

24 January 2020

To our Parent community

IMPORTANT NOTICE PLEASE READ

We are announcing a significant change in what we can and cannot charge, for access to school curriculum activities. Although the Ministry of Education has had expectations in place for some time, until recently they have not enforced them. This has now changed and it is having a sizeable effect on what we can continue to provide.

As a community you have always demonstrated your willingness to pay for curriculum related activities. The BOT recognizes this and want such activities to continue to be provided for as part of our quality delivery.

If and when comparing our situation with other schools, please remember we are a state integrated area school for Y1-13 so we operate under different regulations than a state primary school for example.

We therefore outline the following for you: There **have always** been 4 categories in which parents have contributed:

1. **Attendance Dues:** these are compulsory, are paid to our Proprietors and nothing changes in this regard.
2. **Special Character Donation:** We have always appreciated that most of our parents have contributed this. We have completely relied on this donation to fund all our Christian worldview provision including the huge staffing component.
3. **Payment for schools camps, curriculum trips, access to software programmes etc.....**each term we have sent out age appropriate/related invoices for various school activities
4. **Elective Activities**something that a student might choose to do but they don't have to do and we have invoiced for these as well

Under the new environment the following now applies. The BOT can no longer ask you to pay for many of the activities that have been hallmark of our school. In order to fund the continuation of such activities the BOT has opted into the government's scheme for Decile 1-7 schools (we are decile 7) whereby the government gives us \$150 per student. Although this goes some way to mitigating our financial risk it will not cover all the expenses we have, given that we have Y1-13 students who all have different requirements. Neither can the school now collect the special character donation.

The New Environment

1. **Attendance Dues:** these remain compulsory, are paid to our Proprietors and nothing changes in this regard.
2. **Proprietor Special Character Donation:** This remains at \$360 per student per year and will now be collected by the Proprietors, which they are entitled to do and will be donated to the BOT to fully support our Christian Worldview programme needs - ensuring a strong, consistent, vibrant, biblical and life-giving curriculum to nurture, shape and influence your children for Christ. **In this new environment we need to achieve a collection rate of 100%.** Please remember you will not be charged for compulsory activities like you have been and the special character donation enables you to claim a tax credit.
3. **Elective Activities:** We will still offer a range of **paying elective options** but will expand this significantly. Parents will choose to participate or not. There is no compulsion. Examples of electives include: Duke of Edinburgh, Athletics, Reading Eggs, itinerant music lessons etc....
4. **Overnight Camps:** the government has declared that parents can be requested to donate to cover the camp cost which will qualify for a tax credit. The payment cannot be enforced. As a result, overnights may cease, be reduced, run at a loss or, you as parents may choose to all pay as you have always done?
5. Based on 100% Proprietor Special Character, the provision of tax credits for that donation and for camps, we anticipate that you as parents will benefit financially.

We are desperately trying to avoid the cessation of some of our activities because we are sure we all still want the provision of quality learning experiences and stunning learning outcomes both inside and outside of the classroom. However, inevitably there will be changes.

Our teaching staff and Business Manager have been working relentlessly on restructuring programmes. The changes will become apparent.

Each area of the school, year level or department will be communicating shortly with parents regarding their particular approach to equipment costs and the like.

Yours sincerely



Murray Burton MNZM
Principal