

# BESA Leadership Academy



Plot 74  
Bronkhorstfontein  
GPS: 26° 22' 52.88" S  
27° 58' 55.30" E

Tel: 087 654 BESA (2372)  
Fax: 086 633 8927  
Email: [admin@besacademy.co.za](mailto:admin@besacademy.co.za)  
Web: [www.besacademy.co.za](http://www.besacademy.co.za)

June Newsletter 2017

Dear Staff, Parents and Learners



The good news is that the Winter Solstice took place on 21 June, so our long-awaited journey back to the summer has begun. And in the meantime, it's holiday time!!

We wish all of our families a wonderful break. Term 3 is going to be a very busy term with lots on the go, so rest up!

## Eid Wishes



We would like to wish all of our Muslim families 'Eid Mubarak'. We trust that you had a blessed day.

## Upcoming Events

DATE	FUNCTION / EVENT	ADDITIONAL NOTES
Tuesday 25 July	First day of term 3	
Wednesday 26 July	Student teachers arrive	
Thursday 27 July	Grade 9 Aptitude Testing	During school time
	Varsity College Talk	During School time for Grade 11 & 12 learners
Saturday 29 July	Parents Morning	08:00 to 10:00
Monday 31 July	Grade 9 Core Skills Test	During school hours
Thursday 3 August	First Cycle Test	School day ends at 14:30 on cycle test days
Friday 4 August	BESA Blood Drive	Anybody 16 years or older. 09:30 to 14:30 in the BESA auditorium
Wednesday 9 August	Public Holiday	
	World Scholar's Cup learners depart	As per separate letter
Tuesday 15 August	Inter-house touch rugby tournament	Normal school until 12:00
	World Scholar's Cup learners return	
Friday 25 & Saturday 26 August	Grade 11 Leadership Camp	As per separate letter
Saturday 26 August	Grade 9 Science Expo at University of Johannesburg	As per separate letter
Friday 1 September	Matric Forty Days Celebration Spring Day Fun Walk & Picnic	Details to follow
Monday 4 September	Start of Matric Prelims	Timetable to follow shortly
Friday 8 September	Student teachers leave	
Monday 18 – Thursday 21 September	Grade 10-12 Job Shadowing	Details attached. <b>The Monday is a normal school day for Grade 8 &amp; 9 learners</b>
Tuesday 19 - Thursday 21 September	Grade 8 & 9 Job Shadowing	More details attached
Wednesday 20 September	Grade 12 Final Life Sciences Practical Examination	Times to be confirmed
Friday 22 September	Normal school day	For all learners
Monday 25 September	Public Holiday	
Thursday 28 September	Last day of Term 3	School day ends at 13:15
Friday 29 September	Assessment Day	For learners who need to catch-up work/ assessment missed

## Reports & Parents Morning

Reports will be emailed to parents by Friday 14 July and Term 2's Parents' Morning will take place on Saturday 29 July from 08:00 to 10:00.

## Grade 9 Aptitude & Career Guidance Testing

All Grade 9 parents received an email regarding the Grade 9 Aptitude & Career Guidance testing which will be done on Thursday 27 July during school time. Please complete the required form, make the payment and email the form and proof of payment to Mrs Woodland in the office (admin@besacademy.co.za) by Friday 7 July. If you would prefer to pop into the school to make a cash payment and return the form, the office will be open from 08:00 to 14:00 during the first week of the holidays.

## Grade 9 Core Skills Test

This test is set externally by the IEB. It aims to test the level of academic skills of the Grade 9 learners nationwide. The results will provide the teachers with areas in which the learners are excelling, coping or need development. There is no studying required for this test as it is skills based. The Grade 9s will be briefed closer to the time as to the specific requirements.

## Grade 11 Leadership Weekend (Part One)

This function is scheduled to take place at school on the afternoon of Friday 25 August from 14:00 to 17:00 and on Saturday 26 August from 08:00 until 17:00. A letter containing all of the relevant details will be sent out early within the new term. All Grade 11 learners are invited to attend.

## Job Shadowing

A reminder that the time of the year is fast approaching when ALL of our Grade 8 to 11 learners go into the workplace to learn more about the 'real world'. This is such a worthwhile activity for the learners who approach the experience seriously. Parents are to please assist your children in contacting companies and organisations where they can spend the allocated days observing and working in an environment where they might like to work in the future.

'Job shadowing' will run from 18 to 21 September (for the Grade 10s & 11s) and from 19 to 21 September (for the Grade 8s and 9s). Learners and parents are advised to:

- Read the **attached guidelines** relating to the 'Workplace Experience Programme';
- Contact potential companies / institutions enquiring about possibilities of spending time there;
- Forward the attached form 'Accommodation of 'A Learner in the Workplace' to the company / companies which has / have agreed to have you (and return the reply slip attached to this letter to the Life Orientation teacher)

## Yearbooks

Learners received their 2015/2016 year books at the end of last term and what a year book it is. Please have a look through the book when you have the chance, it's filled with something for everybody. Thank you to Mr C. Preddy for all his hard work!

