

COLLEGE

26 SEPTEMBER 2025





FROM THE HEAD'S DESK...

Dear Parents

As we reach the end of Week 4 of the final term of 2025, it's hard to believe how quickly time is passing. The energy on campus is palpable as we move deeper into the heart of the term, with academics, cultural activities, and sporting commitments all in full swing. It's a busy but exciting time at Woodridge College, and we are proud of the way our pupils are embracing the challenges and opportunities that come with this crucial part of the school year.

As we reflect on this past week, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the importance of Heritage Day in the life of our school and country. This special day offers all South Africans the opportunity to celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures, traditions, and histories that shape our national identity, and it was heartening to see this spirit so clearly embraced by our pupils on Wednesday.

At the combined special assembly with the Prep, it was a joy to witness the vibrant colours, traditional attire, and personal pride with which so many of our pupils dressed to honour their heritage. Their enthusiasm and respectful celebration of diversity not only added warmth and colour to our school day but also served as a powerful reminder of the value of inclusivity and unity in our community. We remain committed to fostering a sense of belonging and respect for all cultures, and occasions such as Heritage Day help us reinforce these values in meaningful and memorable ways. As always, thank you for your ongoing support in encouraging your children to take pride in who they are and where they come from.

On a different note, in the past two assemblies, I have addressed our pupils on the importance of greeting – this is an area in our school that I feel is not as good as it could be. In a community, greeting is so important!

At the College, we continue to place value on the small, everyday actions that help build a respectful and connected school community. One of these is the simple act of greeting one another. Whether it's a cheerful "Good morning," a friendly wave, or simply making eye contact and offering a smile, greetings are far more than polite gestures; they are foundational to fostering a culture of respect, inclusion, and mutual recognition. For our pupils, learning to greet others, whether it is their peers, staff, or visitors alike, helps to instill confidence, develop social awareness, and reinforce a sense of belonging.

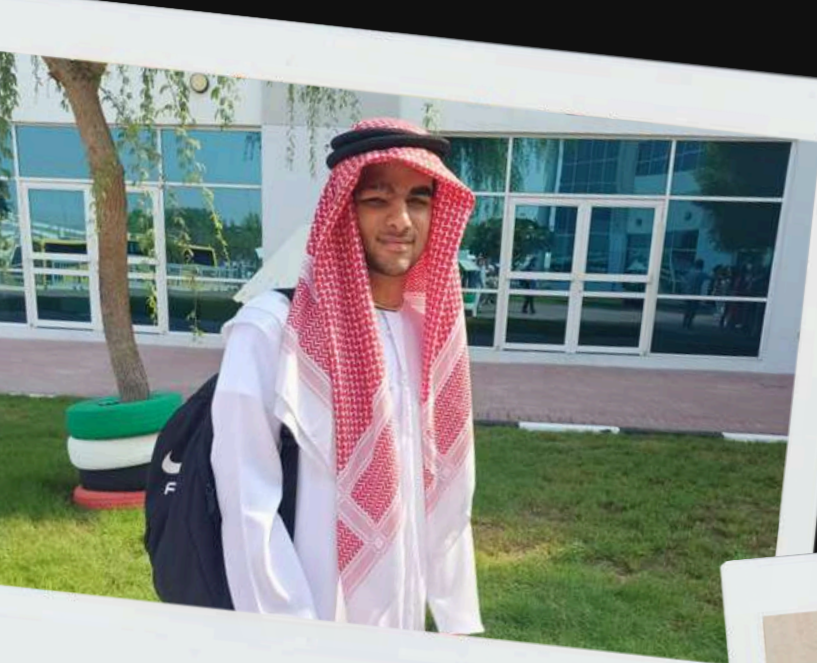
We encourage our pupils to make greeting others a habit, not just at school but in their broader lives as well. These small acts of courtesy can have a powerful impact and are an important part of developing into considerate and engaged young adults. As always, if we work together as a team, both school and parents, we are more likely to get this right – greeting is so important in building a community of inclusion and care.

