



DAINFERN
College

A Guide for
Senior Prep Parents
2021

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Message from the Principal



It is a privilege to be entrusted with your children and be involved in their educational journey. To all our new families that have joined Dainfern College we welcome you and trust that your association with the College will be a long and happy one.

In the Senior Preparatory we offer an experience that is relevant and dynamic and, most importantly, one that engages our students through learning experiences that address the child as a whole.

We believe that innovative learning experiences foster a 'growth mindset'. A key focus for us is to develop a culture of thinking and a curiosity for learning, and we encourage our students to engage in critical self-reflection. We strive to produce young learners who are able to communicate and create effective change in the world around them.

Traditional assessment practices have been reviewed, and we have done away with traditional homework and high stakes testing as we believe these may have a negative impact on young students. Our aim is to create a stress-free environment for teaching and learning that provides opportunities where students can focus on the mastering of skills and concepts.

We view this journey together as a partnership, which in essence means our collective involvement and shared responsibilities serve in the best interests of each student. We celebrate our collective diversity and embrace each student's uniqueness. We endeavour to create a happy and caring environment where each child can celebrate their talents, which ultimately contributes to the success of the College.

Please take time to download the school smartphone app as this is a vital communication tool between the College and parents.

Should you need any further clarity on the information in this document, please contact your child's class teacher or mentor via email.

Best wishes for a happy and successful year for all our families!

Ray van Gass

Principal: Dainfern College Senior Preparatory

Introduction to Dainfern College

Dainfern College is a visionary, co-educational school founded on a Christian ethos and traditional core values, catering for students from Grade 0000 to Grade 12. We are student-centred and holistic, and we strive for quality in all that we do. Our outstanding, committed teachers ensure that we have a strong and relevant academic focus. We have built a reputation for providing an innovative education, as well as individual opportunities and excellence in the sporting, cultural and outreach spheres.

Vision

“To become recognised as one of the leading educational institutions in the country.”

Mission

Dainfern College develops **skills for life** required to unlock unique personal potential and to nurture **creative thinkers** with the confidence to become **leaders** – through the provision of an innovative, relevant and quality education.

Values: ‘FISHAR’

- **Fortitude:** Showing courage and resilience in the face of challenge.
- **Integrity:** Being honest and showing strong moral principles.
- **Self-discipline:** Correcting and regulating one’s own behaviour.
- **Humanity:** Showing compassion and consideration for others.
- **Accountability:** Taking responsibility for one’s choices and actions.
- **Respect:** Showing consideration for the feelings and rights of others.

Structure

Dainfern College operates as a non-profit company.

The **Board of Governors** is responsible for the governance of the school. It appoints the Principals and has a strategic and fiduciary responsibility.

The **Finance Committee** is a sub-committee of the Board of Governors: it oversees the finances of the College and sets the fees on an annual basis.

The **College Executive Committee (CEC)**, comprising the **College Principal, Senior Preparatory and Junior Preparatory Principals** and the **Business Director**, is responsible for the educational leadership and operational management of the College.

The Dainfern College Parents' Association (PA) plays an active role at the College. The objectives of the Association are threefold: liaison, social interaction and fundraising. All parents are welcome to become a part of this body.

For further information contact the PA at pa@dainferncollege.co.za.

The Dainfern College Foundation is focused on being a positive driver of change both within Dainfern College as well as the broader education arena, by multiplying the impact of our education facility on the world around us.

The Foundation aims to raise funds for Dainfern College to ensure that the College remains at the forefront of independent education in South Africa. We have developed a fundraising strategy, known as the **Celebration Campaign**, to support three strategic areas that need financial support:

- **Our Community:** for positive impact on the lives of vulnerable and less fortunate children via feeding, education and other outreach initiatives.
- **Our Campus:** to enhance our facilities to be a benchmark, world-class reference over the long term.
- **Our Continuity:** to create a sustainable capital platform to fund ongoing projects from investment returns.

The Foundation is a separate registered trust with Public Benefit Organisation status and is managed by a Board of Trustees.

For further information or to contribute to one of the strategic areas, please contact Ms Lindokuhle Maluleke, our Foundation Manager and Director of Advancement, at lmaluleke@dainferncollege.co.za.

Round Square



Round Square is a world-wide association of more than 200 schools on six continents that share unique and ambitious goals. Students attending Round Square schools make strong commitments beyond academic excellence towards personal development and responsibility.

Dainfern College has been a Global member of Round Square since 2012, giving our students the opportunity to participate in conferences, community service, work projects, exchange programmes and adventuring experiences, which can, and often do, take students half way around the world. A Regional Round Square Conference for 12-14 year-olds is hosted on an annual basis by a member school in the regional sector. Attendance is limited and determined by staff. Dainfern College has successfully hosted both a Regional Conference and an International Conference for this age group, bringing together hundreds of students from all over the world.

IDEALS

As a proud Round Square School we take a holistic approach to education and inspire our students through experiential learning using the Round Square IDEALS of Internationalism, Democracy, Environmentalism, Adventure, Leadership and Service. One of our deliberate intentions is to embrace Round Square in its totality and bring the IDEALS of Round Square to the core of all that we do. Not only does this benchmark us against the top schools in the world but it continues to expose our students and staff to international best practice.

