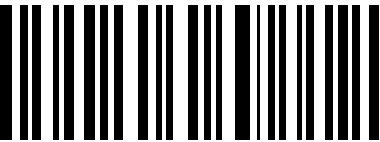




College Termly

03 August, 2026



1936 - 2026



**WOODRIDGE
PREPARATORY**
celebrating 90 years

More than a school, an experience...

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Dear Parents

As we come to the end of another busy and memorable term, it is an appropriate time to pause and reflect on all that has taken place over the past four months. It has certainly been a term filled with activity, challenge, achievement, and celebration.

The term began with significant disruption as severe weather and flooding impacted our routines and tested our resilience as a community. Yet, as is so often the case at Woodridge, our pupils, staff, and families responded with understanding, patience, and a determination to ensure that learning and school life continued with as little interruption as possible.

As the weeks unfolded, the rhythm of College life returned in full. Our Derby Days once again showcased the pride, commitment, and sportsmanship of our pupils, while countless cultural, academic, and service opportunities provided avenues for growth beyond the classroom. The Outdoor Education programme culminated in another successful OE Day, reminding us of the importance of challenge, teamwork, and personal growth as our pupils stepped beyond their comfort zones and embraced the opportunities before them.

Founders Day provided a special opportunity for our community to gather and celebrate a remarkable milestone in the history of Woodridge. Reaching 90 years is a significant achievement and one that serves as a reminder that the school we enjoy today is the result of the vision, commitment, and sacrifices of generations who have gone before us. It was heartening to see so many members of the broader Woodridge family come together to honour our past while looking with confidence towards our future.

The term concluded, as it often does, with examinations. While academic achievement remains a central focus of our work, examinations are about far more than marks alone. They provide opportunities for pupils to develop discipline, perseverance, organisation, and resilience, qualities that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Most importantly, when I reflect on the term, I am reminded that our greatest success is not measured by results, fixtures, performances, or events. Rather, it is seen in the continued growth and development of the young adults entrusted to our care. Each term brings new opportunities for our pupils to learn more about themselves, to develop character, to build meaningful relationships, and to take another step towards becoming young adults of significance.

For our Matric pupils, this term carries particular significance. They are experiencing many of their final moments at Woodridge, their last Derby Days, their last Founders Day celebrations, and many other occasions that mark the closing chapters of their school journey. As they enjoy these milestones, their attention now turns towards the Preliminary Examinations in September. We wish them well as they use parts of the August holiday to prepare thoroughly for this important stage of their academic year.

As I reflect on the past four months, I remain deeply grateful for and inspired by the wonderful family that is Woodridge. The positivity, generosity, and unwavering support shown by members of our community continue to make this a very special place. Whether as parents, staff, alumni, pupils, or friends of the school, each person contributes to the culture and spirit that make Woodridge unique.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the term. I wish all our families a restful and enjoyable holiday and look forward to welcoming our pupils back refreshed and ready for the opportunities and challenges that await in the term ahead.

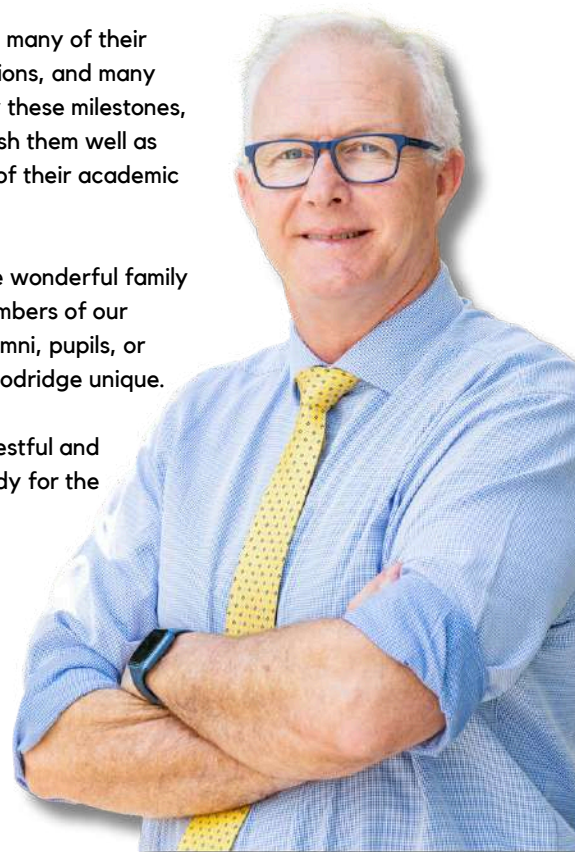
Luke Hartley

“

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Philippians 4:8

”





