



# Brackenhurst Primary School

Newsletter 9/2019  
8 April 2019



Dear Parents,

## Quote for the Week:



## **WELCOME BACK**

Welcome back to all learners and staff. We hope you are all rested and ready for a new term.

## **MATTHEW DOWNS BLANKET DRIVE 2019**



Autumn 2019. I have always loved Autumn. I love to see the season changing in its array of colours.

Since 2016, Autumn however is a reminder of an impending heartbreak that I must face in the coming Winter. It is the anniversary of Matthew's passing.

Matthew passed away 9 June 2016 (16 days after his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday) from staphylococcus pneumonia. He was sick for 24 hours before he passed – no warnings for us – just heartbreak.

*Since he was little, but more so as he grew older, he always struggled with the fact that people could suffer. He always encouraged me to give money to the homeless people at the traffic lights and questioned God's goodness in allowing people to suffer so much. I wish I could just have the conversation with him again today, as we had many, but I would have the right answer for him this time....God uses people to extend His grace to those in need.*

In preparing for his funeral I was reminded that he was 'not a flowers' person and thought about how we best would honour his memory. As a family we decided to ask people to bring a blanket for the homeless ministry in our church instead of flowers. And so our Matthew Downs Blanket Drive was born. Every year, when Autumn arrives and my heart starts aching, just thinking about the anniversary of his death looming and how we would once again get through it in one piece, I am reminded about God's grace. God uses us and our drive to ease the pain for others suffering and piece by piece, so our heart too is put together again. There is something to be said about doing good to others that is healing for the soul. One other thing that these drives have taught me is that people are amazing, generous and compassionate.

This year as we go into this season again, as much as I wish I didn't have to go through this process again, God has shown that we are called to help the needy (Psalm 41:1 – "Blessed is he who considers the poor; The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.")

Who do we donate the blankets to:

LOTS (Life on the streets Ministry). They go onto the street on a Thursday evening to minister to the homeless – give a plate of food, a warm drink, a compassionate ear. LOTS has also extended their ministry to help these people get off the streets.

**<http://www.lotsalberton.co.za>**

We try to split the amount of donations between other charities too depending on the volumes received. A record of the number of blankets are kept, photos are taken to show the warmth that has been spread.

### **Record of previous drives**

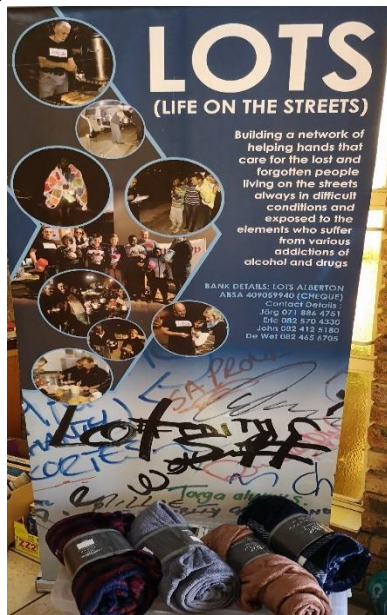
**2016:** 48 blankets in total which was given to LOTS

**2017 :** 125 blankets to the homeless, 102 to the aged and 119 blankets to vulnerable babies

**2018:** We collected blankets and warm winter clothes and shoes of different sizes. I had a register which was to record donations. I got to count and record over 100 blankets and then lost count. My storeroom was FULL of clothes, shoes, blankets. Because of the large amounts that I received daily, instead of holding onto the donations, we delivered them as we received them. We chose the following organisations to donate to:

- LOTS
- EPWORTH CHILDREN'S VILLAGE
- CHRISTWAYS RELIGIOUS CENTRE

**2019:** Our journey begins with our first donation of blankets.



### Mini Councillors



The Mini Councillors are collecting blanket squares so they can make blankets for the homeless and less fortunate.

Please can you bring all knitted blanket squares

(30cm by 30cm) to Mrs Simeonides in C40.

We will also be hosting knitting classes on 30 April and 7 May (14:15 – 15:30) for anyone who wants to learn to knit the squares. All are welcome. Just bring knitting needles, wool and an excited learning spirit.

This initiative is working hand in hand with the Matthew Downs Blanket drive.

### WINTER SCHOOL UNIFORM

Learners may now start wearing their winter school uniform. Learners may still wear the summer uniform until the end of April.

