



WATERFORD KAMHLABA

United World College of Southern Africa

1st April 2010

Letter 10/2010

Dear Parents and Guardians

Earlier this week I had the privilege of spending time with Athol Jennings, principal at WK from 1975 to 1984. He was able to relate several of the transitions the school underwent during this time. Of course the most dramatic transition was when we became a UWC in 1981, and moved from the British A level examinations to the International Baccalaureate Diploma. Mr Jennings related the meetings where he was able to persuade the IBO that it was not simply a 'northern hemisphere' baccalaureate but an 'international' one, and accordingly needed to provide a November examination session in line with the structure of the academic year in the southern hemisphere.

Several of the transitions he described were more subtle. For instance, in his perception, during this time WK moved from being a boys school that also had girls, to a truly co-educational school. Interestingly, now we hardly consider an applicant's sex, except at the point of allocating boarding places (where we discover that we have more female students than male). Another transition relates to our start as the first *multi-racial* school in southern Africa (and within UWC?) and a slowly changing approach to where we would call ourselves a *non-racial* school – a place where the differences between us that we notice and try to understand are not primarily determined in racial terms.

I would welcome within UWC a transition where the differences between us that we notice and try to understand are not primarily determined in national terms. In my view, our coming together as people representing the tensions in society would allow UWC to address its mission in a most compelling and important way.

Mobile number changes in Swaziland

From today, all mobile numbers in Swaziland take on the number 7 as a prefix. Accordingly, for emergencies:

Mr Nodder (Principal) is (+268) 7602 1566
Mr Wells (Deputy Principal) (+268) 7602 6891
Mr King (Director of Residences) (+268) 7602 1565

Your children's mobile numbers will have changed in the same way.

Landlines remain the same.

Special Activities

The senior soccer team has departed for a regional tournament in Mafikeng, South Africa.

IB Theatre Arts students are to perform "a waking dream" – described as an international cast exploring the clownsque world of *waiting for godot* – at 8pm on Wednesday 7th April in the Assembly Hall.

UWC Day is on Saturday 10th April. I expect all boarding and day students to be present.

The Crypt Choir of King's School Canterbury is to perform the Lucy Holland Memorial Concert at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13th April.

Term dates reminders

After Easter, lessons resume at 8am on Wednesday 7th April. Residences open after lunch on Tuesday.

Term closes at 10am on Friday 16th April.

The 2nd term starts at 8am on Tuesday 11th May. Residences open on Monday 10th.

Yours sincerely

Laurence Nodder
Principal