THE ADDICTION YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW ...BUT DIDN'T

A message to parents about nicotine, dopamine, and the addiction many adults don't even know exists.

A teacher walks past a student in class. There is no smoke. No vapour. No sweet smell lingering in the air. The student appears attentive, taking notes and participating in the lesson. What neither the teacher nor the parent at home realises is that tucked beneath the student's upper lip is a small white pouch delivering nicotine to a brain that is still under construction.

It's called **Zyn**. Many parents have never heard of it. Many teenagers already have. For the past few years, our attention has rightly been focused on vaping. Schools have tightened policies, parents have become more aware, and conversations have begun. But while we were learning to recognise vape devices, nicotine pouches quietly entered the market, small, discreet and almost impossible to detect. Unlike a vape, there is no smoke or vapour. There is no smell. They can be used in class, on the sports field, in the car or even around the dinner table without drawing attention. That invisibility is exactly what makes them so concerning.

But this conversation is about far more than Zyn. It is about dopamine. Dopamine is often called the brain's "feel-good" chemical, but it is much more than that. It is the brain's reward system. It motivates us to repeat behaviours that help us grow and thrive—working hard, achieving goals, exercising, building friendships and overcoming challenges.

Nicotine hijacks that system. Instead of earning dopamine through healthy experiences, nicotine provides an almost instant reward. Very quickly, the brain begins to learn a dangerous lesson: **"When I feel stressed, bored, anxious or overwhelmed, nicotine makes me feel better."**

The teenage brain is especially vulnerable to this pattern because it is still developing. The areas responsible for judgement, impulse control, and decision-making are not yet fully mature, whereas the brain's reward centres are highly active. This makes adolescents significantly more susceptible to addiction than adults. Over time, the brain begins to expect nicotine. Everyday experiences that once felt rewarding become less satisfying without it. Concentration becomes harder. Stress feels greater. Normal begins to feel abnormal. That is how addiction develops—not because someone lacks self-control, but because the brain has been taught to depend on an artificial shortcut. This is why today's concern extends well beyond nicotine. Our children are growing up in a world designed to compete for their dopamine. Social media notifications, endless scrolling, gaming, online gambling, energy drinks, and nicotine all promise the same thing: **instant reward**.

Yet the most meaningful parts of life don't work that way.

- Confidence is built through perseverance.
- Friendships are built through time.
- Success comes through effort.
- Resilience develops by overcoming challenges.

These experiences create healthier, more sustainable dopamine pathways that strengthen the brain rather than hijack it. The concern is not simply that products like Zyn exist. The concern is that they reinforce the belief that relief, confidence and happiness should always come instantly.

As parents, we don't need to know every new product that appears on the market. Today's concern may be vaping. Tomorrow it may be nicotine pouches. Next year it will almost certainly be something different.

What must remain constant is the conversation.

Talk openly with your children about how addiction works. Ask questions before making assumptions. Help them understand that companies are not simply selling a product; they are competing for their attention, their habits and, ultimately, their brains. Schools can educate. Parents can guide. Together, we can help young people recognise the difference between a quick dopamine hit and genuine fulfilment.

Perhaps the question is no longer, **"Is my child vaping?"**

Perhaps the better question is: **"Does my child understand how addiction really works?"**

Because the most dangerous addictions are often the ones we don't recognise until they have already taken hold.