Please note that from the beginning of May it will be compulsory for all learners to wear their full (and correct) winter uniform.

Please also note that the proper FULL summer or winter uniform must be worn. If the PE uniform is worn, please ensure it is the COMPLETE PE uniform, not mixed with the normal uniform.

### MERIT MORNING

Please note that merit morning will be on Tuesday, 16 April 2019. Invitations will be sent out closer to the date.

### SCHOOL TERMS 2019

Term 2:	2 April – 14 June
Term 3:	9 July – 20 September
Term 4:	1 October – 4 December

### Public Holidays:

Friday 19 April 2019	Good Friday
Monday 22 April 2019	Family Day
Saturday 27 April 2019	Freedom Day
Wednesday 1 May 2019	Workers Day
Sunday 16 June 2019	Youth Day
Monday 17 June 2019	Public Holiday
Friday 9 August 2019	Women's Day
Tuesday 24 September 2019	Heritage Day

### SCHOOL TIMES

Please note the following school times:

Grade 1 – 2:	07:50 – 13:30 every day
Grade 3 – 7:	07:50 – 14:00 every day

### WE ARE STRUGGLING TO GET HOLD OF YOU!

### Parent Contact Information 2019

A letter and form was issued and was due back last term, please check all the details we have for you. If there are changes, please do so using the provided blocks.

If you have not returned the above form yet please do so immediately.

In future, **PLEASE** advise the school of any changes to any of your contact details.

### SCHOOL FEE EXEMPTIONS – 2019

Applications for 2019 school fee Exemptions are **NOW** open. Please note application forms may be collected and signed for by one of the parents or official guardians of the child, at reception. (Application forms will **not** be handed to the children). Please read information and instructions attached to the application very carefully. Exemption applications will not be considered without **ALL** requested documentation. The onus is on the applicant to ensure all required information is submitted.

Please continue to make regular monthly payments towards school fees pending a decision on your

Exemption application, as you may not qualify for 100% and will be liable for payment of the remaining fees.

Closing date for applications will be **the end of April 2019**. Should you have any queries, please contact Mrs L Joubert on (011) 900 1000.

#### **E-LEARNING LEVY**

E-Learning Levy for Grades 4 – 7 is ***R350,00***. Please make payment for this levy as soon as possible. If we do not receive this levy, we will not be able to load the software onto your child's tablet and they will continue working from hard copy text books.

An annual levy of ***R250,00*** per child for learners Grade 1 – 3 will be paid as soon as possible. This will cover the cost of the trolley solution with tablets we have purchased for our Foundation Phase learners.

All new parents please note that the **e-levy is included in the enrolment fee which would have been paid when you enrolled**. **The INITIAL e-levy amount payable is R450 for all new applications (regardless of the grade) so parents need not pay an additional R250 for Foundation phase and R350 for Intersen and senior phase.**

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

**IF YOU PAY THE R350,00 (INTERSEN PHASE) OR R250,00 (FOUNDATION PHASE) VIA EFT, REFERENCE TO BE USED IS YOUR CHILD'S NAME AND SURNAME AND E-LEVY. DO NOT PAY THIS AMOUNT WITH YOUR SCHOOL FEES. IT MUST BE A SEPARATE PAYMENT. IF YOU PUT THE PAYMENT THROUGH WITH SCHOOL FEES IT WILL NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO E-LEVY.**

#### **INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARD LEVY**

A levy of R100,00 per child per year is payable for the **maintenance** of interactive whiteboards during the course of 2019.

Please send the money as soon as possible in a clearly marked envelope **"WHITEBOARD LEVY"** and your child's name and hand it in to your child's register teacher. **PLEASE DO NOT DO AN EFT FOR THE WHITEBOARD LEVY.**

#### **EARPHONES / HEADPHONES**

Parents and learners to please note that earphones / headphones are actually not officially allowed at school and we do not take any responsibility for

these items. If they are brought to school, learners must ensure to keep them safely themselves. Some teachers may request for these items to be used, however, the school cannot be held responsible if these items go missing and/or are broken or damaged in any way.