DISCOVERIES

The Round Square Discovery Framework, linked through all three phases of our school from Grade 0 to Grade 12, looks to create more ways of synthesising academic, skills-based, experiential and personal learning. This powerful combination is perfectly aligned with our own FISHAR value system (see page 3) and allows vital character-based education to take place. Our students are encouraged through Round Square to be the best individuals they can be by developing the essential discoveries of Tenacity, Courage, Self-awareness, Compassion, Inventiveness, Sense of Responsibility, Teamwork Skills, Commitment to Sustainability, Inquisitiveness and Appreciation of Diversity.

For further information please contact our Prep School Round Square staff representative, Mrs Eva Odendaal (eodendaal@dainferncollege.co.za).

Community service

Community service is strongly encouraged throughout Dainfern College. We work on smaller projects throughout the year including an ongoing collection for Meals on Wheels, a charity that assists the aged with meals, by our Grade 0s, and collection drives across the College that include Easter, Winter Warmth and Christmas. We participate in Mandela Day activities every year and support activities such as the CANSA Shavathon, CF Genes Day and so on.

In addition, we also concentrate our efforts on the following partnerships:

ReShomile: With its very limited resources and infrastructure, this school educates 1 400 students. The objective of our twinning initiative with ReShomile is one of academic upliftment and mutual benefit. An immediate need is the sponsorship of food packs to AIDS orphans and other child-headed families. The Dainfern College Foundation runs a sponsorship programme for members of our community to participate in for as little as R100,00 per month. Once a month, the Foundation's feeding scheme delivers food parcels to the vulnerable children at the school. For many, these parcels are all that stand between them and starvation.

Cosmo City crèches: This partnership was established in 2005 when the crèches were run from the informal settlement known as Zevenfontein. Both schools have grown from 20 children to over 100 children. Their facilities are very limited and they have no space to run around. We support them with equipment and run crèche days for each one once a term.

LEAP 4 School: The LEAP learning model is designed to support children from South Africa's township communities to become South Africa's leaders of the future. Each LEAP school is partnered by a neighbouring independent school. Dainfern College partners with the LEAP 4 School in the Diepsloot area, constantly working together to create opportunities for sharing and interacting across many areas of school life as well as supporting vulnerable students through our feeding scheme.

Organisation

Dainfern College caters for children from Grade 0 to Grade 12, and is divided into three phases:

- Country Readiness: Grade 0000 – Grade 00
- Junior Preparatory: Grade 0 – Grade 3
- Senior Preparatory: Grade 4 – Grade 7
- High School: Grade 8 – Grade 12

All students in the Senior Preparatory are divided into classes of mixed ability, with a maximum of 26 students per class, except:

- In the event of a staff member's child joining;
- To replace a future leaver;
- Where a new family joins with three children and the other two children can be accommodated; or
- For consolidation/acceleration.

Senior Prep MANCO: The Senior Preparatory School Management Committee comprises the Principal of the Senior Preparatory phase and the following Deputy Principals:

Academics:	Louise Browne	lbrowne@dainferncollege.co.za
Administration & Logistics:	Sandi Tyson	styson@dainferncollege.co.za
Student Affairs:	Margie Pettit	mpettit@dainferncollege.co.za

There are also Heads of Subjects and Heads of Grade. These details and email addresses can be found on the school app.

School Houses

The three Houses at Dainfern College are Griffin (Yellow), Kraken (Blue) and Phoenix (Red). All students are allocated to Houses when they join the College and siblings are always placed in the same House. A number of InterHouse competitions take place throughout the year and all students are encouraged to participate.

General information

School calendar

Dainfern College operates a **three-term** academic year. The Year calendar, with the dates of the school terms and holidays can be found on our school smartphone app and on the school website. The live Term calendar is available on our school app: we recommend you sync the live Term calendar with your own personal calendar so as ensure your calendar is automatically updated with any additions or changes to school events.

NB. Parents are requested to arrange their holidays to coincide with official school holidays. Requests for students to miss school during term time will NOT be considered, except under exceptional circumstances. An email then needs to be sent to the Principal and class teacher for consideration.

School attendance

It is legally compulsory for children to attend school, and absence from school will not be condoned, unless the student is ill, or there are exceptional circumstances requiring the absence, or if the absence has been occasioned by infectious/contagious diseases. **Any contagious diseases should immediately be reported to the school.**

Lice: If a student has lice, he/she will not be allowed at school until such time as a clearance certificate has been obtained from a clinic or doctor.

A note from the parent is required to explain all absences. A doctor's certificate is required if a student is away from school for more than three days. A doctor's certificate is also required if a student misses a test or examination.

