

Welcome back, everyone! I trust that you had a good break and spent some special time with family and friends.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Mr Andrew Graaf has been appointed as the twelfth Principal of Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School, and to welcome him to our school community. Our staff and newly-elected Governing Body were introduced to Mr Graaf early this morning by Mrs Dlamini, our Circuit Manager. He will join us from 13th April, and we are delighted to have a person of such passion and dedication to education in South Africa assuming this role. Mr Graaf comes to us with the insight and wisdom gained from extensive experience as the Principal of both Alexandra High School from 2008-2015 and, most recently, Northlands Girls' High School from 2016. He is thrilled with the opportunity to lead our school and return to his home town. Please take the time to get to know more about Andrew Graaf by reading the brief biography on the D6.

Many of our girls took part in school-related activities throughout the holiday and we will fill you in on the details shortly via the D6.

Estate upgrades planned for this term include asphaltting the Alexandra Road car park, both inside and outside of the property. Obviously this is going to be a very costly business, and will cause some inconvenience during the process, but it is an absolutely necessary project at this stage. In addition, booms will be installed in the Topham Road car park to restrict access to the area with the staff parking bays. The upgrade of that car park will take place later in the year, if all goes to plan. Hadedawing in the BE will be ready for use very soon, and the conversion of the large art/sculpture studio into a combined practical and theory teaching venue should be complete by the end of the term.

Our annual Peer Counsellor Awareness Week will run next week with a theme which will focus on non-discrimination in our society. The RCL Leadership camp from 20-22 April serves as a vital bonding session as the team gets down to work in earnest this term.

On the cultural scene, we look forward to the joint production of Guys 'n Dolls with Maritzburg College, and FUNK in May. Our Wind Band and choirs will perform at various functions and events, and GHS will host the ATKV Regional Choir Competition as well as the ABRSM music exams.

A reminder that the Language Paper 3 exams will take place on 26 April followed directly by a long weekend until 2 May. Midyear exams are scheduled to begin on 31 May and run until the last week of term. We will make the exam timetable available as soon as possible. The full range of academic remedial and extension programmes will run throughout the term so please encourage your daughters to make use of these services.

Finally, I would like to thank the GHS family for their warm support and encouragement during my tenure as the Acting Principal since 1 February 2017. I wish you all a positive and productive term as we continue to #ExpectTheBest.

**Catherine Trodd**  
**Deputy Principal**