

MANAGING DIRECTOR NEWSLETTER



May 2022

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Life is difficult. This is a great truth and of the greatest truths...

We are living in an ever changing world with so many difficulties. In recent months we have experienced extreme changes and difficulties all around us. We have, and are still experiencing the effects of the COVID-19 epidemic. Our country is also in political and social turmoil. In this regard we have experienced the riots in KZN, corruption and fraud on so many fronts, and extreme increases in unemployment and poverty. On the economic front we have experienced rising inflation, interest rates, fuel prices, and electricity cost. Our environment is also changing and the recent KZN floods is testament to that. Internationally, the Russian invasion of Ukraine is also having an effect on us. These are just some of the many changes and difficulties impacting our daily lives.

During these uncertain and difficult times I often wonder what will become of our world (and especially of our children). What can we do to prepare them for the future? I certainly do not have a definitive answer, but what I do know is that we should give them the tools to manage and cope with change and difficulties in their lives. The most important of these tools are (1) the opportunity to get the best possible education and (2) to be an example to them in terms of our behaviour and attitude towards change and difficulty.

The best possible education does not necessarily mean that they must all get a University degree. It means that they must be provided with the best possible opportunity to explore, develop and grow their unique talents. Not all of us can be doctors or lawyers or engineers. The world has a need for people that are qualified artisans, or performers, or IT specialists. The most important thing that my parents taught me is that “education is the one thing that no one can take from you” and that is a lesson that I will always carry with me.

We should also set an example for our children in the way that we deal with “disasters”, extreme change and the difficulties of everyday life. Every situation always has 50% positive and 50% negative. The challenge is to be able to look for and find the 50% good in what we perceive to be a “bad” situation or difficulty.

Let us guide and lead our children to manage through the difficult times so that they will be prepared for the world out there. I wish you all the best for the second term of this year and I hope that you will also be granted the wisdom to deal with the difficulties of everyday life.

Yours sincerely, Dr B Fourie

MANAGING DIRECTOR ROYAL SCHOOLS

