted to Graeme College training Videos. This will allow him and others to upload videos for our students. This is not a channel to put links on to other Video channels but is designated for Graeme College created videos only.

The Department has released the list of websites that are zero-rated. Zero rating means that the person visiting the site does not use any data to view or download documents.

The full zero-rated list is available at <https://bit.ly/zeroratedsites>

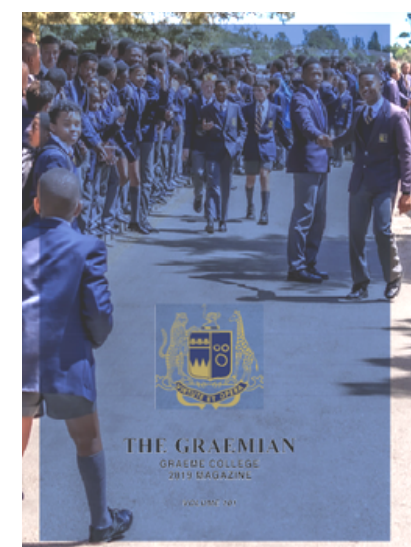
## Finance

### Internet payments- please note

Please use your sons name and surname as the reference. Unfortunately, we are unable to credit your account if there is no reference to your son. We receive far too many references as "Graeme College, GJG, School Fees, etc".

Kindly remember, there are 650 learners in the school and without the correct reference, it's impossible to allocate the fees to the correct account!

A big thank you to those who understand the financial implications of the current lockdown restrictions and who continue to pay their school fees monthly.



#### 2019 School Magazine:

The school magazine is available to buy. School magazines fill an important niche in any school's culture. They are a window on the School's activities throughout the year and provide the most accessible historical record for the refreshing of memories.

This issue of The Graemian will find its way into the Grahamstown community, the surrounding areas and wherever Old Graemians have taken root, both in South Africa and overseas.

The purchase price of the 2019 Magazine is R150. For now, parents can pay via EFT using the learners name as the reference: Learners initial, surname and magazine. It will be ready for collection when school re-opens.

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# Grade 7s

The Grade 7 'Legacy Project' got underway this week. Boys are adopting trees that have been planted on the Junor Fields, to leave a legacy of a more beautiful campus for Graemians of the future. The indigenous trees (Cabbage trees, *Cussonia spicata* and Ngwenya trees, *Harpephyllum caffrum*) were very kindly donated by Mr and Mrs Rothman who are past Graeme College parents. A big thank you for their kindness towards the school. We really appreciate it! The hope is that the boys who are nurturing these trees, will one day sit in their shade while watching their own sons strike glorious cover drives and take stupendous catches.



# Old Graemians

Congratulations to five Old Graemians excelling in the National Arts Festival awards. They received an Ovation Award after this year's festival performances. Congratulations to: Thandisile Nqowana (OG 2009), Lukhanyiso Damana (OG 2013), Anda Singata (OG 2013), Sonwabiso Damana (OG 2011) and Kuhle Ngqezana (OG 2012).

"Signature Sound Acapella is a music group with a passion for experimental acapella. The group currently consists of six members who specialise in different vocal parts. The group has been performing in Makhanda since 2012. The group was formed by Thandisile Nqowana and Sonwabiso Damana in 2012 to fill a necessary harmonic void in Makhanda. The art in the work lies in the intrinsically tight harmonies and arrangements.

Since its inception, the group has for a while been a feature at the Masicule music production. The set we have prepared is 30 minutes long and consists of 9 songs. The set primarily focuses on South African music. The aim was to take very popular songs like Letta Mbulu's Music in the Air and arrange them in a signature sound for the pleasure of the audience. The set also consists of one original song called Melody that was written and arranged by Thandisile Nqowana and Sonwabiso Damana."

See the link to watch the show: [https://nationalartsfestival.co.za/show/the-art-of-experimental-acapella-then-now-and-always/?fbclid=IwAR1azvYTcl6sroRWpArr\\_\\_zvRMPqFYWLOWQtKxZAdLQh4Q25roXbsc4eOJg](https://nationalartsfestival.co.za/show/the-art-of-experimental-acapella-then-now-and-always/?fbclid=IwAR1azvYTcl6sroRWpArr__zvRMPqFYWLOWQtKxZAdLQh4Q25roXbsc4eOJg)

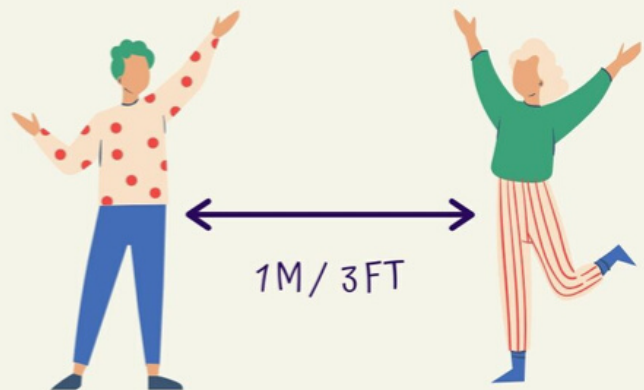


# STOP THE SPREAD



## WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY

Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.



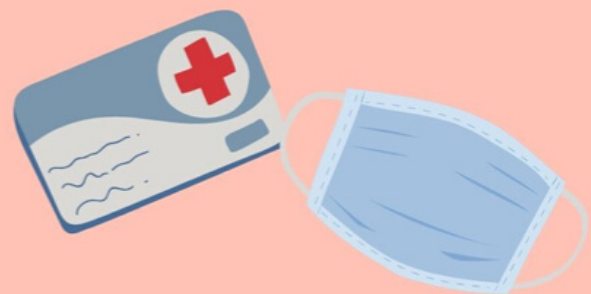
## MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.



## AVOID TOUCHING EYES, NOSE AND MOUTH

Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth.



## IF YOU HAVE A FEVER, COUGH AND DIFFICULTY BREATHING, SEEK MEDICAL CARE EARLY

Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance.

Source: World Health Organization