



27/07/2024

Dear Parents and Guardians

Yesterday our Principal informed you that the school is investigating alleged racist bullying by some of our Grade 8 students. This incident was recorded in a video before the start of school on Thursday 25 July 2024 and subsequently published in the media.

The incident was escalated to the School Governing Body who convened a meeting late on Friday evening. As a consequence, a number of students have been precautionarily suspended pending the conclusion of the ongoing investigation. Further actions will be taken as necessary.

Our school has long grappled with the injustices of the past, and this incident serves as a poignant reminder of the critical importance of our ongoing conversations about race, privilege, bullying, social media pranks, and the impact of our words and actions in both the physical and digital world. These conversations are not merely academic; they are essential to the fabric of who we are as a community. The actions of a few should not tarnish the hard work and values that define our school. Instead, let this be a call to action, reinforcing that our work in sustaining a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment is never complete. This remains a challenge in schools, our communities, society and our country.

We recognise the emotional trauma and pain this incident has triggered for many of our students, staff, and broader community. We have counsellors available to offer support, and the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) has also reached out to provide additional resources and counselling services to assist us.

We urge our community to reaffirm the values and ethos of our school as we navigate this difficult incident together. Let us grow from this experience, recognising that it is our duty to ensure that Pinelands High remains a place where every individual feels valued, respected, and safe.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our shared values.

Sincerely

Ms JM Lawrence
Chair of the Pinelands High School
School Governing Body

Mr G Sayer
Principal
Pinelands High School