

Goldridge College

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2020

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REPORTS

The third term reports will be emailed to parents on Friday, 18 December 2020. Currently, we are finalizing report writing, validation and correction.

Dear Parents

While we started the year on a promising note, all events were significantly sidetracked by the COVID-19 pandemic. This required us to be resourceful problem solvers that enable children to continue with their studies. Change per se is difficult and I thank you all for your appreciation of the effort made by our staff in the turbulent year. This reminds me of Mother Theresa's quote, *"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things."* Let us continue on the path of teamwork.

On a positive note, COVID-19 vaccines are now being rolled out thus giving us hope that our lives will normalize again. Sadly, it will take time for all people to be vaccinated, hence the protection pillars against COVID-19, that is masks, social distancing and washing or sanitizing hands will continue with us for some time.

As the Goldridge family, we thank the Almighty God for protection against COVID-19 since 14 September until we closed the school.



SCHOOL CALENDAR 2021

	First Term	Second Term	Third Term
Opening Date	Tuesday, 12 January	Monday, 3 May	Monday, 6 September
First Fixture Free Weekend	Saturday, 30 to Sunday, 31 January	Saturday, 22 to Monday, 24 May	Saturday, 25 to Sunday, 26 September
Exeat	Friday, 19 to Monday, 22 February	Friday, 18 June to Monday, 21 June	Friday, 15 to Monday, 18 October
Second Fixture Free Weekend	Saturday, 13 to Sunday, 14 March	Saturday, 10 to Sunday, 11 July	Saturday, 13 to Sunday, 14 November
Closing Date	Wednesday, 31 March	Thursday, 5 August	Thursday, 9 December

- ◆ Due to the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, there may be changes to the above dates. In the event of any changes you will be notified accordingly.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

We are still in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic and we all need to continue taking precautions. The fact that we had no COVID-19 case at our school was due to how you took full responsibility to protect your families. As we go into the Festive season, let us be very careful of events where we gather in large numbers. Remember that it just takes one case of COVID-19 in a school to cause closure. Please protect the children until they return to school in January.

SETA/AUTOCAD

Next year, we will recommence our skills development courses; SETA, where pupils assemble technological gadgets and AUTOCAD (Computer Aided Design). These courses are mainly offered to Form Ones and Twos. Students in the other classes can also do the courses. Lower and Upper Sixth Physics students also do SETA to enhance their practical skills. The respective parents are expected to pay USD25 for SETA and USD50 for AUTOCAD per term.

ALLIED ARTS

A number of our students took part in the Allied Arts Literary Competitions. Special mention goes to Mandikudza Dangwa who got honours in prose, for her excellent piece of work. We congratulate her for the outstanding performance. Well done to the following who scored First Class:

Prose

Tadiwanashe Chinamatira

Tanyaradzwa Chabata

Tinotenda Makunde

Poetry

Bridget Dube

SPORTS

According to the Standard Procedures from the Ministry of Health, there are some low risk sports that can be done in school such as: swimming, athletics, cricket and Golf. We will therefore, recommence sports with effect from first term 2021. For first term the sporting activities are: Athletics, Cross Country, Boys Basketball, Cricket, Golf and Swimming. These will be managed in such a way that social distancing is maintained. All necessary precautions will be taken in order to protect the teachers and learners.

SPORTS ATTIRE

All students take part in sports and they must wear the correct sports attire as stipulated by our guidelines. It is our expectation that every learner possesses a tracksuit, a golf T-Shirt, white track shoes, white socks (not grey socks) navy blue boxer shorts, swimming attire, swimming towel and the corresponding house T-shirt. It is ideal in summer for each child to have at least two pairs of each sporting attire item. Students are expected to wear their tracksuits after sports.

It is important to note that:

- ◆ Girls should not bring tight pairs of shorts for sports.
- ◆ There is need to clearly mark all the children's clothing with the child's name.
- ◆ Any child who is unfit to take part in sports, on medical grounds must bring a doctor's note that must be handed in to the school office.

CELLPHONES

We appreciate that cellphones are an extension of who we are today. When they are used properly, they offer students unique learning opportunities and provide learners with more information. A lot of students benefited a lot from them, during Online learning .

Upon returning to school for in person learning in the third term, we allowed learners to bring their cellphones as we were still uncertain on the use of exercise books. We still wanted students to have access to Microsoft Teams. Sadly, most of the cellphones were misused and caused split attention during lessons. It was difficult to know whether learners were not accessing websites that offer questionable content. **We will, therefore, not allow the use of cellphones in school next year.** Please note that if a student is found using a cellphone at the College, it will be collected and will only be returned to the owner at the end of the term.



We encourage parents to buy tablets (iPads) that have no SIM (Subscriber Identity Module). We will connect the iPads to our school Wi-Fi that we can monitor. Students will therefore have access to educational materials from internet in a controlled environment and use the technological gadgets for academic work mainly. Direction on the use of iPads shall be given at school so that they are properly used. At the Goldridge Hostels, all cellphones will be collected and released during the weekend.