Darryn Campbell





ADHD

WHEN COPING BECOMES A RISK

If mental health is a response to our environment, what happens when a brain is fundamentally wired differently for that environment? It has long been recognised that adolescents with ADHD are more likely than their peers to develop addictive behaviours. Recent research is providing a clearer understanding of why this may be the case. Although impulsivity and risk-taking have traditionally been viewed as the main explanations, they do not account for the full picture. Increasingly, researchers are looking at the ongoing cognitive and emotional demands of living with ADHD.

For many adolescents, the difficulty is not simply sustaining attention; it is the constant effort required to regulate attention, emotions, behaviour, and energy in environments that are often ill-suited to how their brains function. Many young people work incredibly hard to meet these demands. They hide their struggles, present as calm and organised, or quietly push through anxiety, overwhelm and exhaustion. Because this effort is largely invisible, others may not appreciate just how much energy it requires.

This broader understanding is also changing the way we think about addiction. Addictive behaviours are not only a search for pleasure or excitement. Increasingly, they are recognised as attempts to find relief. This relief may be from stress, anxiety, boredom or restlessness. It may also be from the relentless effort of trying to regulate an internal world that feels either overwhelming or under-stimulating.

Whether the outlet is nicotine, gaming, social media, or another compulsive behaviour, it is worth asking not only what the young person is doing, but why. What are they trying to manage, soothe or escape?

Of course, having ADHD does not mean an adolescent will develop an addiction. While the risk is elevated, studies show that this does not translate into a majority outcome – most adolescents with ADHD do not go on to develop a substance use disorder. Protective factors make a significant difference, including supportive relationships, opportunities to experience competence and success, appropriate intervention, and the development of effective emotional regulation skills.

When we look beyond the behaviour itself, we are better able to understand what a young person is trying to manage. That understanding creates opportunities to strengthen healthier coping strategies before harmful patterns become established. Ultimately, the goal is not only to reduce the risk of addiction, but to help adolescents develop the confidence and skills to navigate life's challenges without relying on escape.



" TOO OFTEN WE UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A TOUCH, A SMILE, A KIND WORD, A LISTENING EAR, AN HONEST COMPLIMENT, OR THE SMALLEST ACT OF CARING, ALL OF WHICH HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO TURN A LIFE AROUND. "

— LEO BUSCAGLIA



Unlocking mental wellbeing: connection is the key

We're learning in more depth and detail just how much an individual's wellbeing depends on the quality and consistency of their connections in the world around them. For many years, studies in human functioning focused on individual functioning and identity being separate or independent from their community (people and spaces around them). A sort of "if you're not functioning well, something inside you is the problem" approach to solving wellbeing challenges.

If this approach were the complete answer to problems of mental wellbeing, how curious that studies over the past decade are shedding bright light on the power of another person's presence, touch, tone, eye contact and facial expression on nurturing our mental wellbeing. This kind of connecting with another person produces an effect called "co-regulation". Realising that we are seen, heard, and cared for has a direct impact on the hormones and brain chemicals that shape our mental landscape. Mental wellbeing is not an isolated state of being. In short, we do not heal or thrive in a vacuum. The research is piling up, and "connection" is echoed in the results.

Human thriving occurs in and through relationships, not away from them. Psychological suffering (such as anxiety and depression) often stems not from an internal defect, but from disconnection. In other words, feeling isolated, unseen, unaccepted, or unwanted. Choosing your company and connections wisely has never been more important.

As we ski through the last week of the term into what will be a wintery holiday retreat for many learners, consider the quality of connection around them. Consider if you or your teen may easily isolate at home over the holidays, choosing to interact with a virtual world instead of a chilly but immersive one. The online culture that defines life as a teen in the modern world can be compared to the cultural wave that took over with the invention of cigarettes. What research eventually revealed was that *just because everyone's doing it doesn't mean it's good for you; in fact, it may even be dangerous.*



A 2026 study has found that engaging in "solitary socialising", where individuals interact virtually while remaining physically isolated, leads to psychological costs and feelings of emotional deprivation. Video calls and messaging strip away micro-facial expressions, bodily timing, nonverbal relating, and spontaneous moments that naturally build interpersonal safety and lower anxiety. WhatsApp and video calls are the fast food of human connection – fun now and then, but human touch, eye contact, and presence are like a homemade meal – the nourishment you need to thrive in the long run.

