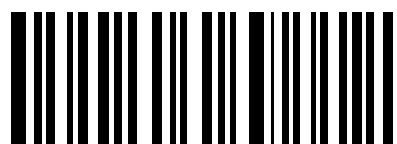




College News

30 April, 2026



1936 - 2026



**WOODRIDGE
PREPARATORY**
celebrating 90 years

Dear Parents

I trust that you all enjoyed a restful and fulfilling holiday and that you return refreshed and ready for the term ahead. It is my pleasure to welcome you back for the start of our second term, the winter term, which, while a long one, is filled with opportunity, growth, and culminates in the important examination session at its conclusion.

The recent holiday has been anything but quiet for many of our pupils. Our Hockey, Netball, Rugby, and Surf Lifesaving teams have travelled extensively across the country, participating in a wide range of tournaments and festivals. These experiences not only develop skill and resilience but also build character and camaraderie.

What continues to stand out, however, is the consistent and encouraging feedback we receive regarding the manner in which our pupils conduct themselves. Their sportsmanship, respect, and sense of responsibility are a true reflection of the values we hold dear at the College. This is something we can all be immensely proud of as a community.

As we embark on this term, I encourage every pupil to approach their academic and co-curricular commitments with focus and determination. Set clear, realistic goals, manage your time wisely, and support one another along the way. The length of the term requires perseverance, but it also provides the space to achieve meaningful progress.

To our staff and parents, thank you for your ongoing support and dedication. Together, we play a vital role in guiding and shaping the journey of every pupil.

Let us embrace the term ahead with energy, purpose, and a continued commitment to excellence in all that we do.

Kind regards,

Luke Hartley

“

**May your
choices
reflect
your
hopes,
not your
fears**

– Nelson Mandela

”



FROM WAVES to Sand

On 22 March, the Woodridge College Surf Lifesaving Club (Wdg SLC) proudly completed its final duty for the 2025/2026 season, which runs annually from November through to March. The conclusion of the season marks not only the end of months of dedicated service, but also a significant achievement in community contribution.

Over the course of the season, Woodridge pupils devoted approximately 1,100 man-hours to voluntary patrols at Main Beach, Cape St Francis. Impressively, this was achieved with an entirely incident-free record, reflecting both the effectiveness of their training and the vigilance with which they approached their responsibilities. Their consistent presence ensured that an acceptable and commendable standard of safety was maintained for all beachgoers.

Beyond the numbers, the true impact of the team's work is perhaps best reflected in the feedback received from the public. As in previous seasons, members were the recipients of numerous compliments, with beach visitors noting their positive attitude, professionalism, and unwavering commitment. These qualities continue to distinguish Woodridge Surf Lifesavers as outstanding ambassadors for both the school and the wider community.

While the season has been a success, the club faces ongoing challenges with membership. Sustaining sufficient numbers to meet patrol requirements remains a key focus for the future. Encouragingly, the club was able to maintain four Duty Squads this season, thanks in part to the valued support of local members from Summerstrand Surf Lifesaving Club. This collaboration highlights the strength of the broader lifesaving community and the shared commitment to beach safety.

The Woodridge College Surf Lifesavers can take great pride in their contribution this season. Their efforts at Cape St Francis Beach stand as a testament to the power of service, teamwork, and responsibility, values that lie at the heart of the Woodridge ethos.

SURF LIFESAVING: CAPE ST FRANCIS

COLLEGE SURF LIFESAVERS CONCLUDE A SUCCESSFUL SEASON OF SERVICE



Sport

Rugby & Netball vs Kirkwood

On the final Wednesday afternoon of Term 1, our 1st rugby and netball teams played against Kirkwood. A special mention must be made of the supporters on the stands who were out in force and created a very special spirit for the games.

The netball team played with such energy, winning the game 17 – 7. The 1st rugby team, in a game of two halves, came together well in the later stages of the game to ultimately win 29 – 14.



U16 PEARSON GIRLS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

The Woodridge U16A & U16B Girls' Hockey Teams played in the Investec Pearson Hockey Tournament over the first weekend of the holiday.

