

3 September 2021

Dear Parents,

We have come to the end of a very well administered examination session and reports should be distributed this afternoon. As expected some students have performed exceptionally well and others have performed below expectations and others have just not come to the party.

We have also come to the end of rigorous cycle meetings within this week where your child's academic progress has been carefully analysed and discussed in our Tutor meetings in the High school.

The Primary School has also formed Teams to discuss your child's academic progress from which feedback will also be given to you.

Please read your child's report carefully so that you are adequately prepared for the Parent -Teacher consultations which are scheduled for the following week.

You will receive accurate feedback from subject teachers in these consultations about your child's performance in individual subjects. Please do follow up with your child's Tutor/Class teacher in the case of the Primary school for a more holistic feedback of your child's overall performance for Term 2.

I wish to thank the teachers for the huge effort they have put in in the last few weeks to ensure that our Academic programme continues uninterrupted, and also to deliver on the reporting in a very protracted period of time. It is highly appreciated.

### **Sixth Form Students**

I am slightly concerned in the performance of some of our Sixth Form students. I will be addressing them this afternoon together with Mr. Makudo and Mrs. Buys, the Sixth Form Director. She will be addressing a separate letter to all Sixth Form parents this afternoon to share her concerns and observations about the overall performance of our Sixth Formers.

All is not lost. However, I do believe frank and firm conversation need to be had as we push onwards for the last leg to our final examinations.

### **Admissions**

Parents, we are officially open for Admissions for 2022, and this has been widely publicised on our social media platforms. Please continue to share our virtual video in your circles and networks.

As the leader of this institution, I am delighted at the renewed level of interest that has been shown in the International School of South Africa in the last two months. I have been in direct communication with prospective new parents and it does offer us a measure of comfort in the renewed confidence that has been shown in the school.

For that I wish to thank all our parents for spreading the good word about us. My philosophy has always been, word of mouth is the best marketer for the school.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

+27 18 381 0330 +27 18 381 0330 [issaprimary@issa.co.za](mailto:issaprimary@issa.co.za)



"If it's important to the child, it's important to us."

SECONDARY SCHOOL

+27 18 381 1102 +27 18 381 1187 [admin@issa.co.za](mailto:admin@issa.co.za)



There still remains a lot of work to be done as we continue to strengthen the Academic Tone of the school and other related programmes within our overall curriculum.

### **The Independent Education Board (IEB)**

After careful deliberation, analysis and discussions with Members of the Board and Staff, we have formed the view that it would be in our best interest to introduce the IEB programme to our curriculum offering at the International School of South Africa, from the beginning of 2022.

Careful analysis of data spanning almost ten years has informed this decision. We will be sharing this data and more information in our different meetings which we will be hosting with the different year groups that will be affected by this exciting and potential new development in the school.

I need to say this upfront, before there is any measure of panic, the IEB will not be a replacement for the Cambridge curriculum but would instead run parallel to the Cambridge programme in the future. This will be carefully explained and clarified in our deliberations.

Many leading Independent Schools in South Africa offering a similar curriculum as ours have opted for this model with great success, a few years ago already.

Parents will be reminded to attend the following meetings for the Year groups below.

**Grade 6 parents Face to Face Meeting: 13 September at 6.00 pm in the High School theatre.**

**F 1 parents Face to Face Meeting: 14 September at 6.00 pm in The High School theatre**

**F2 parents and F3 parents 15 September 2021 (Virtual) 6.00 pm, links will be shared with parents.**

### **Board Meeting**

The Board of Governors will be having their second scheduled meeting this weekend. One of our big focuses amongst others this weekend, will be a presentation by our new school Auditors, Price Waterhouse and Coopers after a successful completion of our 2019/2020 audit report.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

School has really been dull for our students during the pandemic.

However, we would like to introduce the extra- curricular programme with great caution, from 8th September for the Primary School and from the 13<sup>th</sup> of September for the High School.

The activities schedule will be published shortly.

### **Spring Day Programme**

This morning we were treated to a kaleidoscope of colour and carnival atmosphere at the Primary School to lighten up the mood at the beginning of Spring.

The juniors picnicked merrily on the sports field, whilst the senior primary students were engaged in a very entertaining music concert, consisting of Marimba jams, recorder tunes, violin ensembles, solo acts and choir

performances under the watchful eye of our Music teachers, Mr Jaco Jacobs and Mr Lerato Sebelebele. Our Music department is in good hands and we are so lucky to have these two talented musicians in our school.

The highlight for the afternoon was the “Colour Explosion”.

Parents, please be prepared for multi-coloured children and clothing this afternoon, after the event. This colour is easily washable from the clothing after a deep soak and is non-toxic.

Thank you to all the staff in the Primary School for their collaborative teamwork, and for making this day so much fun for our children. They hugely appreciated it.

Please go onto our Instagram and Facebook page to catch the events of today.

### Staffing

It is my great pleasure to introduce Mr Nhlanhla Mbuyazi who hails from Amanzimtoti, in KwaZulu Natal. He was teaching in the British School of Baku in Azerbaijan where he taught Chemistry from IGCSE to A level and Physical Science. He has an excellent track record of producing solid results with his recent achievement being, 100% pass rate in IGCSE Chemistry with 40% of his class obtaining A and A\* grades.

He holds a Diploma in Chemical Engineering from the Mangosuthu University of Technology, with Majors in Engineering Physics, Mathematics and Chemistry, a B Tech Chemical Engineering with Majors in Heat Transfer, Fluid Flow and Mathematics and a PGCE Senior and FET Phase in Physical Science and Mathematics from the University of South Africa.

We extend a warm welcome to him, his wife Sindiswa and their two children, and wish them a long, happy, and productive stay at the International School of South Africa.

### Conclusion

I ask that we continue to keep all our friends and families in our thoughts and prayers as many families continue to grapple with the challenges of the pandemic.

Thanks as always for all the support we receive from you as parents and please don't hesitate to call me if there is anything you wish to clarify.

**Please sanitise, wear a mask, social distance and stay safe!**

Yours sincerely



Bruce Wells  
CEO/Headmaster  
International School of South Africa