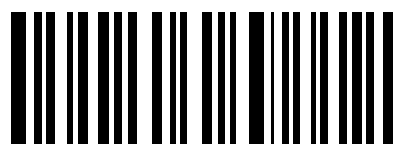




College News

18 September, 2026



1936 - 2026



**WOODRIDGE
PREPARATORY**
celebrating 90 years

Dear Parents

As we settle into the rhythm of another busy term at Woodridge, it is hard to believe just how much has already taken place. From the classroom to the sports fields, from camps and outdoor experiences to community activities, our pupils have embraced the many opportunities that make a Woodridge education so special. It has been particularly encouraging to see them throw themselves into school life with enthusiasm, curiosity and a willingness to challenge themselves. These are the moments that shape more than just academic results, but they help our young people discover who they are, develop confidence and resilience, and grow into the young people who I know will make a difference in the world one day.

Reflecting on the past few weeks, many of us would have been drawn into watching and supporting Rugby's Greatest Rivalry series between the Springboks and the All Blacks. What a series it has been and what a wonderful advert for our amazing country. Yes, we do have problems, but at the same time we have so much to be grateful for in our land.

The series has provided us with far more than four exciting rugby matches. It has offered a wonderful reminder of the values that sport can teach us and, importantly, the values that we seek to nurture in our young people at Woodridge. Mutual respect, tenacity, teamwork and integrity have been evident throughout the tour, both on and off the field. While the rivalry on the field has been fierce and uncompromising, the players and coaches have consistently shown enormous respect for one another. They have embraced each other's cultures, traditions and differences openly, reminding us that healthy competition does not require us to lose sight of our shared humanity.

There was something particularly powerful about watching 85 000 South Africans at the FNB Stadium, from all walks of life, stand together and sing our national anthem. For those few moments, differences were set aside, and we were united by something we could all share. It was a wonderful reflection of the spirit of our country and a reminder that, although South Africa faces many challenges, we are fortunate to live in a beautiful country surrounded by people who are embracing, resourceful, and passionate about what they do. Rugby has a unique ability to bring people together, and this series demonstrated that beautifully, as did Nelson Mandela over 30 years ago.

As parents and educators, we can take many lessons from the players and coaches involved. We can teach our children to compete fiercely while respecting their opponents; to persevere when things become difficult; to understand that success is rarely achieved alone; and to conduct themselves with integrity whether they are winning or losing. These are lessons that extend well beyond the rugby field. They are the qualities that help shape young people into individuals who can make a meaningful contribution to their communities and, ultimately, become young adults of significance.

At Woodridge, we often speak about the importance of becoming the best and most authentic version of ourselves. The Rugby's Greatest Rivalry series has given us a wonderful example of what this can look like: competing with passion, standing together with pride, respecting those who may be different from us, and recognising that we are stronger when we work together. I hope that our pupils have not only enjoyed the spectacle of the rugby but have also recognised the deeper lessons that sport can offer us all.

So, as we journey deeper into the term, I look forward to our continued work together to bring the best out of the young people in our care as they grow their own individual identities and impact on the world around them in a positive manner.

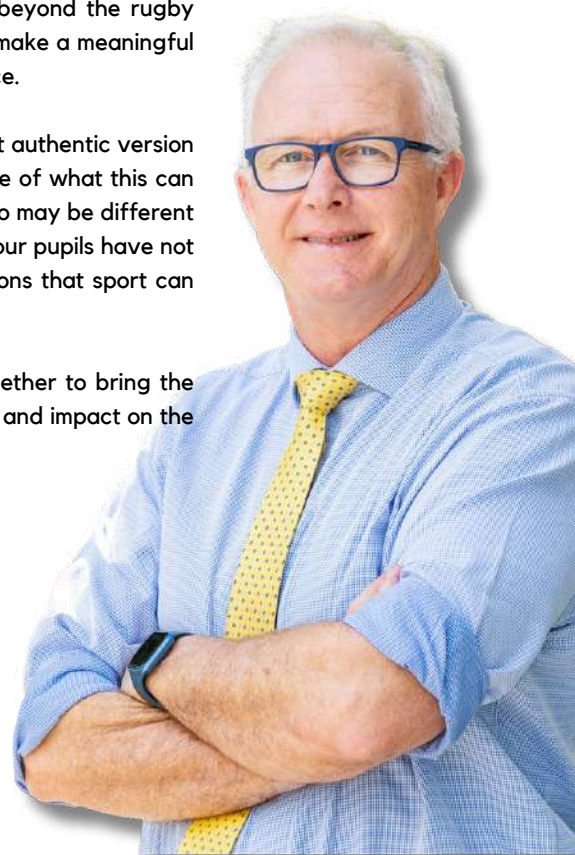
Luke Hartley

“

Now the
Lord is the
Spirit, and
where the
Spirit of
the Lord
is, there is
freedom.

