



ST. DOMINIC'S COLLEGE

WELKOM

Education with a leading edge

November 2023

Dear Parents

ARRANGEMENTS 2024: NEW BOARDER PUPILS

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new parents into the St Dominic's College family. We trust that your child will thrive in his/her first year in our school, and in the St Agnes Boarding house.

This letter serves to inform you of the arrangements for the 1st term and we trust you will find it informative and useful.

BOARDING STAFF

Mrs Reneé Monaghan is our Head of the Boarding House and Miss Ansua Du Plessis is our Boarding House Matron. They form part of the St Agnes Boarding House staff.

Mrs Reneé Monaghan is the first and foremost contact with regard to the welfare of your child. Mrs Monaghan resides at the Boarding House, so is available to your child before and after school. Please do not hesitate to contact her with any queries regarding your child in the year ahead. Email messages will be answered as swiftly as possible (rmonaghan@dominic.co.za). Alternatively, her cell phone number is 066 033 5752. If your call is not answered immediately, please leave a message for her to get back to you. Miss Ansua Du Plessis is available on email (ansuaduplessis@dominic.co.za) or cell number 073 094 9567 from 07h00 until 15h00.

BOARDING HOUSE WELCOME

All boarders must please arrive on Tuesday, 9 January 2024 between 11h00 and 14h00, in order to book into their residences and unpack their luggage. Please bring along copies of passports and Study Visa's, as well as proof of payment of the 1st term's boarding fees and hand it to Miss Ansua Du Plessis.

NEW PUPIL'S DAY

On Wednesday, 10 January 2024, your child will join all the new children in the school for the "New Pupils Day," which takes place at the Primary/High School. Parents are welcome to attend this function as well. However, due to the amount of travelling involved, we do understand if you are not able to make it.

SPECIAL FEES PAYABLE ON FIRST DAY

On arrival, all boarders are required to pay **R350** for their St Agnes House shirt, and an additional **R70** for a laundry bag. Please bring extra cash along with you for these two items, as they are not billed through your school account.

Executive Head:

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YEAR OF GROWTH
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IMMIGRANT STATUS

Please see the attached document on immigrant status. If your child qualifies for immigrant status, please ensure that all the required accompanying documentation is sent to school on the first day, together with the attached form. These documents must be handed to Mrs Ndina Kamenos/ High School Deputy Head: Academics.

TEXTBOOKS

School begins on Thursday, 11 January 2024. Please ensure that you have purchased your child's textbooks in time for start of term. Attached is a list of textbook requirements for 2024. These textbooks will be available through the following suppliers:

- Protea Books Bloemfontein Tel: 051 444 1212
- Van Schalk Books Welkom Pick 'n Pay Centre Tel: 087 106 4332
- Online from Takealot (www.takealot.co.za)
- Online from Loot (www.loot.co.za)
- Subject Matter Books.com

When purchasing online, please ensure that the correct ISBN number is used as per the textbook lists. These online providers are available for you to purchase the necessary text books at the most affordable prices, at your own convenience. In the Boarding house, your child will be given the opportunity to cover his/her own books in the first week of school, if they are not able to do so during the holidays, but then parents are requested to send enough covering paper, DC-fix/cellophane and cello tape, as well as labels, with your child. Book purchases are parents' responsibility and the College will not be able to facilitate this. Please ensure this is completed before you arrive, as we cannot be held responsible for purchasing and collecting textbooks.

STATIONERY

Primary School: If your child is entering Primary School, please follow the instructions on the attached documentation regarding stationery and workbooks and instructions for covering books.

High School: Please ensure that you do not purchase everything on the list. Check which subjects are applicable to your child and make your purchases accordingly.

In the High School, we do not specify writing materials, however, your child should have a basic pencil box together with essential stationery items which will be needed for classwork as well as projects and posters.

Covering of books for High School: Any paper can be used to cover the exercise books, also with plastic covers and clearly marked with name, grade and subject. Textbooks should preferably be covered with DC fix to prevent wear and tear, and marked with your child's name.

CLOTHING SHOP

The clothing shop is situated on the Primary School campus, close to the tennis courts. It is open every week on Mondays and Thursdays from 16h00 to 17h00 and Tuesdays from 14h00-15h00.

The last opportunity to purchase clothing before the school holidays will be on **Thursday, 30 November 2023 from 16h00 to 17h00. Please Note: The clothing shop will remain closed for the duration of the holidays.**

The clothing shop will also be open on the following dates for all new/existing parents before the start of the new term:

- **Tuesday, 9 January 2024 from 11h00 to 14h00** (*New boarders book in at this time as well!*)
- **Wednesday, 10 January 2024 from 14h00 to 17h00**
- **Thursday, 11 January 2024 from 15h00 to 17h00**

Payment for clothing shop items

The clothing shop is a business that is run independently from the school. Clothing may not be purchased via your school fee account. *The clothing shop has a credit card facility for your convenience.*

CLOTHING: WHAT TO BUY

Please note that the following clothing items are not supplied by the clothing shop, and need to be purchased either at a shop such as Woolworths, Edgars, Jet or Pep, or any other school clothing supplier:

- Girls short white socks (5 pairs)
- Boys grey school shorts (at least 2 pairs – Primary School)
- Boys grey school trousers (at least 2 pairs – High School)
- Belt (for boys)
- School shoes
- Sport shoes (takkies, togs, etc)
- Sports equipment (e.g. tennis rackets, cricket bats, etc)
- Long white sleeve school shirts (at least 3)

Remember that you will also need to purchase extra-mural uniforms for your child as certain sport disciplines require specific socks, skirts or shirts. Mrs Dimmick, in the clothing shop, will be able to advise as to what these purchases should be.

