WOODRIDGE

COLLEGE AND PREPARATORY SCHOOL

more than a school...an experience

WOODRIDGEAN 2025

Woodridge
College & Preparatory School

VISION

More than a school, an experience...

MISSION

To provide a distinctive experience in a unique, natural environment where all belong and are empowered to realise their full potential.

CORE VALUES

We believe that the family has the following basic rights:

- Pupils have the right to learn;
- Staff have the right to teach; and
- Parents have the right to service.

In order to uphold these rights, the following moral values are encouraged:

- Mutual respect and dignity;
- Integrity and honesty;
- Empathy and interaction;
- Tenacity and teamwork; and
- Appreciation and care for the environment

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman	Andrea Puggia
	Paul Lynch
	Dave Nezar
	Neil Crawford
	Cumisa Makalima
	Nonkqubela Maliza
	Rose de Doncker
	Chris Adami
Ex Officio	Luke Hartley
	Trevor von Berg
	Dave Emslie

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more than a school...an experience

Primary school is no longer about teaching facts; it is about building the foundations for lifelong learning. The question we now ask is not “What do children need to know?” but rather “What do they need to become?” Children must learn how to think, question, imagine, and persist, as it is these skills and attitudes that prepare them for a world vastly different from the one we know today.

Technology and AI are transforming classrooms, offering personalised learning and creative opportunities. Used well, they can enrich teaching and help children explore and express ideas. But while technology can support learning, it can never replace the human element. Teachers remain at the heart of education as mentors and guides who connect knowledge to life and help children develop empathy, curiosity, and sound judgement.

Even as education evolves, the foundations remain the same. Reading, writing, and arithmetic are still essential, but how we teach them is changing. Classrooms now focus more on application, understanding, and connection and, in so doing, they help children discover meaning in what they learn.

This shift has changed not only what we teach, but how we measure success. Today’s world values creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking as much as content knowledge. These skills grow through inquiry, experimentation, and real experiences, not rote learning. Assessment, too, is shifting towards ongoing progress and reflection, rather than single test results.

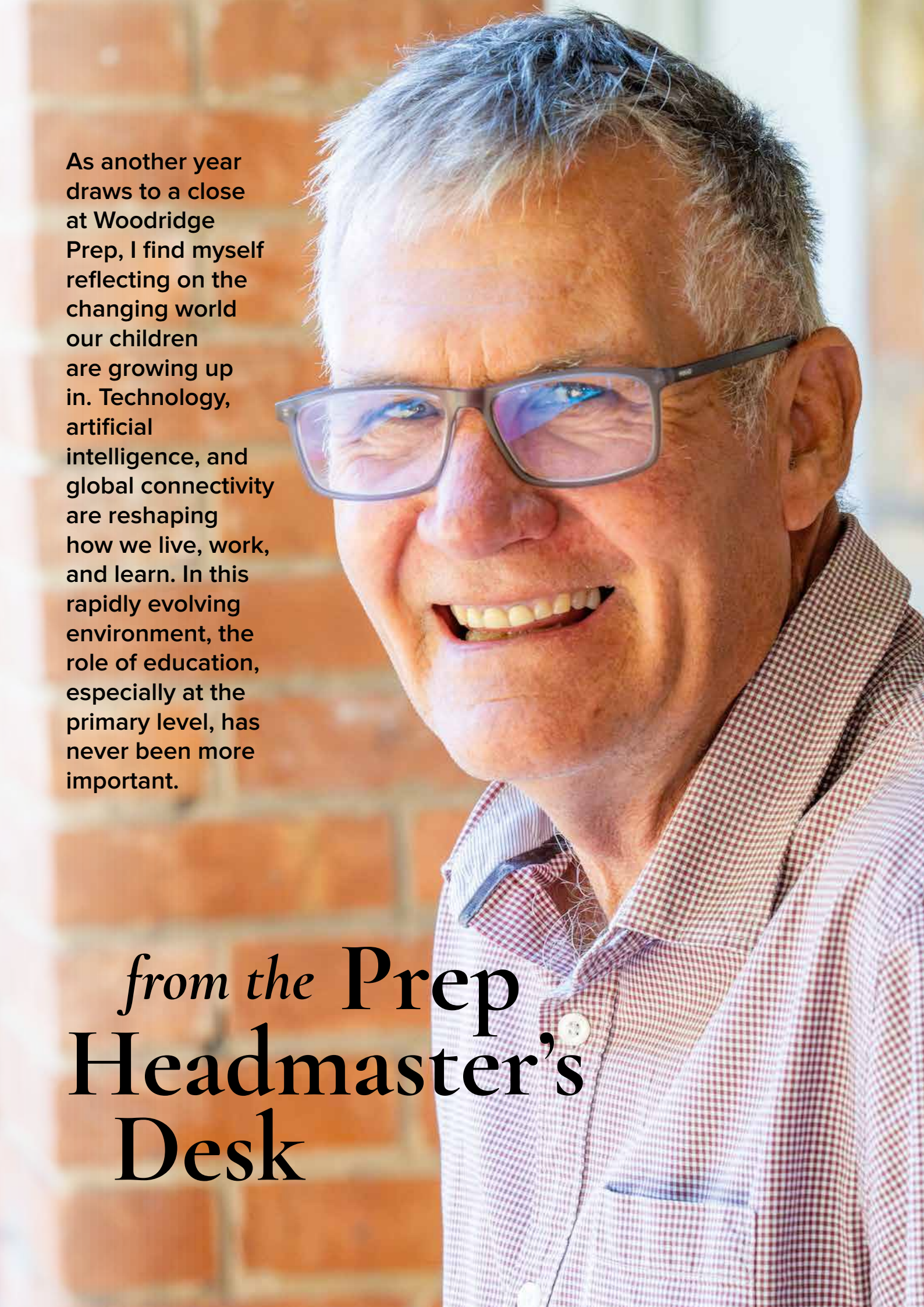
Most importantly, schools are nurturing the habits that shape curious, resilient, empathetic, and tenacious children. The future of education is not about choosing between tradition and innovation. Rather, it is about blending what was, what is, and what may be. Our purpose remains to help every child think deeply, act kindly, and live purposefully in an ever-changing world.

Education continues to evolve, and so do we. With inquiry-based learning at the heart of our approach at the Prep, children are encouraged to think, question, and discover. By introducing formal examinations only in Grade 7 and removing marks in the earlier years, we place our focus on the progress and growth of each child. Ongoing assessment allows us to see each child’s journey, not just a single result, taking away unnecessary pressure and creating space for creativity and innovation to thrive.

Through the Round Square IDEALS and Discoveries, coupled with a strong Outdoor Education Programme, our pupils are developing the skills and values they need to navigate an ever-changing world. These are not just educational choices; they are commitments to nurturing confident, compassionate, and capable young people. We can confidently say that at the Prep School, we are moving in a direction that honours the past, embraces the future, and places the child firmly at the centre of learning.

None of this progress would be possible without the extraordinary people who make up our community.

To our staff, thank you for your unwavering commitment, professionalism, and the countless ways you go the extra mile for our children. Your passion for teaching, creativity, and belief in every pupil make our school the vibrant place it is. To the leadership team, your guidance, collaboration, and vision continue to drive the growth and development of our school, ensuring that we remain forward-looking while grounded in our values. A special word of thanks goes to Mr Reed, our Deputy Head, whose calm leadership, deep understanding of our school, and genuine care for both staff and pupils have been invaluable. I cannot think of a person more suited to take over the leadership of the school, and I wish him every success as he steps into this role. To Mrs Stamos and Mrs Moodley, your tireless work in managing the smooth running of the office and administrative processes is deeply appreciated. You ensure that so much happens seamlessly behind the scenes, and your support makes all the difference. To our ground, kitchen, maintenance, and finance teams, as well as to Mr Emslie, our Business Manager, and Mr Hartley, Head of College, thank you for the pride you take in your work and for keeping our school running so efficiently every day. Your reliability and hard work create the environment that allows our children and teachers to thrive. To our San Sisters, your care and compassion for the health and wellbeing of our pupils are deeply valued, bringing comfort and kindness to so many moments in a child’s day. To the WPA thank you for your steadfast support, belief in our philosophy, and confidence in what we offer at the Prep. Your continued partnership enriches every aspect of school life. To the Woodridge Trust, thank you, truly, for the unwavering support you have shown me during my tenure. I am grateful for your guidance, for your commitment to our vision, and for the many ways you have supported me throughout my journey and my hopes for the Prep School. And finally, to our parents, thank you for your trust, encouragement, and belief in what we do. Together, we share the joy of watching your children grow, learn, and flourish.



As another year draws to a close at Woodridge Prep, I find myself reflecting on the changing world our children are growing up in. Technology, artificial intelligence, and global connectivity are reshaping how we live, work, and learn. In this rapidly evolving environment, the role of education, especially at the primary level, has never been more important.

from the Prep Headmaster's Desk

Tribute for Trevor von Berg

As my time at Woodridge draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on what has been an incredible journey. I have spent twenty years at this remarkable school, fifteen of which I have had the privilege of serving as Headmaster.

It has been a time filled with unforgettable experiences, countless moments of joy, and memories I will carry with me always.

