



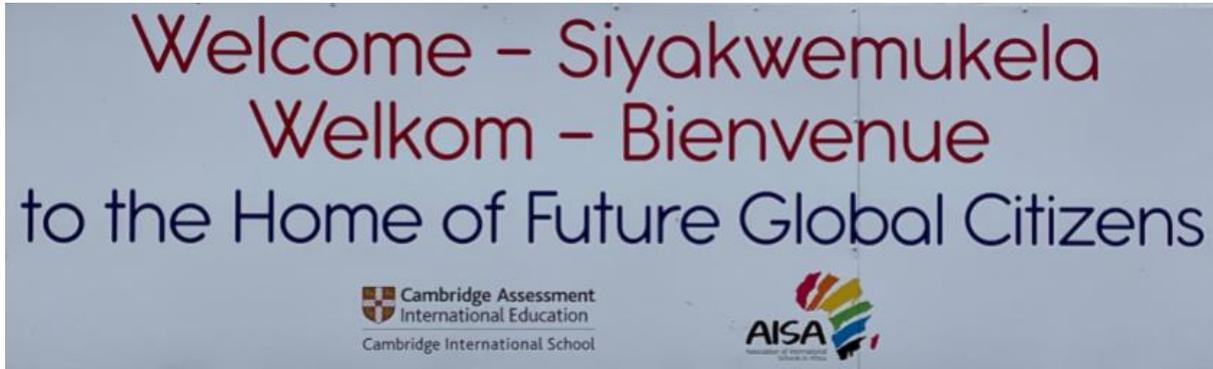
UFS International

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"Semper Sursum - Always Aim High"

18 January 2022

To the UFS Community,



The image above is a photograph of the new sign at our main entrance gate. It is with great joy that we welcome the return of all of our students to school, with a special welcome to all new students.

As an independent and international school, we are wholly committed to the highest standards of teaching and learning. And we are committed to, and proud of the fact that we are an institution that provides our students with an education that is internationally transferable, and has meaning and relevance outside of the classrooms!

Our Academic Executive Team spent time in early January in retreat to plan and strategise on matters relating to teaching and learning. This was an extremely valuable initiative, and set the tone for a productive week of planning and professional development with all members of our teaching faculty. We have adopted a range of standards that hold the best international schools across the globe to high levels of performance. These standards relate primarily to Teaching and Learning, Student Welfare and Child Safeguarding. I have been buoyed by the enthusiasm with which our teachers have embraced the work and professional development on teaching and learning methodologies, and look forward to a year characterised with a strong sense of academic rigour.

We welcome Aimee Richter into our High School teaching faculty who will be serving as our Art Teacher. Sabine Delire joins our Primary School as a French Teacher and Amina Mirindi, who worked in a part time capacity last year as a High School French teacher, joins us full time this year.

I wish to thank our Estate Manager, Mr Mandla Dlamini, and his team, for all of their work over the past two weeks in preparation of our campus for the return of our staff and students.



The Sustainable Development Goals or Global Goals are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. (Ref: Wikipedia).

Three sets of posters such as the one displayed in the photograph above have been erected at key points across our campus. This is part of our Global Citizenship Education strand. We look forward to the discussion and thinking that it will spark amongst our students!

There are a few important matters that I wish to bring to your attention.

Correspondence has been distributed about uniform arrangements, but I copy that information again for those who might have missed it.

- We will allow students to wear their current school uniforms, or civvies for the duration of the first half of Term One. (Tuesday 8 March 2022).
- All students will be expected to wear uniform from after the Term One Mid-Term Break. No civvies will be allowed from Tuesday 8 March 2022.
- Students will be allowed to wear the current uniform, if it still fits and is in suitable condition, until the end of 2022. All students will also be allowed to wear the new uniform from after the Term One Mid-Term Break.
- All new students entering the school, including the Grade One's, are to wear civvies for the first half of Term One. All new students will be expected to wear the new uniform from after the Term 1 Mid-Term Break.
- All students will be expected to wear the new school uniform with effect January 2023.
- No mixing of new / old uniforms and civvies will be permitted.

