**Excel High School**

**Dear Parents**

The main purpose of this letter is to introduce an exciting new initiative that was first suggested at a Parent Body meeting in 2024. Our learners need to become aware of the fact that they are part of the community around them and should also be part of solutions that address needs in the community.

Excel High wishes to raise awareness in our learners and to facilitate volunteering among our learners. Many learners have already shown interest in this project and came up with the term ‘Outreach’ to describe their involvement with existing incentives to improve the lives of many people in our community.

Our initial intention was to allocate a specific Outreach to each grade. However, it has subsequently been decided to integrate the Outreaches across the grades, as this would result in a better mixture of abilities and interests. A senior teacher has been put in charge of each of the Outreaches, and gathering points for arrangements have been identified, as follows:

Animal sanctuary Mr Wessels Room 39

Children’s hospital Ms Kamies Drama Room

Old age home Ms Skweyiya Room 23

Beach clean-up Mr Abrahams Room 18

Cricket clinic Mr Price Woodwork Room

# Two Outreaches

More information about the other Outreaches will follow soon, but we can give you the following about some of the Outreaches:

## Old age home

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ur senior citizens should not be neglected. **Sunshine Frail Care Centre** is one of our registered charities that is worthy of our support and outreach. We remember that the founding principal of our school spent some time there after her retirement, and the links forged with this association have continued down the years.

Mrs Witherspoon has unreservedly opened her doors to us once more, and is looking forward to whatever cheer and ‘odds and ends’ we may bring. At the top of her list is the contact between our learners and the older people living in this centre. She has also given us a list of desirable donations for this year:

Woollen garments

Non-perishable foodstuffs

Large-print books

Magazines and periodicals

Toiletries (soap, towels, etc.)

## Beach clean-up

The idea of performing a beach clean-up is not a new one, but over the years it has (sadly) become a very necessary one. The negative consequences for our city, if such an operation is not performed regularly, are significant and do not require spelling out. The local municipal services simply do not have the manpower or the time to perform this vital function, so they are only too pleased to ‘farm it out’ to other willing institutions like us.

As popular and ‘fun’ as this Outreach is, the requirements for coming on it are pretty strict, as the school has a responsibility towards our students and wish to ensure that the safety and health of our learners should be protected at all times.

*The following eight rules for the Beach Clean-up are critical:*

Hats MUST be worn at all times.

The generous use of sunscreen is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

Students MUST wear gloves to pick up trash.

Bring a bottle of water to stay hydrated.

NO swimming gear may be worn.

NO swimming is allowed.

Remain in groups of at least THREE.

Listen to your PREFECT LEADER.

# Administration

## Transport

We have arranged with ABC Tours for five medium-size buses, which will be used to transport learners to the various destinations. This will be the preferred mode of transport, as we will have a greater deal of control over the times of arrival and departure, and it will relieve congestion on the roads.

## Lunch

Because the learners will be out – and in most cases, physically active – for most of the day, it is imperative that a square meal of sorts be provided. The hostel kitchen has made this easier for us, by putting together a choice of three different meal types, all competitively priced, and designed to cater for different dietary requirements.

## Wrapping up

A great deal of effort has already gone into the planning of this event. We at Excel High are confident that it will be a resounding success. The hope has already been expressed in several quarters that there will be a ‘repeat performance’ next year. So we grow from year to year, exploring new avenues of learning and teaching, and ever mindful of our responsibility to ‘give back’ to the community – and to the world at large – what we have received in trust.

My personal thanks, and best wishes, to everyone involved in our **Community Outreach**.

X  
(Signed)

**Principal: Excel High School**