



# ORION SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Learners

CALENDAR	
FEBRUARY	
Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Intermediate Phase Cycle Tests start
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	Valentine's Day CIVVIES (R20) and Dances
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	Grade 7 Workshop on TIME MANAGEMENT 14:15 – 15:15
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	FET Tourism, CAT and Business trip (OR Tambo, SAA Museum)
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	Interhouse GALA and Boerie Roll sales
MARCH	
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	High School Cycle Tests start (fill 17 <sup>th</sup> )
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	Grade 7 Workshop on HIGHER ORDER LANGUAGE 14:15 – 15:15
Thu 19 <sup>th</sup>	Intermediate Phase ANTI-BULLYING workshop (Dr John Buswell)
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	INTERSCHOOL GALA
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	FUNKY HAIR/HAT DAY (R20)
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Primary School MINI SCIENCE LAB workshop
Tue 24 <sup>th</sup>	Intermediate Phase CAMP (until 26 <sup>th</sup> )
Tue 24 <sup>th</sup>	High School CYBER SAFETY talk (Dr John Buswell)
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	High School CAMP (until 27 <sup>th</sup> )
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term 1
APRIL	
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Term 2 for staff
Tue 14 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Term 2 for learners

## INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS (FOR 2025)

Congratulations to **SPARTANS** who won the 2025 Interhouse Athletics on 23 January. Although SPARTANS took the overall trophy, it was **GLADIATORS** who had the fastest runners on the day, and **TITANS** who cheered and sang their way into the spirit award. Congratulations to them all. *Follow Orion College on Facebook to get updates and see the photos.*

## VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

We celebrated Valentine's Day in a different way on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February, with an inflatable disco. *See our Facebook page for photos.*

## DISTRICT AWARDS EVENING (NSC 2025)

Orion College received an award for being in the **TOP 10 INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS** in the Johannesburg North District for our NSC results at the end of 2025. **Alex Wilsenach** (Class of 2025) also received an award for being one of the TOP 3 learners with LSEN. Congratulations to Alex and to the Orion staff, who worked tirelessly to achieve these results.

## PARENT CHARTER

A parent charter will be sent home via email during the next week. This is a reminder of the agreement between the school and parents as stated in paragraph 37 of the enrolment contract and the support, cooperation and partnership we expect from parents. When the school and parents work closely together, it provides the best outcomes for learners. Kindly, return the signed charter before the end of February.

## FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY– OFFICE CLOSING AT 13h10

Due to staff training the front office will be closed at 13H10 this coming Friday (20 February).

## LATE COLLECTION OF LEARNERS

It has come to our attention that some learners, particularly those in the Primary School, are being collected late. While we understand that there are sometimes circumstances outside of our control which cause delays, it is important for parents to note that there is **NO FORMAL SUPERVISION** for learners after the collection times. If you are running late, it is imperative that you communicate with your child's teacher and, if necessary, book your child into the **AFTERCARE** service on an ad hoc basis. Information is available from the front office. This will carry a cost, but it is better to pay for an hour of supervision that leave your child unattended, unsupervised and potentially at risk.



## MORNING PUNCTUALITY

Punctuality in the mornings is becoming a concern. Learners need to be **ON TIME** for school. Lessons start at **07h30**. Late arrival impacts negatively on learning and causes disruption to lessons already underway.



## SCHOOL COMMUNICATION – changes coming soon!

Orion will be transitioning over to the **D6 school communicator** soon. Once the school is set up, parents will be required to **download the D6 app**. In the transition period, we will continue to use the class WhatsApp groups already established.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### INTERHOUSE GALA – FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

We are preparing for our **Interhouse Gala** on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February. There will, once again, be boerie rolls for sale on the day. Parents are welcome to attend and join in the fun. There will even be a parent/teacher race – so bring your trunks, if you fancy a dip on the day. Our **swimming team** will be selected after the gala, to represent Orion at the **Interschool Gala** at Linden on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

### INTERMEDIATE PHASE AND HIGH SCHOOL CAMPS

Camp planning is also well underway. If you have not yet returned the required forms or made payment, please do so as soon as possible.

### LEARNER WORKSHOPS, OUTINGS and ENRICHMENT

Please take note of the workshops we have arranged for the learners this term – see calendar:

- Grade 7 therapy workshops – Wed 18 Feb (Time Management) and Wed 18 March (Higher Order Language)
- FET Tourism, CAT and Business Trip (OR Tambo, SAA Airport Museum) – Wednesday 25 February
- Intermediate Phase Anti- Bullying workshop (Dr John Buswell) – Thursday 19 March
- Primary School MINI SCIENCE LAB workshop – Monday 23 March
- High School Cyber Safety Workshop (Dr John Buswell) – Tuesday 24 March

### CYCLE TESTS

Intermediate Phase Cycle Tests are taking place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays as per the schedule. High School cycle tests start on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Please ensure proper preparation for assessments is taking place. A quiet place to study at home is essential. Remember – **Success is Intentional!**

### PIVOT with PURPOSE!

## REMINDERS:

### UNIFORM

We would like our learners to be dressed neatly, according to the uniform policy. **Please check the learner planner for uniform requirements. Old uniforms** can be donated to the **second-hand shop**. Please drop these off at reception. Learners in the **FET Phase** are required to wear a **tie and blazer all year round**. Communication was sent home at the end of last year regarding this. They are our school role models, and we expect them to represent the school with pride.

### SCHOOL FEES

Please remember that fees are due **in advance** starting in January until November. Prompt payment and communication with the finance department is appreciated.

### CELL PHONE POLICY



Please remember that only Grade 10,11 and 12 learners are allowed to have their cell phones on their person during the school day. ALL other grades are expected to hand their cell phones in first thing in the morning or leave them at home. **Cell phones will not be released to pay for food at the tuckshop during break times. Learners must please use alternative payment methods.** If cell phones are brought

to school – it is the learner's responsibility. The school will not take responsibility for cell phones or any other electronic or personal item that is lost or stolen. Learners who use **reading apps**, such as **Natural Reader**, to support them with reading during class, are allowed to have them on their person, but they must obtain permission to do so, and they must bring their own headphones.



*Warm regards. Mrs Robinson and the Orion College staff.*