Teens are in a stage of development that depends heavily on opportunities to build human connection and navigate relationships. Their identity development lies at the heart of the healthiness of their social life. A lack of real human connection is also a strong predictor of risk for developing addictive behaviours – depending on things or substances to provide chemical relief when human support isn't available or safe. The effects of a good chat, a shared pizza, a warm hug, or a relaxed hangout last long after the pocket money is spent and the laughter fades.

Leah ter Bruggen

**And let us consider how we may spur
one another on toward love and good
deeds, not giving up meeting together...
but encouraging one another."**

- Hebrews 10:24-25



FOUNDERS DAY



The Founders Day Assembly was a fitting celebration of Woodridge's remarkable milestone of 90 years.

The occasion brought together pupils, staff, Old Boys, parents and friends of the School to reflect on the vision, sacrifice and commitment of those who have shaped Woodridge since its establishment in 1936. The assembly provided an opportunity not only to honour our rich history, but also to celebrate the enduring values and traditions that continue to define the School today.

As we reflected on nine decades of educational excellence, there was a strong sense of gratitude for the generations of individuals who have contributed to making Woodridge the special community it is.

Our guest speaker, Mr Godfrey Carter, shared heartfelt reflections on his own time at Woodridge and spoke passionately about the values that have remained constant throughout the School's history.

He emphasised that Woodridge is a school firmly rooted in its Christian ethos and one where community remains at the heart of everything we do. Mr Carter described the Woodridge family as a family of "*upstanders*", people who have the courage to stand up for what is right, who support one another and who seek to make a positive difference in the lives of others. His message served as a powerful reminder that while facilities, programmes and generations may change, Woodridge's commitment to nurturing young people of character, integrity and significance remains as strong today as it was ninety years ago.





FRIENDS OF WOODRIDGE BREAKFAST

A highlight of the Founders Day celebrations was the “Friends of Woodridge” Breakfast, which provided an opportunity to acknowledge and thank the many individuals who have contributed to the growth and success of Woodridge College and Preparatory School over the past 90 years.

The event brought together parents, current and former staff members, alumni, and friends of the school, all of whom have played an important role in shaping the Woodridge community.

As we reflected on this significant milestone, it was evident that the strength of Woodridge has always been built on the dedication, generosity, and shared commitment of generations of people who have invested their time, talents, and resources to ensure that the School continues to flourish.

The breakfast served as a fitting tribute to those whose support has helped preserve the values and traditions of Woodridge while positioning the school to thrive well into the future.

1936 - 2026



WOODRIDGE
PREPARATORY

celebrating 90 years



THE UNVEILING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE

Another highlight of the Founders Day celebrations was the unveiling of the Foundation Stone commemorating Woodridge's 90th year. This significant occasion provided a tangible reminder of the school's rich heritage and the vision of those who laid the foundations for the community we enjoy today.

As the stone was unveiled, it served not only as a tribute to the generations of pupils, staff, parents and supporters who have contributed to Woodridge's journey over the past ninety years, but also as a symbol of our commitment to the future.

The Foundation Stone stands as a lasting testament to the values, traditions and sense of purpose that have guided Woodridge since 1936 and will continue to inspire generations of Woodridge pupils in the years to come.



OE Day

Outdoor Education Day 2026 was another outstanding occasion in the life of Woodridge, bringing together pupils, staff, parents, Old Woodridgeans and visitors to celebrate one of the cornerstones of a Woodridge education. While healthy competition was evident throughout the day, the real highlights were the teamwork, encouragement, resilience and personal growth displayed by our pupils. A significant addition this year was the involvement of our Grade 7 pupils. They embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, from catty shooting and campfire cooking to problem-solving activities and team challenges. Their participation was a tremendous success and highlighted the value of introducing younger pupils to the Outdoor Education programme.

We were privileged to welcome Old Woodridgean and internationally renowned adventure racer, Martin Dreyer, as our guest speaker. His message of perseverance, humility, teamwork and service resonated strongly with the values that underpin Outdoor Education and inspired pupils to challenge themselves beyond their perceived limits.

