



St. Dominic's College, Welkom

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Dear Parents

ARRANGEMENTS 2019: BOARDERS RETURNING TO SCHOOL

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our existing boarder pupils and parents back to St Agnes Boarding house. We trust that 2019 will continue to bring new developments in the Boarding house, for the benefit of our children.

This letter serves to inform you of the arrangements for next term and we trust you will find it informative and useful. Please ensure you read it carefully as it contains vital instructions that should not be missed. We have also included additional information with regard to school matters.

Return to School

All existing boarders are to be in the Boarding house by no later than 16h00 on Tuesday 15 January 2019.

Only the Grade 12 boarders are permitted to return on Sunday 13 January 2019 in lieu of the New Boarders welcome programme that will run from Monday 14 January to Tuesday, 15 January 2019.

Textbooks

School commences on Wednesday 16 January 2019. Please ensure that you have purchased your child's textbooks in time for start of term.

Attached is a list of textbook requirements for 2019. These textbooks will be available through the following suppliers:

- Protea Books (situated on the St Dominic's High School premises until the 31st March 2019, closing during the December holidays)
- Van Schaik Books (at Edmund Rice School from 20 to 29 November from 09h00 to 14h30, otherwise at the CUT Campus daily from 08h00 to 17h00, closing from the 21 December 2018 to 02 January 2019)
- Online from Takealot (www.takealot.co.za)
- Online from Loot (www.loot.co.za).

When purchasing online, please ensure that the correct ISBN number is used as per the textbook lists.

These online providers are available for you to purchase the necessary text books at the most affordable prices, at your own convenience.

In the Boarding house, your child will be given the opportunity to cover his/her own books in the first week of school, if they are not able to do so during the holidays, but then parents are requested to send enough covering paper, DC-fix/cellophane and cello tape, as well as labels, with your child.

Stationery

High School parents, please ensure that you do not purchase everything on the list – check which subjects are applicable to your child and make your purchases accordingly. In the High School, we do not specify writing materials, however, your child should have a basic pencil box together with essential stationery items which will be needed for classwork as well as for projects and posters.



Covering of books: Any paper can be used to cover the exercise books, with plastic covers and clearly marked with name, grade and subject. Textbooks should preferably be covered with DC fix to prevent wear and tear, and marked with your child's name.

Clothing Shop

The clothing shop is situated on the Primary School campus, close to the tennis courts.

It is open every week on Mondays and Thursdays from 16h00 to 17h00, and on Tuesdays from 13h45 to 15h00. The last opportunity to purchase clothing before the school holidays will be on **Thursday, 29 November 2018 from 14h30 to 17h00.**

Please Note: The clothing shop will remain closed for the duration of the holidays.

The clothing shop will also be open on the following dates for all new/existing parents before the start of the new Term:

- **Sunday 13 January 2019 from 12h00 to 14h00**
- **Monday 14 January 2019 from 14h30 to 17h00**
- **Tuesday 15 January 2019 from 14h30 to 17h00**

Payment for clothing shop items

The clothing shop is a business that is run independently from the school. Clothing may **not** be purchased via your school fee account. The clothing shop has a credit card facility for your convenience.

Transport Arrangements

On the first school day of the year and the last school day of the year, no transport to and from the border post/Johannesburg will be provided. For the rest of the year, the following arrangements apply unless otherwise advised.

Going home at the end of a term:

Botswana	:	Transport leaves at 09h00. ETA is 14h30 at Tlokweng border post.
Lesotho	:	Transport leaves at 11h00. ETA is 13h00 at Maseru border post.
Johannesburg	:	Transport leaves at 11h00. ETA is 13h30 at the BP Oasis on Beyers Naude off-ramp (North bound side)

These arrangements may change according to the needs of the College, but such changes will be communicated timeously.

Returning to school at the beginning of a term

All children must be at their respective border posts/BP Oasis on time. All transport will leave the border posts/BP Oasis **strictly** at **12h00** on the day before school opens. The driver will not wait for latecomers. The driver will not make stops for tuck. Parents are to pack lunches and refreshments for their children for the trip.