Each family is issued with one yearbook. If you would like an additional year book they are available for purchase at the admin office at a cost of R 250 each.

## Flour Power



Flour Power will commence from the first Friday of the new term. Please send lunches for the underprivileged children who do not get lunch, they really do appreciate it.

## Thank You

For all the clothing and money donated on Pyjama Day. All the proceeds have been forwarded to the Knysna Disaster Fund.

## Golf Day

We would like to host a golf day towards the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> term or early in the 4<sup>th</sup> term. We are looking for parents to join our organizing and planning committee for the golf day. If you are interested in assisting please email Mr D. Preddy on [dpreddy@besacademy.co.za](mailto:dpreddy@besacademy.co.za).

We will need prizes for our golfers so if you are unable to assist with the organizing of the event but you are able to assist with sourcing prizes for the day, we will welcome your assistance. Please email Mr D. Preddy on the above address.

## New School Road (Update)

After all the excitement on our part (and yours as well) for the development of our new road, we have come across a stumbling block at this stage. We have been advised by the road planners that there is a possibility of development of a new road that would negate the need for the construction of our road.

After weighing up our options, we have decided to wait on the decision of the roads agency before we start any construction of our road in case our road needs to be moved or demolished at a later stage. Unfortunately we do not have a definite time frame to work with as it is entirely dependent on the processes of the road agency and municipality.

For those of you that have kindly paid money towards the project already we will allocate your contribution towards your school fee account for the mean time and advise you of any developments as and when we receive notification.

## School Times

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	07:55 – 14:30
Thursday	07:55 – 13:15 (non-cycle test days) 07:55 – 14:30 (cycle test days)
Friday	07:55 – 13:30

**All learners are expected to report for assembly and roll call by 07:45 every day.**

## Term Dates 2017

**Term 3:** Tuesday 25 July to Thursday 28 September (Friday 29 September 'Assessment Day')

**Term 4:** Wednesday 11 October to Friday 8 December

## Provisional Term 3 Cycle Test Timetable

Please note:

- The Grade 12s do not write cycle tests in the third term as they write Prelims, starting 4 September.
- Owing to the fact that Term 3 is a short term with Job Shadowing taking-up a week and the World Scholar's Cup also running over a cycle test day, there are weeks where two cycle tests will be written, (or they are written on another day in the week) and the Grade 8 & 9 Arts & Culture cycles test will be written during class time.
- When cycle tests are written on a Monday or Tuesdays, the timetable will run on Thursday's **times**.

DATE	GRADE 8	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11
Thursday 3 August	Mathematics	Afrikaans	Afrikaans	Mathematics Mathematical Literacy
Tuesday 8 August	Afrikaans	Mathematics	English	Afrikaans
Thursday 17 August	English	English	Day after returning from WSC	
Thursday 24 August	Biology	EMS & Accounting	Mathematics Mathematical Literacy	English
Thursday 31 August	EMS & Accounting	Technology	Life Sciences Accounting History	Life Sciences Visual Arts Geography
Tuesday 5 September	Science	Geography	EGD Business Studies	History Accounting EGD
Thursday 7 September	History	Biology	No cycle tests – may be used for practicals	
Thursday 14 September	Geography	History	Physical Sciences Geography	Business Studies Physical Sciences
Monday 18 September	Technology	Science	Job Shadowing	

## Congratulations



Congratulations to Joshua Green who has been awarded his Easterns Football Under 17 District Colours for 2017 and has been selected to represent Eastern Local Football Association in an Inter-LFA tournament on 22 & 23 July as well as in the ELFA Tournament in Kwazulu-Natal in October.

We wish you everything of the best, Josh!

Congratulations to one of our parents, Councilor Dennis Ryder who was recently elected as an MP (Member of Parliament). Mr Ryder will take up his duties in Cape Town from July. Mr Ryder was the Deputy Mayor of Midvaal, MMC of Engineering and Ward Councilor of Ward 7 Midvaal. We wish him well in Parliament.

Thank you, Mr Ryder for all your help and advice. We are sure you will not forget about us in Bronkhorstfontein.

## Financial Matters



A reminder that school fee payments must please be made by no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month. For any queries regarding your school fee payments, please contact Mrs Cinzia Preddy at [finance@besacademy.co.za](mailto:finance@besacademy.co.za) and she will gladly assist you.

We are very grateful to all of our parents who pay in full and on time each month. Your commitment ensures the smooth running of the school!

Our banking details are as follows:

BESA Leadership Academy  
FNB – Bracken City – 252242  
Account #: 62249 103251

**Please ensure that you use the correct reference for any electronic payments, for example: uniform, camp, maths Olympiad, school fees, etc. This will help to ensure that your invoices are correct.**

## Some (Vital) Food For Thought...

### SOCIAL MEDIA AND OUR CHILDREN

Whatsapp, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and other social media platforms continue to plague the lives of our children: their self image, self esteem, social interaction, moods, and so much more...