The competition between Carter, Kohler and Founders Houses was closely contested throughout the day, with several records being broken. The final results were:



- 1st: Carter House – 208 points
- 2nd: Kohler House – 199 points
- 3rd: Founders House – 159 points



Congratulations to Carter House on a well-deserved victory.



The Experience



The day featured a wide range of activities, including archery, mountain biking, orienteering, first aid, initiative tasks, low ropes, nature identification, assault courses and the ever-popular Wall Competition. Pupils were challenged physically, mentally and emotionally, learning valuable lessons in leadership, communication and teamwork. Special congratulations go to Mischa Kilian, who won the archery competition, and to Tau Moloï and Joel Calitz, who both set new speed-climbing records in their respective age groups.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the day was seeing pupils support one another through challenges. Whether helping a teammate over an obstacle, solving a complex task together or encouraging one another during the Wall Competition, the spirit of service and camaraderie was evident throughout.

Beyond the competition, the event was enriched by the presence of the Cancer Association, a variety of food vendors, and many returning Old Woodridgeans, including members of the Classes of 1986, 1996, 2006, and 2016. The Old Woodridgean Wall Team and Tug-of-War added greatly to the atmosphere and sense of community.

A sincere thank you goes to our grounds staff, whose hard work ensured the event ran smoothly, and to every member of staff who gave their time to make the day possible. Thank you also to our parents, Old Woodridgeans, sponsors, vendors and, most importantly, our pupils for embracing the day with such enthusiasm.

Outdoor Education Day continues to embody the spirit of Woodridge. It provides opportunities for pupils to discover strengths they did not know they possessed, build meaningful relationships and develop the confidence to face challenges with courage. Long after the points and records are forgotten, it is these lessons and experiences that will remain.





Reunion Weekend 2026

The recent Reunion Weekend was a wonderful celebration of the enduring bonds that connect generations of Old Woodridgeans. It was a privilege to welcome so many alumni back to campus, where familiar faces, shared memories and lasting friendships once again filled the school grounds. A special thank you goes to the reunion groups of 1981, 1986, 1996, 2006 and 2016, who marked significant milestones since leaving Woodridge by returning to celebrate together and reconnect with one another and the school community.

On the Friday evening of the Reunion weekend, the Woodridge Foundation launched the new Tree Project. This project aims to collate all the stories and experiences of alumni through the decades at our school, as well as raise some funds for projects in the future. The ECO Committee worked hard through the evening to help launch the project. If you would like to find out more, click on this link: <https://www.woodridge.co.za/WoodridgeTrees/>

Throughout the weekend, there was a warm and vibrant atmosphere as alumni reflected on their time at Woodridge, sharing stories that were both entertaining and insightful. It was evident that, while much has changed over the years, the values, friendships, and sense of belonging fostered at Woodridge remain as strong as ever. Reunions such as these are a powerful reminder that being part of the Woodridge family extends far beyond one's years at school, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who returned to make the weekend such a memorable occasion.



Equestrian



The recent South African Show Jumping Championships, held in KwaZulu-Natal, provided an outstanding platform for some of the country's finest young equestrian talent. Woodridge was proudly represented by two exceptional riders, namely Iviwe Ngangelizwe and Kungamsa Sitoto. They earned the honour of representing the Eastern Cape, a testament to their skill and the many hours of preparation they have invested in their sport. Competing at a national championship is a significant achievement in itself and reflects the high standard of equestrian talent within our school.

Iviwe competed in the 1.1m Novice Show Jumping Team, while Kungamsa represented the province in the 90 cm Junior Novice Team. Both riders performed with confidence and composure, making valuable contributions to their respective Eastern Cape teams. Iviwe helped his team secure an outstanding second-place finish, while Kungamsa's team achieved a commendable fourth place. We congratulate both riders on their excellent performances and the pride with which they represented both the Eastern Cape and Woodridge on the national stage.