School day

Monday-Thursday

- **07h30:** The school day commences with registration, devotions and notices
- **13h30:** End of the formal academic timetable
- **13h30:** Commencement of cultural extramural timetable and the Academic Support programme for all students for English, Afrikaans, isiZulu and Mathematics, including daily prep (Students not involved in extramurals or academic support on a particular day go home at the end of the academic day)
- **14h15:** Sports extramural timetable commences

Friday

- **07h30:** The school day commences with registration, devotions and notices
- **13h00:** End of formal academic timetable. School closes for students not involved in the sports and cultural extracurricular programmes

All students are required to participate in a minimum of one sport per season; participation in the cultural programme is also strongly encouraged.

First day of term

Returning Senior Preparatory students need to report to their class teachers/mentors on **Wednesday 13 January 2021**. Students new to the College are to report to the Main Reception where they will be welcomed by the Senior Prep Counsellor.

Student mentors for Grade 6 & 7 students

At Dainfern College, we have always prioritised the importance of each student's social and emotional well-being, which forms part of our pastoral care programme. Relationships among students and with the staff are key to establishing trust within a safe and caring environment.

To this end, the Senior Prep allocates two members of staff per class in Grades 6 and 7 to provide support for each student. As mentors, these staff members will be the direct link between parents and the school for any personal school-related matters associated with one of their students.

New Parents' Welcoming Committee

There is a support group for new parents, coordinated by the Parents' Association – please contact the Parents' Association at pa@dainferncollege.co.za or Mrs Deidré Proxenos in the College Advancement department or email her at dproxenos@dainferncollege.co.za for more information.

Transport service

Dainfern College has engaged the services of a company called KVE-Driven which offers transport services for your children. KVE-Driven has an outstanding reputation and has been in the business of transporting children since 2006. The following areas are serviced by dedicated KVE-Driven transport: Dainfern and surrounding estates, Broadacres, Chartwell, Cedar Lakes, Craigavon, Fourways and Fourways Gardens, Helderfontein, Beverley, Lonehill, Paulshof, Bryanston, Pineslopes, Douglasdale, Witkoppen, Glenferness, Kyalami and Sandton. For more information please contact the KVE-Driven office on 082 594 7528 or email them at info@kve-driven.co.za.

Traffic control

Speed limit: The speed limit on the College campus is **15km/h**.

One-way system: Between 06h30 and 08h00, and 13h00 and 14h30, a **one-way** system of traffic flow operates, the entrance being at the main gate and the exit at the top gate behind the JP block. At all other times, the top gate is locked, and all traffic enters and exits through the main gate.

Drop & drive: While under COVID-19 restrictions, parents are requested to drop Senior Prep students for screening at the Rain Shelter situated in the pool parking area. Parents may not leave their vehicle unless they have an appointment.

Collection zones: In normal circumstances, students are collected in the pool area parking or from their sports extramural venue. Please ensure you check the newsletters for specific detail regarding collection venues during COVID-19 conditions or when the campus is under lightning alert.

Parking: During peak hours, no parking is allowed alongside the pool area, outside the High School classrooms close to the main tuckshop; by the High School quad and alongside the Grade 0 playground. These areas are used as 'Drop & drive' areas. Should a parent need to park, the designated parents' parking is to the left of the main gate entrance – in front of the swimming pool. A limited number of bays are also available in **off-peak hours** at Main Reception and outside the High School quad.

Please do not park or 'stop and drop off' in the staff parking (shade ports) at any time. The staff bays are clearly marked.

Medical emergencies

Nurse & ambulance service: Through a partnership with the Mediwell practice at Dainfern Square, we have a school nurse on campus each day until 16h00. We have also engaged with an emergency services provider for assistance in getting injured parties to hospital and getting access to treatment at the hospital without any unnecessary delays.

Emergency medicine: Should any student have a serious allergy or condition (such as asthma) and require emergency medicine to be kept at the school, this can be left with the class teacher. Teachers **must** be informed as to where emergency medicines can be sourced and this fact needs to be recorded on Ed-admin via the parent portal. **A form needs to be completed giving specific teachers as well as the school nurse permission to administer this medication.** Allergies need to be highlighted on application forms to ensure they are entered on the student's file.

Security

Security system: A security system, involving active guarding and strategic camera coverage of all access/egress control, is operational at all times.

Security guards: Please treat the security guards with courtesy, should they need to stop you or inconvenience you in any way during the course of their duties. They have been empowered to search cars randomly if a need arises. Please remember: **they are there for your child's protection.**

Car access stickers: Two access stickers are allocated to each family upon enrolment. Cars not displaying access stickers will not be allowed into the College without signing in. Extra stickers can be purchased from Reception, and must be signed for.

Students leaving early: Should a student need to leave school early for a particular reason, approval needs to be gained from the relevant class teacher. A written note or email is required the day before. All students leaving early must be fetched by an adult who needs to report to the relevant Reception area. A 'Pass-out slip' needs to be completed by the relevant class teacher and this has to be given to the guards at the gate.

Use of College facilities after hours: In order to prevent unauthorised persons from using and potentially abusing College facilities, all Dainfern College students and parents wishing to use our facilities over weekends, public holidays and school holidays are asked to produce some form of identification at the entrance gate to prove their association with Dainfern College.