As teachers and parents, so many of the problems and so much of the conflict we deal with stems from social media.

Clearly, many children are not mature enough socially, emotionally and mentally to deal with this 'adult' means of communication. If this is the case in your home, whether your child is perceived to be the victim or the perpetrator, set stricter control measures in place.

The bottom line is, if your child is often unhappy because of issues arising through these platforms, force them to delete the apps...go with your gut feel.

Here is an article of interest:

## KIDS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

(Article taken from: <http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/social-media-smarts.html#> on 27 June 2017)

For kids and teens, social media is an essential part of their lives, much the way telephones were important to us at their age.

About 90% of teens have used some form of social media and 75% have a profile on a social networking site, experts say. More than half of all teens visit social networking sites every day. These numbers are way up from just a few years ago and there's almost no chance of them ever coming down again.

There are plenty of good things about social media — but also many potential dangers and things that you want your kids and teens to avoid. They don't always make the smartest choices when they post something to a site like Facebook or YouTube, and sometimes this can lead to problems.

So it's important for parents to teach their kids how to use social media wisely.

### **The Good**

Social media can help kids:

- stay connected with friends and family
- volunteer or get involved with a campaign, non-profit, or charity
- enhance their creativity through the sharing of ideas, music, and art
- meet and interact with others who share similar interests

### **The Bad**

The flipside is that social media can be a hub for things like cyber-bullying and questionable activities. Without meaning to, kids can easily share more online than they should.

One study showed that 9 out of 10 teens post photos of themselves online or use their real names on their profiles; 8 out of 10 reveal their birthdates and interests; and 7 out of 10 post their school name and the town where they live. Actions like this can make kids easy targets for online predators and others who might want to cause them harm.

These statistics about teens highlight the dangers of social media:

- 17% of teens say they've been contacted online by someone they didn't know in a way that made them feel scared or uncomfortable
- 30% of teens say they've received online advertising that was inappropriate for their age
- 39% of teens admitted to lying about their age to gain access to websites

## Concerns and Consequences

In addition to problems like cyber-bullying and online predators, kids also can face the possibility of a physical encounter with the wrong person. Many newer apps automatically reveal the poster's location when they're used. This can tell anyone out there exactly where to find the person using the app.

**Photos, videos, and comments made online usually can't be taken back once they're posted. Even after a teen thinks something has been deleted, it can be impossible to completely erase it from the Internet.**

**Posting an inappropriate photo can damage a kid's reputation in ways that may cause problems years later — such as when a potential employer or college admissions officer does a background check. And if a kid sends a mean-spirited tweet as a joke, it could be very hurtful to someone else and even taken as a threat.**

Spending too much time on social media can be a downer, too. By seeing how many "friends" others have and viewing pictures of them having fun, kids may feel worse about themselves or feel they don't measure up to their peers.

## What Parents Can Do

It's important to be aware of what your kids are doing online, but prying too much can alienate them and damage the trust you've built together. The key is to stay involved in a way that makes your kids understand that you respect their privacy but want to make sure they're safe

### Here are some helpful hints to share with connected kids:

**Be nice. Mean behaviour is just as unacceptable in the virtual world as it is in the real world. Make it clear that you expect your kids to treat others with respect and courtesy, and to never post hurtful or embarrassing messages about others. And ask them to always tell you about any harassing or bullying messages that others may post.**

**Think twice before hitting "enter." Remind teens that what they post can be used against them.** For example, letting the world know that you're off on vacation or posting your home address gives would-be robbers a chance to strike. Teens also should avoid posting specific locations of parties or events, as well as phone numbers.

Follow the "WWGS?" (What Would Grandma Say?) rule. **Teach kids that "once it's out there, you can't get it back." They shouldn't share anything on social media that they wouldn't want their teachers, college admissions officers, future bosses — and yes, grandma — to see.**

Use privacy settings. Privacy settings are important, and to highlight their importance, go through the settings together to make sure your kids understand each one. Also, explain that passwords are there to protect them against things like identity theft and should never be shared with anyone (even a boyfriend, girlfriend, or best friend).

Don't "friend" strangers. "If you don't know them, don't friend them." This is a plain, simple — and safe — rule of thumb.



## Make It Official

So, how can you drive these messages home? One way is to make a "social media agreement" with your kids — a real contract they can sign. In it, they can agree to protect their own privacy, consider their reputation, and not give out personal information. Furthermore, **they promise to never use technology to hurt anyone else (through bullying or gossip).**

In turn, parents agree to respect teens' privacy while making an effort to be part of the social media world (this means you can "friend" and observe them, but don't post embarrassing comments or rants about messy rooms).

Parents also can help keep kids grounded in the real world by putting limits on media use. Keep computers in public areas in the house, avoid laptops and smartphones in bedrooms, and set some rules on the use of technology (such as no cell phones at the dinner table).

And don't forget: Setting a good example through your own virtual behaviour can go a long way toward helping your kids use social media safely.

### On a lighter note...



Wishing all of our families a good and safe holiday!

Kind regards  
The Management Team