



DE LA SALLE HOLY CROSS COLLEGE

Catholic
Education



23 July 2018

Dear Parents

We have come to the time of the year to make decisions about the resources that will be used in the classrooms next year. During the course of the year, teachers have been making subtle changes to the manner in which they approach the teaching of the curriculum in order to make what is taught more skills based, relevant, interesting and appealing to children growing up in the 21st century. Accordingly, we are revising our textbook list for 2019.

Textbooks are selected based on the content of the book and the user friendliness of the way in which the book is set out. Textbooks can lead to the stifling of creative teaching and engaged learning. It is important that textbooks do not dictate the curriculum or the teaching style, but are used to supplement innovative teaching, enhance lessons and consolidate concepts and skills. At this stage we are not proposing to totally exclude textbooks as a resource, but we would like to try a different approach to including them in our teaching programme.

At the end of the 2018 academic year we would like to build up a bank of books in the classrooms for use during lessons when needed. In order to do this, we are requesting that learners from Grade 4 to Grade 6 donate their textbooks to the school, as opposed to holding on to them for siblings, selling them second hand or storing them unnecessarily at home. These books will then be catalogued and stored in the classrooms for future use.

If all the learners donate their books, parents will no longer have to purchase textbooks at the start of the academic year, resulting in a reduced outlay for parents for new books for 2019 and beyond. New books that need to be purchased will be limited to set works in English or Afrikaans, work books that the learners write in, dictionaries, the English handbook, Bible, atlas and exercise books. With a reduced reliance on textbooks in the classroom, and without the additional financial burden that the purchase of new textbooks brings, we are confident that this decision will make sound financial and educational sense.

Should you not wish to donate any textbooks, please send an email to your child's class teacher by no later than Friday 27 July. Should we receive no correspondence from you, we will assume that you are in agreement with this proposal.

Kind regards

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Head of Academics

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