As always, thank you for your continued support!

Warm regards,

Luke Hartley





International Round Square Conference Dubai

This past week, 6 of our Grade 11 pupils travelled to Dubai to participate in the International Round Square Conference in Dubai. These conferences are transformative and expose our delegates to like-minded pupils from around the world, while they have the opportunity to participate in Barazas, get involved in community engagement, and learn about environmental challenges and success stories.



SPORT



CRICKET

Our Boys' 1st Team cricketers played in the recent Pearson Cricket Festival. On the first day, they played against Wynberg, winning by 5 wickets. Oliver Puttergill performed well with the bat, scoring 48 runs. In the second game against Queens College, the match was called off due to bad light, and as a result, the game was a draw. Ithi Arosi was the standout bowler on the day, taking 3 for 18. The third match against Marlow was rained out, which left one game against DF Malherbe on the fourth day of the festival. Woodridge scored 270 runs in their allotted 50 overs, with Jeandré Strydom (55), Jay-Reece Madatt (48) and Stephen Swanepoel (40) all performing very well with the bat. Woodridge managed to bowl DF Malherbe out for 189 runs, with Jay-Reece Madatt taking 5 for 30 with the ball. Woodridge won by 81 runs.



SPORT



CRICKET

In the first Saturday fixture of the season against Union High, our 1st XI and U15 team did exceptionally well. In the 1st XI game, Woodridge restricted Union to 93/10 with Mpumi Magwentshu taking 4 for 27. Woodridge chased down the Union score with one wicket down, winning by 9 wickets. Ethan Mothoo top-scored with 46 not out. The U15 team won by 9 wickets, with Ithi Arosi (28) and Stephen Swanepoel (25) doing well with the bat.

The girls' 1st XI played against Victoria Park in their first game of the season, winning by 10 wickets. Nina Ferreira (3 for 9) and Gabi Puttergill (2 for 8) were the pick of the bowlers, while Ava Horner and Zara Bonnasse chased the Victoria score down without losing their wickets. The girls' 2nd XI also did well, winning easily.



SPORT



WATER POLO

The Water Polo teams have had a busy start to the season. On the first weekend of term, the U15 girls travelled to Makhanda to play in the DSG Spring Festival. The team won three games, beating Kingswood Juniors (5-2), DSG Juniors (13-1), and Clarendon Juniors (4-3), but went down to the DSG U14A 2-6.

In the NMB Night series, the Woodridge Girls 1st team lost to Kingswood 1-8, but both the Boys 1st (15-3) and the U15A (19-2) teams won convincingly. On the Saturday, the Boys 1st team won against Glenwood (5-4) and Kingswood (12-3) but went down to St Andrews (4-7). The 1st Team Girls, without their matrices, struggled a bit, going down to Glenwood (4-6), DSG (2-7), and Collegiate (2-5), but managed a solid win against DSG 2nd Team (3-2). The Girls' 2nd Team struggled, losing to Kingswood's 2nd Team (0-10), the DSG 2nd Team (1-14), and DSG U15A Team (5-8).

This past weekend, Woodridge hosted Grey, Pearson, and Glenwood House. The Girls U15A Team beat Pearson (7-5) but went down to Glenwood (3-8). The Boys U15A Team beat Pearson (13-2) and went down to Grey (4-8). This score was not a reflection of the game. The Girls 1st Team went down to Glenwood (4-8) but managed a first win against Pearson (6-3) - a wonderful achievement! The Boys 1st Team had an incredible day, beating Glenwood (14-4), Pearson (12-0), and Grey (6-5). This was the first time we have beaten Grey and shows what hard work can achieve!



SPORT



CYCLING

This past weekend, the College embarked on a new chapter by hosting our very first Mountain Biking event on our spectacular campus. Grey High School joined us, and they were amazed by our wonderful facility.