Golf shirt, PT shorts and school tracksuit must also be purchased as your child will need these in the first week of school and for inter-house and sports events. The coloured House shirt is a required extra, but as children are only allocated into Houses once school starts, they can only purchase these shirts after they have been placed. Please budget an additional R80 for the Sport House shirt. Children will be divided into houses once school has started. Please ensure that your child's clothing/belongings are clearly marked with name and surname.

CLOTHING ADJUSTMENTS

The Boarding house provides a limited service in terms of adjustments to skirt and trouser hems, as well as sewing on of pocket badges, but this is only for additional items purchased later in the year. The Boarding house cannot accommodate sewing for all new children at the beginning of the term. Please ensure that you do your own adjustments before the time, as far as possible

TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

On the first school day of the year and the last school day of the year, no transport to and from the border post/Johannesburg will be provided. For the rest of the year, the following arrangements apply unless otherwise advised:

Going home at the end of a term:

Lesotho	:	Transport leaves at 12h00. ETA is 14h30 at Maseru border post.
Johannesburg	:	Transport leaves at 12h00. ETA is 14h30 at the BP Oasis on Naudé off-ramp (North bound side)

RETURNING TO SCHOOL AT THE BEGINNING OF A TERM

All children must be at their respective border posts/BP Oasis by 10h00 to facilitate time delays. All transport will leave the border posts/BP Oasis **strictly** at **12h00** on the day before school opens. Please Note that some parents are not adhering to this and delay the trip. The driver will not wait for latecomers. The driver will not make stops for tuck. Parents are to pack lunches and refreshments for their children for the trip.

Arrangements may vary from term to term and parents will be notified by email from the Head of the Boarding House (Mrs Reneé Monaghan's) office, regarding details at the end of every term. Parents are welcome to contact the House Matron, Miss Ansua Du Plessis (ansuaduplessis@dominic.co.za) directly for any queries regarding transport arrangements. **Johannesburg children returning to school, will be collected on the opposite side of Beyers Naudé, at the BP OASIS on the N1 South bound.**

Please book a seat well in advance via email (ansuaduplessis@dominic.co.za) and please do so by no later than two weeks before the date of departure or date of collection. Failure to book timeously will result in you having to make alternative arrangements. Since we have limited seats, these will be reserved on a "first come, first served" basis. As soon as you reserve a place, your account will be charged. Failure to honour your booking will not result in a refund.

NOTE THE FOLLOWING PLEASE:

- **Please Note: Boarding and school fees are payable in advance and should be paid in full before the start of Term 1 for 2024.** No boarder will be allowed into the Boarding House unless **the first term's boarding fee and first month's school fees have been paid.** Please bring along proof of payment in case of a query on your account.

BOARDING HOUSE HANDBOOK AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Before being allowed into the Boarding house, all parents are required to have signed the Code of Conduct.

MEDICAL CONSENT FORM

The submission of completed Medical Consent Forms and Medicine Dispensing Forms are compulsory. These forms must be updated annually and must be accompanied by a copy of the Main Member's ID and a copy of both sides of the Medical Aid Card. Given the challenges that we face in securing quality Medical Care from State Hospitals, it is compulsory that all parents carry Medical Aid or, at the very least, Medical Insurance (Hospital Plan) so as to ensure that, should the need arise, suitable Medical Care will be accessible for your child.

MEDICAL AID: A valid South African Medical Aid cover is compulsory for all boarders.

GRADE 8 ORIENTATION: HIGH SCHOOL

During the second week of school, the Grade 8s will have an Orientation Week, co-ordinated and supervised by the Grade 8 Head. During this time they will get to know the Grade 12s, who in turn, will teach them all about the "ins and outs" of high school life. The programme is aimed at developing relationships and helping the children to settle into the high school quickly in a friendly and entertaining way.

The orientation programme begins with an orientation day on 12 January – see schedule below:

- 11 January : First Day of School. Bring suitcases, all writing books (no text books), etc. to school.
- 12 January : Bring notebook & pen only. Wear PE clothes (tracksuit, golf shirt & shorts with tackies) and bring your lunchbox/tuck money.
- Week of 15-19 January : Orientation week – you will receive instructions during the first week of school on what to wear etc.
- **All others (Gr 9-12)** : ***Pupils will commence with the academic programme from the first day of school and thus are to bring all textbooks, writing books, stationery and school bags to school.***

COMMUNICATION

Communication is always a matter of priority, so please note the following:

News is distributed via Facebook, Instagram and the weekly newsletter, called the *St Dominic's Chronicles*, which can be accessed using a link from our Facebook page and our website:

www.stdominicscollege.com

YOUR CHILD'S WELFARE

The welfare of your child is our priority and we assure you of our commitment to providing a quality educational experience across all aspects of your child's care at St Dominic's. We look forward to a productive and happy relationship with you for many years.

We look forward to seeing you on **Tuesday, 9 January 2024, between 11h00 and 14h00**, when you settle your child into the Boarding House. *(Please Note: the Clothing Shop will be open during this time as well.)*

Yours sincerely



Deena Naidoo
EXECUTIVE HEADMASTER