Orientation Day

**Dear Stakeholders**

Each year at around this time we start our planning for the Orientation Day for the following year. Please read through everything carefully: it will be appreciated if you could bring to the attention of the organising Committee any further suggestions that you might have, or any adjustments that you might wish to propose. The wider we cast our net, the more plentiful will be the catch of ideas.

# Basic information

For the prospective new learner, as for their parent(s) / guardian(s), an Orientation Day – or ‘Open Day’ as some prefer to call it – at an intended high school is all about first impressions. The very fact that the learner/parent has decided to pay us a call, means that they have placed us on a shortlist of secondary institutions: they have expressed interest in what we have to offer, and wish to establish whether what they SEE and ENCOUNTER matches up with the write-ups and recommendations. It is up to us to provide these confirmations – to ensure that first impressions are positive and lasting ones.

## Involvement

In response to an earlier appeal we have received a number of offers to provide support. In certain instances the choice of support person has been unavoidable – for example, all subject teachers will need to be present, to respond to specific questions and issues related to their area of expertise – but in other instances we gratefully acknowledge the support of all who have volunteered to help with things like catering, parking control, ICT support – not to mention general setting up for the day, and cleaning up at the end.

## Feeder Schools

Applications have been received from four primary schools in the area – our traditional ‘feeder schools’ – current Grade 7s who have indicated their intention to attend Boulder High next year. The number of applications received to date is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **School** | **Applications** |
| Vista | 16 |
| Denville | 12 |
| Trinder Park | 21 |
| Misty Hills | 11 |

## Sport and Extramural

Boulder High places a high premium on the importance of these aspects within the education framework, and encourages these no less than academic excellence.

The table below shows statistics of sporting preferences, per school.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **Vista** | **Trinder Park** | **Denville** | **Misty Hills** | **TOTALS** |
| **SPORT** | **Netball** | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 |  |
| **Athletics** | 1 | 6 | 2 | 0 |  |
| **Swimming** | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |  |
| **Tennis** | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 |  |
|  | **Cricket** | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 |  |
| **Hockey** | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |  |
| **Rugby** | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 |  |

The interest expressed in various extramural activities is likewise taken into account. However, unlike the sporting codes indicated, we have found that extramural activities tend to cater more to learners’ general interests and hobbies, and as such they are often integrated with other social outlets. Here are some of the extramural clubs / societies / activities that are currently active:

* Chess
* Film & Media
* Debating
* Outreach
* STEM
* Reading

# Closing

We confidently look forward to hosting **Orientation Day**. This will not only afford another golden opportunity to showcase Boulder High to the broader community, but also to admit to our ranks a new generation of learners, to whom we proudly pass on the multi-faceted **torch of learning**. Education is the means whereby knowledge and discovery are passed on: let us not neglect to heighten and reward this most rewarding experience.

Best wishes!

Mr G.D. Patel

**Principal: Boulder High School**