Woodridge has shaped me in ways I could never have imagined. I have grown both as an educator and as a person, and along the way, I have had the privilege of working alongside dedicated colleagues and making lifelong friends. To everyone who has been part of this journey, thank you. It has been an honour to share in the life of this incredibly special school.

Woodridge Prep will always hold a special place in my heart, and I leave confident in the knowledge that it is safe and moving from strength-to-strength. It has been one of life's greatest privileges to lead a community where curiosity, kindness, and courage guide every child's journey. I wish the entire community of staff, parents, and pupils every success and happiness in the years ahead.

Trevor von Berg
Headmaster, Woodridge Preparatory School

For two decades, Trevor von Berg has stood at the heart of Woodridge Preparatory - five years as Deputy Head and fifteen remarkable years as Headmaster. Across that time, he has modelled a style of leadership rooted in character, humility, and service. Much like the great sporting teams he so often referenced in his assemblies, Trevor believed that culture is everything: that better people build better schools. Under his guidance, Woodridge Prep became a place where integrity matters, where children are known and valued, and where staff are empowered to lead boldly and authentically. He never led from above; he led from within, present on the sidelines, first to arrive, last to leave, sleeves rolled up and fully invested.

Trevor's leadership was defined by action.

He understood instinctively that no task was beneath him and no child insignificant. Whether fixing a tag belt on the field, setting up chairs before an event, or quite literally walking the plank on Pirate Day to the delight of Grade 2 pupils, he embodied servant leadership in its purest form. He refused complacency, continually challenging Woodridge to innovate, to evolve, and to stay ahead in a changing educational landscape. More importantly, he multiplied leadership, nurturing confidence and courage in those around him so that the strength of the school would always lie in its people.

The enduring measure of Trevor von Berg's legacy is simple: he leaves the Woodridge jersey in a far better place than he found it.

The culture, the warmth, the spirit of excellence, the joy on the sports fields and in the classrooms - all bear his imprint.

Long after the cheers fade and the school day ends, his influence will live on in the generations of pupils shaped under his care and the staff who grew under his trust. He is, and will always remain, a Woodridge legend - respected deeply, remembered fondly, and honoured for a lifetime of faithful, courageous leadership.

Iman	Adam	B.Ed Intermediate Phase and BEd Honours Ed Psych	Grade Head: Grade 4, Grade 4.1
Garron	Adlard	BA Humanities. PGCE	Grade 7 Subject Teacher, Head of Round Square
Daniel	Boreham	PGCE	Grade 6.1
Cindy	Botes	BA applied languages, PGCE	Grade 6.3
Alexa	Calitz	B.Ed in Foundation Intersen Phase	Grade 7.2
Nathne	Denis	BMus (Hons), MMus, PhD (Philosophy)	Music
Tracey	Du Plessis	B.Prim.Ed	Grade 1.2
Sherri-Leigh	Dyantyi	B.Ed in Foundation Phase Teaching	Grade 3.2
Aiden	Elsworthy	PGCE SP & FET	Subject Teacher: Intersen Afrikaans
			Assistant House Parent: Kingfisher Boys Hostel
Almarie	Geyer	JPTD (PETC) DSE (Rem. Ed)	Prep Leadership, Learning support
			House Parent : Oriole Girls Hostel
Rose	Graham	LTCL (Piano), BMus Hon (UP); MMus (UP)	Music
Paige	Hall		Intern
Lesley	Hansel	DE; HDE (PETC) (FP)	Grade Head: Grade 1, Grade 1.1
Rina	Holmes	Diploma in Education Junior Primary,	Learning support
		Diploma in Remedial Education	
Lesley	Howe	HDE (Foundation phase)	Grade 00.2 (Temp)
Sihle	Kakuncu		Music: Intern
Kerry-Lynn	Kennedy	B.Ed (NMU)	Grade 3.1
Angelique	Killian	B.Ed Intermediate Phase languages	Grade Head:Grade 5, Grade 5.2
Sandy	Kingwill	HDE (SP) (PECE)	Grade Head:Grade 6, Grade 6.2
Asanda	Kobese	B.Ed Intermediate Phase	Subject Teacher: Xhosa
Candice	Kruger	B.Ed Foundation phase	Aftercare Facilitator
Erich	Kruger	B.Ed Intermediate Phase (Languages)	Robotics
Tarryn	Lombard	Bachelor of Human Movement Sciences,	Grade 5.3
		PGCE Intermediate Phase	
Roxy	Manley	B.Ed Foundation Phase	Grade 2.2
Hilana	Marais	Ndip.fin art	Subject Teacher: Art
Yanelisa	Matrose		Intern
Lesego	Mkhwanazi	National Diploma in Music specializing	Prep Leadership
		in Opera UCT, NMU PGCE	Head of: Arts and Cultural
Sarah	Moodley	Chartered Secretary (FCIS)	Headmasters' PA
Vuyo	Mpahlwa		Intern: Sport
Janette	Muller	Docerend Musicus, (DM) Sweelinck, Conservatorium	Music
Mudi	Mungenga	Dip early childhood dev. (Level 5)	Pre-Primary: Teacher Assistant
Constance	Ngcanga	BA (HDE)(WCU)	Subject Teachers: Xhosa
Bukho	Pantsi		Intern
Roslyn	Pienaar	Certificate Courses in Librarianship, Dip Tourism	Library
Zanda	Plaaitjies	Early Childhood Development (NQF Level 4)	Pre-Primary: Grade 0000
Ryan	Porter		Intern
Nicky	Puttergill	HDE (JP) (PECE)	Prep Leadership,
			Head of Foundation Phase and Intersen Phase
Marcelle	Radue	Ass. Sc. For Pre-School (USA)	Pre-Primary:Grade 000
			House Parent: Sparrow Junior Hostel
Cliff	Reed	B.Ed	Prep Leadership,
			Deputy Headmaster, Pastoral Care and Discipline
Genee	Reed	B.Ed (FP) ACE (Rem. Ed.)	Grade Head: Grade 2, Grade 2.1
Anda	Sakube	NMU Sports Management	Prep Leadership, Director of sport
Sange	Sakube		Intern
Jen	Scheepers	B.Ed (ECD & FP) UNISA	Leadership, Head of Pre-primary, Pre-Primary: Grade R.1
Lerischia	Scheepers	B Home Ec. HDE	Grade Head:Grade 7, Grade 7.1
Sieg	Schnetler	UNISA Graded Certificate	Music
Lauren	Selby		Intern
Lizaan	Stamos	Dip Marketing. Dip Financial Management	Prep General Secretary
Nick	Stephenson	Exec. Dip Sports Man. (NMMU),	Grade 4.2
		Sports Man. Dip. (UNISA)	House Parent : Kingfisher Boys Hostel
Avile	Thiso		Intern: Sport
Sindi	Tshabalala		Intern
Cherin	van Heerden	B.Ed Foundation Phase	Pre-Primary: Grade R.2
Ursula	Venter	B.Ed	Curriculum Co-Ordinator
Lesley	Vickery	Higher Diploma in Education - JCE	Subject Teacher: FP Afrikaans teacher
Tanya	von Berg	B.Ed Foundation Phase, (HON)	Leadership and management, Head of Afrikaans
Trevor	von Berg	B.Ed (HON) LDP (WITS)	Prep Leadership, Headmaster
Deanne	Webb	Business Computer Diploma. B .Prim.ED Degree	Pre-Primary: Grade 00.2 (Maternity leave)
		(Foundation Phase). ACE: Remedial Diploma	
Hannah	Werth	BSc Environmental Sciences; PGCE	Grade 5.1
James	York		Intern
Patti	van der Ploeg		Music
Faye	van Eck		ICT, Coding Robotics

Back Row: *Mr Patrige Chimwendo, Mr Sange Sakube, Mr Daniel Boreham, Mr Sean-Pierre Africa, Mr Erich Kruger, Miss Angelique Killian, Miss Hannah Werth, Miss Lauren Selby, Mrs Roslyn Pienaar, Mrs Tanya von Berg*
Third Row: *Mr Asanda Kobese, Mrs Tracey du Plessis, Ms Janette Muller, Mrs Ursula Venter, Ms Lesley Vickery, Mrs Les Hansel, Miss Tarryn Lombard, Mrs Nicky Puttergill, Mrs Candice Kruger, Mrs Cindy Botes, Mr Aiden Elsworthy, Mr Anda Sakube*
Second Row: *Mr Vuyo Mpahlwa, Mrs Rose Graham, Miss Yanelisa Matrose, Miss Mudi Munhenga, Mrs Lerischia Scheepers, Mrs Almarie Geyer, Mrs Sandy Kingwill, Mrs Lizaan Stamos, Ms Iman Adam, Miss Paige Hall, Miss Demi Mayberry, Miss Sherri-Leigh Dyantyi, Mr Damian Miles, Mr Garron Adlard, Mrs Roxanne Manley, Mr Nicholas Stephenson, Mr Avile Thiso*
Front Row: *Mr Divan Lamprecht, Mr Cliff Reed, Mr Lesego Mkhwanazi, Mrs Sarah Moodley, Mrs Alexa Calitz, Miss Deanne Webb, Mrs Marcelle Radue, Mrs Geneé Reed, Ms Constance Ngcangca, Mr Trevor von Berg, Ms Zanda Plaatjie, Mrs Patricia van der Ploeg, Miss Cherin van Heerden, Ms Nathne Denis, Mrs Jen Scheepers, Miss Erica Zhang*

Farewell to a True Rock Star: Mr Sieg Schnetler

After an incredible 17 years at Woodridge, we bid farewell to Mr Sieg Schnetler, our beloved guitar teacher, Head of Chess, sports enthusiast, and all-round legend.