The U16B team drew two games, won one game, and lost one game in the pool stages. In the play-off game, they played against Nico Malan, and in a thrilling game, we won in a penalty shoot-out to finish 9th overall. The U16A team topped their pool with two wins and a draw. In the quarter final, we played against Victoria Park and won, which put us up against DSG in the semi-final.

Unfortunately, we lost this close game after a wonderful effort. In the 3rd / 4th play-off game, Woodridge went down to Somerset in a very tight game. This put us in 4th position for the tournament. Both teams showed determination and used these games as an opportunity to grow their skill sets.



2nd Team Framesby Girls Hockey Tournament

The 2nd Girls' Hockey team started the holiday playing at the Framesby Girls Hockey Tournament.

They had good wins over Alexander High, Linkside, and DF Malherbe in the pool stages and beat St Dominics in the quarter-final.

In the semi-final, they unfortunately went down to Pearson, and then in the 3rd / 4th play-off, they went down to Framesby to be placed in 4th position overall – a sound achievement!



Woodridge U16 Co – Ed Hockey Festival

Over the first weekend of the holiday, Woodridge College hosted the annual U16 Co – Ed Hockey Festival. The games were all played in a wonderful spirit, and the players from the various teams all interacted in a manner becoming of such a Festival. The three Woodridge teams played with grit and determination as they developed their hockey skills.

The U16 Boys' team won 2, drew 2, and lost 1. The games against Merrifield (2 – 1) and Stirling (0 – 0) were good games for the team. The U16 Girls' team won 2 and lost 3, with the games against Merrifield (4 – 0) and York (1 – 2) being well-contested. The Woodridge Invitation side (U14A Team) had a good festival, getting one over the U16A Team in their final game.





1st Team Hockey



Belgotex

1ST Boys & Girls Hockey Tournament

Our Boys' and Girls' 1st team hockey players travelled to Cape Town to play in the annual Belgotex Sport Hockey Tournament, where 64 boys and 64 girls teams from around the Country participated. In the Boys section, Woodridge managed good wins against Peterhouse Boys School, Northcliff High School, Outshoorn High School, and Windhoek School. Our Boys' team managed a very good 12th position overall.

In the girls' competition, Woodridge managed good wins over Wise Owl Schools, Bridge House, and Martin House School. Our girls placed 16th overall – a fantastic effort. Both teams need to be commended for their resolve, growth, and spirit in which they played their hockey.



ROB TAYLOR U14 BOYS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

In the middle of the holiday, our U14A team travelled to East London to participate in the Rob Taylor Tournament. The team struggled through the tournament, coming up against some very well-drilled sides.

The best game of the tournament was against Stirling High School, where we drew 3 – 3. Even though the results did not always go our way, Woodridge showed tenacity and resilience.



Kingswood 1st Boys & Girls Hockey Festival

The Boys' and Girls' 1st teams participated in the Kingswood Hockey Festival this past weekend. On the first day, the girls won both their games, beating Glenwood House and Oakhill. The boys struggled going down to York and Merrifield. On the second day, the boys struggled against Oakhill but had a great win over Kingswood College in their second game.

On the second day, the girls went down to Merrifield first up, but bounced back to beat Victoria Girls, and in their final game of the festival, the Girls' played exceptionally well to draw against Kingswood College. In the Boys' final game on the third day, the 1st team went down in a very tight game against Glenwood House.

DSG U14 Girls Hockey Tournament



In their second tournament of the holiday, the U14A hockey team had another successful tournament. They recorded good wins against DSG B, Pearson B, and Merrifield. This placed them top of their pool; however, in the semi-final against Springfield, they went down. In the bronze play-off game, the team played well and managed a good win. They are commended for a strong result as the team continues to grow.



HIBBERT CUP – U16 BOYS' HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

The Hibbert Cup is one of the premier hockey tournaments in the country which attracts the top teams.

Our boys played with real determination, and their never-say-die attitude was wonderful to witness. They unfortunately lost all 5 of their games playing against schools like SACS, Grey Bloem, Waterkloof, and Paarl Gim. Although things did not always go their way, they came away with some valuable lessons and got a taste of what the level of the top teams is.

Mossel Bay 1st Girls Netball Tournament



The Girls' 1st netball team travelled to Mossel Bay for the first week of the holiday to play in the Mossel Bay Festival.

