

03 March 2010

Dear Parents

### **GOVERNING BODY NEWSLETTER : MARCH 2010**

We trust that the new learners have settled in well to the high school environment and are fully involved in the activities offered by the school. We strongly encourage parents to respond positively to the various requests for assistance and to attend as many of the functions and events as possible. Your sons and the school will benefit from your active participation and you will have opportunities to make new friends and to become part of the Rondebosch family. We would also like to welcome the new teaching and administrative staff who joined the school this year.

By now the matric results have been well publicised, but we would like to congratulate the teachers and learners on very good results which saw RBHS being rated number 8 in the province overall; first in Physical Sciences and joint first in Mathematics based on the number of learners passed. We were however concerned about the fact that none of our matriculants achieved distinctions in Physical Sciences. The headmaster has engaged with the HOD as well as the MEC for Education in the Western Cape to obtain a detailed analysis of the results. The Physical Sciences department will also be applying the learnings of 2009 in the preparation of this year's matrics.

At the recent open day for prospective 2011 learners we had an unprecedented attendance from parents and boys, which firmly indicates the high profile that we have as a centre of excellence. Thank you to Ms Caroline Fowler and everybody involved in showcasing the school in a very positive way.

The school finances at the end of the 2009 financial year are in a healthy situation. This is attributed to our parents meeting their financial commitments. It is vitally important for the future success of the school that we maintain this performance. We would also again like to inform parents about the additional voluntary contributions which are income tax deductible. Last year we managed to raise more than R100,000 in funds and would like to repeat or improve on that figure this year. Please contact Mr Peter Coutts, the Business Manager, to obtain more information.

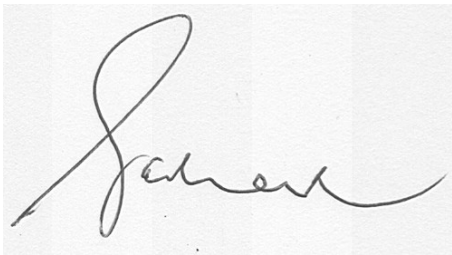
You will have noted that the parking area next to the Aquatic centre is currently under construction. We hope to have this completed before the start of the second term. In conjunction with the City of Cape Town, we are going to conduct a Traffic assessment in order to determine the optimal traffic flow through the school and the surrounding neighbourhood during peak hours. Any potential changes to the current flow will be done in consultation with the City of Cape Town and the potentially affected neighbours. We have also, in conjunction with RBPS, installed an irrigation system on the Meadows fields. We trust that the condition of the fields will show a drastic improvement over the next couple of months. We will in the near future assess the long term requirements to upgrade the land on the eastern side of the canal. A business plan for the development of an Astroturf has been concluded. Due to the financial implications of this project an application for financial assistance was submitted to the National Lottery Board. We expect to get a response from them in the very near future.

To equip our learners for the future demands of the world that they are going to live and work in, our focus in 2010 will be on : the development and retention of our educators; mentoring and tutoring policies; curriculum choice; the application of technology; refurbishment of class rooms; community outreach programmes and fundraising in conjunction with the OBU. We are also going to place a stronger emphasis on our partnership with RBPS.

A number of sports tours have already taken place and more are planned for the school holiday. Where possible please attend these events to support our players. The First and Second Cricket teams are planning to tour to the UK during the winter holidays. Every major sport has the opportunity to go on an overseas tour once every four years. In our experience overseas tours positively contribute to the overall development of the participants and also serve as motivation for prospective learners to choose RBHS. Unfortunately tours of this nature are expensive, therefore fundraising is vitally important to reduce the average cost per player. Please attend where possible the planned fundraising events for this tour.

Due to the World Cup being hosted in SA the school calendar for 2010 is different from previous years. The Headmaster and his staff have planned to manage the implications of the changes to ensure that the learners are as well prepared as in previous years. For those of you who have managed to obtain tickets to this once in a life-time event we hope that you will enjoy the experience. Will it not be fantastic if Bafana Bafana could pull something out of the bag!

We trust that the year will be a fruitful, productive and enjoyable one for the learners, teachers and the Rondebosch community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deon de Kock', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Deon de Kock  
Chairman : School Governing Body