Sieg's classroom was never quiet. Whether it was the familiar hum of an amplifier, a classic rock riff echoing across Bobart, or the sound of children learning their first chords, his passion for music could be heard long before you saw him. His love for rock and roll is contagious, and his ability to inspire that same energy and excitement in his pupils is truly special.

Beyond the music, Sieg was the heartbeat of the Woodridge Chess Club, meticulously updating the ladder, organising fixtures, mentoring young players, and celebrating every victory with pride. His attention to detail was legendary, from keeping careful records of every music theory book and instrument, to ensuring every lesson was planned to perfection.

But what made Sieg stand out most was his humility, warmth, and genuine care for others. He always took the time to ask how you and your family were doing, to share a laugh, or to debate the latest Springbok rugby strategy. A true sports fanatic, Sieg loved nothing more than chatting about weekend results or predicting the next big game.

He was also an enthusiastic participant in school life, whether it was cheering on at athletics day, lending a hand at the river race, or taking his role as a place judge at the gala very seriously. His sense of fun and camaraderie made him a firm favourite among colleagues. Sieg was truly "one of the guys", loyal, reliable, and always ready to get involved.

A massive James Bond fan, Sieg often entertained us with updates on his Bond car collection or the latest film news, delivered with his trademark enthusiasm.

Above all, Sieg was a teacher who truly cared. He took immense pride in his guitar pupils, going the extra mile to prepare them for exams or find pieces that matched their unique styles. His influence has shaped not only their musical journeys, but also their confidence and love for the art.

As Sieg turns the page on this next chapter, we thank him for 17 years of dedication, friendship, and unforgettable melodies. The staff room and the music block will be a little quieter without him, but his spirit will continue to resonate through every chord played at Woodridge.

Thank you, Sieg, for the music, the mentorship, and the memories. We wish you nothing but happiness, good health, and a well-deserved retirement filled with rock and roll, rugby, and maybe a few Bond marathons.

Tribute written by Mr Stephenson

Tribute to Mrs Almarie Geyer

There will be very few children who leave the school without having made a connection with Mrs Geyer. In her 30 plus years at the school she has worn many hats. Her passion has always been Learning Support, as she truly recognises children's differences and wants them all to succeed and develop their personal strengths. However, in her time at Woodridge, she has also been called upon to be a Phase Head, a class teacher, an Afrikaans teacher, a tuckshop co-ordinator, an events manager, a florist, a driver, a shoulder for colleagues to cry on, and a mother to the girl boarders. She also served on the Senior Leadership Team for many years.

Mrs Geyer's professionalism in the classroom could never be questioned. She set a consistently high standard for her pupils and ensured that there was value in every lesson. Many a grade seven child would bemoan the fact that she has such high standards and often some would cajole their parents into, unsuccessfully, asking for leniency in tasks. However, these same children would return to the Prep, in later years, and thank her profusely for the solid grounding that she gave them. During College exam time, children would queue up for extra lessons and even sign in to online sessions during their weekends and holiday time. Such was Mrs Geyer's devotion to her pupils, that she never refused a request for help.

Her devotion to the children was not unappreciated and it is wonderful to be at a function and witness the number of Old Woodridgeans who approach her with fond memories and tales of times gone by. She stays in touch with many and often whips out her phone to show pictures of weddings and new babies. She served the school for so many years that she has regularly taught the children of her past pupils, who are not wrong in asking, "Don't you ever age?"

Mrs Geyer brought style, poise and excellence to every school function she arranged, turning ordinary events into unforgettable occasions. From 'Wimbledon teas' for the grade sevens to Leavers' Dinners and Matric Dances, Mrs Geyer ensured that her guests would feel special and appreciated. Behind the scenes, she was a tireless worker, always the first to arrive and the last to leave, the one making sure every detail was just right. One of her favourite sayings was, "I will not let the bride's petticoat stick out!"

One of Mrs Geyer's traits is that she does not mince her words.

She had high expectations of her colleagues and was not afraid to offer advice which, although often difficult to hear initially, was always aimed at helping ensure that the standard of education at the school remained high. Mrs Geyer was more than a co-worker, she was a mentor, a friend, and a confidant. New teachers found in her a guiding hand and a steady presence, always willing to share her wisdom and experience without ever seeking praise. Those going through difficult times were given a sympathetic ear and many a colleague found a surprise, anonymous gift and note of encouragement in their pigeonhole, specifically chosen to boost them in their time of need.

Much of Mrs Geyer's energy was devoted to 'her girls' in the boarding house. She cared for them with a sense of duty, warmth, and motherly love. So strong was her commitment that, often, her own family came second to the girls in her care. There were many occasions when Mrs Geyer and her family, welcomed a girl, sometimes two, into her home for half-term breaks and holidays if they could not make the trip to their primary home. After the devastating fires that destroyed boarding house, as well as her own home, Mrs Geyer, without skipping a beat, declared that she would make the Prep library and staffroom work as a boarding house and she and her husband, Hannes, moved into an adjoining office for the duration of the rebuild. That kind of selflessness is rare and deeply treasured.

Almarie Geyer's name has become synonymous with loyalty and wholehearted service. 'Ask Almarie' was a very well used phrase in the Prep school staffroom and her input will be sorely missed. We wish her well for her future endeavours, as we know that there is no possible way she will be relaxing with her feet up and labelled a pensioner, for many years to come.

Tribute Written By Sandy Kingwill

Residences

Kingfisher Residence

Mr Nick Stephenson

At Kingfisher Residence, we strive to create more than just a boarding house, we aim to offer our boys a true *home away from home*. While we know that nothing can ever replace one's own home, our goal is for each boy to feel as comfortable, supported and valued as he would with his family. Life in Kingfisher is about belonging, growing, and learning together. We are proud of the environment we have created; one rooted in independence, mutual respect, and camaraderie.

Our boys make the most of every opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and the unique freedom that comes with living at Woodridge. Whether they are spending countless hours on their bikes exploring the campus, fishing at the Nature Reserve, playing impromptu hockey matches on the mini astro, or perfecting their batting and bowling in the cricket nets, there is never a dull moment in Kingfisher. These simple, joyful moments capture what makes boarding so special, a balance between responsibility and fun, where boys learn to manage their time, bond as brothers and appreciate the world around them.

This year was filled with memorable experiences both on and off campus. Our weekend excursions included exciting trips to Jeffreys Bay, where the boys soaked up the sun and sea air, as well as an adrenaline-fuelled paintballing adventure. One of the year's standout moments was when our boys had the chance to support the Sunrisers at the SA T20 Tournament and even met the Protea players during their trophy tour. The excitement of getting photos and autographs from their cricketing heroes is something many of them will remember for years to come. Of course, no weekend would be complete without the familiar Sunday ritual of stocking up on tuck, an essential part of boarding life!

Our weekly routines have also become treasured traditions. Monday night family suppers are a highlight of our week. We gather around the table as one big family to share a meal, celebrate achievements and plan for the week ahead. These evenings are more than just about food; they are about connection, a time to reflect, laugh and support one another. Braai Fridays are another much-loved tradition, with the smell of smoke and braai-broodjies filling the air as the boys relax after a busy week. It is often followed by a spirited game

of touch rugby on Bobart, where our sisters from Oriole Residence frequently join in, adding to the lively atmosphere and strengthening the bonds between the boarding houses.

This year also saw the start of a new and meaningful tradition. We invited the College matric boarders to join us for a celebratory braai, marking the end of their boarding journey. It was a wonderful opportunity for our younger boys to connect with and learn from their older counterparts, while we wished the matrics every success as they prepared for their final exams.

There have been some exciting changes and improvements to Kingfisher this year, all aimed at making the residence an even better place to live. Our kitchen renovation has been a huge success, the boys have enjoyed being able to make some of their favourite hostel treats and snacks, adding to the homely atmosphere. We also undertook a complete overhaul of the garden and courtyard, transforming it into a serene and welcoming space where the boys can relax, unwind, or catch up with friends.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our interns and duty staff, whose dedication and care have been instrumental in maintaining the high standards and warm culture we are so proud of. You are incredible role models for our boys and have invested countless hours to ensure that Kingfisher remains a place of belonging and pride. A heartfelt thank you also goes to Mr Elsworthy, my right hand in the day-to-day running of the house. Your willingness to go the extra mile, your calm leadership and your unwavering support make all the difference.

To our parents, thank you for entrusting us with your sons. We recognise the privilege and responsibility that comes with this, and we remain deeply grateful for your constant support, communication and involvement. To my family, who stand by me through every busy week, match day, and late-night check-in, thank you for helping me run this house not just as a residence, but as a home filled with care and heart.

Finally, we bid a fond farewell to Mrs Geyer, the much-loved Head of Oriole Residence, who retires at the end of this year. Her incredible passion, tireless dedication, and deep care for her girls have left a lasting legacy in our boarding community. We wish her every happiness in her well-earned retirement.

As we look back on another memorable year in Kingfisher, we are reminded that boarding is about far more than shared spaces, it is about shared experiences, lifelong friendships, and the lessons that shape who we become.