2 Cor 3:17

”





COLLEGE NEWS

Top 10 – Term 2 2026

Grade 12	Grade 11	Grade 10	Grade 9	Grade 8
DEARMER Sián	BARNARD Lisa	DE KLERK Amie	JACOBS Noah	HANEKOM Gemma
FODOR Gemma	CHANG Lawrence	HAMLET Luca	MEARA Amelie	HERSELMAN Rachel
GALADA Imitha	CHANTSON Luke	JANSEN VAN VUUREN Marcus	MOLOI Tau	KRUGEL Anina
GOTHARD Michael	DEGOUMOIS Britt	LUDIDI Tandolwethu	MTHIMUNYE Lunawe	LESHEM Lyla
HORAK Vaclav	HERSELMAN Kate	MASHELELE Iminathi	NGWEBE Buhle	MENE Lunam
KING Maria	HOLME Mia	MONTAGNA Olivia	SWAYENA Simliziwe	MPIKELELI Lonela
MASOKA Salizwa	STOTTELAAR Rebecca	MPIKELELI Sande	VAN DER BERG Lumae	PIETERSEN Ashley
O'RIAIN Alexa	STOTTELAAR Sasha	NOGQALA Sange	VON HAGEN Mila	STUTTERHEIM Sophia
PEENS Sienna	THOMPSON Harry	POTGIETER Hannah	WEI Michael	WANG Chen
ZENZILE Sihle	VORRATH Christina Gisela	WEBB Gaby	WILLIAMS Danté	YOUNG Calum

****The names above are presented alphabetically within each grade and do not indicate ranking.**

Academic Awards

The first assembly of the third term provided an opportunity to recognise and celebrate those pupils who excelled academically during Term 2. While academic achievement is an important measure of success, we are equally proud of the commitment, perseverance and diligence demonstrated by our pupils throughout the term.

Our top 10 pupils in each grade were recognised for their outstanding academic performance. In keeping with our tradition of preserving a few surprises for the end-of-year Prize Giving, the names were announced in alphabetical order rather than according to academic ranking. Congratulations to each of these pupils on an exceptional term.

Congratulations!

Purple Highlighter Award

The Purple Highlighter Award is a special academic recognition presented once each term to one pupil in every grade. It celebrates pupils who consistently work hard, think deeply and demonstrate excellent learning habits across their subjects.

Importantly, this award is not simply about achieving the highest marks. It recognises how a pupil learns: using feedback constructively, remaining organised, asking questions, taking responsibility for their work and continuing to give their best even when the work becomes challenging.

The award takes its inspiration from a former Woodridge pupil who achieved outstanding academic results and became known for carefully reviewing and improving their work with a purple highlighter. It is a fitting reminder that academic success is often built through the small, consistent habits that take place behind the scenes.

Our Term 2 recipients were:

Grade	Purple Highlighter Award
Grade 12	Zara Bonnasse
Grade 11	Maya-Faye Maxwell
Grade 10	Sande Mpikeleli
Grade 9	Lumae van der Berg
Grade 8	Lyla Leshem



COLLEGE NEWS

Most Improved Term 2 2026

Grade 12	Grade 11	Grade 10	Grade 9	Grade 8
CHANDLER Christian	BAIN Georgina	DAYCE Joshua	FERRANT Lily-Rose	FONTAINE Caleb
HEGEMANN Liam	DEMINGO Devantè	DYSEL Zac	MOLOI Tau	HUME Matthew
MAPALING Mia	HERSELMAN Kate	ERLANK Caitlin	MTHIMUNYE Lunawe	LESHEM Lyla
PAINE Aidan	HORSFIELD Emily	MIDDLETON Chloe	ROTHMANN Ziané	RAUTENBACH Kimber
QEQE Konwaba	NGANGELIZWE Iviwe	MONTAGNA Olivia	SNYMAN Jordan	VAN DER WALT Liam
TILSTON Michella	NINI Iminam	NKOMANA Lwanda	STIEMIE Sydney	VAN HEERDEN Marcia
ZHANG David	STEENKAMP Gareth	PISTORIUS Chloe	SWAYENA Simliziwe	WANG Chen
ZOGHBY Sebastian	TRUMAN-BAKER Jasper		THORNTON Jenna	
	VINCENT Emma-Kate		VENTER Matthew	
			WILLIAMS Danté	

****The names above are presented alphabetically within each grade and do not indicate ranking.**

Academic Awards

Academic success is not only about maintaining high marks. At Woodridge, we also believe strongly in recognising growth and progress. The Most Improved awards acknowledge pupils whose academic performance showed significant improvement from Term 1 to Term 2, without a subject change.