Congratulations to Michaela Wedderburn on her selection to represent the Eastern Cape U19 Polocrosse team at the Interprovincial Tournament (IPT) held in KwaZulu-Natal. This achievement is a fitting reward for Michaela's dedication, skill, and commitment to her sport, and it reflects the high standard she has consistently demonstrated. We are incredibly proud of her accomplishment and commend the manner in which she continues to represent both the Eastern Cape and Woodridge with distinction. We wish Michaela every success as she continues to develop and excel in the sport of polocrosse.



This past week, Annabelle Reitz participated in the Western Cape Adult Show Jumping Championships held at the Robberg Equestrian Park in Plettenberg Bay. Annabelle performed well on Power Shot, managing a very good 6th place overall in the 1.1m Adult Class.





Rhino Run

The Woodridge ECO Committee hosted its inaugural Rhino Run/Walk for Wildlife on the evening of 16 July, bringing together the Woodridge community for a memorable evening of conservation and celebration of our natural spaces.

The event was founded on three simple goals: to strengthen the Woodridge community, to enjoy our remarkable natural heritage, and to raise funds for OLLI (One Land Love It). OLLI is a non-profit organisation dedicated to protecting rhinos and conserving South Africa's natural heritage. Founded by Wayne Bolton following his long-distance cycling expeditions through South Africa's national parks, OLLI is built on the belief that ordinary people can make an extraordinary difference by moving beyond simply caring about conservation to taking meaningful action.

Boarders from both the College and Preparatory School joined parents and friends in embracing the challenge, creating an occasion that was as enjoyable as it was impactful. Laughter, encouragement, and determination could be heard around the course as participants rallied together in support of wildlife conservation and environmental stewardship.

A sincere word of thanks must be extended to the ECO Committee for their vision, planning, and hard work in bringing the Rhino Run to life. Their commitment and attention to detail ensured a highly successful event that not only raised valuable funds for OLLIE but also strengthened the bonds within the Woodridge family. The evening served as a reminder of what can be achieved when a community unites behind a worthy cause.





COLLEGE NEWS

Swimming

Congratulations to Shalea Hamilton and Danté Williams on their outstanding achievements at the recent Nelson Mandela Bay Swimming Awards Ceremony. Both swimmers were recognised for their exceptional performances in the pool, receiving multiple trophies in acknowledgement of their dedication, talent and consistently high standards throughout the season. Their success is a testament to the many hours of training, perseverance and commitment they have invested in their sport. We congratulate them on these well-deserved accolades and look forward to following their continued success in the years ahead.



Boarders



LITTLE
MOMENTS
BIG
MEMORIES

One of the cherished traditions within our boarding community is the annual Polar Bear Swim, which recently saw our boarders bravely take to the water in the early hours of a cold winter morning. Marking the point in the year when the days begin to grow longer, the swim is a celebration of resilience, camaraderie, and the promise of warmer seasons ahead. While the icy conditions certainly tested everyone's resolve, the enthusiasm and spirit shown by the boarders made for a memorable occasion. Traditions such as these help to strengthen the bonds within our boarding houses and create lasting memories that form an important part of the unique Woodridge boarding experience.



COLLEGE NEWS

English Olympiad

Earlier this term, a number of our English pupils participated in the National English Olympiad, a prestigious academic competition that challenges learners to engage critically and creatively with language, literature and ideas. The Olympiad provides an excellent opportunity for pupils to extend themselves beyond the confines of the classroom, testing their analytical thinking, interpretation and written communication skills against some of the best young minds from across the country. We commend all those who entered for their willingness to embrace this challenge and to pursue academic excellence.



Special congratulations must go to Kate Herselman, whose outstanding performance earned her a Top 25 national position among thousands of entrants. This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to Kate's dedication, intellectual curiosity and exceptional command of English. Her success reflects not only her own hard work but also the strong academic culture that exists within our College. We are immensely proud of her achievement, which stands as a wonderful endorsement of the quality of teaching and learning at Woodridge.

