



SUTHERLAND HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parent / Guardian

School of Leadership Information Letter 2023

The Sutherland School of Leadership is responsible for providing our learners with methods for developing a rock-solid character, building authentic relationships, and growing leadership qualities and skills to lead now and in the future. We do this by running an extensive 5-year leadership programme that is grounded on the values of Respect, Integrity, Accountability, Service, Perseverance and Pride. The learners are exposed to environments where their perspectives are challenged, teamwork is encouraged and problem-solving is the end goal. We believe that Leadership develops daily, and not in a day, as our structures are so that learners can achieve continuity and maintain consistency in their journey. Learners who are a part of this programme are expected to complete our academies (leadership courses), attend various camps which includes Desert Walks, Various Hikes as well as Outreach Projects.

Desert Walk Camps

These events are focussed on physical strengths and endurance which also serves to foster a positive energy within the respective grades. We believe that nothing grows in a comfort zone, therefore learners will be pushed outside of their comfort zones which will lead to a positive change and personal growth for each learner.

The Grade 8 and 9 Desert Walk participants are nominated by the staff as being the most influential and active members of their grade. The Gr10 Desert Walk participants are selected by their peers and as per their involvement in the school. The Grade 11 Desert Walk focuses extensively on creating and developing the leadership skills of our learners, functioning as a team, and instilling the “heart” of a leader. Learners sign up for this Camp and are selected through a process that reflects their interest in our school. The Grade 12 Desert Walk is the ultimate event that any pupil can experience in Sutherland High School. This event represents the final hiking experience in our programme. It takes place in the Royal Natal National Park and stretches over eighty kilometres that we hike in four days.

Hikes

Various hikes around South Africa are organised to develop a sense of appreciation for the world we live in and to use nature as a canvas to teach us life lessons such as endurance, patience and to journey towards a goal. Our learners can participate in any of the following hikes: The Mahai Hike, Magoebaskloof Hike, Fanie Botha Hike, Cliffdweller Hike, and the Magaliesberg Hike. The President’s Gold Award Hike takes place over six days in the Drakensberg Mountains, and it is the most challenging of all the hikes.

All correspondence must be addressed to The Principal
“AIM FOR EXCELLENCE”





Solitaire weekend

The Solitaire Weekend is a mentally tough event where our pupils spend 40 hours in solitude. It is a fantastic event, as it really gives learners the opportunity to do soul-searching, reflection as well as set goals for life. Although alone, your child will be visited by staff members on various occasions throughout, where they are guided through the process. In addition to this being a Red Blazer event, we believe it to be the event that every person ought to experience.

Academies

As part of our commitment to the development of the students' leadership skills, the School of Leadership runs an extensive academy programme facilitated by the staff of Sutherland High School. These academies have shown to be effective in equipping our learners with the necessary theory to successfully complete their Red Blazer journey and to be effective leaders in our school. The academies currently on offer are Self-defence, Project Management, Leadership Management, Emergency Reaction, Hiking and Camping and Speechmasters academy. We are extremely excited to be introducing the following new academies in Term 3: Media Mastery, Introduction to Coding and Robotics and Study Methods academies (details to follow soon).

Outreach and community service

A fundamental part of our Leadership development programme are the outreach programmes that allows our pupils the opportunity to exercise their skills and to make a difference in the world around us. The Belfast Community Outreach is a major residential project that takes place at Belfast serving schools, children's homes, and old age homes. We also engage in community service and outreach in our area, having partnered with Mooiplaas children's home and Leamogetswe Safety Home in Atteridgeville.

The President's Award Programme

The President's Award for Youth Empowerment delivers the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in South Africa. It is an exciting personal challenge for young people between the ages of 14 and 24 years old. It started in the United Kingdom in 1956 and was first available in South Africa in 1983. It equips young people for life regardless of their background, culture, physical ability, skills, and interests. Doing this Award is a personal challenge and not a competition against others; it pushes young people to their limits and recognises their achievements. Learners who qualify for the Red Blazer (Cum-Laude Honours in Leadership), can register, and achieve the President's Award.

Leadership training & workshops

Leaders in our school also get to attend workshops that are designed to equip them with skills for their roles and duties in our school. This is done through hosting regular leadership training programmes like the Prefect Camp, Mentor training, RCL training and a Captains Workshop.





Grade 10 camp

This camp is intended for the entire grade and is a camp where all pupils develop their leadership skills. We send the boys and the girls to different venues where our programme will be presented accordingly. The learners will go to an adventure camp where they will have numerous fun activities as part of the physical component of their programme, partaking in activities aimed at building morale within the grade. Sessions will focus on leadership, dealing with emotional wounds, relationships, identity, manners, and etiquette. During this camp we provide extensive Junior Prefect and Mentorship training, it is therefore recommended for all pupils aspiring to be in Leadership positions in Grade 11 and 12, to attend this camp.

Fees requirements

Although we, as a school, strongly believe that a parent's financial position may not and should not disadvantage a child's right to education and / or participation in any way, we do however request that school fee payments (as per legislation) are made as per usual, to ensure that your child continues to receive the standard of education he / she deserves. The programme offered by the Sutherland School of Leadership falls outside the normal extra-curricular offering of our school and does carry extra costs.

Together we are building our future, and as a school we are excitedly looking forward to the results of our programme. For more information on upcoming events and the School of Leadership calendar, parents and learners can visit the Sutherland website at <https://www.sutherlandhs.co.za> , go to the Leadership tab for more information.

Yours faithfully

Mr A. Magagula
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Mr P. Stone
PRINCIPAL