These pupils deserve particular recognition for their determination and willingness to improve. Their progress is an encouraging reminder that academic achievement is a journey, and that consistent effort can make a meaningful difference.

Congratulations!

Recognising Academic Achievement

Some of our matric pupils have achieved significant academic results during the 2025/2026 academic year. These awards recognise the sustained commitment required to perform at a high level and reflect the academic standards to which our pupils and school aspire.

Grade 12 – Standards	Grade 12 – Colours
REITZ Annabelle	ALUTENI Ndapewa
	BANGAZI Siyavuya
	BONNASSE Zara
	GALADA Imitha
	HURLEY Ethan
	REITZ Charlotte
	ZENZILE Sihle

We congratulate all of our academic award recipients. Their achievements reflect not only ability but also the value of perseverance, discipline, and a willingness to keep learning. We hope that their success will inspire others in the Woodridge community to set ambitious goals, embrace challenges, and take pride in the progress they make along the way.

Camps Week



Last week, our students had the wonderful opportunity to step beyond the classroom and immerse themselves in the beauty of the natural environment that surrounds Woodridge. Our camps are a vital part of the Woodridge experience, providing students with opportunities to learn and grow in ways that cannot always be replicated in the classroom. Through challenging activities, shared experiences, and time spent together in the outdoors, students develop resilience, teamwork, relationship-building and leadership skills, while becoming more independent, self-confident and adaptable.

The excitement and sense of achievement were evident when our students returned to school last Friday, with a wonderful spirit of camaraderie among the different groups. Camps play an important role in strengthening the social fabric of our school, often breaking down social barriers and creating a more inclusive and supportive community. Being removed from the familiar routines of School also encourages students to appreciate the natural world around them and to discover more about themselves and their peers.

School camps remain an invaluable component of the Woodridge College curriculum, providing meaningful experiences that help shape well-rounded, grounded and resilient young people – qualities that are at the very heart of the Woodridge stamp. A heartfelt thank you goes to all our staff who gave of their time, energy and expertise to make these camps possible. To our students, well done for embracing the challenges, stepping outside your comfort zones, and making the most of this wonderful opportunity to grow as individuals and as a community.

Camps Week



Camps Week



Camps Week

FIDELITER



GRADE 11 LEADERSHIP CAMP

Camps Week





COLLEGE NEWS

Mountain Biking – Merrel Tsitsikama Race

Well done to our Woodridge riders who took on the challenging Merrell Tsitsikamma Race recently. In the 40 km event, Ruark Kotze produced an excellent ride to finish in 19th place, with Adam Brugman crossing the line in 64th. In the 19 km race, Lila Kaarse also impressed, securing a fantastic 14th-place finish. These results are a wonderful reflection of the determination and commitment shown by our riders.

It was certainly a tough day out on the trails, with muddy conditions and strong winds adding to the challenge and testing the riders' skill, fitness and perseverance.

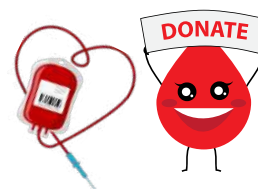
Despite the difficult conditions, the spectacular forest trails and breathtaking coastline views provided a memorable backdrop to the event. We are incredibly proud of Ruark, Adam, and Lila for taking on the challenge and representing Woodridge so well. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Jaco Serfontein and Nadya van Niekerk from Nutritech, and Anneli Young and Deon van Jaarsveld from Kwaggaskloof Citrus for generously sponsoring race fuel for our water point.

Your support helped make the day even more special for our Woodridge community.



Blood Clinic

We would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the pupils and staff who generously donated blood at our recent blood clinic. Their willingness to give of themselves for the benefit of others is a powerful example of compassion, service and community spirit. Blood donation is a crucial service that saves lives every day, yet blood supplies across our region remain critically low. By taking the time to donate, our Woodridge community has made a meaningful contribution to those who may one day depend on this precious resource. We are incredibly proud of everyone who rolled up their sleeves and played their part in helping to save lives.





