

WATERFORD KAMHLABA UWCSA

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Letter 1/06

Dear Parents

Although the IB Orientation programme started on Wednesday 18th and the Form Orientation programme on Monday 23rd, yesterday marked the official start of the new academic year. It has been a good start, with 95% of students on the roll present on the first day. Lessons began as scheduled in the 4th period and, visiting residences last night, I was aware of students already hard at work.

I wish to welcome and briefly introduce the new members of the academic staff. The list appears to be long: it needs to be remembered that WK has an academic staff of 47, excluding non-teaching members of the residential staff.

- Peter Armstrong (Swazi) has joined the Visual Arts department. Peter studied in Durban and at the Putney School of Art, London. He taught Art at WK in 1981. He has run his own screen-printing business in Swaziland for the last 20 years. His wife and son are WK graduates and his daughter is currently in Form 4.
- Judy Costa (Portuguese) has joined the Physical Education and French Departments. Judy schooled in Swaziland, went on to complete a degree in Industrial Psychology and French at Rhodes, studied for her teacher's diploma and has taught at both Mananga College and at Enjabulweni.
- Pippa Davies (South African) has joined the Theatre Arts Department. She also is responsible for the final IGCSE Afrikaans class. Pippa holds an honours degree in Drama from Rhodes, a teacher's diploma, and has taught in South Africa and for short stints in London and Paris since 1986.
- Lisa Mbuli (Swazi) has joined the English Department. She attended WK from 1992 to 1995, when she left to study for her Scottish Highers in Scotland. She then went to study English and Politics in Australia, transferred to UCT and graduated with a 1st in English. She returned to Swaziland, worked for a year for the Lutheran Development Office and for NERCHA before entering the teaching profession at Enjabulweni High School.
- Hazel Meda (Zimbabwean) has joined the French Department. She studied for her IB Diploma from 1997 to 1998 at WK, being the representative of the Zimbabwean UWC National Committee. She graduated with 43 points, won a scholarship to study at Mount Holyoke College in the USA, graduated *magna cum laude*, was a Teaching Fellow in French at the Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts and then returned to Africa to teach French at the Aga Khan Academy in Kampala.
- Solomon Saduma (Kenyan) has joined the Science Department as a physics specialist. He is a graduate of Egerton University in Kenya, where he graduated *summa cum laude*. He has taught since 1990, and since 1996 has been head of the Physics section at the Aga Khan Academy, Mombassa. In 2004 he

spent his summer holiday teaching an international group of teenagers at the Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts.

- Carla Cabrita (Portuguese/South African) receives a belated introduction. She came to our rescue with the sudden departure of Dr O'Donnell in October last year, having already been appointed to teach Lifeskills and Music and to assist with the community service programme. She is also to teach an IB English class. Carla studied at WK from 1990 to 1996, holds an honours degree from Southampton in Music and Media, came to our rescue in 2001 with the sudden departure of another English teacher, and has since worked with various NGOs, as a Documentary Director and in the filming of TV commercials.
- Debbie Nodder (South African) has joined the staff in a 3/5ths capacity, as the Community Service and CAS Coordinator. Debbie holds a social science degree and teacher's diploma from UCT, an advanced Diploma in Fine Art from WITS and has taught since 1986. In recent years she has been a residence tutor in Esiveni Residence and a community service supervisor.
- Judy Boycott (South African) served as a residential tutor in Esiveni Residence in Term 3 of 2005 and has now been appointed as Deputy Head of Esiveni. She holds an honours degree in psychology from the University of South Africa. Currently she is employed also as a microbiologist at Lancet Laboratories in Mbabane. Her husband Richard is a member of the Science Department.

The following have assumed new or further administrative responsibilities:

- Dr Anna Marsden, Director of Studies, also has been appointed as the IB Coordinator.
- Simon Lucas, Director of Admissions, is now responsible for admissions throughout the school, not only for admissions to the Forms.
- Dominique Cave has been appointed as the Form 4 and 5 Academic Coordinator.
- John Storer has been appointed as the Careers and University Advisor.

