



**PARKTOWN BOYS'**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**



Dear Parktown Family

**Message from the Headmaster – 19 February 2021**

What an incredible week it has been in welcoming all our boys on Monday and sharing in the excitement of getting back to class and reuniting with friends after a long two-month break.

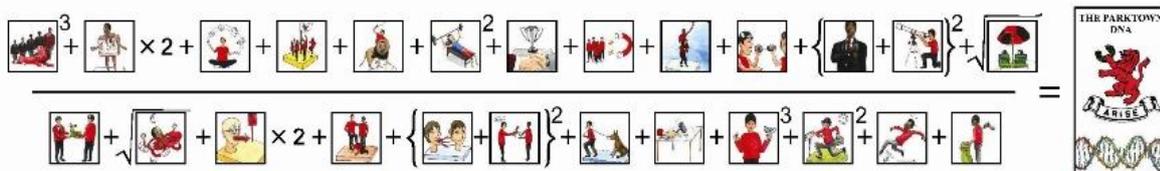
On Monday we started our Grade 8 orientation programme which culminated in our first ever Induction Ceremony on Wednesday where they boys received their blazers from their House Tutor and Head of House as official Parktonians. Another new tradition was started in the boarding house where a special bell ringing ceremony was conducted for the Grade 12s and 8s to ring the Safety Bell for the first time in the presence of the whole boarding house and their parents. The ringing of the bell symbolises a stand against bullying and all forms of physical or verbal abuse. I found it a very powerful moment and one which resonates far beyond the boundaries of the boarding house.

As a school community we will continue to take a strong stance against any forms of discrimination and abuse, and we remind everyone of their role in ensuring a safe school environment. Our school is built on the values of mutual respect and a brotherhood that is nurturing and protective of those in our care. Please remember to use the established platforms within the school to ensure we remain progressive and relevant in these areas.



A reminder that the Guardian App is available for reporting any issues that may come up in the school that are experienced by yourself or to assist someone else – just a reminder that this is a completely anonymous service.

Please download the free app via the Play Store on Android or via the App Store on iPhone.







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## Screening

Your son received a Personal Screening Record sheet on his first day at school. This sheet covers the whole first term and it is imperative that he does not lose it and keeps this sheet updated, honestly, daily with all of the relevant data required.

We may, at any time request to view and audit this sheet as per Covid-19 regulations. This sheet also serves as a personal record of his health, should he need to visit a medical professional, this would also assist them in tracking his symptoms.

## Boarding

A reminder to boarding parents whose sons are attending either Master Maths or Master Science that they are required to return the consent form to the boarding house this Sunday. No boys will be allowed to leave the school campus without having returned this documentation.

All Grade 8 – 11 boarders returning on Sunday are to ensure that they are in full school uniform.

Boys staying in boarding over the weekend are not allowed to leave the premises unless it is an event or excursion arranged by boarding staff.

## Culture

There is currently a questionnaire being completed by staff and boys involved in culture. We would like to encourage parents to be involved in the survey. If you are interested in participating, please ask your son to collect a form from Mr Bell or to request a digital copy from him directly – [bellg@parktownboys.com](mailto:bellg@parktownboys.com).

## New beginnings

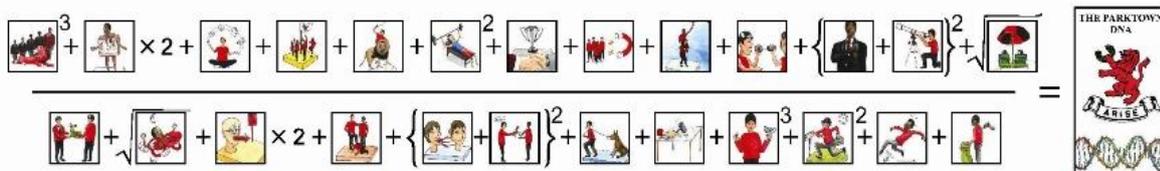
As with all the new boys who started school this week it is important to submerge yourself into what the school has to offer, and this includes us as staff. One new teacher who is excited to get involved and be an active member of the Parktown Community is our new Senior English and Geography educator **Mr David Grace**. Mr Grace is the first to be featured in this segment that will run in the weeks ahead detailing the new experiences of boys and staff to our community.