Arrangements may vary from term to term and parents will be notified by e-mail/fax from the senior Housemaster's office regarding details at the end of every term.

Johannesburg children returning to school, will be collected on the opposite side of Beyers Naude, at the BP OASIS on the N1 South bound.

Please book a seat well in advance via e-mail and please do so by no later than two weeks before the date of departure or date of collection. Failure to book timeously will result in you having to make alternative arrangements.

Mid-term breaks for all pupils

We have introduced a “shuttle” service for Johannesburg, Botswana and Lesotho boarders, arranging a weekend per term for children to go home. However, we require bookings for at least four children in order to make it viable to run. Our experience in the past has been that the shuttles did not run very often, as children were so involved in their sport and other activities. We would like to continue to provide this service in 2019, provided we have at least four children booked on the given weekend. An additional fee is charged for the shuttle service.

Immigrant Status

Please see the attached document relating to immigrant status. If your child qualifies for immigrant status, please ensure that **ALL** the required accompanying documentation is sent to school on the first day, together with the attached form. These documents must be handed in to Mrs Reneè Monaghan (via the senior Boarding Housemaster/Housemistress). If you already completed these forms last year, or have been contacted by Mrs Monaghan in the interim, then please ignore this request.

Note the following please:

- **The Grade 7-11 boarders will not be permitted to enter the Boarding house before Tuesday, 15 January 2019. Parents who arrive on any day beforehand will be referred to a guest house. This is strictly not negotiable.**
- The Grade 12 boarders will return to the Boarding house earlier to run the orientation with the new boarders. Only the Grade 12's will be permitted to return on Sunday 13 January 2019.
- **All outstanding school and boarding fees must be paid** before the boarders may return to the Boarding house. Please bring along proof of payment in case of a query on your account.

Medical Consent Form

The submission of completed Medical Consent Forms is essential. This form must be updated annually and must be accompanied by a copy of the Main Members ID and a copy of both sides of the Medical Aid Card. Given the challenges that we face in securing quality Medical Care from State Hospitals, it is essential that all parents carry Medical Aid or, at the very least, Medical Insurance (Hospital Plan) so as to ensure that should the need arise, suitable Medical Care will be accessible for your child.

Medical aid

A valid South African Medical aid cover is essential for all boarders.

Communication

Communication is always a matter of priority, especially where our boarder parents are concerned.

Newsletter

We strive to communicate to our parents via the weekly newsletter. It is an important communication tool that contains news items of our children's achievements, and may from time to time contain notices pertaining to various events, or general school matters.

The newsletter is accessed using the D6 Communicator. Information on how to download and use the D6 is included in this communication and we urge you to please load it as soon as possible. The D6 Communicator also has an annual calendar of events.

The newsletter can also be accessed directly from the school website (www.stdominicscollege.com). Use the “downloads” tab to access the latest newsletters.

Boarding House Handbook and Code of Conduct

Before being allowed into the Boarding house, all parents are required to have signed the Code of Conduct.

Change of personal details

Please remember to notify the school of changes to your personal details such as email addresses, telephone numbers and postal addresses. St Dominic's is committed to taking care of your child in your absence – we ask in return that our parents be committed to ensuring we have up-to-date contact information, as it is vital that we are able to get in touch with you immediately in the event of an emergency, or for communicating urgent information.

Re-application for 2020

All boarders will be required to re-apply for a position in the Boarding house for 2020.


Your child's welfare

Our Senior Housemaster/Housemistress is the first and foremost contact with regard to the welfare of your child. Please do not hesitate to contact him with any queries regarding your child in the year ahead. Email messages will be answered as swiftly as possible.

The welfare of your child is our priority and we assure you of our commitment to providing a quality educational experience across all aspects of your child's care at St Dominic's. We look forward to a productive and happy relationship with you for many years.

We look forward to seeing all of you on Tuesday, 15 January 2019.

Yours sincerely



Shane Gaffney
HEADMASTER