COVID-19 Protocol

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic caused considerable upheaval in all sectors of our society throughout 2020. Dainfern College was exceptionally fortunate in being able to put all the necessary measures in place - almost overnight - to ensure uninterrupted academic delivery to our students via a remote and online learning programme. The return to campus saw all safety measures put in place, both physically on the campus itself as well as in the adjusted daily processes and procedures, so as to prioritise the health and safety of all on campus while continuing the delivery of our world-class education programme.

COVID-19 Committee

Mr Brian Leahy, our College Operations Manager, heads up the COVID-19 Committee and, as the COVID-19 Officer, is responsible for ensuring that the College is compliant with all the necessary regulations in force at the time. Other members of the Committee include the College Executive as well as Communication, HR and Medical staff representatives.

Communication

A special 'COVID-19' section can be found on the College app with full details of all processes and procedures on campus as well as relevant communication. Please take time to familiarise yourself with the documents uploaded here.

2021 measures

While we hope for a far smoother year in 2021, it is widely accepted that the Coronavirus will be with us for some months to come. We have planned as far as possible our full holistic offer of academics, sports and cultural extramurals, leadership and service opportunities, but are well prepared to adjust these as necessary, depending on the status of lockdown and accompanying Government and Education regulations in place at the time. The situation remains fluid and your understanding that this is beyond the control of the College is appreciated.

Social distancing, the wearing of masks and frequent hand-washing/sanitisation remain in force across campus. Other measures depend on the prevailing level of lockdown as well as national regulations in place. Any changes are communicated to parents and students as necessary via email and the College app.

Campus inspection: The College passed the Department of Education inspection, which confirmed that all the necessary health and safety measures are in place.

Masks: All students are expected to wear masks (or well-fitting buffs) when on campus, except when eating or drinking and when participating in vigorous exercise. Masks must cover the mouth and nose at all times. Each student is also expected to have a spare mask available.

Morning screening: Parents of Junior and Senior Prep students are required to complete an online daily screening form per student each day (<https://bit.ly/DCPrepStudentScreeningForm>), while High School students answer screening questions in person. Students undergo temperature screening and hand sanitising on arrival each morning. This takes place at these screening points:

- **Junior Prep:** JP carpark
- **Senior Prep:** Pool area rain shelter
- **High School:** Main Reception

Visitors to campus: Parents are requested not to leave their cars when dropping or collecting their children and may not leave their cars to watch extramurals or campus events unless specifically invited to do so. All other visits to campus are by appointment only - visitors will then be screened by security staff on arrival.

Sanitisation: Hand sanitiser dispensers can be found across campus, including outside every classroom. Students, staff and visitors are expected to make regular use of these.

Social distancing: Unless otherwise notified, a 1,5m distance between people must be maintained on campus and 1m in the classroom. The campus has been demarcated accordingly.

Symptoms: Students exhibiting any symptoms will be sent to the school nurse for assessment. If COVID-19 is suspected, the parent will be requested to collect the student from the isolation area. Students may return to campus once a doctor has confirmed that there is no Coronavirus infection.

Students who test positive are required to self-isolate for a minimum of ten days and may also only return to campus after they have been cleared by a doctor. A letter to this effect from the doctor must be sent to the College.

Quarantine/self-isolation: All students who come into contact with someone who is confirmed to be positive for COVID-19 will only be allowed to return to campus ten days after exposure and must have been cleared by a doctor to confirm they are not displaying any symptoms. A remote academic programme will be made available to students who are required to self-isolate or go into quarantine.

Academics

In response to international trends in education, the Senior Prep curriculum is designed to inculcate a 'growth mindset' that will serve in the best interests of our students. Innovation, Leadership and Internationalism are the core drivers of our strategy. Subject proficiency in English, Mathematics and Additional Languages form the core of our curriculum.

The Inquiry-based Learning framework focuses on moving students beyond general curiosity into the realms of critical thinking, higher order problem-solving skills, research skills, effective communication, resilience and creativity. The integration of technology is seen as a fundamental part of the students' learning experience through relevant educational applications that facilitate 21st Century skills and real-world experiences.

The academic support programme is made available to all students to assist individuals in their learning at differentiated levels. Support lessons include English, Afrikaans, isiZulu and Mathematics.

Our academic approach ensures that our College remains at the cutting edge of education, providing all our students with the relevant skills and knowledge to equip them for their future.

The academic year in the Senior Preparatory is divided into three terms. Class teaching predominates in Grades 4 and 5, while Grade 6 and 7 students attend lessons in the specialist teachers' designated classrooms. All students have specialist teachers for Afrikaans, Art, Computers, Design & Technology, isiZulu, Life Skills, Music and Physical Education. Class teachers (Grade 4 & 5) and Class mentors (Grades 6 & 7) are responsible for the overall pastoral care of the students in their classes.

