

Dear 2017 Grade 8 Parents/Guardians

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the Parktown Family before we even meet at the forthcoming Welcome Party in November or in January 2017.

I would take this opportunity to make a brief mention of the sporting programme offered by the school.

As I am sure you are aware, Parktown Boys' High School is an extremely busy place, and this is, no doubt, one of the reasons why you selected this institution as the school of choice for your son.

For this reason, we wish to invite both your boys and yourselves to become involved in our sporting programmes before the end of the year. This is a perfect opportunity to get your sons involved in and associated with the school even before they start their schooling here in 2017. This will make their transition into this "big pond" much easier - they will arrive in January, already knowing other boys in their grade from different primary schools. Furthermore, this is a perfect opportunity too for parents to meet and build friendships which will last for many years to come. I promise you that the more you are involved in your boy's life, the more he will grow in stature as a person. In order for this growth to take place, we need commitment from staff, parents and learners!

As you are aware, Parktown has a compulsory integrated academic, sport and cultural programme, which works as follows:

As a general rule, school only ends at 15h00 each day for all grades, except on Wednesdays. On Tuesdays Grade 8 and 9 boys are involved in sport from 14h00 to 15h30 and on Fridays from 12h45 to 14h15.

Certain sporting codes may train until after 15h30 or 14h15 due to the nature of their activity and availability of resources. We also have numerous pre-season activities in the afternoons after the current season activity has been completed – sometimes this pre-season training takes place before school even starts. Some of these activities also take place on Sunday mornings.

We thrive on ensuring that our boys are properly equipped to participate in their respective sporting season, which is why we place a huge emphasis on this aspect of their schooling. This does not occur to the detriment of academics – indeed; it forms part of a balanced priority at the school.

For this reason, we would like to ensure that you and your boys are equipped for the upcoming sporting seasons in 2017; as such, we request that your boys take part in the following sporting sessions from 12 November to 3 December this year.

Cricket

We will be holding Cricket sessions on the following Saturday mornings: 12, 19, 26 November and also 3 December from 09h00 to 11h00. Again it is important for us to try and get a headstart into 2017 by identifying and working with the Cricket players as we pretty much go straight into fixtures in the New Year. Dress code is black shorts, white (as white as possible) T-shirts, and white socks, takkies or cricket boots, cap, sunblock and cricket kit (if they have one).

Water Polo

We will be holding Water Polo sessions on the following Saturday mornings: 12, 19, 26 November and also 3 December from 09h00 to 10h00. Not many of the boys have ever played Water Polo before and we have very little time to get the boys trained adequately to begin the season in 2017. We will need to teach many of the boys from scratch. The pre-requisite is that if you can swim, then we can teach you to play Water Polo. All swimmers are required to play Water Polo. Dress code is a Speedo (please no board shorts), towel and sun block.

Rowing

Most of the boys who will be involved in Rowing will have already attended the camp in October. However, any boys who wish to try out this sport must attend a session in the Sports Centre (on ergos) on Saturday 12 November from 09h00 to 10h00. Dress code is training shorts, T- shirt, and white socks and training shoes/takkies.

Rugby

We will be having a short rugby practice on Saturday 12 November after the summer sport sessions from 11h00-12h30. It is not ideal to have this session immediately after the summer sport session, which is why any additional Rugby sessions will take place on another day. This will be determined by the parents after a discussion at this practice – this will be another weekday which best suits most parents.

Dress code is rugby shorts, T-shirt, socks and running shoes/trainers. Please note that anyone, no matter how big or small, can play Rugby - it caters for everyone and just because you may not have played before, doesn't mean you can't become a great player.

Hockey

We will be running Hockey sessions after the Cricket and Water Polo sessions from 11h00 to 12h30 on the same Saturday mornings (12, 19, 26 November and also 3 December). Again we need to identify and work with boys who either have or have not played Hockey before. Dress code is black shorts, white T-shirt, white socks and either takkies or hockey boots. We look forward to meeting the boys and parents as we embark on the next special journey in their lives.

Mr RR Murabito

Director of Sport
Parktown Boys' High School