



RIDGEWAY COLLEGE

26 APRIL 2024



*Dear:
Parents / Guardians*

As we race ever closer to the Mid-Year Examinations, our focus is firmly placed on preparing for exams.

Exam Timetable

The Exam Timetable has been finalised and issued to all children this morning. A pdf version is attached with this newsletter for your convenience.

RIDGEWAY COLLEGE
NEWSLETTER

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

When you get to my age, it feels like technology is running away from you and the struggle to keep up with the latest developments is a formidable task. The rapid growth in Artificial Intelligence applications can potentially be a nightmare for teachers and lecturers. Our children are particularly tech savvy and the temptation to find a short-cut can be too much for them.

It can be quite tricky to identify AI generated text but there are some obvious signs to be on the lookout for. Several of our teaching staff will be attending an Artificial Intelligence Workshop in June to up-skill themselves in not only identifying AI text in a child's work but also, and possibly more importantly, how to assist our children to make use of AI in a responsible, transparent manner to enhance their work.

By way of example, I have included a few pointers for parents on helping your child prepare for their examinations (the text below was generated in its entirety using Artificial Intelligence (Copilot))

Helping your child prepare for examinations can be a collaborative and supportive process. Here are some tips that might be helpful:

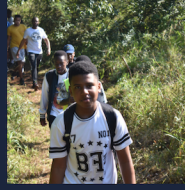
- 1. Create a study schedule: Plan study sessions in advance and allocate specific time slots for each subject. This helps in staying organized and ensures all necessary material is covered.*
- 2. Break it down: Break studying into smaller, manageable chunks. Focus on one topic or concept at a time, and once mastered, move on to the next.*
- 3. Use active learning techniques: Engage in active learning. Examples include summarizing content in your own words, teaching someone else the material, creating flashcards or mind maps, or solving practice problems.*
- 4. Take regular breaks: Taking regular breaks during study sessions can improve focus and retention. Aim for a five-to-ten-minute break every hour or so to recharge the brain.*
- 5. Utilize different study environments: Change up the study environment from time to time. Switching locations or studying in different areas of your home can help keep the mind engaged and prevent boredom.*
- 6. Practice retrieval: Practice retrieving information from memory. Use flashcards, self-quizzing, or write out short summaries without looking at notes. This technique enhances long-term retention.*
- 7. Teach or explain concepts to others: Explaining concepts to others can solidify understanding and highlight any gaps in knowledge.*
- 8. Get enough sleep: Adequate sleep is crucial for optimal cognitive functioning. It enhances the ability to concentrate, retain information, and perform well during exams.*
- 9. Ask your teacher questions: Good studying starts in class. Whenever your child doesn't understand a topic, encourage them to ask their teacher to re-explain the topic.*
- 10. Make use of flashcards: Flashcards are a great way of studying. By regularly testing with flashcards, your child is constantly doing active recall thereby making it easier to remember information when it comes to the actual test.*
- 11. Don't study for hours on end: When studying, it is important to take breaks. The Pomodoro Method, which involves studying for 25 minutes then taking a 5-minute break, is recommended.*
- 12. Come up with silly ways of remembering information: Make mnemonics, songs, poems, or anything else that'll help remember even if it seems dumb and wild.*
- 13. Make use of studying apps and YouTube videos: There are plenty of apps that assist with studying. Remember, every child is unique and what works for one might not work for another. It's important to understand your child's learning style and adapt these strategies accordingly. Good luck!*

There are clearly some challenges that remain for AI text generators evident in the writing above, but I think you will agree that there is a place for the assistance that they can offer us, and your child.



FOREST WALK

A special thank you to all of our high school pupils and parents who joined us for the Forest Walk last weekend. Over four hundred adults and children took a run, jog or walk through the spectacular Hanglip Forest. Congratulations to our first place runners:
4km - Manase Mabuba and Fangisani Mawarure
8km - Shivam Patel and Bridgette Babadu



A WEEK OF DAYS...

A Week of Days...

At the assembly this week I had the opportunity to talk to our children about three significant days this week - Earth Day (Monday 22 April), World Book Day (Tuesday 23 April) and Freedom Day (Saturday 27 April). The opportunity to wear 'civvies' on Monday brought in R1035,00 that will be donated to Takalani Children's Home in Siloam.

Talent Show

Please note that the Talent Show that was advertised via social media, has been postponed to a later date - details will be communicated to pupils and parents in a more appropriate manner.

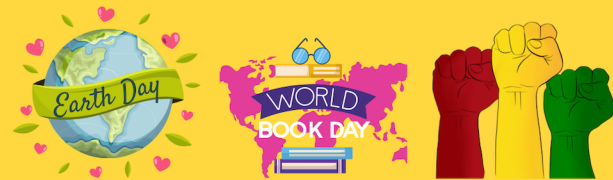
School Holidays

Please be reminded of the short academic week next week. School is closed **Wednesday 1 May to Friday 3 May**. As an ISASA school we follow the ISASA School Calendar dates. The Grade 12 pupils should be using the long weekend to prepare for their upcoming exams.

KIND REGARDS

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