Academic offer

- Languages (English; Afrikaans or isiZulu)
- Mathematics
- Life Orientation (Life Skills and PE)
- Creative Arts (Art and Music)
- Natural Sciences (Science and Biology)
- Social Sciences (History and Geography)
- Technology (Design & Technology and Information & Communication Technology)
- Critical Thinking / Philosophy 4 Children
- Inquiry-based Learning

Language choice

In the Intermediate Phase of their education, students study either Afrikaans or isiZulu as their First Additional Language. The choice of language is made in Grade 3 so that students start their chosen language from the start of Grade 4 to enable more academic teaching time in that language during their Senior Preparatory years. Should you have queries or concerns about this please speak to your child's class teacher or to Mrs Louise Browne, Deputy Principal: Academics.

Daily prep

We have done away with traditional homework as we believe this may have a negative impact on young students. In Grades 4-6 daily prep activities are about preparation for upcoming lessons and are confined to reading, research and reflection.

Please note Grade 7 is different as these students are working in a mark-based system which forms the basis of their assessments and therefore promotion into Grade 8.

Academic support lessons are available for any Senior Preparatory students (Grades 4 to 7) from Monday to Thursday straight after the academic day, prior to the start of the sports extramural programme. Daily prep can also be completed in this time. Teachers are on hand to assist any student that requires support in any subject.

Extra academic support lessons

Support in Afrikaans, English, isiZulu and Mathematics is offered Monday to Thursday from 13h30 to 14h00, directly after the end of the academic day. Students are encouraged to make use of this time to meet with teachers to reinforce / consolidate concepts and skills.

Individual academic support

Dainfern College prides itself on providing individual academic, remedial and emotional support to our students. Academic support is offered to students in Grades 4 to 7 by external therapists who work on the College premises. Remedial academic support, speech therapy and occupational therapy are all available: the cost of these additional therapies is for the parents' account and paid directly to the therapists.

For further information about student support, please contact Ms Margie Pettit, Deputy Principal: Student Affairs, at mpettit@dainferncollege.co.za

Meetings & reports

Student-led conferences: The concept of a 'student-led conference' replaces the traditional parent / teacher interviews. A student-led conference is a scheduled meeting between the student, the parents and the assigned teacher in which the students are given an opportunity to share their academic progress and reflect on their strengths and challenges. The discussion, led by the student, focuses on the mastery of concepts/skills in English, Mathematics and the first additional language, as well as character skills and socio-emotional and leadership development. The discussion is coordinated through an age appropriate 'script' and a 'portfolio of work' to celebrate each student's progress and achievements.

The benefits of a student-led conference are as follows:

- It allows students to take accountability for their learning.
- The 'experience' is an honest reflection of how the student is feeling about his/her learning as well as possible remedies where more effort is required.
- It is an opportunity to reflect on their progress and personalised challenges.
- Students develop organisational and oral communication skills.
- Students learn the process of self-evaluation.
- It enables students to set personalised goals for their immediate future.
- For parents, it is an opportunity to gain an understanding of their child's progress through open and honest dialogue, whilst enabling insight into classroom activities and curriculum offering.
- It is an opportunity for parents to encourage their child to accept personal responsibility for their academic performance.
- Evidence-based portfolio of work to support the feedback progress

Student-led conferences are scheduled early in Term 2 and Term 3.

Reports: Reports are issued in Term 1, Term 2 and Term 3. Reports are made available on the parent portal, accessed via the College app or website.

Bring Your Own Device: Grades 4-7

Amendments to the Information Technology Policy affecting the Bring Your own Device (BYOD) policy have been phased in.

All Grades will, from 2021, require a device at school. The preferred devices at Dainfern College are iPads and Chromebooks. Both of these recommendations are based on the longevity of these devices. The device chosen will be used throughout your child's Senior Preparatory journey. It is important to ensure that when purchasing a device it is able to run the latest operating system available.

Grade 7s who already have an iPad or other tablet may continue to use this in 2021; the only change is that they are expected to have a Bluetooth keyboard. This combination can still be used in the High School. Grade 7 students who do not already have a tablet device are encouraged to acquire a Chromebook, which will then be used throughout High School.

Please note that a mobile phone will not be considered a replacement for the devices mentioned above.

The tablets and Chromebooks are to be maintained by the student and we have placed support and training structures in place to assist both students and staff.

Lockers: Lockers are available for Grade 6 and 7 students. Each student is allocated two lockers: one for their general school bags and one for their device. Grade 4 and 5 students will be able to keep their devices in secure cabinets in their classrooms.

Should you have any queries about the specifications of the iPad or Chromebook devices or the BYOD expectation in the Senior Preparatory, please contact our Director of Technology, Mr Anthony Egbers, on aegbers@dainferncollege.co.za.

Academic requirements

Stationery: Order forms for the following year are sent to Grade 4-7 students in October, and are also available from Reception for new students. For your convenience, the school has a preferred supplier who makes up stationery packs according to the requirements of each grade. The price is competitive and packs are delivered to the students at school. Alternatively you may purchase the required stationery yourself.

Textbooks: Textbooks, workbooks and online subscriptions are arranged by the school. An annual levy is charged to parents at the beginning of the year which covers the costs of the academic requirements of each year.

Communication

App: The school smartphone app is an invaluable communication tool for parents. It contains a wealth of information including schedules, newsletters and events as well as staff details and calendars, and ensures you receive important notices from the school. It is available for free download from the iStore and Google Play Store.

