



Woodlands International College

Junior College Newsletter

28 June 2019

Dear Woodlands Family,

Choosing a school for your child has to be one of the most difficult decisions a parent has to make. If you are fortunate enough to be financially able to include private schools in your bouquet of possible schools, then you have additional factors to think about. What are the main questions we ask ourselves as parents (I have three children, so I have asked myself all of these questions) regarding possible schools? I'm a psychologist, so I guess I would probably first ask:

1. Will my child be happy and fit into a particular school environment?
2. Is the academic programme of the school truly adequate, and will my child ultimately (at the end of matric) receive the best possible platform for his/her future?
3. Is there a sporting structure which will cater for my child's needs? Do they offer appropriate sports? Are these sports at a social and/or competitive level?
4. Will my child find a cultural activity which will stimulate him/her? Will my child be exposed to new activities, possibly activities which I wasn't exposed to at school?

All of these questions are valid and you should have considered these ideas when choosing a school. However, it is never too late. I welcome questions about all four areas of our College. I am continually looking at our offering with a critical eye. Do we do enough? Are we competitive with our neighbours, and even competitive with schools further afield? I want Woodlands to be a top school, not just another private school. I never want to field a question where a person might ask "Did you say your school is called Woodfields?" I want everybody to know exactly who we are! We are Woodlands College in Boksburg (by the way, I'm also proud to be from Boksburg...).

So, if we address the Academic programme first, how can we say that we are top class? Or how can we measure that we are on track academically? Firstly, we write International external examinations every year in English and Mathematics. These are called the International Benchmark Tests. I can tell you that we are consistently above the curve for IEB/ISASA SA schools, as well as ahead of the curve internationally. I give you my assurance that we will continue along that strong path.

Another way in which we are measured externally is by the Umalusi evaluation. Last year we were visited by the Department of Education, and our entire

College was assessed: from the physical buildings and facilities, to the curriculum, to the financial viability of the school, to the happiness of the children. Children and teachers chosen at random by the examining body were also interviewed. Just below this part of the newsletter is an article written by one of our Senior College teachers regarding the Umalusi evaluation. It is an excellent piece, and will also help to reassure you that you have chosen the best school!

Dr G Pienaar