#### **ACADEMIC**

#### **CYCLE DAYS – TERM 2 (APRIL):**

<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>
7	Monday, 8 April
1	Tuesday, 9 April
2	Wednesday, 10 April
3	Thursday, 11 April
4	Friday, 12 April
5	Monday, 15 April
6	Tuesday, 16 April
7	Wednesday, 17 April
1	Thursday, 18 April
<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY – GOOD FRIDAY</b>	Friday, 19 April
<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY – FAMILY DAY</b>	Monday, 22 April
2	Tuesday, 23 April
3	Wednesday, 24 April
4	Thursday, 25 April
5	Friday, 26 April
6	Monday, 29 April
7	Tuesday, 30 April

#### **EXAM DATES**

Exam dates will be finalised and sent out in the next newsletter.

#### **CULTURAL**

Please note the practise times for the following cultural activities:

**Mondays:** Marimba, 14:15 – 15:15

**Tuesdays:** Snr Choir, 14:15 – 15:45  
Gumboot, 15:30 – 16:30

**Wednesdays:** Jnr Choir, 14:00 – 15:00  
Drumming, 14:15 – 15:15

**Thursdays:** Gumboot, 15:30 – 16:30  
Jnr African Dancers, 14:30 – 15:30

## SPORTS

### Tennis



Free Tennis takes place on Mondays. For more information contact Coach Rudolph on 064 525 1665.



### Netball

Netball has begun.

Practice days are as follows:

u/7: Tuesdays and Thursdays 13h30 – 14h30

u/8: Mondays and Thursdays 13h30 – 14h30

u/9: Mondays and Tuesdays 14h15 – 15h15

u/10: Tuesdays and Thursdays 14h30 – 15h30

u/11: Mondays and Tuesdays 14h30 – 16h00

u/12: Tuesdays and Thursdays 14h30 – 15h30

u/13: Mondays and Fridays 14h30 -16h00

### Soccer

Soccer has begun.

Practice days are as follows:

u/7: Mondays and Thursdays 13h30 – 14h30

u/8: Tuesdays and Thursdays 13h30 – 14h30

u/9: Tuesdays and Thursdays 14h30 – 15h30

u/10: Tuesdays and Thursdays 14h30 – 15h30

u/11: Mondays and Wednesdays 14h30 – 15h30

u/12: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 14h30 – 15h30

u/13: Tuesdays and Thursdays 14h30 -16h00

u/14: Tuesdays and Thursdays 14h30 -16h00

### Chess

Practices are held as follows:

Mondays Gr 3 – 7 from 14:15 to 15:00

Tuesdays Gr 1 – 2 from 13:45 to 14:30

Gr 3 – 7 from 14:30 to 15:30

Wednesdays Gr 1 – 2 from 13:45 to 14:30

Thursdays Gr 3 – 7 from 14:15 to 15:00

### House Shirts

**Please contact Alice Lombard on 083 397 5705** for any orders/queries regarding House T-Shirts.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Only the house T-shirt may be worn on Fridays, together with jeans/ PE shorts. NO OTHER SHIRTS WILL BE ALLOWED.

The cost of the shirts is as follows:

Children's Shirts: R75,00

Adult's Shirts: R90,00

The division for the houses is according to the month in which you were born:

**MARS (Red):** January, February, March, April

**JUPITER (Yellow):** May, June, July, August

**VENUS (Blue):** September, October, November, December

## PE Uniform

See advertisement at the end of this newsletter. Brackenhurst Primary sport kits are also on sale at the Sports Office **every Wednesday morning 07:00-07:45**

Learners may also to buy the uniform any day during their breaks.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Term 2 collection:

#### Coins

Thank you to every person who donated coins for the Moebius Syndrome/Smile Foundation. We raised R5540,00 on the civvies' day and we are still totalling the coins but it should bring us up to approximately R7000,00. What a roaring success!

#### Coin Collection Term 2

This term, we are collecting for St. Mary's orphanage. Please send spare change and if possible, try to send a total of R10 during the term. Thank you! It all adds up!

Juniors to please send to Miss Tambellini and seniors to Miss Palm. Grade 6P, 4P and Gr 7s may help Miss Palm to separate coins on Mondays after school for half an hour. Thank you to all learners and teachers and Aunty Sheena for counting all the coins!

#### Easter Raffle

Well done to Brandon Kitching who won the stunning hamper!