COLLEGE NEWS

Swimming

We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievement of Shalea Hamilton, who recently had the incredible honour of travelling to Argentina to represent South Africa at the World Open Water Swimming Championships in the U14/15 age group. Competing over the challenging 5km distance, Shalea took her place alongside some of the finest young open-water swimmers from around the world—a remarkable achievement in itself.

Shalea performed exceptionally well in a highly competitive international field, finishing 21st in the world. Her result is a wonderful reflection of the dedication, discipline, and determination she has shown in the water. To compete at this level, against swimmers from across the globe, requires not only physical ability but also tremendous mental strength and resilience, and Shalea can be immensely proud of the way she represented both South Africa and Woodridge on the international stage.

We extend our warmest congratulations to Shalea on this fantastic achievement. Finishing among the world's top young open-water swimmers is a significant milestone, and we look forward to following her continued progress and success in the water. Well done, Shalea; your achievement is one of which the entire Woodridge community can be incredibly proud!



Water Polo

Our U14 and U15 girls travelled to Makhanda recently to take part in the DSG Spring Water Polo Festival, enjoying a valuable weekend of competition and development against a range of strong opposition. The festival provided our players with an excellent opportunity to test themselves, build match experience and strengthen the bonds within their teams.

Our U15A side showed great determination throughout the festival, recording victories over DSG U14B (4-1) and Pearson U15A (4-1), while also securing a 2-2 draw against Hudson Park. They faced tough challenges against Kingswood and Clarendon Junior A, going down 1-5 and 0-6 respectively. The U14A girls had an outstanding festival, producing three impressive victories against Pearson U15A (9-0), Pearson U14A (9-1) and Clarendon Junior B (12-0), before narrowly losing 2-5 to DSG U14A.

There was plenty to be proud of across both age groups, with our girls demonstrating skill, resilience and a willingness to compete against quality opposition. Festivals such as these are an important part of our water polo programme, allowing players to gain valuable experience while representing Woodridge with pride. Well done to all our U14 and U15 girls on their efforts and achievements!





COLLEGE NEWS

Water Polo

The U14 girls' and boys' teams travelled to East London this past weekend to participate in the Peter Cuff Water Polo Tournament hosted by Hudson Park. Our teams did considerably well considering they had been away on camps for most of the week leading up to the tournament.

However, both sides showed real tenacity in all their games. The boys' team came 5th overall – a very pleasing start to the season considering they have only had 2 practices in the build-up to the tournament. The team had good wins over Hudson Park and Merrifield and lost by 1 goal to Grey and Selborne. This was a very pleasing start to the 2nd half of the season!

The girls team placed 4th overall, a commendable start to the season after limited time in the pool. They recorded strong wins against Clarendon and DSG U13A. Clarendon U14B team and the Merrifield U14A team. Unfortunately, they lost to the Clarendon U14A team in the semi-finals.

The girls showed grit and determination throughout the Tournament and are commended for their efforts.

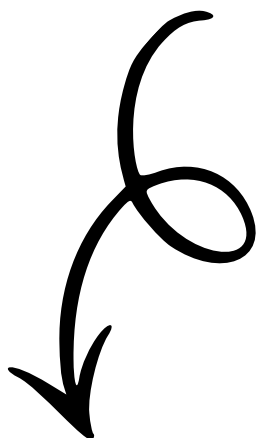


The girls' 1st team travelled to Makhanda this past weekend to participate in the Spring Water Polo Festival. The girls came up against some tough opposition, going down to Stirling, DSG, and Kingswood.

They managed a good win against DSG 2nd team and showed real perseverance in all their games. This was a good learning experience for the start of another busy season.

Provincial Water Polo

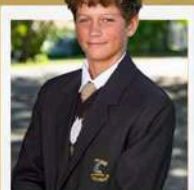
Congratulations to our Woodridge College water polo players who have been selected for the Provincial NMB Water Polo teams that will represent their province at the Inter-Provincial Tournaments (IPTs) in Cape Town later this year. This is a wonderful achievement and a reflection of the commitment, discipline and hard work these pupils have shown both in the pool and at training. We are incredibly proud of their selection and look forward to following their progress as they take on some of the best young water polo players from across the country. We wish them every success as they prepare to represent the NMB province and Woodridge on the provincial stage.



