



Jeppe High School for Boys

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Headmaster: D. J. Jackson
GDE Registration No.:130633

14 August 2020

Dear Grade 11 boys and parents,

The great natural progression of high school is that each and every year presents unique and important challenges and opportunities for students. The nature of schools such as ours, is that our young students have a range of different ways in which they can find and establish themselves, carving out their own personalities within a framework which we believe is both healthy and necessary for young men. There is no perfect system or school but we are all committed, as Mr Jackson often says, to playing our role in developing young people who are able to add significant value to the society around them - as individuals, partners, husbands, fathers and South Africans.

One of the unique aspects of Grade 11 is the very real progression into being a senior member of the school. While Grade 10 offers glimpses of this responsibility, as one enters their penultimate year they are often competing (in all extra-mural activities) in a larger pool - with those in a Grade above them and, often, in groups which will include students they previously only knew from a distance. In the same way, their actions and example now have a far greater audience - be it simply by their status as a senior or the platform which their achievements and/or actions now allows (that could be being in the Top 10 academics in the school, winning a best speaker award at the senior debating competition or running out for the First XI/XV). For many, Grade 11 represents a year where they start to make decisions about their lives after school and, as a result, their attitude towards school life for the upcoming months and terms.

One of my personal highlights from this year was the opportunity I had to engage with all Grade 11 students during my '*Blank Space*' lesson once a cycle. This was not the intended name of the class but as it appeared on their timetable as a blank space the name seemed to stick. These lessons were aimed at engaging with students about their school lives and sharing ideas and thoughts around all elements of Jeppe, including leadership and the nature of relationships in leading. The discussions, certainly from my perspective, were engaging and enlightening. I shared with the boys the vision that all boys are leaders and, particularly Matric students, have significant roles to play as mentors and role models for younger boys within the school - particularly with the introduction of the vertical tutor groups.

As with so much, the plans and hopes that these discussions would evolve and develop were cut short. Looking forward, I suspect many young men are starting to ask themselves what 2021 may look like and, particularly those who had hoped for leadership responsibilities and roles, what the upcoming processes are.



TURNING BLACK AND WHITE INTO GOLD

We remain committed to a meaningful and worthwhile leadership opportunity for aspiring leaders while at the same time believing all Grade 12 students have a significant leading role within the school, purely by their experience and the young men they are. Within the constraints of social distancing and the adjusted academic year, please note the following regarding the upcoming formal Leadership Programme, including details regarding applications for official Leadership Positions.

17th - 21th August, 2020: Students will receive an application document - indicating their attendance at the Leadership Workshop. These forms must be submitted with the required hand-written accompanying letter to Mr Murison by Monday 24th August, 2020.

19th - 20th August, 2020: All Grade 11s (Group 2 on Wednesday, 19th August and Group 1 on Thursday, 20th August will attend a discussion with Mr Jackson and Mr Murison after school in the Memorial Hall - 2:40PM to 3:15PM. Attendance is compulsory.

28th & 29th August, 2020: All those who submit the application will attend a Leadership Workshop over Friday afternoon (starting at 3:15PM) and Saturday morning - details to be confirmed.

Please note, even if a student does not believe they may ultimately be interested in being considered for prefectship I would sincerely encourage them to submit an expression of interest and to attend the Leadership Workshop - at the end of the day only a finite number of leadership positions exist but ALL can and should be involved in the discussion around meaningful leadership within the school and as potential role models. I would welcome the opportunity to engage with a much larger group.

Following the Leadership Workshop students will be invited to put themselves forward for various formal positions, including Head Prefect, Deputy Prefect and Heads of Houses. As with previous years, there will be various voting opportunities for students across different Grades. All of these processes and information will be discussed in more detail during the course of the coming week and at the Leadership Workshop on 28th & 29th August.

Interested Grade 11 pupils are encouraged to engage with me directly in the new week regarding these processes and/or the discussions and workshops.

Kind regards,



Peter Murison
DEPUTY HEADMASTER: STUDENT AFFAIRS