Education: BA (Hons), PGCE

Goals: To become a great school master, HOD and head of grade.

Achievements: I did charity work for a year in London.

Interesting fact: As a coach, I have not lost a competitive hockey game in over 4 years and have conceded less than 20 goals in that time.





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“True self-discovery begins where your comfort zone ends.” - Adam Braun. Being the ‘new’ teacher at a school is never easy. I have, however, felt incredibly comfortable in my first week at Parktown and have found the staff and boys very friendly and welcoming. With every “good morning sir” and unmistakable shuffle between classes, I feel more and more at home. Even though it has only been a week, I can already see myself going from two buttons to one.

## Old Boys News

It was great to catch up with **Garreth Robertson** (2008) this past week – Garreth was a Head of House, Captain of Rowing and achieved Full Colours in both Grade 11 and 12. Below is an extract from Garreth highlighting what he has been up to since he matriculated.

‘After completing my degree in Mechanical Engineering at WITS, I entered the military sector designing, building, testing and manufacturing armoured Ambulances, Personnel Carriers and Transport vehicles for the UAE.

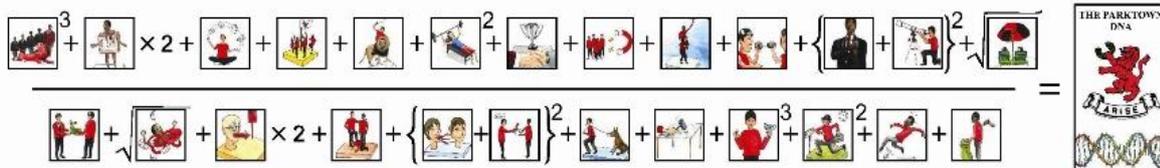
From here I jumped at an opportunity to get into the OEM sector working for ISUZU Motors in SA. This role involved doing all the design and simulation for modifications to ISUZU Trucks around the country. This ranged from stress testing, to performance testing as well as failure analysis on broken vehicles. I got to travel quite a bit and saw some stunning places around Southern Africa.

Moving from there I took a position at Daimler (Mercedes-Benz) in East London as a Component Engineer dealing with the Chassis and Powertrain on the C-Class. This plant produced 523 vehicles a day, so that is a new C-Class every +-2min. Here the job was to present and explain engineering changes from Development in Germany and help introduce them in the Plant. After helping coordinate prototype builds, we then tested all our components on drives around the country and internal test tracks.



Over the last year I have been living in Berlin in Germany. I spent the time, designing and rapid prototyping parts for a start-up involved in the Autonomous Driving sector. This involved a lot of mechanical chassis design as well as 3D surfacing in CAD and 3D printing test parts and final parts for production.

The most recent news is starting as a Senior Design Engineer at Tesla in the Gigafactory in Berlin. Here we plan on producing a Model Y every 45 seconds. As I'm sure everyone has heard, it's a great company to get into and I eagerly await what the future holds.





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Aside from all of this, the hobbies have changed a bit over the years, I still plan to build another Lotus 7 roadster but need to find the time. I recently managed to find a rowing club in Berlin, and it's been good to be

back in the 8+ and laying down the miles on the water. No erg tests which is a relief, as some of the boys know, they aren't a great way to start a day.

For those looking to get into the Automotive Engineering sector, I wish you all the best, as you can see sometimes the road is tough, but the rewards will come.

If anyone has any questions or just wants to reach out, they are more than welcome to, and I'll help where I can.

All the best your side and may you, the family and the school have a successful year ahead.

Arise'

**Garreth Robertson (2008)**

Snr Design Engineer

BSc Mech Eng.

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If you missed the *Welcome Back* video and *Message from Headmaster*, you can find them on the links below:

1. [Welcome Back to Parktown](#)
2. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=4325045870846138>

*Thank you to Philip Schedler for filming and producing these latest videos at the school.*

Please continue to send any comments or suggestions to [headmaster@parktownboys.com](mailto:headmaster@parktownboys.com).

**ARISE**

Yours sincerely

Mr Kevin Stippel  
Headmaster (Acting)