Staff News

Mr Tal Leshem

We congratulate Mr Tal Leshem on the opportunity to present his research at the South African Institute of Physics earlier this month, an outstanding achievement that reflects both his academic ability and intellectual curiosity. Presenting research at a professional scientific conference is a remarkable accomplishment for any academic and speaks to Mr Leshem's willingness to explore complex scientific concepts beyond the school curriculum. His presentation focused on evaluating the Asymptotic Iteration Method for calculating the quasinormal modes of diverse black holes, highlighting his passion for theoretical physics and advanced mathematical modelling.



Mr Leshem's participation in this prestigious event is a testament to the culture of academic excellence that we seek to foster at Woodridge. Engaging with leading physicists and researchers from across the country provided him with a unique opportunity to share his work, receive valuable feedback and deepen his understanding of this fascinating field of study. We are incredibly proud of his achievements and congratulate him on representing both himself and the College with such distinction.



COLLEGE NEWS



Welcome - Baby Boreham

Congratulations to Manesha and Dan Boreham on the joyful arrival of their beautiful daughter, Lyla Boreham. Born weighing a healthy 3.48 kg, Lyla has already brought immense happiness to her family, and we are delighted to share that both Mom and baby are doing wonderfully well. On behalf of the entire Woodridge community, we extend our warmest congratulations to Manesha and Dan as they begin this exciting new chapter. We wish the family every blessing as they enjoy the precious moments of welcoming their newest family member into the world.



farewell

Tiffany August

After just over three years at Woodridge College, we bid farewell to Ms Tiffany August as she embarks on a new chapter in her career. During her time at the College, Ms August has made a valued contribution to the English Department, bringing enthusiasm and genuine care to her classroom. She has built meaningful relationships with her pupils, creating an environment where they felt encouraged.

Ms August has embraced the life of the College and has been a much-appreciated member of the Woodridge community. Her warmth has left a positive impression on all she has interacted with. We thank Ms August for the contribution she has made over the past three years and wish her every success and happiness as she begins the next stage of her professional journey. She leaves with our sincere gratitude and very best wishes for the future.





COLLEGE NEWS

farewell

Almarie Geyer

As Mrs Almarie Geyer concludes her time at Woodridge after a year and a half of faithfully filling in for Mrs Feltham, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the outstanding contribution she has made to the College. Mrs Geyer has been a wonderful Afrikaans teacher whose enthusiasm for the subject and dedication to her pupils have enriched the learning experience of all those in her classroom. After faithfully serving the Prep for 38 years, she has embraced the life of the College with warmth, professionalism and a willingness to go above and beyond.

One of Mrs Geyers's greatest strengths has been the exceptional rapport she has built with the pupils she has taught. Her genuine care, kindness and encouragement have made a meaningful difference in their lives, and her positive influence has been deeply appreciated by the entire Woodridge community. We are grateful for the commitment and compassion she has shown throughout her time with us and thank her for all that she has done for the College. We wish Mrs Geyer every success and happiness in the years ahead.



Leah Cripps



After two and a half years as one of Woodridge College's interns, we bid a fond farewell to Leah Cripps. During her time with us, Leah made a meaningful contribution to many aspects of College life. In the classroom, she supported our Mathematics Department with enthusiasm and dedication, while on the sports fields she invested many hours coaching both water polo and hockey. Her willingness to serve, her positive attitude and genuine care for our pupils have made a lasting impact on the Woodridge community.

As Leah embarks on an exciting new chapter, we wish her every happiness as she prepares to get married later this year and continues with her studies. We are grateful for the energy, commitment and warmth she has brought to Woodridge, and we thank her for the role she has played in the lives of so many of our pupils.



COLLEGE NEWS



Alumni News

Two of our alumni, namely Edith Molikoe (2019) and Caylin Maree (2020), have been selected to represent South Africa at the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2026 in Belgium and the Netherlands later this year.

Edith has the added privilege and responsibility of leading the South African team on the World's biggest stage – a simply remarkable accolade which speaks to her character and unwavering commitment to the sport. Both Edith and Caylin continue to inspire our current crop of hockey players to 'Dream Big'. We wish them every success as they represent our country on the world stage.

Spring Day Bloom

[CLICK HERE TO SEE LIST OF PREFERRED
INDIGENOUS PLANTS TO BRING](#) 

Spring Day
BLOOM *for*
WOODRIDGE

Bring an **indigenous** plant to school this Spring Day and help our gardens **flourish** for generations to come.

