

# Blue Mountain College

High School Prospectus 2012



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## **1. WHAT GIVES US OUR UNIQUE CHARACTER?**

*Blue Mountain College* (BMC) offers learners many privileges that very few learning institutions can provide. The school is situated in one of the most picturesque areas of South Africa on a 50 hectare farm, surrounded by abundant sub-tropical vegetation. Both the school and hostel buildings afford breath-taking views of the Tzaneen valley and learners enjoy a peaceful and healthy living environment.

The educational programme focuses on skills as well as content where learners are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning and where teachers act more as facilitators. The educational experience at BMC fosters sound relationships and exposes learners to a variety of international cultures. Learners will have opportunity to become effective communicators and leaders and will be encouraged to achieve their full potential according to their interests and abilities.

## **2. LANGUAGE POLICY**

BMC was founded as an English medium school for grades one through twelve. Learners are encouraged to speak English at all times to improve speaking, reading and comprehension skills. Afrikaans is taught as the first additional language from Grade 2 through 12.

## **3. THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME**

Learners are encouraged to embrace a strong work ethic and should be interested to learn, ask questions and broaden their intellectual experiences.

### **3.1 Educator Qualifications**

Educators undergo a strict screening process before they are officially appointed at BMC. Not only do we choose the most qualified person for the job, the applicant is also screened for suitability to the culture, vision and mission of the school. Educators employed by BMC have a passion for teaching; have a high code of moral ethics and share in the culture of the school of reaching out to learners and to be more than just educators to the learners. Educators are also monitored on learning, delivery and teaching methods as well as moral, social and emotional developmental input into the lives of learners.

### **3.2 Overview of Qualifications**

#### **3.2.1 GET Certificate (GETC)**

Should the learner choose to leave school after completion and achieving the minimum standard to pass grade 9, the learner will receive a GET certificate as stipulated by the Department of Education.

#### **3.2.2 National Senior Certificate (NSC)**

After the learner successfully completes Grade 12, the learner will receive a National Senior Certificate as issued by The Department of Education.

### 3.3 Assessment and Reporting

Learner assessment is done according to the Subject Assessment Guidelines and the learner is assessed accurately and authentically. The learner is continuously assessed in a multi-dimensional, varied, fair and balanced manner. Learners are given tasks, tests and examinations and each assessment tool has a different weighting as stipulated in the Subject Assessment Guidelines for that particular learning programme. Evidence of progress in achieving outcomes shall be used to identify areas where learners need support and remedial intervention. Parents of learners also receive a report of learner's results every term.

### 3.4 Subject Choices

#### 3.4.1 Grade 8-9

Learners will take all of the following subjects:

English HL, Afrikaans FAL, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Technology, Arts and Culture, Life Orientation and Economic Management Sciences.

#### 3.4.2 FET Phase (Grades 10 - 12)

All learners at BMC in the FET phase may choose their subjects according to the following guidelines:

(i) Group A (all four subjects from this group)

- English Home Language (HL)
- Afrikaans First Additional Language (FAL)
- Life Orientation
- Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy

(ii) Group B (any three subjects from this group)

- Physical Science
- Life Sciences
- Geography
- History
- Computer Application Technology
- Business Studies
- Accounting
- Consumer Studies
- Hospitality Studies
- Engineering Graphics and Design

Subject choices made are available according to minimum requirements for subject availability.

### **3.5 Learner support**

Learners are given support in every learning programme

### **3.6 Textbooks**

Textbooks are supplied by the college and parents are to pay an annual textbook fee.

## **4. EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME**

A variety of interesting activities are available to the learners as follows :

### **4.1 Cultural Activities**

Learners are given opportunity to participate in the following activities :

- Drama group
- Musical production
- Choir
- Restaurant management
- Adventure groups
- Photography club
- Reporters club
- Ecology club
- German / French classes
- Guitar
- Piano
- Flute
- Saxophone

### **4.2 Sports**

The following sports are available for learners :

- Boys and girls soccer
- Netball
- Cross country
- Mountain biking
- Badminton
- Volleyball

## 5. GENERAL INFORMATION

### 5.1 Hostels

All learners will be required to stay in the hostels: Monday - Friday. This is to enable them to accommodate the varied programme. Learners can be either weekly or term boarders.