We are proud of our boys, their growth and the spirit that makes Kingfisher truly feel like home.

Back Row: *Harper Stephenson, Miss Debbie Wallace, Mr Nick Stephenson, Jerome Mwita, Elton Jemes, Elgan Anthony, Aqhama Macembe, Elvis Jemes, Rudra Mohan, Mr Aiden Elsworthy*
Front Row: *LeJac De Meillon, Ayola Xalisile, Oyinthanda Makoyi, Finley Stephenson, Christian Dintwe, Yinhla Mbedlhi, Luke Bailes, Neo Matuludi*

Oriole Residence

Mrs Alamrie Geyer

This has been a very special year for me as I knew that I would be retiring at the end of this year after spending 22 wonderful years in Oriole Residence as the houseparent. It has been a privilege and blessing to be a co-parent to so many girls, and I have enjoyed every moment. Remaining in contact with so many of the past Oriole children, who are now well into adulthood, and their families is a testament to having made a difference in their lives.

This year the girls have spent many fun-filled hours doing crafts, singing, dancing and playing board games.

They formed special friendships and Oriole Residence is their home-away-from-home.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the duty staff for all their love, care, and endless patience. They have taken the girls on so many outings such as pottery, picnics, movies, game parks, beaches, as well as pamper parties and special breakfasts and treats. Aunty Virginia keeps Oriole Residence neat and tidy, and she is a second mom to the girls.

Lastly, I would like to thank my husband, Hannes, for all his support and help. This would not have been possible without your kind heart and supporting me with the many hours spent in the residence.

I wish Oriole Residents everything of the best for the future and I shall follow them with keen interest.

ORIOLE RESIDENCE

Back Row: *Victoria Jegwer, Jenna Kinnell, Inathi Bangazi, Entle Maqoma, Ava O'Haga, Alexandra Horsfield, Mrs Almarie Geyer*
Front Row: *Lukho Mbangula, Sophia Ralph, Alka Makame, Olerato Desheka, Thenjiwe Mashoka, Lia-Grace van der Westhuizen*

Mini Weavers

Mrs Zanda Plaatjies

Question asked: What do you think is the fastest animal and why?

Anina van der Merwe: A bunny because I have bunnies by my home
Harper Stephenson: A tiger because it runs so fast.
Janco von Berg: A lion because it ran into the house.
Jonty de Klerk: A cheetah because it is so super-fast.
Lulatho Boya: An elephant because I love elephants.
Oliver Scheepers: A cheetah because they can run.
Okuninzi Nyokana: A doggy.

Back Row: *Mrs Monica Bevile, Anina van der Merwe, Jonty de Klerk, Mrs Zanda Plaatjie*
Front Row: *Lulatho Boya, Harper Stephenson, Oliver Scheepers, Janco von Berg*
Absent: *Okuninzi Nyokana*

Weavers

Mrs Marcelle Radue

Question asked: If Mr von Berg came to you for lunch what would you make him ?

Alexa Wijants: Quiche with a burger meat, tomato,Broccoli with a strawberry milkshake

Brooklyn Pennels: Make him a sandwich with broccoli, cabbage and tomato sauce.
Cody Sakube: make him a cake with rainbow sprinkles, mashed potato and banana bread with water to drin.
Finley Stephnson: make him a sandwich with “lion meat” and salad
Jinx Smith: make him a sandwich with Peperoni, cheese and cucumber
Katherine Deasy: give him ham and cheese with Orange juice to drink
Noah Campbell: give him Pasta with mince and Apple Juice

Noah Scheepers: make a sandwich with Bovril and birdseed sandwich with cookies and cholate milkshake
Ocean Muaka: Make him a sandwich with cheese, tomato, cucumber, carrots with water to drink.
Rayden Ferreira: Make a sandwich with cheese, bacon and ham. Some snake sweets and water
Riley Puttergill: Make him a sandwich with mushrooms, egg, bacon, lettuce and a Beer to drink.
Yamihle Nojilana: Make him a pizza and buy him lots of toys and sweeties

Back Row: *Alexa Wijnants, Mrs Marcelle Radue, Noah Scheepers, Miss Danielle Edwards, Yamihle Nojilana*
Front Row: *Ocean Muaka, Jinx Smith, Finley Stephenson, Rayden Ferreira, Katherine Deasy, Cody Sakube, Brooklyn Pennels, Noah Campbell* ***Absent:*** *Riley Puttergill, Mrs Nonnie Botomani*

Swallows

Miss Mudi Mungenga and Mrs Monica Sizane

Question: If you could be a character in any Fairytale, who would you be and why?

Aribella Ferreira: I would like to be Shrek, because I like green colour.
Ayla Mohanlal: I like to be a Cinderella, because she is a very nice girl with a good heart.
Benjamin van der Merwe: I like to be Jack and the Bean Stalk, because he's got the same name as Brooklyn's brother.
Brooklyn Kennedy: Sleeping Beauty - I like sleeping beauty, because she sleeps a lot like me!
Elizabeth Jordaan: Beauty and the Beast, because they are pretty and they loved each other in the end.
Grace Sakube: I like to be Princess Peach, because I like her pink dress.
Hayley Adlard: I like to be Elsa, because she is pretty.
Hudson Manley: I would like to be Gingerbread man, because he likes cooking.
Iyana Notshe: I would like to be Ariel, because she is beautiful and I like her red hair.

Back Row: *Hudson Manley, Miss Mudi Mungenga, Benjamin van der Merwe, Miss Edmonique Uithaler*
Front Row: *Ayla Mohanlal, Iyana Notshe, Brooklyn Kennedy, Hayley Adlard, Aribella Ferreira, Elizabeth Jordaan, Grace Sakube*
Absent: *Mrs Monica Sizane*

Swallows

Mrs Deanne Webb and Mrs Vivi Ntiyonke

If you could choose to be an animal for a day, which animal would you be and why?

Nolwazi Buthelezi – I want to be a pig because I want to build a brick house.
Samariah Henrico – I want to be a Giraffe because I like his long neck.
Remi Scheepers – I want to be a wolf because he blows the house down.
Natara Stuurman – I want to be a wolf because me and my mommy went to the wolf.
Kaylee Victor – I want to be a dog because I have dogs at my house and I love them.
Kayva Victor – I want to be a lion because they so fluffy.

Back Row: *Mrs Deanne Webb, Samariah Henrico, Mrs Vivi Ntiyonke*
Front Row: *Scarlett de Beer, Natara Stuurman, Remi Scheepers, Kaylee Victor, Kayva Victor, Nolwazi Buthelezi*

Robins

Miss Cherin van Heerden

Question asked: What is your favourite thing about coming to school at Woodridge?

Aviana Muller: I enjoy the work that I get to do in my classroom, and I enjoy playing with my friends.
Taylor Davidson: To go horse riding and to see my teacher, Aunty Cherin, and be able to play with my friends.
Skyler Moss: Learning and drawing stuff and being able to take care of the animals around me. I also like getting to see my teacher every day.
Liam Pinho: Playing football with Leo and Caleb at break time.
Leo Katzen: There are lots of animals, like snakes, gecko's and lizards that I can look at. I also like the friends that I have made and that my teacher looks after me.
Tawana Dube: My favourite thing is coming to school with teachers that care about us, and I really love nature and painting in class.
Saskia Marshall-Smith: That my teacher is nice and cuddly and caring towards me and that I get to play with my friends.
Kirah Mohanlal: I have more friends here and I love my new class because I have so many friends and I am very happy where I am.
Sarah-Grace Rudman: I like to play in my class with my friends, and I like the fact that we have a big playground to play in.
Caleb Ferreira: That there are geckos that we catch a lot and that we get to see a lot of animals.
Robert Wijnants: Playing with my friends and being nice to them and seeing my teacher at school so I can give her big huggies.
Larsen Meyer: Being able to play with friends, see flowers and trees, catch geckos and having a teacher that loves me.

Scout Smith: I like to give my teacher cuddles, and I love the friends that I have made and enjoy playing with them.
Alize Aylward: Playing with my friends, doing artwork and being able to play outside.
Lucah Strydom: Playing a lot because I like to play all the time, especially outside on the pirate ship.
Harry Easingwood: I love the uniform shop and being able to wear my uniform. I like the teachers in our pre-school and the work that they teach us.

Back Row: *Aviana Muller, Taylor Davidson, Miss Cherin van Heerden, Skyler Moss, Liam Pinho, Leo Katzen, Mrs Pretty Bene, Tawana Dube, Saskia Marshall-Smith* ***Front Row:*** *Kirah Mohanlal, Sarah-Grace Rudman, Caleb Ferreira, Robert Wijnants, Larsen Meyer, Scout Smith, Alize Aylward, Lucah Strydom, Harry Easingwood*

Robins

Mrs Jen Scheepers

What would you do if you found a magic door in your classroom?

