



UFS International

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“Semper Sursum - Always Aim High”

8 July 2022

To the UFS Community,

I trust that our families enjoyed their time together over the mid-term break.

It is amazing to see so many of our students in the new school uniform, and the fact that they are wearing them with so much pride. They really do look absolutely resplendent! Many thanks to the parents and students who have been so complimentary! As with any major new development, there will be a few teething problems, and I thank those parents who have been so understanding and patient as we engage to ensure full orders are delivered and sizes changed where this is required. One of the manufacturers in South Africa, (only one, the rest are all local), have apologised for the delay of some items as they are grappling with six to eight power cuts per day.

As we move into the second half of this year, it is important that all of our students commit fully to their studies, and especially the older students who will be writing internal or external summative assessments. If you feel that your child requires additional assistance or learning support from his / her subject or class teacher, please do not hesitate to engage them. Our teachers need to be 100% committed to the academic progress of our students and should leave no stone unturned in supporting this. Should your requests in this regard not be met favourably, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant school leader or myself.

I was stopped on the corridors yesterday morning by one of our students who wanted to speak with me. She expressed her desire to run a personal hygiene outreach initiative. After we concluded our discussion and the way forward, I complimented her on the initiative and her face beamed with delight. It struck me once again, how amazing our students are. Such acts of thoughtfulness and service are powerful and make significant difference to the lives of others. Not to mention the development of important life skills such as empathy, organisation and communication!

We have launched a Grade 7 Personal and Leadership Development Programme this year which sees students volunteer for participation in the programme. They need to commit to the following five modules: Community Service, Development of a New Skill, a Physical Challenge, Organise or Co-organise an Event, and finally Undertake a Study of, and write an essay on Leadership. Each of the students is assigned to a mentor teacher to guide and support them through the programme.

It is my privilege to work with 5 of the students and I have been so impressed with their commitment to the programme and the incredible work and development that is taking place! We really are the 'Home of Future Global Citizens'!

It is never pleasant to write about this matter, but I need to. Many thanks to our parents who pay their transport and tuition fees promptly. Honouring your financial obligations helps us to function in a financially astute and responsible manner. As most parents would appreciate, we receive no subsidies for the school's operation. We are full dependent on the invoiced fees to pay our creditors, meet our statutory obligations, maintain the campus, meet all overheads, and pay salaries and wages. Late or compromised payments severely compromise our ability to accomplish the afore-mentioned, and it is for this reason we have to take a hard stance and move to excluding children from class or the bus service. This is always heart breaking for us to do, but there is no other recourse. So, in closing this matter, please do honour your contractual and financial obligation with the school and settle accounts promptly.

For many years, the school has subsidised and absorbed the cost of transporting students to sports events. Regretably, in lieu of the ongoing fuel price increases, we are unable to continue absorbing these costs. Our Finance Committee has thus approved the implementation of the following transport fees as indicated in the table below for all sports and educational excursions going forward. We have tried to keep the charges as low as possible, and I am sure you will agree these are reasonable, and certainly cheaper than transporting your child yourself in your own vehicle.

TRANSPORT FEES FOR SPORTS AND EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS		
SPORTS VENUES	EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS	CHARGE
Waterford & Sifundzani	Mbabane	E20 / student
Enjabulweni	Manzini / Ezulwini	E30 / student
Sisekelo & UTech	Big Bend / Lowveld / Pigs Peak	E50 / student

Yours in Education,



Gareth Allman
Executive Principal

