



Good day Shepstone House Parents. It has been a very different second term than the one we all envisaged, the global pandemic has certainly made an impact on everyone's lives. That impact is very evident to me as I am sitting in this master's study - a place that has become my workstation as I try grapple and master online teaching. It has been very different having the dorms and the common room empty, no loud chatter in the halls nor the bell going for roll call. This time really amplifies how the boys in Shepstone house play the biggest part in my College life and right now without them, being in this big building brings about an empty feeling.

It is my hope that you are all healthy and safe. One thing that has been a positive, is the extended family time, it is almost as if the world has been paused to allow us to spend more time with people we hold dear. As a recently married man it has been like an extended honeymoon and I have managed to spend more time with my wife and have stolen back all the holidays, Saturdays and countless hours I have spent/will spend in the BE or on the side of a sports field. I am sure in most households it has been a good time to solidify the family bonds and to get to know one another even better. Family, collegiality and community is a message that I have always driven in Shepstone House and at the end of it all, relationships are the only things that will always matter when everything else is stripped away.

My thoughts go to our five prefects who in their final year are away from their peers, are missing experiences, memories, and in particular missing enjoying their full year as prefects in Shepstone House. However as I have said to them, we have to control the controllable. They, like every other boy in the house need to ensure they set themselves up to be in the best possible position academically, to ensure they are ready to resume their education effectively. Mr. Kyle and Ms. Townsend have been walking around the boarding houses to ensure that we adequately prepared for the return of the boys. The boarding housemasters are also meeting on Wednesday to plan and prepare for the return of the boys. At the end of the day their welfare as well as that of the staff is a priority and we will ensure the BE will be ready and safe for their return.

Let us hold strong and firm and fight this fight that we will surely win and from it all may a more resilient and loving family be birthed in your households. We will surely meet again soon maybe with facemasks on and without the hugs and kisses; however this Shepstone House family will be reunited again.

God Bless.

Mr. Chirengende.