



UFS International

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*"Semper Sursum - Always Aim High"*

19 August 2022

To the UFS Community,

### **UNIFORM MATTERS:**

The roll out of the new uniform is certainly gaining momentum! Many thanks to the parents who appreciate that there are immense and numerous complexities involved with a new uniform roll out. Thank you, once again, for your understanding and patience as we work through the initial teething problems. We always knew this year would be a transitional year from a uniform perspective, and so from the school's management side, we remain committed to working with you patiently.

The roll out of our new uniform reminds me of the story of Umashankar Mandal, a 40 year-old Geography teacher who hails from a remote island in the Sunderbans, Bangladesh. Over the past decade, he earned the moniker of "Mangrove Man" for the 12-year-long tree plantation drive he started in the area, following the devastation caused by Cyclone Aila in 2009. With help of 135 associates, he has planted more than 7 million mangrove saplings on the embankments of the rivers of two islands, Gosaba and Satjelia. Local residents say they have grown to consider the tree cover as a "shield" for their lives. This was proved true during the subsequent cyclones of Cyclone Amphan and Cyclone Yaas.

This incredible feat of selfless service to the community is most certainly done with a longer term goal in mind with zero immediate reward and gratification. The roll out of a new uniform is equally a process that is done with a bigger picture in mind and a longer term goal. I have no doubt that come 2023, when all students are in the new uniform, the sense of pride and presence will prevail.

At the beginning of this year, we appointed Mrs Pauline Ndlela to work solely on providing support on uniform matters for the year. Please do not hesitate to contact her for any exchanges or problems with orders for support. [p.ndlela@usutuschool.com](mailto:p.ndlela@usutuschool.com)

### **SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS:**

Class photographs will be taken in the first week of the third term. Please see below the dates:

20 September: High School

21 September: Grade 4-7

22 September: Grade 000-3

Please note that no individual or sibling photographs will be taken. Information pertaining to the order and payment of the photographs, will be sent at the start of the term.

### **SCHOOL GOVERNANCE:**

We have, over the course of the past year, worked extensively on the diversity of our Governing Council and are very pleased with the current breadth of representation. Parents are invited to click on the '**About Us**' tab on the website and on the '**Governing Council**' link to find out more in this regard.

I wish to thank Mr Dean Johnston who has stepped down as Chairman of the Finance Committee. He has supported the school's financial wellbeing and governance in many varied and extensive ways. Mr Johnston is replaced by Mrs Thandeka Dlamini who has been serving as the Executive Head of Credit for FNB Eswatini since 2018. The school's financial sustainability and fiducial welfare is thus in very safe hands!

We are arranging an opportunity for a Parent / Governors Meet & Chat session and will confirm this closer to the time, but in the meantime, please do set aside 19 October 2022 at 16h00.

### **STAFF MATTERS:**

We extend our gratitude to Philile Mavuso for her service as a Junior Primary class teacher, and wish her all the very best as she takes up a new teaching position closer to home.

Mrs Gaella Badenhorst also leaves us at the end of the term as she and her family begin their relocation back to France. Ms Aimee Richter will be taking up an international position in the Middle East next term. We thank both ladies for their contributions to our High School and wish them all the best in their future endeavours. We are pleased to announce that Mr Evan Numbi will be joining our French department in January 2023. In the meantime, F1 – F3 French lessons will be covered within our current French Department's capacity. We are in the final stages of appointing the new art teacher and this will be communicated to parents in due course.

### **2023 CALENDAR:**

The 2023 Academic Calendar has been finalised and is included in this newsletter for your information. It is also available on the school website for your future ease of reference. Please note that the calendar is established in consultation with all ISASA Principals of Eswatini. Whilst we have endeavoured to align each school's calendar as closely as possible to one another's, this is not always possible.

### **PROMOTIONS & RETENTIONS POLICY:**

In the newsletter of 25 February, I announced the introduction of our Promotions and Retention Policy and brought our school community's attention to its availability on the website. Following our most recent parent/teacher consultations, it is evident many parents have not perused the policy, and I encourage you wholeheartedly to please do so.



I wish to thank our teachers and students for their hard work and commitment over the past term. May the well-deserved holiday period, allow for the recharge of energies, and opportunities to spend quality time with family and friends.

To our Governing Council and parent body, our heartfelt thanks for your continued support.

Yours in Education



Gareth Allman  
Executive Principal





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## Term dates 2023

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### Term 1

***Wednesday 18 January – Friday 14 April (11am)***

**Mid-Term** Close: Thursday 2 March (12h00)  
Open: Tuesday 7 March

**Public Holidays** Friday 7 April - Easter  
Monday 10 April - Easter

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### Term 2

***Tuesday 9 May – Friday 11 August (11am)***

**Mid-Term** Close: Friday 23 June (12h00)  
Open: Monday 3 July

**Public Holidays** Thursday 18 May - Ascension Day  
Friday 19 May - School Holiday  
Monday 24 July - King Sobhuza's Birthday

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### Term 3

***Tuesday 12 September – Thursday 7 December (11am)***

**Mid-Term** Close: Thursday 2 November (12h00)  
Open: Tuesday 7 November

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UFS International reserves the right to change these dates



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