Kate de Villiers – I would go through it and if it's a hot day, it would take me somewhere cold like a swimming pool.
Mikah Hassim – I would ask it for a diamond, then sell it and get money.
Ryan Hofmeyr – I would walk through it to the beach and run around with my dog, Cooper.
Khushil Karsan – I would knock on the door and then pretend I'm not there!
Daniel Leeson Oliphant – I would go in the door and go to Ireland and get lots of ice-pops, see my Nanny and my cousins.
Yash Malapermal – I would go through the door and ask it for one-thousand dollars and and buy a Lamborghini.
Mphoentle Maputle – I will ask it for one-thousand and one-hundred dollars so it can pay school fees for my Mom.
Emily-Mae Maritz – I would go inside it and find a lot of animals and put them in my Zoo called "Sunshine".
Isla Naidoo – I would go inside and find Cameron's house and we would have a playdate.
Ozni Nyokana – I would find a horse through there and take it home with me.
Logan-Alexander Ritchie – I would go through it and there would be Uncle Brian standing there and hugging me.
Lyla Scheepers – I will literally ask the magic door: "Can I get some pyjamas from there?"
Teo Stokoe – I would go through it and get infinity-one-hundred dollars and upgrade all the dinosaurs in Jurassic World.
Kenzie van Niekerk – It might be dangerous, but I would go through it and go to "Sprunkiesland".
Cameron Venter – I wish I could go through the magic door into a magic land where the trees are made of chocolate and the rivers are Fanta yellow.
Azande Williams - I think I would be a little bit scared to go through...

Back Row: *Ryan Hofmeyr, Isla Naidoo, Mrs Jen Scheepers, Cameron Venter, Mr Sange Sakube, Emily-Mae Maritz, Mrs Margaret Plaatjie, Khushil Karsan, Teo Stokoe*
Front Row: *Mphoentle Maputle, Ozni Nyokana, Kate de Villiers, Azande Williams, Mikah Hassim, Lyla Scheepers, Kenzie van Niekerk, Logan-Alexander Ritchie* ***Absent:*** *Daniel Leeson Oliphant, Yash Malapermal*

Grade 1

Mrs Les Hansel
Mrs Tracey Du Plessis

I liked to be the teacher because I could teach the class new things. I love to do art. I enjoyed doing my self-portrait. I like doing the senses activity in the nature reserve. **Gia Kietzmann**

I love maths because it stretches our brains. I loved canoeing because it was very exciting. I enjoyed hockey. I loved our science experiments. **Tanaka Chari**

Maths helps me to make my brain grow. I enjoyed doing our science experiments. **Izan Navarro Morales**

I love grade one because maths is my favourite. I love Phys Ed because we play dodgeball and we run. I like my work because it is challenging. Teachers are the best. **Wally van der Merwe**

I enjoyed playing in the nature reserve because we can fish. I like to do computers. I like my teacher because she taught us how to do maths. I enjoyed calculators. I liked the activities in the nature reserve. **Amy du Preez**

I loved grade one because of the nature reserve. It was fun learning our senses there. My favourite was tasting all the tastes. They were so yummy. But hockey was also amazing. What I loved so much about it was hitting the ball and passing. My favourite was tackle rugby. I really used to struggle with golf at the beginning of the year but now it's just fine. **Koketso Mosiane**

My favourite thing in Grade one was learning how to read. My second favourite thing in Grade 1 was when we rode our bikes. My favourite favourite thing in Grade one was my teacher. **Grace van den Berg**

I like maths because maths helps your brain grow. Do you know that you must always look at the sum. The sum is important. Check if your answer is right. **Lilitha Notshe**

What I learned from all our Science Experiments

I learned how to make a volcano. You add baking soda, dish soap, food colouring and vinegar and look as the bubbles come up. That is how you make a volcano. Did you know how to make a larva lamp? Add oil, water and food colouring. Then add a fizzy tablet. **Sichumisele Moyake**

I found out how to make a larva lamp. It was so interesting. You need food colouring, water and oil. I learned how to make elephant toothpaste. Put food colouring, yeast, warm water and dish soap together. **Gia Kretzmann**

I learned the word refraction. It is like when you look through water. The arrows turned the other way. You use lemons to charge a light bulb because the lemon is sour. **Varshay Govender**

Do you know that friction is when something makes contact with the surface? I saw a larva lamp. I know how to make a larva lamp. First add oil, water and food colouring. Then drop a fizzy tablet in. **Edré Combrinck**

Do you know that if you put baking soda and food colouring into something it will make a chemical reaction. I learned how an optical illusion works when you close one eye, a straw looks like it's going through a window. **Carter Scheepers**

I learned the word optical illusion. I did not know that carbonated juice can make raisins go up and down. I learned that carbonated juice can make raisins dance. **Dante Pineda**

Did you know that I learned how to make a volcano. In the volcano there was vinegar, baking soda and food colouring. The volcano erupted. I like it. **Lilitha Notshe**

We learned about making larva lamps. We saw raisins dancing in carbonated juice. **Hanna Abbott**

WHAT I LOVED ABOUT GRADE 1

I like maths because it stretches my brain. I like calculators. I love art. The tennis was fun. I loved drama because I learned my voice must be loud. I like reading. **Marli Bodenstein**

OUR VISIT TO HOLMELEIGH FARM

I learned that if you hold a tortoise water comes out from the water sac under their shell. I learned that an emu makes light green eggs. I also learned that alpaca teeth are at the bottom of their mouth.
Tanaka Chari

I learned that mountain goats are good climbers. The cow has a purple tongue. Do you know that emus are the second biggest bird?
Wally van der Merwe

I learned that peacocks make a lot of noise so the girls can find the boys. I learned that tortoises have cones when they are sick because they must not each too much lettuce. Emus lay light green eggs and males ostriches blend in the dark and females in the day.
Varshay Govender

I learned that if you hold a tortoise on its back it will release water. An ostrich is the fastest bird in the world. An emu lays a light green egg. How to tell a boy and a girl tortoise is if it's shell has a curve underneath it is a boy and if it is straight it is a girl.
Sichumisele Moyake

What advice would you give Grade Rs about Grade 1

You will be kapoot at the end of the day, but you get to play awesome sport. If you are naughty you go to Sangating. – **Wyatt Campbell**

If you are feeling sick the teacher will let you sit on the poof. Your break times are a little bit short. – **Zoe Zakumba**

When you work in class you have to try your best and be quiet – **Luka Stokoe**

You do more writing in Grade 1 – **Mendo Flepu**

You have to wear tight school clothes and you have to keep your shoes on all day – **Zara Main**

You have to work harder, Grade 1 is more work – **Tadiwa Chari**

At the end of the day we do easier work. You have to learn how to spell words, but there is a board to help you – **Silas Henrico**

You have to be good and behave and there are lots of books and hard work but it is still fun – **Dean Watson**

Try your best to practice your handwriting and be kind to your friends – **Seth Oba**

If you are good you get a sweet but if you are naughty you go on the ladder. At break don't go in the classroom – Sophie de Klerk

Don't be naughty or rude even at modern dancing. And don't draw on the teachers board – **Minentle Kula**

Lets write a sentence using 'fish' or 'shop'.
The fish is fast. My fish is gone. The fish has a face – **Minentle Kula**
I went to a shop and I bought a chair that was red – **Dean Watson**
The fish can jump – **Wyatt Campbell**
The goldfish is in the water which the water is green – **Sophie de Klerk**
I went to buy something at the shop – **Seth Oba**
I bought 106 sweets at the shop – **Zoe Zakumba**
I buy chocolate at the shop – **Tycho Has**
I saw a fish – **Luka Stokoe**
The fish is in the tank and the fish is blue and it loves eating shells – **Mendo Flepu**
I went to the shop and got chocolates – **Silas Henrico**
Fish lay eggs – **Zara Main**
I am going to the candy shop – **Tadiwa Chari**

If I could make 1 wish, what would it be?

That I could study lots and be super clever when I'm big and everyone would have to ask me how to do things – **Wyatt Campbell**
I would ask to be able to travel back in time – **Tadiwa Chari**
I would ask for a magical unicorn that can fly – **Sophie de Klerk**
I would ask for a 3D printer – **Mendo Flepu**
I would ask him to turn me into a Lego man so I could live in Lego Land – **Silas Henrico**
I would ask that my hands are magic and I can make any toy I want – **Zara Main**
I would ask to be a famous tennis player playing in the finals at Wimbledon – **Seth Oba**
I would ask if I could ride on a springbuck – **Luka Stokoe**
I would ask that I could be a teache – **Minentle Kula**
I would ask that my parents can get a big house with lots of cool pets – **Zoe**
I would ask for a train business, and I am the boss and I have many workers to pay every day – **Dean Watson**
I wish to go to Lego Land and eat lots of sweets – **Tycho Has**

GRADE 1.1

Back Row: *Mrs L Hansel, Kai Zakumba, Lilitha Notshe, Koketso Mosiane, Izan Navarro Morales, Walter van der Merwe, Amy du Preez, Edré Combrinck, Miss L Lefeny*
Front Row: *Gia Kietzmann, Tanaka Chari, Varshay Govender, Carter Scheepers, Dante Pineda, Sichumisele Moyake, Hanna Abbott, Marli Bodenstein, Grace van den Berg*

GRADE 1.2

Back Row: *Mrs T. Du Plessis, Wyatt Campbell, Sophie de Klerk, Silas Henrico, Seth Oba, Dean Watson, Zara Main, Zoe Zakumba, Miss Lefenya*
Front Row: *Hugo Clark, Sibabalwe Mpongoshe, Mendo Flepu, Luka Stokoe, Tadiwa Chari, Khwezi Masika, Kiev Zakumba, Minentle Kula*

Grade 2

Mrs Geneé Reed
Mrs Roxanne Manley

"When I grow up..."

