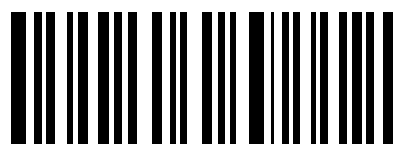




College News

01 September, 2026



1936 - 2026



**WOODRIDGE
PREPARATORY**
celebrating 90 years

Dear Parents

Welcome back to Woodridge for the start of the third term. As we celebrate the arrival of spring, I trust that you have all enjoyed a good break and, importantly, have managed to spend some quality time with your children. The school holidays provide a valuable opportunity for our children to step away from the busy routines of the term and to reconnect with families. I hope that your children return to Woodridge feeling rested, refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

The third term is, as always, an exceptionally busy one for our pupils and staff. Our Matrics enter a particularly important phase as they write their Preliminary examinations and then turn their attention to the final IEB examinations. Our Grade 10s will embark on their Way, while Camps and Outdoor Education activities will provide opportunities for pupils to grow beyond the classroom. Summer sport gets underway once again, and we look forward to our Soirées and the many other cultural and co-curricular activities that form such an important part of life at Woodridge. For our Grade 8 to 11 pupils, the term will culminate in their final examinations, making this a significant academic term for every pupil.

I trust you have used the holiday period to take some time to sit down with your child and go through their school report together, celebrating their achievements while also discussing areas where they could improve. Rather than focusing solely on marks, my hope is that you have encouraged your son or daughter to consider the comments and guidance offered by their teachers and to reflect honestly on their effort, attitude and commitment throughout the term. From this reflection, help them set a few realistic and meaningful goals for the new term. These goals should give them a clear sense of purpose and ownership as they return to school, while reminding them that every new term brings an opportunity to learn, grow and become the best version of themselves.

With so much happening, Term 3 is an important time academically, but it is also a term in which the pressures and stresses can begin to rise, particularly as examinations draw closer. As the adults in our pupils' lives, we have an important role to play in supporting and encouraging them through this period. Our children need us to help them maintain perspective, to encourage good habits and consistent effort, and to remind them that while results matter, they do not define who they are. A calm, positive and supportive home environment can make an enormous difference.

As we enter the final stretch of the academic year, let us continue to work together as a community, supporting our pupils and one another. There is much to look forward to in the weeks ahead, and I am confident that Term 3 will be a rewarding and memorable one for Woodridge.

I wish all our pupils, parents and staff a very happy and successful third term. Welcome back and let us make the most of it!

Luke Hartley

“

As each
has
received a
gift, use it
to serve
one
another, as
good
stewards of
God's
varied
grace

1 Peter 4:10

”



BOTSWANA

03

Tuli Wilderness Tour



At the start of the August holiday, 13 Woodridge pupils and two staff members set off for the Tuli Block in Botswana for an unforgettable week in one of southern Africa's truly wild places. Tuli Wilderness provided an extraordinary opportunity to experience nature in its most authentic form, with unfenced camps allowing wildlife to move freely through the area. This meant that we were never quite sure what might appear around the next corner, with both elephant and lion making memorable appearances close to our accommodation.

The game drives provided some remarkable sightings, including brown hyena, leopard, lion, elephant and spotted hyena, many of which were seen at surprisingly close quarters. Away from the vehicles, the group climbed to the top of Eagle's Rock, where Verreaux's Eagles provided a spectacular aerial display, explored the dry Motloutse Riverbed and tracked both leopard and lion through the veld. One of the most memorable moments of the trip was undoubtedly the sighting of the elusive Pel's Fishing Owl along the Limpopo River – a rare and special encounter that few will forget.

Evenings were spent sleeping beneath the stars and sharing stories and laughter around mopane fires, providing plenty of opportunity to slow down and appreciate the beauty of the wilderness. More than simply a wildlife experience, the tour created lasting memories, meaningful experiences and strong friendships among the pupils and staff. For pupils interested in joining the 2027 Tuli Wilderness Tour, please contact Courtney Watson at courtney.watson@woodridge.co.za.



Zimbabwean Tour

CRICKET



In warm-up games before the tournament, we played against St Andrews College and Falcon College. Woodridge recorded good wins against these big cricket schools. We beat St Andrews College by 46 runs and Falcon by 5 wickets – well-deserved victories for the start of the season. Against St Andrews College, Jack Feltham top-scored, with Brody McKinnon taking 3 wickets. In the game against Falcon College, Stefan Ferreria was the pick of the bowlers, with Jeandre Strydom top-scoring with the bat.