IB Results

The IB results were the best yet at Waterford.

For those not familiar with the IB Diploma, each student offers 6 subjects which are graded from 7 (outstanding) to 1, with most universities considering a grade of 4 a passing grade. Up to 3 points are awarded for Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay, giving a maximum potential score of 45. 24 points are required to be awarded a Diploma.

WK students obtained an average score of 36.1. To put this into perspective: we are told this is the top average of an IB school in Africa and one of the top in the world. With the class of 2004, a scholarship was found for every student with 30 points or better who wished to study at a university associated with UWC in the USA.

# students obtaining diploma points 40-45:	15
# students obtaining diploma points 36-39:	18
# students obtaining diploma points 31-35:	14
# students obtaining diploma points 24-30:	9
# students obtaining diploma points <24:	1

Since the release of the IB results on the 6th January 2006, the following full scholarships have been declared for universities and colleges in the USA (many further scholarships are anticipated): Melusi Dlamini and Andrew Nkumbula (Harvard), Pablo Touchard Pelluz (Yale), Mireille Williams Sharp (Georgetown), Thembi Mdluli (Johns Hopkins), Ernesto Nunes (Macalaster), Sibusiso Nkambule, Thulane Shabangu, Edward Munyeshuli and Nazley Albertus (all to Westminster), Stephen Kwok-Choon (Florida Institute of Technology (the top scholarship awarded by the Institute, but not a full scholarship)) and Iyayi Oyegun (Barnard).

IGCSE Results

The IGCSE results from 2005 were also very good.

3 students obtained 8 A*, A or 1 grades (4%)
4 students obtained 7 A*, A or 1 grades (5%)
6 students obtained 6 A*, A or 1 grades (8%)
6 students obtained 5 A*, A or 1 grades (8%)
3 students obtained 4 A*, A or 1 grades (4%)
8 students obtained 3 A*, A or 1 grades (11%)
9 students obtained 2 A*, A or 1 grades (12%)
14 students obtained 1 A*, A or 1 grade (19%)

In summary, 71% of all students obtained at least 1 A*, A or 1 grade, with the average number of A*, A or 1 symbols per student at 2.4

6% of all awarded symbols were A*
24% of all awarded symbols were A
33% of all awarded symbols were B
26% of all awarded symbols were C
8% of all awarded symbols were D
2% of all awarded symbols were E

In summary, 90% of all symbols were a C grade or better.

I think you will join me in congratulating the IGCSE and IB classes of 2005, all their teachers and all who gave the students support and encouragement.

Centre for Creative Learning

I am delighted to report that the Paul Hamlyn Foundation has agreed to fund the building of a Centre for Creative Learning. This Centre will comprise teaching spaces for both Theatre Arts and Music, a new Community Service centre and an open-air amphitheatre. This Centre is to be built in memory of Jane Attenborough who, with her daughter Lucy, died in the Tsunami. Jane was the daughter of Lord and Lady Richard Attenborough (Richard is a member of the WK Governing Council, President of the Waterford School Trust and Patron of the United World Colleges), the wife of Michael Holland (a tireless and most effective fundraiser for the Waterford School Trust – the Trust that provides the bulk of the bursary funding at WK) and mother to Sam Holland (who spent time at WK as a volunteer).

Building is due to commence in March.

Term Calendar

Students will be issued with term calendars before the end of the week. The term calendar also will be placed on the College website (www.waterford.sz)

Letters to Parents

I try to write a letter to parents each week, normally on a Friday (this week is early because I am due to be in London for the UWC Executive Committee meeting on Friday and Saturday). Letters are sent electronically to all parents whose email addresses are entered in our administrative system, paper copies handed to day students to take home and boarding students whose parents do not have email invited to have paper copies posted home. Most letters carry news of the week and try to convey something of the spirit and vision of WK and of UWC. I hope you enjoy them.

Yours sincerely

Laurence Nodder
Principal