



KEARSNEY COLLEGE

Founded in 1921

Academic Support

INTRODUCTION

Academic excellence is not achieved in a single year. It is the culmination of a five-year plan in which boys at Kearsney are taught time management skills and are exposed to varied and academically rigorous assessments. Boys also respond well to a structured learning environment. To this end Kearsney makes use of a continuous testing programme which includes weekly cycle tests that require accumulative knowledge and skills. Quick feedback from the teachers based on a boy's results obtained in these tests, together with the facilitation of free weekly support teaching classes, ensure that areas of weakness or gaps in knowledge are quickly identified and remediation strategies put into place. In addition, Kearsney College has an Academic Support Specialist who provides extra support to specific boys with various barriers to learning, including the facilitation of examination accommodations.

This policy outlines the individualised academic support structures available to boys at Kearsney - much of which is offered at no additional cost.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT WITHIN THE CURRICULUM

GRADE 8 READING PROGRAMME

All Grade 8 boys undergo a Readiness Test in the first week of Grade 8. The results from this test are analysed and English literacy support lessons are offered weekly, within the timetable, by our Academic Support Specialist, to boys in Grade 8 and 9 who have been identified as having a low reading age, or who have been flagged by the English department as needing development in literacy, vocabulary or comprehension skills.

EXAMINATION ACCOMMODATIONS

Should a boy start to show signs of battling with the rigours of his high school studies such as not completing tasks or tests on time; not keeping up with the content covered in class or battling to retain information when studying, it is suggested that his parents make an appointment with the College's Academic Support Specialist. She may recommend that a boy undergoes an educational psychologist's assessment to determine whether he has an underlying barrier to learning. A list of IEB-approved educational psychologists will be provided to the parents to set up this assessment. Once the report from the educational psychologist has been received an application will be made by the Academic Support Specialist, on behalf of the parents, to the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) for the granting of an examination accommodation for the boy. Should the accommodations be granted by the IEB they are then put in place

at the College for the internal June and November examinations. Boys with examination accommodations are also allowed to write their cycle tests with additional time in a dedicated separate venue. Another way in which boys with barriers to learning are given extra support is by tailoring an individual education package (IEP) involving a reduction in the number of subjects studied in Grade 8 and 9.

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT THERAPISTS

In many cases our support teaching programme, together with the examination accommodations, will adequately assist boys who are struggling academically. There may be cases, however, where remedial, occupational and/or speech and language therapy are necessary. For our boys' convenience, we have a therapy room available for these sessions as arranged by the Academic Support Specialist on the College premises. These sessions are charged by the therapist concerned to the parents directly.

Please email our Academic Support Specialist should you have any queries about examination accommodations or possible barriers to learning that your son is experiencing.

AFTERNOON SUPPORT TEACHING BY KEARSNEY TEACHERS

a) Compulsory Support Teaching

Compulsory support teaching is provided free of charge on a weekly basis by the English, Afrikaans, Mathematics and Science departments. Boys who have under-performed in assessments or who have shown signs of struggling within their lessons will be required to attend compulsory support teaching. Names of these boys will be placed on a list by the HOD of the academic department and sent to the Grade Head. The Grade Head will assist each boy on the compulsory support teaching lists to draw up an individual schedule of afternoon activities (High Performance; sport commitments; clubs and cultural activities; speech and language sessions etc.) which will allow him to meet both his extramural and compulsory support teaching commitments. If there are clashes of activities, the Grade Head will undertake to negotiate with the staff involved to make a decision that is **in the best interests of the boy**. Boys will not be put in a position where they are required to make a choice between their extramural commitments and support teaching.

Once the individual schedule has been confirmed a copy will be given to the boy and emailed to his parents. Should parents have any query in this regard, they should contact their son's Grade Head.

b) Voluntary Support Teaching

Support teaching is offered by ALL academic departments to boys on request. If a boy has been absent for a period of time or needs some reinforcement of the content covered in a lesson, he can ask for support teaching from his teacher which is provided at no cost. Boys and teachers will negotiate a mutually convenient time for this lesson to take place.

The Afrikaans, English, Mathematics and Physical Science department provide more formal support teaching on a weekly basis in addition to the compulsory support teaching. Times of these lessons can be established from subject heads. Boys are required to sign up for these lessons on a sheet on display in these academic departments. These voluntary support teaching lessons are held in the afternoons around boys' extramural commitments and are offered free of charge. Should you have any queries regarding voluntary support teaching please email the HOD of the department concerned.

AFTERNOON EXTRA LESSONS BY PRIVATE TUTORS:

a) ON the Kearsney College Campus

Sometimes a boy may require more intensive, one-on-one tuition that cannot be catered for in the compulsory or voluntary support teaching lessons provided by Kearsney staff. In this instance, parents may require their sons to receive extra lessons provided by private tutors. Only suitably qualified teachers, as determined by the HOD of the subject in question, will be added to the referral list of private extra lesson tutors. Only teachers on this referral list may practise on the Kearsney College campus.

Extra lessons may only take place in the classroom allocated by the HOD. No extra lessons may be provided in any of the boarding houses - including boys' dormitories. Lessons, as well as the arrangement of lesson times, may only take place during the following times: between 14h00 - 18h00, on those afternoons when the boy is not engaged in sport or cultural activities. Lunch (13h45 – 14h15 daily) and war cry practices (Tuesdays from 14h15 – 14h45) are compulsory for all Kearsney boys. Extra lessons may not take place during these activities. Extra lessons by private tutors may not take place during compulsory support teaching times.

Arrangements regarding the times of the extra lessons must be clearly communicated by the private extra Lesson tutor to the boy and/ or his parents. Private extra lesson tutors will communicate the cost of extra Lessons directly with the boy's parents. Kearsney College is not involved in these financial arrangements and is not liable for any of the costs involved in this arrangement.

To obtain the contact details of private extra lesson tutors on the referral list please contact the HOD of the subject concerned for a composite list of private tutors.

AFTERNOON EXTRA LESSONS:

b) OFF The Kearsney College Campus

The free and regular support teaching sessions and private tuition on campus should be adequate academic support for any boy who requires assistance. We are aware that there are many extra lesson teachers who operate off the Kearsney campus and who charge exorbitant rates for these lessons – many of whom operate without the recommendation of the Kearsney College staff. Please note that no extra lesson teacher may take a boarder off the school's campus without the permission of the Head of Boarding. Application in this regard can only be made by the boy's parents to Head of Boarding, motivating the application.

Should a boarder be granted permission to attend extra lessons off campus it is expected that he be transported to and from the lessons by his parents only. Parents must make application to the Head of Boarding giving exact details of when and where these lessons are to take place and the person responsible for transporting the boy to and from the lessons. The school does not arrange transport for these lessons and cannot be held responsible for any injury that may occur to a boy whilst being transported to and from these lessons or whilst in the care of someone off our campus.

Off-campus extra lesson arrangements may not conflict with the College's extramural activities or compulsory support teaching provided free of charge by Kearsney staff. All Kearsney related activities take precedence over private extra lesson arrangements.

IN CONCLUSION

Every boy's academic support requirements are unique. In addition, some boys are busier in the afternoons than others. We believe that by customising an individual academic support programme, at no extra cost, for each boy within the context of a varied, cumulative and structured assessment programme, will ensure that he achieves academic results at the end of his Grade 12 year that are in keeping with his true academic potential.