Jefferson Adams
When I grow up I want to be a astronaut because I want to discover what I have never known before.

Aiden Barnard
When I grow up I want to be a astronaut. Because I want to fly in space. And I can discover hidden things. And I can collect samples.

Andre' Bouwer
When I grow up I want to be the president of South Africa. Because I want to show the world that even presidents must be kind and respectful. And it will be the law that children must go to bed at 12 o' clock.

Isla Fell
When I grow up I want to be a popstar. I want to be a popstar because I love dancing. Whenever I get home I get my mom's phone. I play music and dance!

Lana Ferreira
When I grow up I want to be a hairdresser. I want to be a hairdresser because I do not want people to have a bad hair day. When I grow up I want to be a hairdresser for Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday I want to be a ninja!

Bontle Maputle
When I grow up I want to be a basketball player because it is a fun game. My dad has played it but he played it for 8 years and he is tall so he scored.

Marche' Mulder
When I grow up I want to be a rugby player in South Africa. I want to be a famous rugby player.

Stella Oakes
When I grow up I want to be an author. I want to be an author because I love books! And I am inspired to read. And my favourite author's name is David Williams.

Gabriel Radue
When I grow up I want to be a conservationist because I want to protect endangered animals because I care about animals.

Riley Russett
When I grow up I want to be a cricket player because I love cricket. I want to be a all-rounder. I will be coming in third to bat.

"My planet"

Likhanya Boya
My planets surface is a rainbow. My planets name is rainbow. It is a colourful planet. It is special because it gives joy. My planet has two moons. The planet has a ring around it. The ring is made of dust and rock.

Luana de Paiva
My planet is called Cotton Candy Planet. It is made of cotton candy. It is special because you can eat the bushes and the trees. The Cotton Candy Planet is pink, purple and blue. The moon is also made of cotton candy.

Iris Deseta
My planet is made of floof. It has a monument in the shape of a cats paw. The monument is also a cat bed. There are cats beds everywhere! The trees are cat trees. There is a big food dispenser and a water bowl. The cats names are Luna, Daisy Daffodile. But I have got 3000 cats!

"Bees" Poems

Paiton Devenish
Bees are black and yellow.
They like buzzing around the meadow.
Bees are as small as peas.
They live in trees.

Catherine Edwards
Bees have a poisonous sack.
They have black stripes on their back.
The bee dies when it stings.
The queen bee almost never uses her wings.
The bee brings nectar to the hive

Arianna Bellingan – My Fairytale Story
Once upon a time in the woods there was a little cottage. An elf was living in the cottage. He loved cookies! But one day he was making cookies then he heard a deep voice. He went to look. It was a giant! He was looking at himself in the mirror and he said he fifo I look so beautiful. What! What is that I see. A human! Come here! But then his friend came and said "Hey you come here!" then he was kind and lived happy ever after.

Arian Coleman – My Weekend News
On Friday I went to the family camp. I played on Bobart and I slept in our tent.

Sikhanyiso Dladla – Pirate Day
We pushed Mr. von Berg in the pool. My name was Captain Barnacles. We took a photo. We had a treasure hunt with teams. We had break. We went home.

Alena Duxbury – My Fairytale Story
Once upon a time there was a very tall tower and there were Jack and Jill, and a wizard with a wand. Then the wizard turned into a frog. The end.

Sebastian Ferreira – Pirate Day
My name is the Undertaker. If I got hungry, I ate sushi. But I had a best friend. His name was the Skullcrusher and then we went to the Gr. R playground.

Edrian Kok – My Fairytale Story
Once upon a time there was a bridge. On the other side there was a giant book. There was a frog prince and he found a chest. There was a wolf and he said aaawwwooooo! I was like what is he doing then I punched him with a sword. The end.

London Little – Pirate Day
I said "walk the plank!" My name is Captain Sparkleboots. We pushed Mr. von Berg in the pool. We had a treasure hunt. We had apple munchies.

Jaimey Lues – Pirate Day
My pirate name is Captain Googly Jeff. I am 17. I have a pet. It's name is Fuzzball and he is a monkey. And he has a friend. They are cute.

Sentle Maputle – Pirate Day
If I were a pirate my name was Captain SigmaBoy. We pushed Mr. von Berg in the pool. We did our orals. Then we went to the Grade R's playground and we took photos there. Last of all we went on a treasure hunt.

Henry Nolan – Moon Landing Story
I would sleep in the rocket. Then I would go on the moon. Then I would look for the US flag. Then I'll go back to the rocket. Then go back home. Then I came back. I went around the moon and had snacks.

Navya Serfontein – Pirate Day
My pirate name was Sandy Shiny Boots. I was the cutest shiniest pirate on the 7 seas. We pushed Mr. von Berg into the swimming pool. We went to the pirate ship to take photos. We went in teams for a treasure hunt. After that we had apple munchies.

Ian Sibanda – My Jungle Animal
Deep in the jungle there lived a very strange animal. It has the head of a dragon, the body of a pig, the tail of a fox, and it has sharp claws. It's called the croctail. It likes to eat people.

Lennard Weis – My Jungle Animal
Deep in the jungle there lives a very strange animal. It has a head of a crocodile, the body of a Tyrex, the tail of a dog, the hands of a Tyrex and it has duck feet. It's called a cyrex. It likes to eat meat. It can walk and run and it can jump over trees. It is not shy and hides away when it hears anyone coming.

Elke Wijnants – Moon Landing Story
When I was little I always thought I would blast off into space and I did in a rocket like an astronaut! In space it was dark but I saw a planet. The planet was the moon!

Hannah Witteveen – Kragga Kamma Outing (Acrostic Poem about Lions)
Loyal to their pride
Interested in live prey
Often sleeping
Notice the slightest movements
Sensitive to noise

What do you think Mr. von Berg is going to do during his retirement?

"He will have a relaxing holiday" – **Arianna Bellingan**

"I don't know. Maybe go to an island and swim." – **Sikhanyiso Dladla**

"I think he would have a nice holiday and then come back to us to say hello at the end of the year" – **Alena Duxbury**

"Lay in bed and sleep!" – **Sebastien Ferreria**

"Exercise!" – **Edrian Kok**

"I think he will sit on his couch and read the newspaper." – **London Little**

"I think he is gonna play dodgeball and play video games in bed! – **Jaimey Lues**

"He will sing Woodridge Dream every time he goes to make coffee." – **Sentle Maputle**

"Lay on his bed and do work on his phone. Then he'll doze off and go watch TV." – **Henry Nolan**

"Play golf and spend time with his family." – **Navya Serfontein**

"I think he will go to the harbor and go on a cruise ship and go to Namibia." – **Lennard Weis**

"He's going to go on a big holiday with his kids and he is going to go to a nice island and play." – **Elke Wijnants**

"Have fun!" – **Hannah Witteveen**

GRADE 2.1

Back Row: *Mrs G Reed, Lana Ferreira, Catherine Edwards, Marche' Mulder, Isla Fell, Ms L Selby, Stella Oakes*
Front Row: *Bontle Maaputle, Riley Russett, Luana de Paiva, Iris Deseta, Paiton Devenish, Gabriel Radue, Andre' Bouwer, Likhanya Boya, Jefferson Adams*
Absent: *Aiden Barnard*

GRADE 2.2

Back Row: *Kayla Nel, Mrs Roxanne Manley, Arian Coleman, Edrian Kok, Ian Sibanda, London Little, Sebastian Ferreira, Henry Nolan, Miss Lauren Selby, Joshua Bouwer*
Front Row: *Navya Serfontein, Elke Wijnants, Hannah Witteveen, Arianna Bellingan, Jaimey Lues, Sentle Maputle, Lennard Weis, Sikhanyiso Dladla*
Absent: *Alena Duxbury*

Grade 3

Mrs Kerry Kennedy
Miss Sherri-Leigh Dyantyi

"I was in a submarine and when I looked through the window, I saw my favourite animal"

Benjamin Boretti
My favourite animal is black and white. It dives and glides mainly to get food. My animal lives in sunlight and twilight, mainly sunlight.
It lives in the polar zone so the water is below freezing. Its feathers help it stay warm and its wing-like feathers help it glide along. This creature is special to me because it is very cute. And how they play around. And finally, my animal is bigish, chubbyish and cute. And finally my animal is a penguin. My animal likes sliding on the ice. Penguins suffer to litter pollution. Oil spills are deadly to them. This is when two boats transport oil and they mess up. The penguins end up getting covered in oil.
And also global warming.
It destroys their habitat.

Alexander Hancke
I was in a submarine and when I looked through the window, I saw my favourite animal — a yellowtail. A yellowtail has a blue–silver back and a white tummy and a yellow tail and a yellow stripe. It moves fast through the water. It lives in the sunlight zone and the twilight zone. Its special body part is its tail. It helps it swim and survive. Why I chose a yellowtail is because I love to eat them and it's super cool. It eats live squid, mackerel, pilchard, and other fish. I forgot to tell you, it grows up to 6 m and 50 kg. Its predators are sharks, dolphins, and seals. Another reason why I chose it is because it's big and fast.
Fun fact: I have never eaten it as sashimi. Thank you for listening.