Thanks again to Trennon Welthagen and family for donating the hamper. We raised nearly R8000,00 and we were aiming for R7500,00 to pay for a chemo port for one child who is fighting cancer.

#### Hoërskool Driehoek

Thank you for contributing to the civvies' day. We raised R6535,00 for the school who suffered such a terrible tragedy.

#### Hidden Treasures

Thank you for the HUGE amount donated to the shop. Thanks to all of our Gr 6+7 volunteers who worked during their holiday. Please see all the names on the school Dojo story. Please send all + any second-hand donations to Mr Mostert e.g. Toys, clothes, appliances, books, gadgets, bedding, cutlery, crockery, CDs, DVDs, etc. All the proceeds go towards feeding orphans.

### Care Pack Civvies

Wow! What a huge amount of toiletries we collected! Half were given to Epworth Village for children and the other half to LOTS (Life on the streets – Alberton Methodist Church). Thank you so much! We also gave packs to some of our BPS learners.

### Easter TLC Visit

Please send any last Easter eggs by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April. Thank you for all of the eggs received so far. We've had an egg-cellent response!

### Bread tags and bottle tops for wheelchairs

Thank you for this year's donations! We have done well and are working towards our next wheelchair for a needy recipient. Please send to Mr Mostert.

### SPCA

Please assist us with collecting newspapers, blankets, pet food (wet or dry), soft leads and collars (no chains please), pet toys, food and water bowls. These items are to go to Mrs. Robinson (G31). These donations will then be dropped off at the Alberton SPCA.

Your contributions will go a long way and is so appreciated.

### NEWSLETTER AND SCHOOL COMMUNICATOR

We will only send out hard copies of the newsletter to parents who have submitted a written request to the register teacher. The newsletter is available via the D6 Communicator app and can also be downloaded from the website, [www.brackenprim.co.za](http://www.brackenprim.co.za). The newsletter will also be downloaded on the children's tablets.

### PLEASE MAKE USE OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNICATOR

The school's newsletter is published every Monday during the school term. Then newsletter can be accessed via the following:

- 1) Your child's tablet (Grades 4 – 7). The newsletter can be downloaded onto their device on a weekly basis.
- 2) The School's website: [www.brackenprim.co.za/newsletter-archive](http://www.brackenprim.co.za/newsletter-archive).
- 3) The communicator app for PC or Laptop – download the software from [www.d6.co.za/education/downloads](http://www.d6.co.za/education/downloads).
- 4) The communicator app for your Smartphone – download the D6 communicator app from your mobile app store.

This is a software programme that will ensure reliable and up to date communication with you, the

parent/guardian. This programme is simple and easy to use and can be installed on your home and/or work computer/s and/or smartphone. This will allow us to keep you up to date on a daily basis as to what is happening at school.

Should you have any queries, please contact Mr Fabel or Mrs Roets on (011) 900 1000.

### GENERAL

### Tuck Shop

Attached to the newsletter is the full Tuckshop Menu.

### 'HELP-U' ADVERTISER

The 'Help-U' advertiser is published once a month at the end of the month. The cost of a business card size ad is R50,00 monthly. If you would like to advertise in the 'Help-U' Advertiser, please forward your details together with the money to Colette Kruger at the school office. No pictures – just wording.

### PARENTS' CORNER



**"BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL"  
COPING WITH SCHOOL REFUSAL**

### What is School Refusal?

#### What it looks like

Day after day your child complains of headaches before school. She stays home and feels fine by lunch. Yet the next school morning, the symptoms are back. Your child expresses extreme fear, tantrums, and refuses to go to school.

These may be signs of "school refusal." It is more serious than just a slow-to-warm child who hesitates to leave you in the morning.

#### How often and when it occurs

According to Wanda Fremont, M.D. writing in *American Family Physician*, **1% to 5% of all children experience school refusal at some point in their school career.** School refusal should be dealt with early, since it can have long-term effects on children's educational, emotional, and social development.

School refusal is most common when a child first enters elementary school or during the transition to middle school – times of big adjustments. It can be associated with trauma or change at home; for

example: moving, divorce, or a new baby. It is often accompanied by anxiety and/or depression.

### How it differs from truancy

School refusal differs from truancy.

- With **school refusal**, children want to stay in the perceived safe environment of home with their parents. Children are usually willing to do their school work – just at home.
- With **truancy**, children do not want to stay home, they often do not do their school work, and delinquent behaviour is frequently present.

