



31 January 2022

Dear Parents

Welcome to the 2023 academic year!

I arrived in Zambia a few days before the academic year started and was stunned by the beauty and facilities on the Trident College campus. I met the new and existing academic staff during the in-service training days. Their warmth and willingness to work together to enhance the academic offering here have been overwhelming. I am starting to get to know the students, and my first impressions are that they are polite, energetic and eager to learn. I have also been told that Trident College has a very supportive parent body, and I look forward to meeting you.

I apologise for the timetable confusion over the last few weeks. Unfortunately, I did not have time to rectify the timetable issues before the start of the academic year, so we were running on a patched timetable for the first two weeks. We now have a functioning timetable, which will be fully loaded on ISAMS shortly. Although it was not ideal, teaching and learning have been in full swing from 9:00 am on the first day of the year.

This year I will work closely with the Heads of Departments and teachers to revise and enrich the academic programme. The first thing we will be addressing is assessment. The focus will be quality assessment rather than quantity. We will be publishing an assessment planner at the start of each reporting cycle. Subjects may have a maximum of two formal assessments per cycle per year group. A Formal assessment is a summative assessment written by all the classes in a year group and will cover most of the content for that cycle. Smaller, class-specific formative assessments will not be reflected on the assessment planner. Once a formal assessment has been completed in a given subject, you will receive a comment on the parent portal providing feedback on how your child coped. These comments will replace the subject comments in academic reports. This feedback will generally happen within a week of the assessment, thus keeping you up to date with your child's progress, and either affirmation or support can be given timeously.

There are four reporting cycles this year, the 3rd and 4th cycles are slightly different depending on the year group.

Cycle	Date	Year Group	Structure
1	24 March	7 - 13	Marks and Tutor comments
2	30 June	7 - 13	Marks and Tutor Comments
3A	4 August	11 - 13	Full report reflecting on Mocks
3B	29 September	7 - 10	Marks and Tutor comments
4A	TBC	11 - 13	External examinations – results release date will be confirmed
4B	7 December	7 - 10	Full report reflecting the entire year's work

Your child will receive their assessment planner on Monday next week.



We will also conduct academic reviews regularly, discussing all students' progress and support strategies where required. Should your child be of concern, we will contact you. Please note that this is so that we can work together to help your child. It is not a punitive measure. We will also have Parent-Teacher-Student meetings at the end of each reporting cycle. The first of these will be on 5 April, and we will structure it so that there is an opportunity to meet in person or online for boarding parents.

I look forward to working with you to ensure your child has an excellent education that provides them with opportunities when they finish school and the skills to ensure they succeed.

Kind regards

Kate Cowling
Deputy Head: Academics