### 5.2 Daily Programme

The daily programme will be as follows:

6.00	Wake up
6:30	Breakfast
7:30 - 09:30	Class
09:30 - 10:00	Break / Sandwiches / Tuck Shop
10:00 - 12:00	Class
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch
12:45 - 14:45	Class
15:15 - 16:15	Academics/Practical/Extra Lessons
16:30 - 17:15	Sports/ Activities
18:15 - 19:00	Supper
19:15 - 21:30	Prep
22:00	Lights Out

### 5.3 Uniform

Boys are required to wear white cotton / collared shirts, denim shorts or long pants, black shoes, grey socks and charcoal school jacket. Girls will wear white cotton / collared shirts, denim skirts or long pants, grey socks, black shoes and charcoal school jacket. During supper and prep time students are required to wear black or blue shorts / black tracksuit pants / black, blue or white T shirts / black drimac jackets / sports shoes or open sandals.

## 6. LEAVE OUT

### 6.1 During the Week

- This may be done only with written permission from the principal or duty teacher.
- Students who do leave the college must sign out on departure and sign in on arrival back.

### 6.2 Weekends

- Weekly boarders may go out every weekend but must be signed out and signed back in at the duty teacher. Should they choose to go elsewhere other than home they must have parental permission in writing or by arrangement with the principal.
- Students must return by 20:00 on Sunday night or by 7:00 Monday morning. No meals will be provided for weekend leave out students.

- Students remaining at the school over weekends will be accommodated in the hostels and must adhere to weekend guidelines and rules.

## **7. CUBICLES**

- Students must take proper care of their private cubicles and will be held responsible for damages.
- Private property must be secure at all times.
- Clothing may not be left lying around and must either be in the laundry or kept in the cubicles.
- Cubicles must be kept neat at all times.

## **8. LAUNDRY**

- Only term boarders will have laundry done at school. Weekly boarders must take their laundry home each weekend.
- Clothing must be clearly marked with each clothing item having a number tag.
- Each student must have a laundry bag for all his / her dirty washing. Bed linen must be washed weekly.

## **9. DISCIPLINE**

Rules are expected to be obeyed and pupils who break school rules are dealt with in a firm and fair manner. All learners and their parents are expected to sign a “Code of Conduct” agreement when enrolling at the school.

### **9.1 Hostel Rules**

All BMC rules apply and the hostels expect the learners to act in accordance with the BMC’s Code of Conduct. Hostel superintendents will be responsible for the cleanliness and management of both the boy’s and girl’s boarding facilities. The superintendents will also be responsible for children who take ill or need medical attention.

### **9.2 Meals**

- All meals are compulsory and boarders must be punctual.
- Food may only be allowed into the hostels if in a sealed container.
- Boarders must shower before supper.
- Students must be respectably dressed for meals. Footwear must be worn and no hats or caps may be worn in the dining hall.

### **9.3 Showering**

- All boarders must shower at least once a day. Water must be used sparingly.
- Boarders may not shower after evening prep without prior permission.

### **9.4 Television and DVD’s**

- No portable TV sets are allowed.

- Television viewing will only be allowed at times allocated by the principal.
- Weekend TV viewing will be restricted
- Only programmes with appropriate material may be watched.

### **9.5 Music/IPods**

- No music is allowed at school or in the boarding houses.
- No MP3's/IPods and CD players are to be used without permission or supervision.

### **9.6 Cell Phones/CD's/Storage Devices**

- Cell phones are permitted for all boarders but may only be used at allocated times.
- The school provides cell phones without internet access for the learners and no cell phones, memory sticks, digital storage devices or laptops will be allowed in the hostel or outside the computer classes.

### **9.7 Fines**

Fines may be incurred for various offences such as:

- Polishing shoes inside the hostel (R25)
- Chewing bubble gum during school hours (R25)
- Destroying school property e.g. library books (cost of damage incurred)
- Failure to collect washing (R2)

### **9.8 Dress Code**

- The appropriate school uniform must be worn during formal school hours.
- Students must be neatly presented each morning. Boys may not be unshaven and girl's hair must not hang loosely.
- Boys hair must be kept neat and presentable.
- Boys may not wear any earrings.
- Girls may not wear make-up or excessive jewellery to school.