### What is a Parent to Do?

#### Work with your child

- **Listen to your child** – Help him to put words to his feelings. He needs to express his emotions in a supportive, non-judgmental environment. Reflect back what you think your child is saying. "It sounds like you feel afraid about getting on the school bus."
- **Ask questions** – and really listen to the answers. Gentle open-ended questions are best. "Do you like your teacher?" may seem like a reasonable question, but it forces the child to focus on the teacher, who may not be the problem. Instead, statements such as "If you feel like sharing, I'd love to hear what you think about school" might get your child to open up about what is bothering her. The more she talks, the clearer she may become about the problem.
- **Believe your child's feelings** – Since children, especially young children, may find it hard to put their feelings into words, it can be tough to believe them. When your child is continually feeling sick and you have ruled out medical reasons, you may think he is "faking it." But, it doesn't matter if the stomach ache is in his stomach or "all in his head." Your child is clearly feeling something – and that something hurts! Your child needs to know you believe in him and will work with him to solve this problem.
- **Empower your child** – Give your child as much control over the situation as possible. Ask her for ideas of what might help. Discuss strategies she can use at school if she becomes anxious or homesick.
- **Teach your child deep breathing** – This is calming. It is harder to focus on something negative when you are focusing on breathing.

#### Seek outside help

- **Get a thorough medical exam** – Rule out any possible physical conditions that could be causing or affecting your child's behavior.

- **Talk to your child's teacher and/or guidance counselor** – Build a partnership with school personnel to address the issue. They can give you feedback on things happening at school that might influence the problem, such as bullying or challenges with class work. Together you can come up with a plan to help your child feel more comfortable in school and help integrate him back into the classroom.
- **Consider family counselling** – especially if there are issues or big changes within the family.

#### Create a home environment that promotes attendance

- **Make sure your child has enough sleep and a good breakfast** – Dragging through the day tired and/or hungry could make anyone want to stay home.
- **Establish a morning schedule** – A predictable morning routine can take away some of the tension. It lets your child know what is expected and when. "According to the schedule, you should now be dressed and heading down for breakfast" sounds kinder than "Get dressed now." Doing this routine with your child can give you more time together.
- Dawdling, dealing with stomach aches, or temper tantrums all take time, so **build extra time in to the schedule** to lessen some of the pressure. If your child is ready early, he can spend the extra time on a fun activity which you find acceptable.

#### Change your behaviour

- **Make sure being at home is not more fun** than being at school. Why would any child want to go to school if she is having fun at home?
- **Believe your child can get over the problem** – If you don't believe this, neither will your child.
- **Model** – Watch your own habits to see if your child is reacting to your fears or nervousness.
- **Pay attention to the behaviours you want to see more of** – Attention can be a great motivator. Unfortunately, children also consider negative attention to be rewarding. They may act out if they feel they are not getting enough positive attention (justified or not). If possible, ignore negative behaviour. If not, deal with negative actions as quickly and impersonally as possible. Save your emotional responses for "the good stuff."
- **Start small** – If your child has been absent a lot, you probably need to gradually re-introduce her to school, beginning with the part that is least objectionable and building out from there.

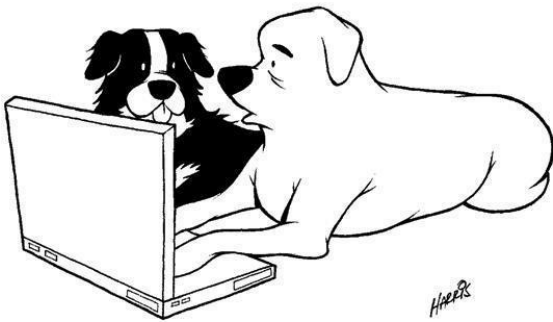
- **Get your child back to school** as soon as possible – Most experts agree that keeping a child home makes things worse.

**Be Hopeful**

When your child is continually refusing to attend school, it may seem like there is no solution in sight. But with the ideas above and maybe some outside help, you can get your child back to school.

*By Karen Eble, Certified Parenting Educator*

**And FINALLY...**



*“And then I just hit delete. I haven’t actually eaten any homework for years.”*

Perfect has 7 letters  
and so does meeeeeee  
....Coincidence?  
I think not.

