



WATERFORD KAMHLABA

United World College of Southern Africa

26th October 2007

Letter 27/2007

Dear Parents

Form 5 and IB2 Leavers' Ceremonies

Traditionally IB2 and Form 5 boarding students have been allowed to 'check out' for the night of their Leavers' Ceremonies (with the permission of their parents). This has allowed them to attend after-parties and the like, not always in the safest of circumstances.

Following the tragic death of Hassan Maajar at the close of the Form 5 after party last year followed by the death of a Sisekelo student in similar circumstances a week later, Waterford has reviewed its exeat arrangements for these two weekends and has determined as follows:

No Form 5 or IB2 boarding student will be granted a weekend exeat over the weekends on which the Form 5 and IB2 Leavers' Ceremonies take place unless in the following circumstances:

- The student concerned is fetched by his or her parent/guardian at the close of whatever (WK supervised) celebratory function following the Leavers' Ceremony. Boarding students who are not fetched by their parents/guardians (not uncles or aunts or family friends!) will be required to return to the College on school transport.
- or*
- The student has completed final check-out and will not be returning to the residence at a later stage.

Moreover, no boarding student in Forms 4 and IB1 will be granted a weekend exeat over these weekends unless fetched by their parents/guardians from Waterford.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Payment of fees and outstanding fees

Although in international school and UWC terms Waterford Kamhlaba's fees are modest, I appreciate that for most Waterford Kamhlaba parents and guardians the payment of fees is a major financial battle. I respect you enormously for investing so strongly in the education of your children often at great personal sacrifice, and thank the many parents and guardians who pay fees on time.

Parents/guardians are contracted to settle school fees for any particular term by the first day of that term.

At its meeting on the 2nd October 2007 the Finance Sub-committee was faced with a situation where E6,02 million was outstanding in school fees. This is 67% of budgeted fee revenue for the term. As you will understand, this has placed the College in a difficult situation. The College is in overdraft and will find it difficult to meet its contractual obligations unless the vast majority of these fees are paid.

The Bursar reported that telephone calls to most of the parents and guardians who had not paid the term's fees had met with little response. Accordingly, the Finance Subcommittee decided that one of its members (who is a lawyer) would write to all those parents who had not paid the fees for this term. Please understand that this action was precipitated by the scale of the outstanding fees, not necessarily by concerns relating to individual parents or guardians. Several parents have taken strong exception to this measure and in some instances fees were paid between the submission of details to the Finance Sub-committee and the receipt of the letter. I apologize for any misunderstanding.

Form 3 Parents' Meeting

Form 3 parents are invited to a meeting at 5.30pm on Thursday 8th November in the Assembly Hall where subject choices for students moving into Form 4 will be explained, including the Dual Award Combined Sciences and Global Perspectives courses, and an opportunity will be provided to discuss these and related issues.

Yours sincerely

Laurence Nodder
Principal