01 SEPTEMBER 2026

Let's celebrate and grow
OUR INDIGENOUS HERITAGE

 <i>Aloe ferox</i> Medicinal Aloe Common in the Woodridge area	 <i>Protea cynaroides</i> King Protea Our national flower and a local treasure	 <i>Polygala myrtifolia</i> Sedgemoor Flower A beautiful pink flower	 <i>Asteris caerulea</i> Cape Daisy Brightening our gardens in every season	 <i>Erica verticillata</i> Fynbos heath Perfect for our fynbos gardens	 <i>Leucospermum cordatum</i> Pincushion A showstopper in our gardens
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Every plant helps
our gardens bloom.

*Thank you for helping
Woodridge grow!*





COLLEGE NEWS

Surf Lifesaving



Congratulations to Vaclav Horak on an outstanding achievement at the European Lifesaving Championships, where he proudly represented the Czech Republic. Competing against some of Europe's finest lifesavers, Vaclav produced a remarkable performance in the 100m Manikin Tow with Fins, setting a new Czech Republic national record in the event.

This accomplishment is a fitting reward for the dedication, discipline and perseverance that Vaclav has demonstrated over many years. His commitment to continually improving his performance has seen him reach an exceptional standard, and his success on the international stage is one that the entire Woodridge community celebrates with great pride. We congratulate Vaclav on this well-deserved milestone and wish him every success in the remainder of the championships and in his future lifesaving career.

The Grade 12 Geography pupils recently enjoyed a highly informative excursion to the Kirkwood citrus-growing region, where they experienced first-hand the journey of an orange from the orchard to the market. The visit provided valuable insight into the sophisticated processes involved in harvesting, washing, sorting, grading and packaging citrus fruit for both local and international markets. Pupils were particularly fascinated by the precision and complexity of the grading systems that ensure fruit meets the exacting standards of different markets.

The excursion also highlighted the significant contribution of the citrus industry to both the local economy of the Sundays River Valley and South Africa's broader agricultural sector. As a key component of the Grade 12 Geography syllabus, this practical experience brought classroom concepts to life, allowing pupils to develop a deeper understanding of agricultural production systems, value chains and the economic importance of the citrus industry. Seeing these processes in action reinforced the theoretical work covered in class and provided a meaningful real-world context for their studies.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Stiemie family for their generosity in making this visit possible. Their willingness to share their knowledge and open their operation to our pupils made for an exceptional educational experience that will undoubtedly enrich our Grade 12 Geographers' understanding as they prepare for their final examinations.

Grade 12 Geography Excursion





COLLEGE NEWS



Parent Grade WhatsApp Groups

For those parents who have not joined the Grade Parent WhatsApp group and would like to do so, please find the links below:



[GRADE 8 2026 CLICK HERE](#) 



[GRADE 9 2026 CLICK HERE](#) 



[GRADE 10 2026 CLICK HERE](#) 



[GRADE 11 2026 CLICK HERE](#) 



[MATRIC 2026 CLICK HERE](#) 

These groups are for school-related communication, important notices, reminders and helpful information for Woodridge parents. A request is to please keep posts relevant to the whole group, limit general chat and use private messages for individual conversations.

Below are also some links that might come in handy when looking for information:

2026 Woodridge College monthly planner (subject to change): Click on the calendar icon.



Ed Admin code: 508126



For those parents whose children are on the buses, please find the WhatsApp group links to the relevant buses below:



LOOKING AHEAD

Dates to Diarise:



Tuesday: 1 September, School commences

***Pupils are to wear their Number 1s on the first day of school and ensure that their hair is in line with the school code of conduct.*



Tuesday: 1 September, Start of Grade 12 Preliminary Exams



Wednesday 8 to Friday 11 September: Camps Week



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



Wednesday 5th August - Buses will leave as per a normal weekday



Grade 8-11 pupils are not expected to come to school on 6th August. Pupils may end their term after their Exam on Wednesday 5 August. Note that boarding remains open until Friday morning.