On day 1, Woodridge won all three games against Douglas, Koster, and Vredenburg – a great start! On day 2, we beat Parklands and Curro, but narrowly lost to Overberg.

This placed us tied 3rd in the pool stages, with Douglas narrowly getting the better of us on goal differences. In the play-off games, Woodridge beat Landoudal, placing us in 7th position out of 17 teams. This was a good result against some quality sides.

Michaelhouse U14 & U15 Independent Schools Rugby Festival

The U14 & U15 rugby teams travelled to the Midlands to play in the annual Independent Schools Rugby Festival at Michaelhouse. In the first games, we came up against two very good Peterhouse teams who were well-drilled.

The U14A team, with only 13 members on tour due to late withdrawals, was joined by some players from local schools. The boys played with heart but went down 15 – 67. The U15A team had a tough game and were out-played in the first half, and were simply beaten by speed, eventually going down 7 – 54.

In the second game, the U14A team played against Howick, and in a much-improved performance, they won convincingly 69 – 14. The U15A team had another big game against Uplands and worked extremely hard to draw the game 26 – 26.



GLENWOOD HOUSE 1ST & U16 INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS RUGBY FESTIVAL

The Independent Rugby Festival hosted by Glenwood House in George was a tough affair for our teams, especially the first games, with several players in Cape Town on duty for the 1st team hockey. The U16A team did well and managed a good win against Cornwill Hill from Pretoria. The 1st team, missing 3 backline players, found the going difficult and came up against a quality Cornwill Hill 1st team, going down 5 – 33.



In the second round of games at the festival, the 1st team played against St Andrews from Bloemfontein, and in a much-improved performance, the score went back and forth – unfortunately, going down at the final whistle. The U16A team, playing against Somerset College, had a very good 2nd half of the game, winning easily in the end. They really did produce some very good team tries to get ahead at the end.

In the final games of the festival, the 1st team played against Somerset College, and in a scrappy affair, went down. The U16A team made it 3 wins from 3 games after a hard-fought win against St Andrews from Bloemfontein. The U16 team had a very pleasing festival, learning valuable lessons along the way. The 1st team still has much to work on, but at least they managed to get 3 hard games under their belt before the season gets underway in the 2nd term.



Surf Lifesaving – SA Championships

The Woodridge College Lifesavers participated in the DHL South African Lifesaving Pool Championships at the start of the break. In the team events, the team of Vaclav Horak, Maria King, Daniel Potgieter, and Jaime Schweitzer did very well to achieve a bronze medal in the Simulated Emergency Response Competition.

In the individual events, Vaclav Horak achieved a silver medal in the U19 Men's 100m Manikin Tow and a bronze medal in the U19 Men's 100m Rescue Medley. These all aided in Vaclav securing an incredible 2nd place in the U19 Men's Victor Ludorum – an outstanding achievement!

In the DHL South African Surf Lifesaving Championships, 13 of our Lifesavers participated across a myriad of events and many age groups, and held the Woodridge College flag high as they participated with determination against the best clubs from around the country. Once again, it was so good to get the positive feedback about the way in which our pupils conducted themselves.





Three of our riders, Annabelle Reitz, Ella Clemence, and Kungamsa Sitoto, participated in the PERC Show this past weekend. Annabelle had a clear round on Blue Gangsta in her first 1,15m event. Kungamsa also had a clear round on Ceedee in the Junior 80cm A2 Speed Class, and Ella participated in her first 70cm Show on Noble Affair. Libbie Marais, our WEC Assistant, won the Adult 70cm Speed Class and the Championship class. A good weekend for all our riders.

Water Polo

Soren Hohenberger (Grade 8) participated in the 2026 Spanish Water Polo Championships over the holiday, representing Balearic Islands provincial team. The team finished 9th out of 22 teams – a sound performance! To compete at this level at such a young age is a remarkable achievement for Soren. His hard work is paying dividends in the pool.



CHESS

Deacon Dugmore participated in the SA Junior Closed Chess Championships at the beginning of the holiday, held in Rustenburg. This tournament has the top 50 players in the country in the U16 division. Deacon did extremely well, finishing in 15th place, with positions 7 – 17 ending in a tie on points. As a result of his efforts, Deacon has been invited to play in the African Youth Championships in Uganda and the Commonwealth Chess Championships in Sri Lanka – a wonderful accolade!