**Regards,**

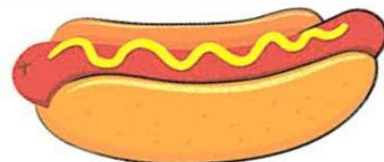
**MRS C SING  
ACTING PRINCIPAL**

# TUCKSHOP MENU

## FOOD

Weekly Menu - Lunch of the day		
<b>Monday</b>	Toasted Ham & Cheese	R15
<b>Tuesday</b>	Cheese Griller Dog	R15
<b>Wednesday</b>	Toasted Cheese	R14
<b>Thursday</b>	Hotdog	R14
<b>Friday</b>	Pie of your choice as follows: <i>(Pepper Steak / Chicken / Steak &amp; Kidney / Cornish / Sausage Roll, Cheese &amp; Onion)</i>	R17
<b>Friday Combo Deal: Pie + Small Kingsley Cool drink + Packet of Sweets</b>		R30

Toasted Sandwiches		Breakfast Only (Served from 06:30)	
Cheese	R14	Toast & Jam	R6
Cheese & Tomato	R15	Toasted Bacon, Egg & Cheese	R23
Ham & Cheese	R18	Hot Cross Buns with Margarine	R6
<b>Ham, Cheese &amp; Tomato</b>		<b>Every Day</b>	
Bacon & Cheese	R20	Hot Dog	R14
Chicken Mayo & Bacon	R22	Cheese Griller Dog	R15
Chicken Mayo & Cheese	R22	Pie of Your Choice	R17
<b>Chicken Mayo</b>		<b>2nd Break Only</b>	
Biltong & Cheese	R22	Russian & Chips	R27
Bacon, Cheese, Onion & BBQ Sauce	R22	Slap Chips	R15
<b>Wraps</b>		Russian & Chip Roll	R16
Chicken Wrap	R26	<b>Snacks – All Day</b>	
Chicken & Feta Wrap	R28	Muffin	R8
Salad Wrap	R18	X-Large Biscuit	R8
Biltong & Feta Wrap	R30	Yoghurt	R5
<b>Salads</b>		Biltong Wheel	R9
Chicken & Feta	R28	Biltong Stick	R5
Basic Salad	R18		
Biltong & Feta	R30		



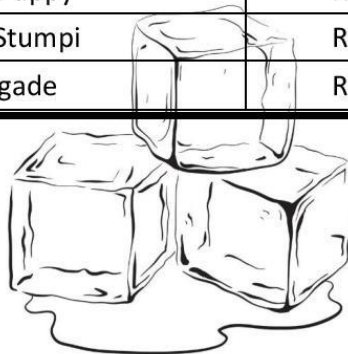


# TUCKSHOP MENU

## BEVERAGES



Warm Drinks 250ml	
Coffee	R12
Tea	R12
Hot Chocolate	R15
Cappuccino	R15
Cold drinks	
Buddies	R15
Flavoured Water	R14
Still Water 650ml	R10
Small Milk	R10
Flavoured Milk	R12
Milo Box	R12
Fruit Juices	R8
Kingsley Drinks – Large	R10
Kingsley Drinks – Small	R8
Vitamin Water	R14
Isorade	R14
Iced Tea	R14
Frutesca Shakes	R14
Slush Puppy	R15
Sterri Stumpi	R16
Energade	R15

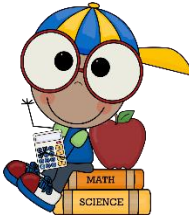


# UNIFORM SHOP OPEN

## PE UNIFORM



PE SHIRTS (RED)	R160
SKORT	R160
SHORTS	R140
TRACKSUITS	R380 - 400
CAPS	R50
BEANIES	R60
BPS SPORTING KIT	



ON SALE AT THE SPORTS OFFICE. ON SALE EVERY

**Wednesday morning 07h00 - 07h30**

LEARNERS: ARE WELCOME TO BUY ANYTIME DURING THE  
SCHOOL DAY (BREAKS)

***TRACKSUITS WILL BE  
AVAILABLE FROM THE END OF  
FEBRUARY***

*NO WAITING PERIOD... tracksuits are available from the sports office size 20 – 30 R380 - size  
32 – 38 R400.*