

Headmaster's Newsletter

July 2018

Greetings to the Benoni High Community



I would like to wish all the learners and parents a good rest. Those who are leaving on holiday – enjoy and return safely.

To business, I would like to highlight the following areas for the holidays and Term 3:

Holidays:

Matric and Junior Winter School - dates and times have been specified.

Term 3:

School starts on 17 July

Hospice Day: 18 July - In conjunction with St. Dunstan's school Benoni High will be collecting all unwanted goods to be donated to Hospice as part of the Nelson Mandela day celebrations. The school will be open during the holidays and Mr. Bekker will be on the school property to receive the goods to be stored. Please support this worthwhile community initiative.

Reports/ Parents Evening: 19 July 15h00 to 19h00. Appointments can be confirmed with specific educators should the above time slot be insufficient.

SA Pipe Band Championships - 28 July

St. David's Soccer Festival (U/14 and U/17) - 28 July.

Congratulations to the Under 17 Netball team who were ranked 14th in the Gauteng Province. What an outstanding achievement and thanks to Mrs. Barnard for all her hard work.

Awards:

The winter season extra mural program has been completed. The results across all the activities have been most pleasing. Thank you to all the coaches for their input and to the many parents who continue to support their children and the school.

It is thus time to recognise the endeavour of those learners who have committed themselves to the various codes on offer. This should now be a time of gratitude and celebration. However there will be those, for reasons, who will not receive an award. The disappointment should be followed by a resolve to “do better” next time. I want to reassure everybody that this is not to merely pay lip-service to the hard work of the learners or simply be dismissive of the learners' expectations. There is due process to be followed where a request can be completed and the school's colours committee will review their decision/s in due course. Coach/educator/school bashing, through social media and in the public domain, will not be tolerated in any form.

I must highlight that the awarding of colours including the full colours and half-colours blazers have become, in many instances, a right with very limited excellence attached. Simply, the award has been cheapened depending only on participation without any achievement. The academic awards, bearing in mind the core function of the school remains academic achievement, include the following:

Eighty percent and above (average) - half colours awarded in Grade 11 and/or Grade 12.

Eighty five percent and above (average) – full colours awarded in Grade 11 and/or Grade 12. There is great expectation based on the academic recipients in Benoni High School and black blazers for academics are a challenge to earn.

Thus the colours blazers in both sporting and cultural activities will become hard earned with a high level of excellence attached. The notion of attendance for three or more years in an activity leads to an automatic half-colours blazer being awarded no longer exists. The level of entitlement can no longer exist. The school cannot reward attendance and/or mediocrity where the bar, for academic performance, is raised to the levels of outstanding endeavour.

I remind the community that all awards are given at the discretion of the Principal and the awards committee. Due diligence has been applied by the colours committee and I am comfortable with their recommendations.

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Thank You.

Mr. G.E. Rooyackers

(Headmaster)