Newsletters are updated every second Wednesday for the whole College and are made available via our app.

Parent portal: The parent portal contains specific parent and student details including contact details, health records, school reports and account information. Each parent is given a user name and password to access the parent portal via the Dainfern College website. Please contact Mr Hein Hildebrand at hhil@dainferncollege.co.za if you need assistance with accessing the portal.

Parent information evenings are held in each section of the College at the start of the year.

Communication from parents

Should parents have a concern about their child/ren, they are welcome to set up an appointment with the relevant staff member. This can be done by phoning through to Reception and leaving a message for the teacher, who will phone back and confirm a time within 24 hours. Alternatively, an email can be sent - email addresses are listed at the back of this booklet and on our app and website.

We request that you use the following route:

Class/Subject Teacher → Head of Grade → Deputy Principal → Principal

In this way the problems can be sorted out as close to the source as possible.

Discipline

Dainfern College has a positive approach to discipline, which is fundamental to the philosophy of positive education. 'Choice, Consequence and Reflection' define our approach, and our Code of Conduct underpins the ethos of the school. The Code is available on our website, with other applicable policies.

Culture

Cultural activities are a vital part of the holistic offer at the College, igniting both imagination and creativity. In addition to Art, Dance and Chess, our exciting Senior Preparatory cultural offer encompasses a wide variety of music ensembles. Making music together as part of an ensemble enriches and enhances musical growth and gives students a sense of achievement for being part of a musical creation. Students unable to attend a practice or performance need to excuse themselves in advance.

The following activities are offered in the Senior Preparatory:

- A Cappella choir
- Art
- Chess
- Choir
- Just Dance
- Keyboard Ensemble
- Marimba Ensembles
- Music Theory
- Senior Prep Band
- Guitar & String Ensembles

Ballet lessons after school are also available for parents' account – contact Mrs Colleen Theys on 083 270 4074 for further information.

Individual music

Dainfern College has a thriving Music Centre and private teachers are available at the school to teach a wide variety of disciplines (piano, voice, violin, flute, etc). The cost of these lessons is for the parents' account. Further information is available on the Dainfern College app, under 'Music Centre'. Enquiries and applications should be sent to Mrs Nicole Pearce, our Music Centre coordinator, at npearce@dainferncollege.co.za.

Service extramural

Outreach: Working with our community schools and various service drives.

Tech Clubs

Robotics: A weekly club activity for Preparatory School students (Grades 3-7) that works through a curriculum of mechanics and coding in the design and use of robots – for parents' account.

Sport

As physical literacy is fundamental to the development of a child, sport at Dainfern College is viewed as an essential component of our holistic offer. In addition to promoting a healthy lifestyle, life skills and values are learnt and a love for activity and sport is developed in each individual.

Physical Education lessons

Physical education lessons take place during the school day and focus on improving mobility and coordination as well as the acquisition of specific sports skills and techniques. Should your child be unable to participate in these lessons for any reason, please ensure that you contact their PE teacher either by email or by sending a note to school. Staff contact details can be found on the app.

Sports extramurals

Our students are exposed to a variety of sporting codes and all Senior Preparatory students are required to participate in at least one school sport per season. Students unable to attend a practice or fixture need to excuse themselves in advance.

- Athletics
- Cricket (boys and girls)
- Cross Country
- Cycling & mountain biking club**
- Equestrian* **
- Golf
- Hockey – Indoor 7 outdoor
- Netball
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Tennis

**Equestrian is recognised as a school sport and our riders represent Dainfern College in their events.*

***The College does not have the required facilities for Equestrian or for the Cycling & Mountain Biking Club; these activities therefore take place off campus and are managed solely by parents.*

Karate, Rugga Kids, Dragons' Hockey and private coaching for Cricket, Hockey and Tennis are all available for parents' account.

Practices: Should a Senior Prep match/fixture/practice be cancelled due to inclement weather, children are allowed to go home unless alternative arrangements have been made. Galas/meetings and matches are only cancelled at 12h00 on the day of the fixture. Students will be notified before second break if a fixture is cancelled. This will be communicated to parents via the app.

School uniforms

Appearance of students

All students are expected to take pride in their appearance and to dress appropriately, ensuring that their appearance reflects positively on themselves and on the image of the College.

The Appearance & Uniform Policy will be consistently applied to all students irrespective of cultural origins or religious beliefs. The College does, however, reserve the right to make allowances for appropriate conditions or cultural or religious traditions when such application is made to the College.

Casual clothes may only be worn to school on specifically arranged Civvies Days.

No tournament, camp, tour attire / uniform or part thereof may be worn at any school function, practices or matches.

It is the intention of this policy to be as inclusive as possible, taking into account student's religious requirements and cultural expectations.

Hair: Hair must be worn in a clean, neat and tidy manner. Extremes in hairstyling, are not permitted; no dyed / highlighted / gelled / spiky 'comb-over' hairstyles are allowed and hair must be one colour. Fringes may not touch the eyebrows.