The St George's Cab's Tournament started with two good wins on the 1st day against Lomagundi (won by 4 wickets) and Prince Edward (won by 67 runs). Jeandre Strydom and Stefan Ferreria were the top scorers with the bat, and Josh Bailes took three wickets with the ball in each game. Day 2 saw us come up against St George's, the host school.

Our cricketers held their nerve in a very tight finish and managed a very good win by 4 runs. Jeandre Stydom was once again the top scorer and Ithi Arosi was the pick of the bowlers. On the final day we came up against Maritzburg College and Helenic Academy. Maritzburg won convincingly, and against Helenic we lost in the last 3 balls of the Helenic innings – another cracker of a game! This was a great start to the season for our cricketers with many lessons learnt.

Our 1st XI cricketers travelled to Zimbabwe this past week to participate in the St George's CABS T20 Cricket Tournament, an exciting opportunity to compete against some of the top schoolboy cricket teams from across Zimbabwe and South Africa. The tournament provided our players with valuable exposure to different styles of cricket and gave them the chance to test themselves in a competitive environment away from home.

Tours such as these offer far more than just the opportunity to play cricket. They are an important part of building team spirit, developing friendships and creating memories that our pupils will carry with them long after their school days are over. Travelling together, representing Woodridge and sharing the experiences that come with a tour all contribute to the growth of a team both on and off the field. We are grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a wonderful tournament and look forward to seeing the benefits of this experience reflected in our cricketing programme for the season ahead.





COLLEGE NEWS



Hockey

Thaaniya Bell recently participated in the Eastern Cape Hockey 5s Tournament in East London. As the Captain of the team, she helped her team to win the gold medal and was also named Player of the Tournament – a simply outstanding achievement! These accolades are a result of her dedication, leadership and resilience. We are incredibly proud of her!

Congratulations!

Athletics

The recent holiday provided an opportunity for our pupils to continue challenging themselves and pursuing excellence beyond the school environment. We were delighted to hear of the achievements of two of our young runners, Lwanda Nkomana (Grade 10) and Likho Dumalisile (Grade 12), who both embraced the opportunity to test themselves on the road.

Lwanda competed in the Mercedes-Benz Gallop 5km Challenge in East London and produced an excellent performance, finishing 5th overall in a field of more than 100 runners. He completed the 5km in an impressive 23 minutes, averaging approximately 4:15 per kilometre. This is a wonderful achievement and a reflection of the commitment and determination that Lwanda is showing in his running.



Likho, meanwhile, challenged himself at the Old Selbornian Road Running Race in East London, taking on the longest distance he has ever attempted. He completed the full 15km, an achievement that goes well beyond simply covering the distance. His willingness to step outside his comfort zone, persevere when the going gets tough, and see the challenge through to the finish is particularly commendable. We congratulate both Lwanda and Likho on their achievements and on demonstrating the Woodridge spirit of embracing challenge and striving to be the best versions of themselves.



COLLEGE NEWS

Chess

Through the holiday, we were delighted to celebrate the achievements of Deacon Dugmore, who represented Woodridge at the National Sports Chess Championship in Nelson Mandela Bay. Competing in a strong field of 35 players in the U17 age group, Deacon finished second overall, tied on 4.5 points out of a possible 5. He remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, winning four games before drawing his final match against the No. 1-rated player. This is an outstanding achievement and a wonderful reflection of Deacon's skill, composure and dedication to the game.

Deacon's success is even more significant as he has now qualified, along with the other top four players, for the provincial stage of the competition. We congratulate Deacon on this excellent performance and wish him every success as he takes on the next stage of the championship. Achievements such as these are a wonderful reminder of the breadth of talent within our Woodridge community and the opportunities our pupils pursue beyond the classroom.

Then, this past weekend, following on from the recent NMB Top 4 qualifying tournament, the top four players from the Nelson Mandela Bay region faced the top four from the Sarah Baartman District, with the strongest players earning selection for the NMB/Sarah Baartman Inter-District Team. Deacon performed exceptionally well, claiming the bronze medal and earning his place in the team that will travel to East London to represent the district at the 2026 Provincial Summer Games. We wish him all the very best as he takes on this exciting next challenge.

Congratulations!



Our Community

Developing Mathematics Teaching in Our Community

We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding work of Mr Tal Leshem, Mr Bongani Mangwane and Mr Lwazi Zakumba, who recently hosted a Mathematics Teacher Workshop aimed at strengthening the teaching and learning of Mathematics in schools across our area. The workshop provided an opportunity for Mathematics teachers to come together, share ideas and develop practical approaches to making Mathematics a more accessible and engaging subject for learners.

