

12 November 2020

To our parent community

We hope this finds you and your families well. 2020 has been a challenging year for so many of us. Along with uncertainty and stress, we know that some of you will have suffered financially as a consequence of COVID-19 restrictions and shut-downs.

Our school, like so many others, has also suffered financially. We have lost a substantial portion of the income we derived from our international students. While the government has provided some financial assistance, it is only a small proportion of the income that we had budgeted for and have subsequently lost.

Consequently, we need to ask our community to do as much as it can to financially support our school. If you possibly can - please pay the voluntary donation and course fees that we ask all families to contribute each year. If you have paid this already we thank you very much. Please note that payments can now be made using the Kamar parent portal.

Your donation will go some of the way to subsidising the resources and staffing previously provided by income from International Students. These include:

- Our Health Centre – Which is open during school hours and staffed by trained professionals. They support the physical wellbeing of our students here at school.
- Our Counselling service – Which is staffed by trained counsellors who provide emotional support to our students. (They continued providing this support during the lockdowns)
- Teacher Aides in addition to those funded by the MOE – Who work to support students with specific learning needs in, and outside of, the classroom
- Our Youth Worker Programme – Which supports students to take full advantage of the opportunities available to them at Howick College
- Our Community Development Office – Which is tasked with raising the profile of the school. In its second year, it has already secured a scholarship worth \$72,000 for one of our students.

Currently, we have no idea when we will be able to welcome international students back to our school. We are investigating ways that we can introduce online learning programmes for international students, and we already have 15 students registered for next year. However, this kind of course provision will only provide a portion of the income that an international student attending our school in person would have contributed.

Our recent Community Update brochure provided you with a summary of some of the things we are doing to inspire our students to be passionate about their learning and to provide them with the physical environment we believe they deserve. Despite the financial loss due to Covid-19, we intend for our school to continue to provide, as much as possible, the learning opportunities we consider an important part of education in the 21st century. Any financial contribution you can make now will be critical to ensuring those opportunities remain available for our children.

The school fees donation that we ask for is the minimum donation we need. If there are some of you who are able to pay more than is asked, that would be greatly appreciated. (You can claim one third of any donation made back from the IRD)

Warmest Regards (On behalf of the BOT)



Roger Gribble
Chairman of the board