### **9.9 Senior Discipline Code**

Items which constitute offenses are listed in the table below:

LEVEL 1 OFFENCE	LEVEL 3 OFFENCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework neglected.</li> <li>• School work neglected.</li> <li>• Not being punctual.</li> <li>• Disregarding time schedules.</li> <li>• Neglect of school property.</li> <li>• Disrupting the class.</li> <li>• Disrupting homework class.</li> <li>• Eating/ chewing in class.</li> <li>• Excessive loud behaviour in class.</li> <li>• Disregarding privacy.</li> <li>• Littering.</li> <li>• Inappropriate school uniform.</li> <li>• Inappropriate wearing of make-up and jewellery.</li> <li>• Discourteous to teachers, residents and visitors.</li> <li>• Poor behaviour during practical time.</li> <li>• Disobeying hostel rules.</li> <li>• Unruly behaviour in the dining room.</li> <li>• Neglecting a duty.</li> <li>• General bad attitude .</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical harassment.</li> <li>• Emotional harassment.</li> <li>• Substance abuse.</li> <li>• Stealing.</li> <li>• Possession of inappropriate materials.</li> <li>• Leaving the property without permission.</li> <li>• Purposeful and malicious damage to school property.</li> <li>• Blatant disrespect to teachers or adults.</li> <li>• Blatant dishonesty.</li> <li>• Fighting / excessive violent behaviour.</li> </ul>
<b>LEVEL 2 OFFENCES</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swearing/ use of bad language or signs.</li> <li>• Bullying.</li> <li>• Unacceptable physical contact.</li> <li>• Verbal abuse and slander.</li> <li>• Cheating / copying of school work or homework.</li> <li>• General dishonesty.</li> <li>• Out of bounds in designated areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 x level 1 offence = 1 extra duty.</li> <li>• 1 x level 2 offence = 2 extra duties.</li> <li>• 1 x level 3 offence = suspension with extra duties, removal of privileges, 1 verbal/written warning at the discretion of the principal <u>or</u> immediate expulsion.</li> <li>• Suspensions can also be given at the discretion of the principal should he deem it necessary to address disciplinary problems.</li> <li>• After successive warnings or at the discretion of the disciplinary committee, the learner can be expelled from the school.</li> <li>• Any School fees paid one month in advance or any other fees paid in advance will not be reimbursed should a learner be expelled.</li> <li>• Extra duties, removal of privileges, detentions and letters of warning will be given by the Principal.</li> </ul>

## 10. PREP

- Prep will be done each evening from Mondays to Thursdays in the school classrooms.
- Students will be supervised by the duty teacher and the time must be effectively used by students.
- Grade 10-12 learners may have academic classes during prep time.

**11. LEISURE**

- No ball games permitted in or around the hostels.
- The student's lounge area must be used appropriately and kept neat at all times.

**12. ILLNESS**

- Students feeling ill must inform the medical officer J Botes or educator on duty as soon as possible.
- Should a student require medical attention, the medical officer or duty staff will arrange the necessary medical attention.
- All medication must be reported to and registered with the medical officer.
- Should the learner on any medication or be required to take any chronic medication, a letter from the learner's parent is required. The medication is to be handed in to the medical officer who will then administer the medication to the learner.

**13. FIRE EMERGENCY SITUATION**

- Shout warning and leave school and boarding house rooms and meet on the green field below the school building.
- Students may not have any matches or lighters in their possession.

**14. CONTACT DETAILS**

Office	Name	Number	Fax Number	Email Address
Principal	Mr Gary Muller	074 655 3151	086 696 7331	<a href="mailto:headmaster@bluemc.co.za">headmaster@bluemc.co.za</a>
Vice Principal	Mrs Jeanette Botes	084 791 6000	086 694 1398	<a href="mailto:jbotesbmc@gmail.com">jbotesbmc@gmail.com</a>
General	Mrs Samantha Pikus	076 015 8479	086 766 9332	<a href="mailto:admin@bluemc.co.za">admin@bluemc.co.za</a>
Tzaneen Office	Ms Rebekah Peniel	015 307 1333	015 307 7039	<a href="mailto:enquiries@bluemc.co.za">enquiries@bluemc.co.za</a>

Postal address:

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Tzaneen  
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