We will visit their track for a ride later in the year. Thanks to our pupils for flying the Woodridge flag so high!

Our riders have a lot to learn; however, both schools had a lot of fun. This is an exciting development, and I believe our cycling will go from strength to strength.



SPORT



CLIMBING

This past weekend, a group of pupils went to School Rocks to work on their climbing skills and get outdoors to do something in nature that they are passionate about. This stunning natural rock formation offers the perfect outdoor climbing experience, reconnecting us with the great outdoors and inspiring a true appreciation for our environment.

It is always so good to see our pupils using what is on our doorstep and doing some good, healthy exercise in the process.



SPORTS NEWS

EASTERN PROVINCE

CRICKET

Ashley Buhr has been selected to participate in the upcoming pre-season friendly fixture between Eastern Province Women and the Garden Route Badgers Women's team, scheduled to take place from 23 September 2025. We wish Ashley all the best as she takes on this exciting challenge.



EASTERN PROVINCE

WATER POLO

Congratulations to the following boys and girls on making the various NMB (EP) Water Polo Teams/Squads. These teams will compete in Johannesburg from 6-11 December in the annual Inter Provincial Tournaments.

U19 Boys (Squad): Carter Rosser Christian Chandler Daniel Henning Johan Moolman Oliver Martin	U15 Boys (Team): Charles Frost Daniel Lokotsch Malachi Smith Chrisitian Paxton (Non-Travelling reserve) Connor Du Preez (Non-Travelling reserve) Luca Hamlet (Non-Travelling reserve)	U14 Boys (Team): Harrison Rosser U13 Boys (Team): Dante Williams (B-Team)
U19 Girls: Daniella Smith (Non-travelling reserve) Rebecca Botha (Non-travelling reserve)	U15 Girls: Kendal McKay (Non-travelling reserve)	U14 Girls: Emma Steenkamp (A-Team) Saka Zakuma (A-Team)



HERITAGE DAY



Heritage Day was a wonderful celebration of the diverse cultures we have in our Woodridge community. As a school, we also got to celebrate our vibrant traditional wear as well as through our music from both the Prep and College choirs. We were also joined by the very talented Masifunde choir from Walmer. Heritage Day always brings with it a unique energy as we look to our shared heritage as a school.



OUTDOORS

GRADE 11 GEOGRAPHY



The grade 11 Geography pupils have recently been doing research on soils and building soil profile models for their chosen region on the school grounds. Soil is an incredibly valuable and understudied resource, making this a fantastic discovery learning experience involving active learning and creative presentation.

ENGLISH LESSONS OUTSIDE



**"Their minds were not built to sit and be taught.
They were built to explore, play, and learn."
— Layla Gordon Lu.**



CIVVIES DAY

Your funky style funds their first book.

Funky Socks Co.

Proudly Supports:



Community Pop up Library drive

"He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given."
~Proverbs 19:17.



We recently held our termly civvies day. Funds raised went to worthy causes in our community. This term, the money was raised through Funky Socks - an organisation which raises money to create a culture of reading that empowers children in disadvantaged communities by supplying their schools with books to encourage a love of reading and inspire lifelong learning.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION SUPPER CIRCLE

In an attempt to upskill our Grade 10 boarders in preparation for 'The Way', groups of pupils are invited to participate in a Supper Circle. Here, individuals use camp cooking apparatus and are supplied with food to put together a healthy, delicious meal. This is all part of exposing the Grade 10 boarders to what is possible when cooking outdoors.



TULI TOUR

2026

Give your child the chance to embark on the adventure of a lifetime!

From 13 – 20 August 2025, our pupils will journey from PE into the heart of Botswana to explore the breathtaking Tuli Wilderness.