CRICKET

Congratulations to Brody McKinnon (Grade 9) on his selection to the Cricket South Africa U17 Regional Camp that was held in Cape Town mid-April. This is a deserving inclusion and shows that hard work does pay off in the long run!



Congratulations to Ashlee Buhr, who represented the Eastern Province Women's Team in the CSA Division 2 Provincial Competition. Eastern Province went on to win the competition, with Ashlee making significant contributions along the way. Eastern Province now moves into Division 1 – a wonderful effort!



Merrel Woodridge Mammoth Adventure Race

Woodridge hosted the annual Merrel Woodridge Mammoth Adventure Race during April. This is an adventure requiring stamina, resilience, and a skill set to find your way forward. The events ranged from the 150km, 60 km, and 20km and included running, cycling, canoeing, and abseiling. The participants had to deal with a very diverse environment throughout the race, which really tested their resolve. This is a wonderful event, and it was good to see several of our staff and pupils participate.



X SUPERCROSS CHALLENGE

This past weekend, several of our pupils participated in the X Supercross Challenge. Daniel Potgieter, representing Woodridge College, competed in the individual U18 event and finished in a very good 12th place. Gian Moolman, Daniella Harcus, and Franki Dace also participated in the event. Hats off to Vaclav Horak, Jaime Schweitzer, Maria King and Mr Rob Smith, who managed the water safety for the swim and ski legs of this event.



OPEN WATER SWIMMING



Danté Williams (Grade 9) recently participated in the Nando's Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) Open Water Swim 2026 in Mauritius. He did exceptionally well in the open water swims – his first international event of this kind.

In the 1.6km swim, he was the junior winner and came 7th overall out of 268 swimmers. He then swam in the 3.8km swim and finished with a silver medal in the Junior age group and managed an 11th overall place out of 266 swimmers.

These are great results, and Danté is commended on his dedication and commitment to his swimming.



Staff News

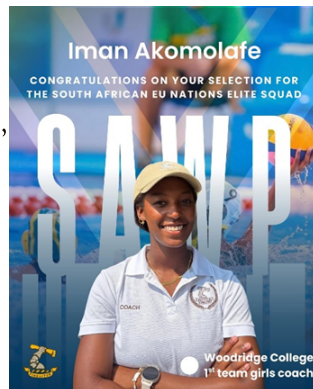
Warmest congratulations to Leah Cripps on her engagement to Tristan Pillay! This is a truly special milestone, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter filled with love, partnership, and shared dreams. Leah is a valued member of the Woodridge community, and it brings great joy to celebrate this wonderful news with her. May their journey together be filled with happiness, laughter, and countless memorable moments as they build a beautiful future side by side.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Iman on her outstanding achievement of being selected for the South African EU Nations Elite Water Polo squad!

This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to her dedication, discipline and passion for the sport, as well as the countless hours of hard work she has invested in developing her skills. To be chosen to represent South Africa at this level is a tremendous honour and a reflection of both her talent and commitment. We are incredibly proud of her and wish her every success as she takes on this exciting opportunity on the international stage.



Long Service Awards

On Tuesday, we recognised and celebrated two valued members of our community for their remarkable commitment and service to Woodridge College.

Christoff Opperman reaches the milestone of 20 years, a testament to his dedication, consistency, and the meaningful impact he has had over two decades. Alongside him,

20 YEARS



Kirsty Witteveen celebrates 10 years of service, reflecting her ongoing contribution and the positive influence she brings to our College. Milestones such as these are not simply about the passing of time, but about the relationships built, the lives touched, and the legacy created through daily effort and care.

10 YEARS



We extend our sincere gratitude to both Christoff and Kirsty for their loyal service and for the role they continue to play in shaping our community.



DATES TO DIARISE



Monday: 11 May to Thursday, 14 May, Knock On Wood



Thursday: 28 May, Slipper Day (Civvies)



Thursday: 18 June, Soirée @ 18h30



Friday: 26 June, Start of Half Term



Click [here](#) for the College Monthly Planner **Subject to change**



Click on the image to try our [Whisper Wheel](#), an interactive tool to turn the dial and see how the IDEALS and the Disciples are interwoven.

