



25 November 2020

Dear Michael Mount community,

We have successfully navigated the choppy Covid seas to reach the end of 2020. The rich Waldorf curriculum has sustained our children, whether delivered from a distance or in person, and all our children's classes are healthy and happy. The processes in the turning-point years of Classes 8, 11 and matric have been honoured. Within the constraints of Covid protocols, the Class 8s succeeded in recording and publishing their plays and Class 11 students produced their plays and completed their individual projects with public presentations. Our matrics, under the guidance of our dedicated matric teachers, were successfully prepared to write the matric examinations.

On campus we have been meticulous in observing Covid protocols and this has kept us safe. Thankfully, we have had very little illness within the school. We need to recognise the unflagging work of the Covid team, which constantly updated us and managed requirements to ensure compliance. Sincere thanks to all the teachers and support staff for holding the line. And heartfelt thanks to our children who have been stars at complying with Covid rules. Completing this circle of safety is our wonderful parent body, which has supported the children in following the special measures we've had to put in place.

Despite all these positives, the year has taken its toll on our community. External pressures have led to an inordinate drop in pupil numbers and we have had to take steps to resize the school. Thanks to our strong College and Council, we have mapped out a way forward to ensure the school's sustainability.

### **Staff update**

**Farewells** As always, the end of the year brings some sorrowful partings:

**Chantal Kuhlmann**, who graduated from Michael Mount and returned as a class teacher, is off to teach English in Vietnam. Good luck on your adventure, dear Chantal.

**Erika Raubenheimer** has been a strong force in our HS Maths department. We wish her well running her own Maths school.

**Erin Miller** has dedicated herself heart and soul to teaching English in the High School. Good luck with your future endeavours, Erin.

**Cassidy Buckley** is another former Michael Mount student. Cassidy has worked in Aftercare and taught extra mural drama. We wish her well on her new adventures.

**Simone Bedien** has worked hard teaching eurythmy to the younger children. She is returning to her home in Cape Town. All the best for the future, Simone.

**Samira Rijnen**, another past student, helped pioneer the AdVenture Leadership programme in our school. We wish her well as she takes up new opportunities here and abroad.

**Mandy Triaca** is relocating to the UK. She has done a wonderful job with all our publications and marketing of our school. It is the end of an era with three Triaca children matriculating from the school. Bon Voyage. We will miss you.





### New appointments

We are delighted to announce that the new Class 1 teachers for 2021 are **Liane Amerseder** and **Debbie Spall**. Liane has completed two 8-year cycles from Class 1 to 8 and is looking forward to a third round. Debbie Spall, who taught at The Waldorf School at Rosemary Hill for many years, has taken her Michael Mount class from class 1 to 4 and now moves back to Class 1. Taking over from Debbie as the children move into Class 5 is **Chantal Huon** who has just completed an 8-year cycle with her class. Assuming the role of Class 9 guardians for the class 8s moving up are **Samantha Pretorius** and **Heidi Huizinga**. Blessings and good wishes to all of you as you set off on this exciting journey with your new classes!

### General housekeeping points to note

- **30 November to 3 December**. During the last week of term, we have brought leaving times forward. Please check the attached schedule carefully. It is important that the children clear the school timeously as time slots are tight.
- **Friday, 4 December**. On the last day of school, the children will be leaving between 10am and 12.30pm. Again, we ask that your child is collected timeously to avoid congestion at the gathering points. See attached leaving schedule
- **Aftercare** and **Baby Care** close on Tuesday, 15 December and re-open on Monday, 11 January 2021.
- The school is hosting an Open Day on **Saturday, 16 January 2021**
- School starts **Tuesday, 19 January 2021**. Class 1, Nursery School and Play Group parents will receive separate communications about the starting times for these groups. See Term 1 schedule 2021 for arrival and departure times.
- **The Department of Basic Education has confirmed there will be no changes to Covid protocols in 2021**. Having successfully applied the protocols in 2020 we, at Michael Mount, are fully committed to maintaining Covid standards in 2021.

We have had a busy, tough but fruitful year. Please, let us all continue to take care of ourselves and observe the protocols required to ensure the health of our families and communities throughout the festive season.

As we close for the holidays at the end of this tumultuous year, my wish for our community is the blessing of inner peace. We have given up so much, had to adapt, change and endure. With all the external pressures and painful losses 2020 brought, may the peace of Advent permeate our community - and may we remain resilient as we go forward into the new year.

2021 will bring new unknowns and, as a community, we will once again have to navigate these waters calmly and diligently.

Happy holidays!

Kind regards



**William Bester**  
Administrator