Woodridge Botswana Tour 2026

13 – 20 August 2026

Travel from PE on 13th and at Tuli from 14th - 20th

Costs will be confirmed once we have numbers

Email Courtney.Watson@Woodridge.co.za to provisionally book a place



SIGN UP

MAKE
memories



STAFF NEWS

At a recent meeting of the Royal Society of Chemistry from South Africa's Northern Section, Dr Logie, our Academic Deputy Head, was the guest presenter. She was invited to present on the development of the Further Studies Chemistry curriculum which she designed for the IEB. This was a feather in Dr Logie's cap as she spoke to her passion, Chemistry!

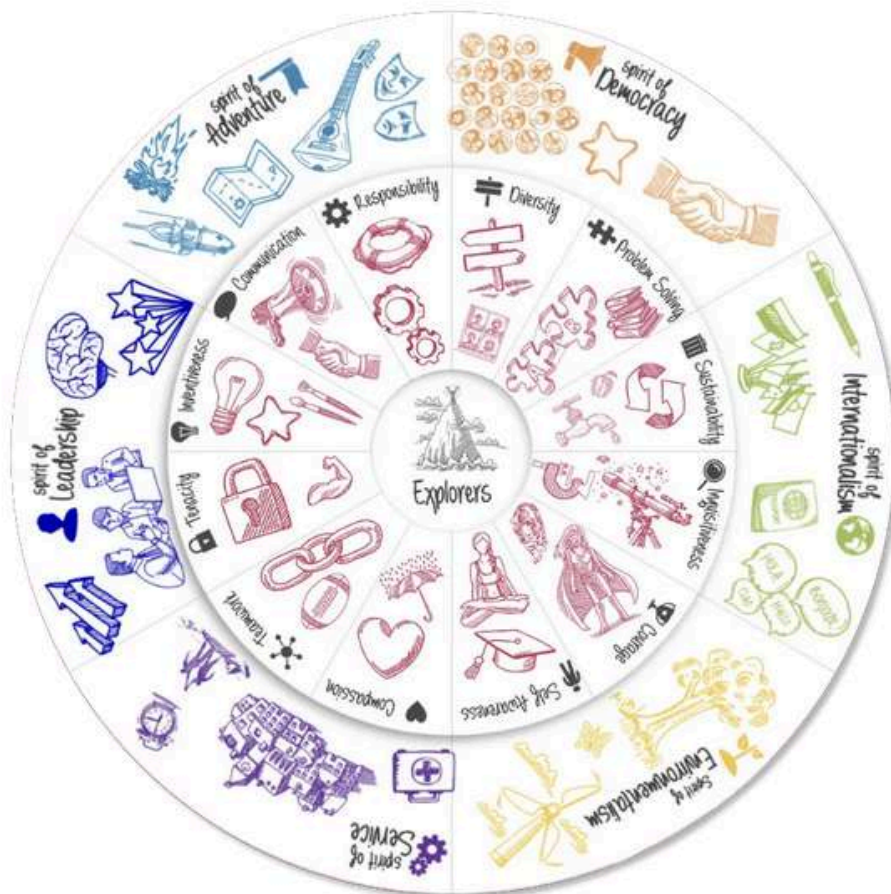


Mr Asive Swazi recently participated in the 2025 IF Body Building South African Championships. He won the Muscular Physique under 178m division and also went on to win the IF Body Building Overall National title beating all the other division winners. As a result, Mr Swazi has achieved his South African National colours for Body Building and will represent South Africa at the World Championships in Saudi Arabia later this year.



DATES TO DIARISE

-  Wednesday: 01 October, Grade 9 Market Day
-  Monday: 06 October, Prize Giving
-  Thursday: 09 October, Valedictory Service
-  Thursday: 09 October to Sunday 12 October, Stayers Water Polo Tournament
-  Thursday: 09 October, Half-Term
-  [Click here for the College Monthly Planner](#) **Subject to change**



Click on the image to try our *Whizzy Wheel*, an interactive tool to turn the dials and see how the IDEALS and the Discoveries are interwoven.