At the heart of this initiative is a desire to improve the delivery of Mathematics in our classrooms and, ultimately, to help more learners experience success and confidence in the subject. By creating a space where teachers can collaborate, learn from one another and explore innovative teaching strategies, Tal, Bongani and Lwazi are making a meaningful contribution to Mathematics education in our wider community.

This is a wonderful example of educators looking beyond the boundaries of their own classrooms and schools to invest in the development of others. We extend our sincere thanks to Kouga Windfarm for the generous financial support that made this initiative possible. Their backing, together with the commitment and passion of our three teachers, is helping to build stronger Mathematics teaching and create better opportunities for learners throughout our region.





COLLEGE NEWS

Round Square Exchanges

The International exchange programme has been buzzing with excitement and activity over the last few months, with three of our pupils, Zac Dysel, Morgan Flugel and Gaby Webb, having experienced 6 weeks in Sydney, Australia, at Barker College. They have totally immersed themselves in the exchange experience, and all three pupils have participated very actively in the sporting programme, holding the Woodridge flag high while competing in the colours of Barker College.

Hannah Potgieter has spent her 6-week exchange time at Colegio Colombo Británico in Cali Columbia and thoroughly enjoyed the cultural differences of schooling in Colombia while improving her Spanish.

Currently, we have three other girls on exchange in Bogota Columbia, namely Lulo Gcilitshana and Kumani Sohaba at Colegio Anglo Colombiano and Liyabona Mrubata at New England School.

Marcus Jansen van Vuuren and Connor Meara are about to depart for Australia. Marcus will be visiting Scotch Oakburn College in Tasmania, and Connor will be spending time at Radford College in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory.



Lifesaving

The 2026 European Lifesaving Championships were held in Rome, Italy, bringing together competitors from 13 countries across Europe in what proved to be an exceptionally competitive championship, with several world records falling throughout the event. We were delighted to see Vaclav Horak selected to represent the Czech Republic at this prestigious competition. On the opening day, Vaclav competed in the 100m Manikin Tow with Fins, breaking the Czech national record in the heats and qualifying second for the final. In an extremely strong final, Vaclav went on to finish sixth – an outstanding achievement at European level.

The following day brought further challenges, with an eighth-place finish in the 100m Manikin Carry with Fins and 11th place in the Super Lifesaver. In the team events, the Czech Republic produced strong performances, securing two fourth-place finishes and a fifth place in the SERC event. While the results were certainly impressive, perhaps the greatest value of the experience was the opportunity to compete against some of Europe's finest lifesavers. It was a significant learning curve and a wonderful experience that will undoubtedly contribute to Vaclav's continued growth and development in the sport. We congratulate Vaclav on this remarkable achievement and on proudly representing the Czech Republic on the international stage.

Congratulations!





COLLEGE NEWS

Staff News

Mr Asive Swazi

We are delighted to congratulate Mr Asive Swazi on being awarded his National Colours for Bodybuilding at a prestigious awards ceremony in Cape Town during the school break. This wonderful recognition follows his outstanding achievements at the World Bodybuilding Championships last year and is a fitting acknowledgement of the dedication, discipline and commitment he has shown to his sport. We are incredibly proud of Mr Swazi and congratulate him on this significant milestone in his sporting journey.

Congratulations!



Mr Billy Teeton

Congratulations to Mr Billy Teeton on completing the gruelling Transbaviaans Mountain Bike Race, a challenging 230 km journey through the rugged and spectacular terrain of the Baviaans. Completing an event of this nature requires immense physical endurance, determination and mental resilience, making this a wonderful achievement. What made the experience even more special, however, was that Billy's race partner was his son, Gus, himself an Old Woodridgian. Sharing such a demanding adventure would undoubtedly have created memories that will last a lifetime. We congratulate Billy and Gus on this remarkable achievement and salute them for taking on the challenge together!





COLLEGE NEWS

Staff News

Juli-Anne Norton

We are delighted to celebrate the wonderful recognition received by Juli-Anne Norton, whose contribution to the Arts in schools across the Eastern Cape was recently highlighted in the Daily Dispatch. Juli-Anne's passion, commitment and tireless work in developing and promoting the arts have made a meaningful difference to countless young people, providing them with opportunities to discover their creativity, build confidence and express themselves. Her recognition is a fitting acknowledgement of the important role she plays in enriching arts education in our province, and we are incredibly proud to have her as part of the Woodridge community.

Congratulations!



For her full article:



Adele Vorster

As some might be aware, Mrs Vorster underwent major surgery toward the end of last term and is recovering well, and we hope to see her back at school in the third week of term. Mrs Vorster has asked me to extend her gratitude to the Woodridge community for all the prayers, support, well-wishes and visits she has received over the past few weeks.



Get Well Soon