We are busy with the fitting of our new school shop in the new administration building.



This facility will stock all uniform items thereby simplifying the purchase of items for parents and students. This will also serve as a shop for quality second hand uniform items, thereby providing parents with a cheaper alternative. It will sell basic stationery items for convenience purposes.

A full uniform list with photographs, combinations and prices will be distributed as soon as we have all the required information and imagery from our suppliers. As previously communicated, I wish to remind and reassure parents that we are acutely aware of the need to ensure a cost effective uniform, and one that reflects the brand and standing of our school.

If you wish to make use of our outstanding bus service, and have not yet done so, please do complete the transport request form and return it to Mr Wayne Sparham at w.sparham@usutuschool.com

We are in the midst of discussions with new caterers and hope to be able to finalise an appointment soon. We advertised and put out a request for proposals last year so that we could review the standards of catering and ensure a healthy and 'value for money' menu. In the meantime, we kindly request that you provide your child with a healthy and nutritious lunch box.

We announced our intention to open an Arts Academy and invited members of the public who felt they could teach a musical instrument to submit their credentials to us. This is an ongoing process and we will launch this exciting provision once we are fully ready.

I wish to take this opportunity to encourage parents to never hesitate to reach out to your child's class, subject or form tutor teacher. These teachers are your first port of call for any educational support or queries you might have.

Our extended academic leadership team can also be contacted for support. They are as follows:

Grade 1 – 3 Head of Department	Mrs Renate Johnston	r.johnston@usutuschool.com
Grade 4 & 5 Head of Department	Mrs Hanlie de Koker	h.dekoker@usutuschool.com
Grade 6 & 7 Head of Department	Mrs Teresa Davidson	t.davidson@usutuschool.com
Junior High Coordinator	Mr Tonderai Marima	t.marima@usutuschool.com
IGCSE Coordinator	Mr Martin Samambwa	m.samabwa@usutuschool.com
AS Coordinator	Mr Clive Ncube	c.ncube@usutuschool.com

In the unlikely event that any of the above staff members are unable to assist you, our three school leaders will be pleased to serve you. They are:

Pre-Primary and Grade 1 – 3	Mrs Tanya Allman	t.allman@usutuschool.com
Grade 4 – 7	Mrs Thobekile Magagula	t.magagula@usutuschool.com
Form 1 – Form 5	Mrs Dawn Naylor	d.naylor@usutuschool.com

A few other key email addresses are as below:

The primary school and high school receptions can be emailed at primaryreception@usutuschool.com and secondaryreception@usutuschool.com respectively.



For financial related queries, please contact Mrs Marie Johnston at bursar@usutuschool.com
Please send Proof of Payment documentation to accounts@usutuschool.com

For transport bookings or queries, please contact Mr Wayne Sparham at transport@usutuschool.com

The abundant rains we have been receiving have left the Golf Course access road for the Pre-Primary and Junior Primary grades in a waterlogged state. Parents in this phase of the school are welcome to park in front of the hall and walk children down from there to the classrooms. Once the sun makes a regular appearance, and the road dries out sufficiently, we will request parents to use the golf course access road as these arrangements help preserve our COVID-19 bubbles.

After two years of COVID-19 restrictions, we are delighted to be commencing with our co-curricular programme once again this year. Mr Mushavi and Mrs Brits will be communicating with primary and high school parents in this regard.

***“The chief beauty about time
is that you cannot waste it in advance.
The next year, the next day, the next hour are lying ready for you,
as perfect, as unspoiled,
as if you had never wasted or misapplied
a single moment in all your life.
You can turn over a new leaf every hour
if you choose.”***

Arnold Bennett (English novelist, journalist, playwright)

I wish to encourage our students to use their time wisely and productively this year. Early January is often filled with new year resolutions. Indeed, it is a great time for our students to commit to goals and good habits. The great thing about habits, is that good ones are developed and entrenched through consistent repetition and diligent application.



May 2022 be a very blessed year for all members of our school community, and one in which great success is achieved!

Yours in Education,

Gareth Allman
Executive Principal