- **Boys:** Hair must be neatly trimmed and not touch collars or ears. Sideburn length to mid-ear only.
- **Girls:** Hair must be neatly tied up once the length reaches the collar. Long fringes and loose pieces of hair must be clipped back neatly. Navy blue or white hair bands or school tartan scrunchies are required. Only school tartan or navy blue alic bands may be worn.

Shoes:

- **Boys:** Polished, clean, black lace-up school shoes are to be worn.
- **Girls:** Polished, clean, black school shoes are to be worn.

Jewellery: No jewellery is allowed, except for Medic Alert discs, plain watches and religious emblems. Girls may wear only gold or silver studs or sleepers in pierced ears (one per earlobe).

Make-up & nail varnish: No make-up or nail varnish is allowed to be worn at school.

Gum: Chewing gum is not permitted at school.

Wearing school uniform

Students wear full school uniform every day unless they have PE that day, in which case they may wear PE kit to school. **Students having PE on Assembly days (usually Monday) are expected to come in full school uniform and change later for PE.**

The school blazer is part of the Grade 7 uniform, and must be worn at all times, especially at assemblies and on formal occasions. Occasionally permission is given not to wear it because of particularly hot weather.

House T-shirts: All students require a House T-shirt with the House logo on the front. Please do not purchase this until you are sure of which House your child is in:

- Griffin – Yellow
- Kraken – Blue
- Phoenix – Red

All uniform items **must** be clearly labelled.

Uniforms are available from:

- **McCullagh & Bothwell** - the school uniform stockist can be found on the upper level of Fourways Crossing (Tel: 011 705 1070).
- **The College Shop:** Open from Monday to Friday from 07h15 to 08h00, and Monday to Thursday from 13h15 to 14h00. They have excellent stock at good prices. The College Shop can be found opposite the main tuckshop of the College. Senior Prep and High School lost property is also kept here.

The Public Domain: Please note that if students wear their uniforms in public places, they are required to be in full school uniform and neatly presented. Otherwise they need to have changed into casual clothes.

Uniform requirements for Grades 4 to 6

SUMMER	GRADE 4-6 BOYS
	White cotton blend tuck-in shirt with badge Navy tailored shorts Dainfern College long navy socks & Black leather lace-up school shoes Dainfern College navy jersey with badge Dainfern College peak cap
	GRADE 4-6 GIRLS
	White cotton blend blouse with badge with side slits (not tucked in) Dainfern College tartan skirt Short white socks and Black leather school shoes Dainfern College navy jersey with badge Dainfern College peak cap
WINTER	GRADE 4-6 BOYS
	White cotton blend tuck-in shirt with badge OR Long-sleeved white winter shirt with badge Charcoal trousers with belt (from school stockist only) Charcoal socks and Black leather lace-up school shoes Dainfern College navy jersey with badge Dainfern College tracksuit top – only to be worn in addition to the jersey – not instead of the jersey Dainfern College peak cap
	GRADE 4-6 GIRLS
	White cotton blend blouse with badge with side slits (not tucked in) OR Long-sleeved white winter shirt with badge (tucked in) Dainfern College tartan skirt OR Charcoal long pants with belt (from school stockist only) Navy plain tights (from school stockist only) – worn with skirt OR Charcoal socks – worn with trousers Black leather school shoes Dainfern College navy jersey with badge Dainfern College tracksuit top – only to be worn in addition to the jersey – not instead of the jersey Dainfern College peak cap

Optional items: Dainfern College navy sleeveless jersey with badge, Dainfern College padded jacket and Dainfern College scarf.

Uniform requirements for Grade 7

SUMMER	GRADE 7 BOYS
	<p>Dainfern College white 'golf' shirt with badge (worn tucked in) Charcoal trousers with belt (from school stockist only) Charcoal socks & Black leather lace-up school shoes Dainfern College navy blazer with badge Dainfern College navy jersey Dainfern College peak cap</p>
SUMMER	GRADE 7 GIRLS
	<p>Dainfern College white 'golf' shirt with badge (worn tucked in) Dainfern College tartan skirt Long white socks & Black leather school shoes Dainfern College navy blazer with badge Dainfern College navy jersey Dainfern College peak cap</p>
WINTER	GRADE 7 BOYS
	<p>Dainfern College white 'golf' shirt with badge OR Long-sleeved white winter shirt with badge Charcoal trousers with belt (from school stockist only) Charcoal socks & Black leather lace-up school shoes Dainfern College navy blazer with badge Dainfern College peak cap</p>
	GRADE 7 GIRLS
	<p>Dainfern College white 'golf' shirt with badge OR Long-sleeved white winter shirt with badge Dainfern College tartan skirt OR Charcoal long pants with belt (from school stockist only) Navy plain tights (from stockists only) – worn with skirt OR Charcoal socks – worn with trousers Black leather school shoes Dainfern College navy blazer with badge Dainfern College navy jersey Dainfern College peak cap</p>

Optional items: Dainfern College navy sleeveless jersey with badge, Dainfern College padded jacket and Dainfern College scarf

PE & Sports uniforms for Grades 4-7 boys and girls

For Physical Education (PE), students must wear their PE/sports shirt, school PE shorts, short **white** socks with tackies, and tracksuits. Students may wear PE kit to school on PE days except on Assembly days (usually Monday), when they are expected to come in full school uniform and change later for PE. The branded school tog bag is also required and is available from our stockists.