Congratulations



U14 EP WATER POLO REPRESENTATIVES



Levi Oakes



Murray-John
Boonzaier



Soren Hohenberger



Hayley Holmes

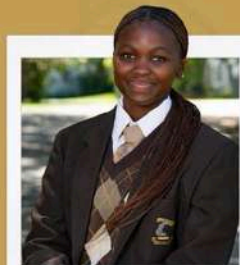


Lily-Grace Anderson



WOODRIDGE
COLLEGE AND PREPARATORY SCHOOL

U15 EP WATER POLO REPRESENTATIVES



Sakay Zakumba



Harrison Rosser



WOODRIDGE
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U16 EP WATER POLO REPRESENTATIVES



Kendal McKay



Malachi Smith



Daniel Lokotsch



Connor du Preez



WOODRIDGE
COLLEGE AND PREPARATORY SCHOOL





COLLEGE NEWS

Tennis



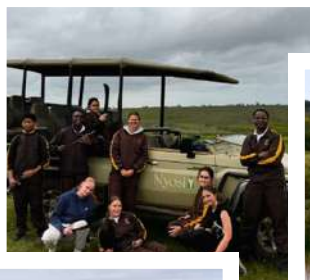
Our 1st team tennis players travelled to George recently to compete in a tournament, where they were tested against some tough opposition. While the boys' teams found the competition challenging and unfortunately went down in all their matches, the girls' teams enjoyed a more successful outing, securing a well-deserved victory over Greenwood Bay College. Regardless of the results, the tournament provided valuable match experience and an opportunity for our players to compete against strong opposition.

Many of the matches were closely contested, with games regularly going to deuce and requiring players to dig deep and maintain their composure. These hard-fought encounters are an important part of developing resilience and confidence on court. Well done to all our players for their commitment and for representing Woodridge with pride.

Eco Committee

Our Eco Committee, together with a group of enthusiastic boarders, recently spent their Sunday morning at Nyosi Reserve helping with the clearing of alien vegetation. It was a rewarding opportunity for our pupils to step outside the classroom and play a practical role in caring for and protecting the natural environment that surrounds us.

This was the first of what we hope will become a regular Sunday outing for our boarders. Initiatives such as these provide valuable opportunities for our pupils to give back to the community, develop a deeper appreciation for our natural surroundings and put the values of environmental responsibility and service into action. Well done to everyone who gave up part of their weekend to make a difference!





COLLEGE NEWS

Cricket



We are delighted to celebrate the wonderful achievement of Grade 8 pupil Ashley Pietersen, who has been selected to represent South Africa at the Indoor Cricket World Cup. This is an outstanding accomplishment and a testament to Ashley's talent, commitment, and hard work on the cricket court. We wish Ashley every success as she takes on this exciting opportunity to compete on the world stage and proudly represent both South Africa and Woodridge. We are incredibly proud of you, Ashley!

Surfing

We are pleased to share the wonderful news that Luc Jackson has been selected to represent the Nelson Mandela Bay Surfriders (Eastern Province) at the 2026 Sea Harvest SA Junior Championships. The prestigious championships will take place at Lower Point in Jeffreys Bay from 29 September to 3 October 2026, bringing together some of the country's most talented young surfers. This is a fantastic achievement for Luc and reflects his dedication, skill and passion for the sport. We wish him every success as he takes to the waves and proudly represents the Nelson Mandela Bay Surfriders, Eastern Province and Woodridge. Well done, Luc!



Campfire conversation with Rachel Kolisi

Woodridge is excited to welcome Rachel Kolisi on 24 September for an intimate campfire conversation with our girls. Rachel will share openly about resilience, finding joy in life in the simplest things, and the importance of teamwork and community. This promises to be a meaningful and inspiring opportunity for our girls to connect, reflect, and learn through honest conversation.

FALLING FORWARD with Rachel Kolisi



FF An evening that stays with you

AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING FOR WOMEN

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Limited tickets remaining

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Live More.

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LOOKING AHEAD

DATES TO DIARISE

- Prize Giving: Monday, 05 October
- Valedictory: Thursday, 08 October
- Stayers Water Polo Tournament: Thursday, 08 October to Sunday, 11 October
- Start of Half-Term: Thursday, 08 October
- School Commences: Tuesday, 13 October
- [Click here for the College Monthly Planner](#) **Subject to change**



Instagram



Facebook