Sixten Katzen
When I was in a submarine I looked through the window and saw my favourite animal; a dolphin. It was fast, grey and white. We were in the sunlight zone. Dolphins are over 430cm long and you can only see them in the ocean.
Dolphins are mammals and have smooth skin. Dolphins have razor sharp teeth. They are my favourite because they are very fast. They sleep with one half of their brain awake and one half asleep.

Kadyn Meshaka
I was in a submarine. When I looked through the window, I saw my favourite animal. It was a killer whale (Orca whale). The Orca whale lives in the twilight zone. They mostly eat Great White Sharks. The twilight zone is dark turquoise. The Killer whale was mostly black and white. They can really protect themselves because they are at the top of the food chain. It is my favourite sea creature because it is very cool and I also like it for its name, Killer whale. The twilight zone is more colder than the sunlight zone. When the Killer whales' prey come up from down below, it jumps up for its prey. When I was in the submarine and the Killer whale was eating a Great White Shark, I was very careful to not get too close. I was really amazed. I wanted to get up close, but it was going to be very dangerous. So I said maybe, a little bit close and then it snapped at me.
I rushed forward and when I got to the surface and it followed me and it brushed past me and it was going for another animal.

Ndinawe Zakumba
I was in a submarine and when I looked through the window, I saw my favourite animal. It was green and brown. Luckily, as I looked closer, I could see it clearly. It was in the coral reef. The coral reef is very protected because it's a protected area. The coral reef has many good hiding places.
It likes this friendly animal mainly because of its brown side, even though it's not so big. This creature tends to go to the sunlight zone. It's 200 to 350 metres. The temperature of the water is cold. There is a lot of light. It goes to the surface because it's a reptile and it's also quite fast. If it's attacked, it uses its shell to defend itself. It glides across the ocean like an eagle chasing its prey. It's very cool to me.
Maybe not you, but stop destroying the coral reef. Thank you for reading my presentation. I hope you enjoyed it, bye.

If i were...

Samuel Boretti
If I were a stingray, I would glide through the ocean. On top of rocks and underneath them. I would camouflage in the sand from prey. My prey is crabs and jellyfish. I am very stealthy and have lots of friends.

David Kruger
If I were a pufferfish, I would puff up when someone picks me up. I float when I puff up. When I puff up I defend myself.

Ocean animal similes

Joseph Leeson
If I were a piece of coral I would catch my prey. I would eat phytoplankton and live in the sunlight zone. I would be as green as grass. I watch people play as happy as Larry in the waves.

Riley Upman
If I were a dolphin, I would be friends with a rainbow and catfish. I am as blue as the sea. I am an artist in many different ways. Every day I put on a show for the humans.

Luca Kaarse
If I were an angler fish, I would have a light to attract prey. This light helps me to see. I would be as blue as the sea, and eat a sea pig if I wanted to. I have very good eyesight.

Allegra Cockroft
If I were a rainbow parrot fish, I would be as pretty as a butterfly. I would live in the sunlight zone. I would be friends with a sea turtle named Jeff. My name is Taloola. My name makes me feel as strong as a bull. I love being a rainbow parrot fish.

Lisakhanya Mthembu
If I were an orca, I will be beautiful. I will feel as smooth as butter. I will be as strong as lead and cold as ice-cream. I can flap my tail like a dolphin.

Talia Botha – Excerpt from *"If I were a drop in the ocean" writing piece*

I am a drop in the ocean. I am turquoise, but not any turquoise, a turquoise with more green and a gentle sprinkle of yellow. I hear splashes of dolphins and I can see big shells that shimmer in the sun. I can smell the salt from the ocean and feel the waves that crash on me. The ocean tastes warm and salty on my lips. I meet two friendly creatures, one is an 'anglabtis'. It is a mixture of an anglerfish, crab and octopus. It has 8 tentacles, it walks sideways and it has a light in front of its head. I found treasure that is the fin of Nemo and the hair of Ariel. It felt very weird and made a squeaky sound when rubbed together.

"I explored the ocean in a submarine and ..."

Arnaldo Aylward

I chose to go to the Twilight Zone because it is my favourite zone. When we were about 800 meters in the ocean, I saw a swordfish. It had a fishy scaled back with a smooth stomach. It has a grey with a dark blue back with a yellow line in the middle. It has big fins, and a sword snout. They eat tuna, rockfish, and squid. I like that it's named a swordfish. My second favourite sea animal I saw was a banana eel. It has big fangs with a yellow body and black spots. Its texture is so slimy. I like it because it's venomous. Thank you for reading!

Micaela Beech

My adventure started when I got into the submarine and it started going down. Then when I looked out of the window, I saw a dolphin. They are grey in colour. Dolphins can eat the world's most poisonous fish, the puffer fish. They can kill a great white shark with their nose. Even other sharks are scared of dolphins. Even a dolphin can be a killer. A dolphin can live in the sunlight zone or it can go to the twilight zone. The reason I love dolphins is because they are nice and cool. Their skin is smooth and they are small.

Josh Brink
I started my journey by going through the sunlight zone. I see a shimmering bright dolphin outside my window. The dolphin is about 200 cm wide. It is 100 cm tall. It is shaped like an oval. It is special because it makes an interesting sound. The dolphin moves smoothly. It moves softly and silky. It also moves playfully and speedy. The dolphin lives in the warmest zone, it is the sunlight zone. The sunlight zone is very colourful. It also has different types of shells. The dolphin's special body parts are their fins and the hole on top of their head. Their snouts are also very important to them. The dolphin is special to me because it is so cool to watch them at sunset.

Oliver Doman
It all started when I looked out my window and saw a humpback whale. It was blue and it had stripes on the bottom. It glides through the ocean. It lives in the Midnight zone which goes 1000m deep. It eats shrimp and other fish. It is gigantic, smooth and slippery. It is also very clever and brave. It is also curious. My animal has to breath air. This is my favourite because it is cool and I like it.

Zirong Gao
I swam above some sea star. Through the submarine window, I spotted my favourite dolphins playing in the waves. They are blue like some of the water and also they are big. The dolphins live in the sunlight zone which is 0 to 200 meters deep and it's the warmest and the brightest of all zones in the ocean. Their tail helps them to control where they go. Their fins on their back help them balance. My favourite sea creature is the dolphin because it has my favourite colour and I like the shape of it too.

Onokholo Gqiba
My submarine adventure began in the sunlight zone. When we were at the midnight zone, we saw my favourite sea animal, the anglerfish, with its lure in the dark and its long yellow teeth. I was so happy to see anglerfish. The anglerfish likes to use its lure to catch its prey because they think they are still in the sunlight zone. The colours of an anglerfish is brown with a dark red and a yellow and green lure. The anglerfish lives in the midnight zone where it is dark, cold, and scary. The anglerfish is special to me because it likes to eat, like me. The body part that helps it survive in the water is its tail so it can swim in the dark, cold water.

Alexander Horsefield
We went to the Midnight Zone because it is my favourite zone. When we got there it was cold, dark, and scary. The first creature we saw was an eel. He got scared and speedily swam away. Then we saw my favourite creature, a sea pig. He was medium sized and we found him in the Midnight Zone. He was very slimy and very squishy. He was light pink and very globey. I felt sorry for him because it is so cold. He doesn't make any sense because he makes no sound. His body adjusts to the pressure and water. He's special because he defends himself by running away. They mostly eat dead algae and animal remains. They are my favourite because they can be my favourite colour, blue. They look very cool. I want one as a pet, but they are illegal pets. They are so big that they just lay on the ground because they are so lazy, like me. Thank you for listening. And government, please unban sea pigs!

Cole Kaschula
First, they lowered me into the water and as I was going an octopus swam by. It was changing colours. He was squirming its tentacles around. Its skin looks like, if you look very very close, an orange peel. It swims like if you drag a piece of seaweed through the water. It lives in the sunlight zone. They are very smart. They can squeeze in very tight spaces because they are basically gelatine. And they have three hearts. They can grow a limb back if something bites it off. They usually live in rocks. It is my favourite creature because when I was five I caught one in the rock pools.

GRADE 3.1

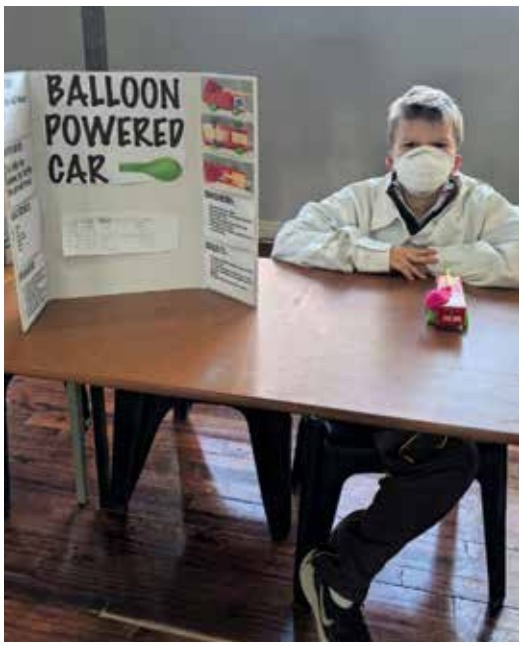
Back Row: *Riley Upman, Mia Kruger, Luca Kaarse, Andre Bezuidenhout, David Kruger, Maximus Kietzmann*
Middle Row: *Miss Hall, Ndinawe Zakumba, Neo Matuludi, William Mukheibir, Lisakhanya Mthembu, Allegra Cockroft, Alexander Hancke, Benjamin Boretti, Mrs Kennedy*
Front Row: *Kadyn Meshaka, Samuel Boretti, Nkanyiso Mangwane, Sixten Katzen, Joseph Leeson, Lauren Kruger*