Please note: Dainfern College introduced a new PE kit (shirt, shorts and skort) in 2019. The old kit may still be worn for PE and sports practices for 2021; however, the **NEW moisture management PE kit is compulsory for all matches and fixtures** to ensure uniformity.

All students require a House T-shirt for all InterHouse activities in the following colours:

- Griffin – Yellow
- Kraken – Blue
- Phoenix – Red

House-coloured swimming caps (yellow, blue or red) are to be worn for swimming and InterHouse events; the white cap with school logo is worn for interschool events.

Only the official sports kit may be worn when representing the school. Tracksuits are **compulsory** in Winter and have to be worn as a unit ie no tracksuit tops with formal uniforms, or tracksuit pants with jerseys/blazers. Tracksuits form part of all sports kit and **must** be worn to all matches or sporting events, unless otherwise indicated by the teacher in charge.

First teams have an official sports uniform in some of the sporting codes.

PE uniform for Grades 4-7 boys and girls

PHYSICAL EDUCATION	PHYSICAL EDUCATION - GRADES 4-7
	Dainfern College PE shirt
	Dainfern College PE shorts (Boys & Girls) or Skort (Girls)
	Dainfern College tracksuit (for winter)
	Short white socks & Sports tackies
	PHYSICAL EDUCATION: SWIMMING – GRADES 4-7
	Dainfern College swimming costume (Boys – long ‘Jammies’ or short ‘Speedo’ type)
	Red cami top under costume (optional) – Grade 6 & 7 Girls only

Sports uniforms for Grades 4-7 boys and girls

<p>ATHLETICS & CROSS COUNTRY</p>	<p>Dainfern College PE shirt Dainfern College PE shorts or mid-quad navy lycra shorts (girls) Dainfern College tracksuit for meetings White socks & Sports tackies</p>
<p>CRICKET: BOYS & GIRLS</p>	<p>Practices: Dainfern College PE shirt and shorts / skort Long blue or white socks Matches: Dainfern College 'golf' shirt (Girls' match shirts TBC) White shorts U9-U11; White long cricket pants for Opens Long white socks U9-U11; Short white socks for Opens All: Cricket boots <i>or</i> white sports shoes Wide brimmed white cricket hat/Dainfern College peak cap Blue Dainfern College cricket cap for Open A team only</p>
<p>GOLF</p>	<p>Practices: Dainfern College PE shirt Dainfern College navy tailored shorts (boys) / skort (girls) Long blue school socks or Short white socks Matches: Dainfern College red Golf shirt Stone/beige trousers Short white sports socks All: Golf shoes Dainfern College cap</p>
<p>HOCKEY</p>	<p>Dainfern College PE shirt Dainfern College PE shorts (Boys) or skort (Girls) Dainfern College Long navy sports socks Sports tackies Shin pads (compulsory) Mouthguard (highly recommended) Hockey stick & Ball</p>
<p>NETBALL</p>	<p>Dainfern College PE shirt Dainfern College sports skort White short socks & Sports tackies</p>

RUGBY	Dainfern College striped rugby jersey Navy blue rugby shorts Mouthguard (highly recommended)
SOCCER	Dainfern College PE shirt & Dainfern College PE shorts Dainfern College long blue sports socks Soccer boots & Shin pads (compulsory)
SWIMMING	<p>All: Dainfern College costume (Boys - either long 'jammies' or short 'Speedo'; Girls - optional red cami top under costume)</p> <p>Practices: Red/yellow/blue swimming cap Navy towel / Dainfern College towel / Swimming parka</p> <p>Galas: White swimming cap with logo Dainfern College towel or Swimming parka Dainfern College tracksuit & Dainfern College Tog bag</p>
TENNIS	Dainfern College PE/sports shirt Dainfern College shorts / skort White short socks & Sports tackies Dainfern College Navy peak cap Tennis racquet

We wish you and your family a very happy and successful association with Dainfern College.

Term dates 2021

Term 1:	Term starts	07h30, Wednesday 13 January
	Half Term starts	11h30, Thursday 25 February
	Term resumes	07h30, Tuesday 2 March
	<i>Human Rights' Day</i>	<i>Sunday 21 March</i>
	<i>Public holiday</i>	<i>Monday 22 March</i>
	<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>Friday 2 April</i>
	<i>Family Day</i>	<i>Monday 5 April</i>
	Term ends	10h30, Wednesday 14 April

Term 2:	Term starts	07h30, Wednesday 5 May
	Half Term starts	11h30, Friday 11 June
	Term resumes	07h30, Monday 21 June
	Term ends	10h30, Friday 6 August

Term 3:	Term starts	07h30, Tuesday 7 September
	<i>Heritage Day</i>	<i>Friday 24 September</i>
	Half Term starts	11h30, Thursday 21 October
	Term resumes	07h30, Tuesday 26 October
	Term ends	10h00, Thursday 2 December
