



# WATERFORD KAMHLABA

## United World College of Southern Africa

26<sup>th</sup> January 2007

Letter 2/2007

Dear Parents

Thank you for entrusting your child's formal education to Waterford Kamhlaba UWC for 2007.

Given WK's history and that it is a United World College, my view is that this formal education needs to embrace much more than the formal IGCSE and International Baccalaureate Diploma curricula. This education needs to look ahead, so that our children can be equipped to provide a quality of leadership that is sorely lacking in so many aspects of society today. Earlier this week I read an article by David W Orr, Professor and Chair of the Environmental Studies Program at Oberlin College, USA. He writes:

'If we are to navigate the challenges of the decades ahead, we need leaders of great stature, clarity of mind, spiritual depth, courage, and vision. We need leaders who see patterns that connect us across the divisions of culture, religion, geography and time. We need leaders who draw us quickly from fossil fuels to solar power, reverse global environmental deterioration, and empower us to provide shelter, food, medical care, a decent livelihood, and education for all.

'Most of all, we need leadership that is capable of energising genuine commitment to old and venerable traditions as well as promoting new vision for a global civilization that preserve and honour local cultures, economies, and knowledge.'

I think Professor Orr is right. Equipping the students of today to provide this type of leadership at all levels of society in the future will not happen by chance. It will happen when these priorities are emphasised at home and throughout society, most importantly in schools and through development of the formal and informal curriculum. And surely the students and staff at WK (and at our sister UWCs) have started on this journey, vital for our collective futures, by living, learning, serving, recreating in a setting where people come from a great diversity of backgrounds and where the curriculum is international.

### IB Diploma and IGCSE results

Our IB2 and Form 5 year groups performed very well indeed in their external examinations.

All IB2 students who entered the examinations on the Diploma programme achieved their diplomas. The year-group average was 34.3 points (out of a maximum of 45, with 24 being a passing grade). To put this in context: the British UCAS (university central admissions service) has issued a 'tariff' equating points on the IB Diploma to grades at 'A' level. The British have equated 34 points on the IB to achieving 'A' grades in three 'A' level subjects. This is a wonderful achievement for our 'average' student.

All the students have applied for entrance to university, a few for 'early decisions' at prestigious USA colleges and universities. So far we have had the following scholarship offers confirmed: Tsiu Moorosi (Harvard), Bongani Khumalo (Dartmouth), Marianne Bampire, Sylvestre Detchou, Ceb'sile

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Ndlangamandla, Thato Keineetse, Bernado Vimpi, Sibaphetse Zwane and Sibusiso Ntshalinthali (all to Methodist). I anticipate up to half the class being awarded full or close to full scholarships to study in the USA.

The following have been offered places outside the USA: Beatrice Gini (Oxford), Lars Kramer (University of Maastricht), Ivy Chilingulo (University of Malawi), Vaughn Mountjoy (University of KZN), Robin Paradisi (Universita degli Studi di Modena) and Nick Stacey (WITS)

The IGCSE results were also most pleasing. Including the results for those students who wrote their IGCSE maths a year early and taking A\* and A grades and a '1' grade for HIGCSE maths as distinctions, the top three students, each with nine distinctions, are: Makhosonkhe Nzibandze, Tengetile Mhlanga and Summer Mitchell. Three students obtained 7 distinctions each, two students 6 distinctions, eight students 5 distinctions and four students 4 distinctions each. In summary, 27% of the students obtained four or more distinctions and 75% at least one distinction.

### Bus times for Day Students

We are aware that some of the buses have been overly full this first week.

- The number of day students has increased
- The distribution of students through the different areas of Mbabane has changed slightly.
- Where there is more than one pick-up time (Cinelux, Queensgate and Sandla) the earlier bus is relatively empty but the later bus too full. If your child catches a school bus from these three points, please encourage your child to be as early as possible.
- In the afternoon, Form 1 and 2 students who are not engaged in afternoon activities have not caught their designated bus but have waited for the 4.10pm buses, leading to congestion on these buses.

Mr Wells and I have met with the chief driver, Mr Laurence Msibi, and have re-scheduled some of the buses and provided further transport on some routes. The new schedules have been distributed to the day students. We have sought quotations to purchase a further 27-seater bus to assist on the Queensgate/Sandla route and have advertised for a fifth driver. We are still investigating the possibility of an Ezulwini run.

### May Examinations for a few IGCSE and IB candidates

Unfortunately neither the IGCSE nor the IB offers examinations in all subjects in the October/November session and students offering these subjects need to write a May examination. Some of the papers fall in the school holidays. This is beyond our control, and despite annual requests to the examining boards for either changes of dates or permission for students to write in their home countries, there is little progress. I wish to give notice of the dates for the following examinations that fall in the holiday period:

IGCSE Spanish: 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May (and 22<sup>nd</sup> May, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> term)

IB German: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May

IB Amharic, Dutch, Finnish, Italian, Norwegian, Swahili and Turkish: 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May

Residential provision at WK will be made for boarding students wishing to prepare for these examinations.

Yours sincerely  
Laurence Nodder  
Principal