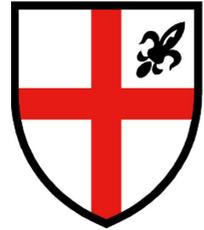


CLIFTON
PREPARATORY SCHOOL
NOTTINGHAM ROAD



**Grade Seven
Academic Handbook**

2019



Outings and Excursions

While there may be incidental hikes and/or day trips throughout the year which are related to academic matters, our primary excursion takes place at the start of the third quarter; this is our Botswana Trip. This takes place in the Northern Tuli Game Reserve, and is aimed at taking our classroom outdoors. Specific information relating to the trip will follow in due course.

Art

Our focus in Art is to equip children with essential skills that will enable them to prosper and grow as adults. While we work with diverse mediums and topics on drawing, painting and sculptural tasks we actually practise the 7 “must-have” skills that children should be learning in school to find and create jobs, and help build the future.

These are the skills around which our curriculum is designed:

1. Critical thinking and problem-solving
2. Collaboration and leading by influence
3. Agility and adaptability
4. Initiative and entrepreneurialism
5. Good oral and written communication
6. Accessing and analysing information
7. Curiosity and imagination

Our curriculum has been designed to maximize Clifton children’s opportunities to practice and develop these important skills through creative practical projects and engagements in Art theory that support our practical explorations. To prepare our Grade 7s thoroughly for high school we undertake many practical projects that focus on the synthesis of the imagined with the real. We also look at the elements of Art in theory classes and consider how contemporary approaches to line, colour and materials challenge tradition.

Drama

In Drama, the children are given the opportunity to express themselves through bodily movements in a creative way. They are taught how to project their voices and use their bodies and body language to portray meaning in their annual school production during the first term. Improvisation skills are taught, as well as the fundamental basic skills of theatre-making. In the latter part of the year, the children also get exposure to the basics of film-making.

Clifton Preparatory School - Academic Principles

The children and staff respect the following principles

- Support for self-directed learning.
- Programmes which reflect the real world and its changing nature.
- The recognition and support of individual needs and aspirations.
- Involvement of the parents and the community.
- Striving for the development of lifelong learning.
- Maintaining flexibility and accountability within the academic curriculum.
- Fostering critical and creative thinking, problem solving, risk-taking and decision making.

Message from the Staff

As a staff we take pride in the achievements of all our children. We encourage the pursuit of academic excellence, yet at the same time instil the important values of respect for self, others and the school. We provide an environment that makes all our children feel at home and that encourages them to be active learners involved in a variety of experiences. We teach them to be self-motivated, self-disciplined and self-directed in their learning. All our efforts around their education take into account the following principles of learning:

- We all learn in different ways
- We all learn at different rates
- We learn through interaction
- We learn through observation
- We learn through effort
- Learning should be fun

We are committed to providing the best education possible for your sons and daughters. Knowing that you, as parents, are the primary educators of your children, we encourage your involvement and participation - our doors **are always** open.

The Clifton Staff

A message from the Grade Seven Teachers

Welcome to Grade Seven. This booklet is designed to answer any general questions that you may have regarding the year. Should there be anything that you would like to be clarified or explained, please feel free to make an appointment to discuss your queries or concerns in more detail.

We are here to provide the very best possible education for your child. This is only possible with your support and encouragement—please get involved as much and as often as you are able to.

In Grade Seven the emphasis is on preparing the child for high school, building resilient, independent children who are contributing members of a broader society. The commercial sector has made invaluable input to education. This sector of our economy requires creative, resourceful team players. Hence your child will fulfil many different roles in a group situation.

Should there be anything that is happening at home that may be out of the ordinary, please let us know. Small issues that may seem trivial to you could have a bigger impact on your child than you think. The death of a pet, an illness in the family, sibling rivalry, Mom or Dad going away for an extended period, etc are all very relevant and we need to know about these changes.

If there is anything that you would like to see added to this Information Booklet please let us know so that we can look into making the necessary changes.

We hope that we have a successful and rewarding year with your child in our care.

Mrs Louise Rautenbach and Mr Peter Quinn

If there are any questions, please contact us on:
louise.rautenbach@cliftonprep.org.za
peter.quinn@cliftonprep.org.za

Homework Policy

Homework/Prep is given on Mondays for the week. Wednesdays are a homework free day since there is no formal prep session in the boarding house, HOWEVER, should your child have homework he/she should utilise his/her time wisely.

We attempt to set work which is relevant and directly linked to what is being done daily during class. Pupils are strongly encouraged to use available time constructively and, in particular, to read.

Boarders' homework sessions are supervised by academic staff.

Academic support

Academic support will be available to all children in Grade Seven. Mrs Cahill will be available for English support and Mrs Rautenbach for Maths support. Relevant days and times will be available on D6 at the beginning of each term.

