



July 2020

## The Principal's Message

*"Great works are performed not by strength, but by perseverance." Samuel Johnson*

*Perseverance* has been a necessary characteristic in this time of the Covid 19 pandemic.

This crisis has impacted our school and individuals in indefinite and varied ways. We are all processing the scourge of the pandemic as it affects us both similarly and differently. How we conduct ourselves whilst we cope with its effects is vital to the well-being of our organisation. Many people are frustrated, at the end of their tethers, grieving, displaying undulating emotions as their circumstances present uncertainty, conflict and distress, and these may manifest amongst staff, parents and students. We need to display understanding, care, empathy and kindness in our interactions.

We are relieved that the return to school plan has been successfully implemented. The run up to this point has been very onerous with conflicting reports, directives and documents about matters around the return to school, and now also the probability of imminent school closures. Simultaneously we were dealing with a very challenging retrenchment process influenced by the global crisis and its economic consequences. Thankfully we had a three week break which allowed us time to focus on the aforementioned matters which took up a huge amount of time and even greater emotional energy. The continued spike in Covid 19 infections also influenced the overall mood of staff which had to be managed through timeous and effective communications on the above processes. Fortunately, we returned to a bubbly mood of staff when school reopened despite the retrenchment process, the covid situation and the return to school challenges. Our students adjusted magnificently to the Covid 19 rules and regulations and their happy faces were uplifting after nearly four months of onsite absence. We *persevere* in offering a hybrid system of teaching and learning, with both onsite and online programmes.

We thank our parents, staff and students for their wonderful support and cooperation during this unprecedented period of time. We *persevere* and continue to serve our school with vision and care, and the determination to offer a quality Jewish education.

Theodore Thomas  
**Principal**