



RIDGEWAY COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents

**Happy are the painters, for they shall not be lonely.
Light and colour, peace and hope, will keep them company to the end of the day.
— Winston Churchill.**

We are not clinical robots. We are emotional beings who feel deeply about the lives we live and our self-reflection on those feelings is often marked by the artists amongst us. It is their gift to craft words, images and sounds into a tangible record that we, as humanity, can look upon or listen to and find our own feelings echoed in the works of others.

This artistry, from the earliest rock paintings and ancient drum rhythms to the most modern of the arts speaks the heartbeat of who we are as people. When I hear of how little support was offered to artists and performers through COVID and learn if theatres and museums forced to close, I am beyond devastated. We are stilling that heartbeat and denying self-expression at a time when we need it more than ever.

So, it was with great pleasure that we entered as many pupils as we did into an online Arts Festival with PEPPS and Stanford. The link is below. I am hugely proud of artists, dancers, musicians, photographers and writers for putting themselves and their work out there. It takes courage to bear one's soul.

Thank you to Stanford Lake College for hosting and arranging this event. If you see something that stands out and you want to leave an artist a "kudos" on their work or a positive comment, you can follow the link at the bottom of the website.

<https://sites.google.com/slc.co.za/slcartsfestival2021/home>

The return to school has, thus far, been uneventful. I want to thank our parent body for keeping sick children at home and for informing us of infections. There cannot be a stigma attached to this dreaded virus and we are all in this together. Our pupils have been co-operative too, recognizing the seriousness of the situation and abiding by the rules. We held an academic staff meeting this week and have identified a number of pupils across the grades who need academic support. These support classes will take place after school each afternoon (Mon to Thurs) from 2.30 to 3.30 pm. There is no charge for these classes. All we need is your support in ensuring your child attends. I have asked tutors to send private messages to you via WhatsApp if your child has been identified.

YOURS IN EDUCATION

Dionne Redfern

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30 July 2021