Physical Education Programme

This takes place for one hour per week where the focus is on gaining and/or improving swimming skills, developing gross motor skills and refining various sporting techniques. The children will also do a fitness assessment at regular intervals, so as to monitor their development.

Music

The following is covered in music:

- Movement: moving to music, learning to feel musical phrasing improvised dance
- Pulse ("heart beat" of music)
- Basic notation: reading and writing of music
- Tempo: (fast/slow), rhythm and clapping games
- Music appreciation: discovering instruments, composers and genres
- Playing various percussion instruments.
- Singing

You will be informed at the onset of each term as to what the term's theme will be. Please encourage dialogue with your child to develop and promote learning.

Afrikaans

The aim of teaching Afrikaans is to give the children an opportunity to learn a second language for oral, reading and written communication purposes. Children are motivated to apply what they learn in class in their daily speech. Games, songs and role play are used to reinforce structures learnt. The following outcomes are covered: listening, speaking, reading, comprehensions, writing, and the use of sounds, grammar and vocabulary.

isiZulu

At Clifton we have adopted an approach to the teaching and learning of our second additional language, which is essentially introductory and conversational, moving towards written work. The children will spend most of this time involved in oral work and modules are designed to assist their understanding of the language through themes for oral communication purposes. A range of multi-media is used to improve interest and to enhance the learning and discovery process. Basic word recognition is done, with emphasis on rules of grammar and language.

STEAM Lounge: iPad Lessons

Technology integration in school is key in today's generation. Children have weekly ICT lessons where the aim is to empower them with skills in fields like science, technology, engineering etc. This is achieved through both individual and group work assessment. LEGO is used to enhance children's problem solving skills, creativity and the ability to co-work with other individuals.

Daily Routine

07h20	<u>Children to be at school.</u>
07h30	Reading (20 min) & Tutor sessions (10 mins)
08h00:	Lessons commence
10h00	Tea break
13h30*	Lunch break
14h00	Change for various sporting codes

**On a Friday school ends at 13h30. Lunch is provided for boarders only unless a compulsory activity has been arranged. Parents of day scholars doing extra activities may request meals for the term at an additional charge. This is arranged through the Bursar.*

The Academic Programme

The following subjects are taught during the Grade Seven year.

- English
- Mathematics
- Afrikaans or isiZulu
- Integrated Studies
- iPad Skills STEAM
- Drama
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Life Orientation

Wherever possible subject matter is linked between subjects to enhance interest and relevance.

English

Aims and Objectives:

- To involve the pupils in and expose them to the English language - written and spoken.
- Through the teaching of language and grammar, enable the pupils to learn correct procedures and skills pertaining to English.
- To encourage communication and creative expression - written and spoken.
- Through exposure to literature, develop an appreciation of books and the love of reading.
- To encourage reading. Reading to learn and also reading for pleasure and enrichment.

Mathematics

A strong sense of number is at the heart of being able to do Mathematics. At Clifton we have decided to adopt the methodology supported by the NumberSense programme. The emphasis is on understanding number, being able to manipulate numbers mentally and ultimately to solve problems using critical thinking and a sound grasp of the relationship between numbers and operations. Differentiation is key to the success of this programme, allowing each child to progress with understanding at his or her own pace. Concepts are scaffolded and revisited regularly to ensure memory retention and a solid foundation for increasingly more complex calculations.

NumberSense is used once a week in Grade 7 so that the concepts covered are revisited. While group-work is still used, the children will be using the Keys textbook which prepares them for the teaching and learning structures they will experience at high school.

Integrated Studies

Natural Science

History

Geography

Structure:

- Integrated Studies is the thematic teaching and developing of children's knowledge, skills and understanding.
- History, Geography and Science are taught and studied in separate modules and as separate subjects within the termly theme.
- Our focus is on assessment for learning as opposed to assessment of learning, although this does still need to happen, of course.
- Assessment for learning takes place through self-reflection, group and paired activities, as well as by way of guidance from the teacher.
- Assessment of learning will take place in a review week at the end of each term. This is a low-key, unpressurised situation where the children will write one 45min—1hour assessment per day and then resume normal lessons. These will count for 6,25% of the term's overall mark.

Aims and Objectives:

- The children will aim at solving problems, making decisions, organising and observing the natural world. They will develop the ability to analyse and interpret their physical and living environment. We will examine how people interact with their natural, social and economic environments.
- Lessons have child-centred, activity-based tasks which stimulate scientific and creative thinking. Briefs are specific and guided to enable the children to carry out their tasks successfully. A wide range of hands-on investigations and experiments will be offered.
- Activities will provide opportunities to participate in investigations and hone problem-solving skills as well as develop their entrepreneurial potential.
- Activities will take the form of individual, paired and group tasks.