GRADE 3.2

Back Row: *Maddock de Beer, Henri Krugel, Onokholo Gqiba, Carlo Pineda, Alex Horsefield*
Middle Row: *Miss Hall, Joelle Adams, Jordan Pote, Rudan van Deventer, Josh Brink, Micaela Beech, Cole Kaschula, Lentle Maputle, Miss Dyantyi*
Front Row: *Talia Botha, Lara Kruger, Benjamin Goodwin, Zirong Gao, Oliver Doman, Ava Chadwick, Tandolwethu Ngapi, Arnaldo Aylward*

Grade 4

Miss Iman Adam & Mr Nick Stephenson



Stronger than ever!
Nelson Mandela, brighter than ever
Saw our lands dilemma
He united us under one umbrella
So now, we are stronger than ever!
Mikayla Moller

Gandhi
Gandhi was a buddha, but by no means was he a doodah.
Believing in peace, meant everyone will cease.
He believed in justice,
therefore no crisis.
Prayer was at the order of the day,
therefore there was no despair
Respect. Gandhi you are checked!
Quan-Carlo Stone

My leadership traits
I am a good leader because I am fair, I am funny, kind and always open to helping others when they are in need.
Logan Goedhals

Leadership shield
I included piano because it is really calming. Netball because it is fun and I learn teamwork. Drawing is my way of soothing myself when I feel angry. Mathematics enables me to solve problems. **Katlego Yoyo**

My leadership traits
I am a good because I am fair, I help others when they are struggling. I take responsibility when I need to, and I always tell the truth.
Ezra Flepu

My leadership type
I am a kind leader who leads by example and words because this makes it easier for the people to understand clearly.
Alakhe Faltein

Why Nelson Mandela was a great leader? Mandela helped stop Apartheid and fought for equal rights. He believed in justice and what is right. He fought for freedom and democracy for all South Africans.
Auden Poultney

Why I believe Mahatma Gandhi was a good leader
I believe Gandhi is a good leader because he led and fought for what is right peacefully and fairly without using violence. He believed in justice and fairness for all, and he was extremely brave.
Ava du Preez

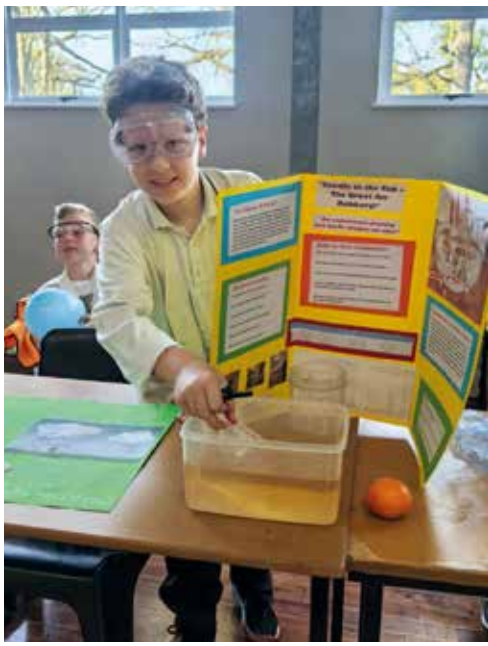
A leader I admire
I admire my dad because he is kind, fair and brave.
Reuben Combrink

A leader I admire
I admire Vani my mom because she is honest, kind, brave, fair and responsible. She is always ready to help everyone and anyone.
Ariya Pillay

A leader I admire
I admire my dad because he is kind, is always helpful to everyone especially around the house, he is fair, and he is in charge of building our new family home.
Langalethu Koom

Mr Stephenson's Noisy Class
Outside the class in the morning
"Chatter" "chatter" "chatter!"
Mr Stephenson "Hush" "Hush" "Hush."
Mr Stephenson's keys "jingle jingle."
Door opening "pow" rushing inside the class "bump" "crunch" "bang."
Mr Stephenson "Shhhhhh" handing out books.
"Bang" "clash" landing on the table.
Working "scribble" "scribble."
Handing in "pow" "bang" "slam" landing on the back table in the class.
Sophie Wilson

Recipe for a good leader
You take four spoons of kindness, and you add two litres of responsibility. Then you take three cups of being nice, one pinch of bravery. Then you take two teaspoons of gratefulness. You then mix it all together with one drop of love.
Sophia Ralph



To make a good leader you need:
1 cup of humbleness
3 teaspoons of communication
a litre of responsibility
a cup of gratitude
a splash of respect
a pinch of bravery
a spoon of kindness
5 teaspoons of self-awareness.
Hendrik Jordaan

To make a good leader you need:
1 cup of kindness
A pinch of bravery
¼ cup of self-awareness
½ cup of honesty
2 teaspoons of responsibility
1 tablespoon of humour
¾ cup of gratitude
2 cups of communication
Ryan Wilson

The loud class
Bang, bash, boom
All around the room
Whoosh, wash, whirl
It's all in the swirl
Talking, shouting, whistling
There is no listening!
I have to say no,
But there is nowhere to go!
Scribble, scrabble, scrubble
We all get in a bit of trouble!
Tape, pencils, pens
There is a lot of tens.
Lily brings in a cat,
Oh, it looks like a rat.
Although it is quite a pass,
We all love our crazy class!
Florence Fleming

GRADE 4.1

Back Row: *Katlego Yoyo, Mikayla Moller, Mihran Hassim, Mohammed Zakariya Salie, Israel de Beer, Quan-Carlo Stone*
Middle Row: *Mr Damian Miles, Phillip Ferreira, Alakhe Faltein, Zenande Martin, Luphawu Zwane, Niva Coleman, Reuben Combrink, Auden Poultney, Miss Iman Adam*
Front Row: *Victoria Edwards, Ariya Pillay, Ava Du Preez, Logan Goedhals, Ezra Flepu, Langalethu Koom*
Absent: *Matthew Curtis, Noah Van Niekerk*

GRADE 4.2

Back Row: *Mr Nick Stephenson, Stella Giulietti, Caleb De Villiers, Louw Niemann, Keagan Bury, River Little, Layla van der Walt, Kangelani Burwana, Mr Damian Miles*
Middle Row: *Lily Witteveen, Sophie Wilson, Mbali Masika, Zachary Marshall-Smith, Heath Shaw, Nate Biddulph, Hendrik Jordaan, Buikotso Segatla, Ryan Wilson*
Front Row: *Wongalethu Koom, Sophia Ralph, Carli Bouwer, Adrian Stelmaszczyk, Emma Borbet, Kyle Meyer-Wilson*
Absent: *Bailey Lues, Florence Flemming*

Grade 5

Miss Tarryn Lombard • Miss Angelique Killian

Maths (Hyperbole Poem) – Matthew Hickman
Maths is such fun because it has a billion OF sums. Each sum you do, sweat drips down your face, more than an ocean. But you still enjoy it more than sweets! Your smile is bigger than the earth!

Cat D9T Dozer – Angus Loubser
Loud, Dusty
Revving, Ripping, Pushing
A beautiful yellow paint
Crawling, Roaring, Pulling
Strong, Beautiful
Reliable

Big Bad Wolf – Stella Jackson
I stand before a bid oak door with a rusty handle. I can feel Porkie shaking madly beside me. I can even smell the meat in the wolf's kitchen. My knees start shaking, I'm sure they're going to buckle! I can hear my own breathing loudly in my ears. I knock three times, the sound ringing through the house. The wood feels cold like ice. I can hear and feel his footsteps echoing around the house. The door creaks and I can feel my heart thumping against my chest. The door eases open and I can see his pitch black fur, his face is stuck in a snarl. His eyes are blood red, and his head almost hits the door frame! His claws are the longest I've ever seen, they are big, ragged and sharp. I hope this doesn't go badly!

Sea Sand – Lianie Carelse
Flying around when the wind blows
How many are there? Nobody knows
Tickling your little feet,
SO much sand on your seat
So soft, so small and thin
Making weird sea potions inside a tin
As little as a freckle
Stepping with a soft crackle
So small you can barely see it
Tasting it might make your tummy hurt
All across the ocean,
Moving with the motion
Washing sand clothes is so unfair
Finding it all across your hair
Swallowing salty water and salty sand
Sea sand spreads across the land.

GRADE 5.2

Back Row: *Angus Loubser, Logan Reynolds, Lianie Carelse, Hlub'elihle Dunga, Stella Jackson, Ahlangene Nzo, Zara Bradley, Jacob Stone*
Front Row: *Matthew Hickman, Alka Makame, Avia Oakes, Miss Tarryn Lombard, Emily Colebank, Luke Norton*
Absent: *Muhammad Jeeva, Olerato Dasheka*

GRADE 5.3

Back Row: *Miss Angelique Killian, Roxy Rex, Lungaka Pepeta, Regard Ferreira, Jean Joubert, Janse van der Walt, Caleb Sakube, Ivanka van Vuuren, Mr Divan Lamprecht*
Front Row: *Bavumile Molakeng, Isabella Doman, Thoriso Mosiane, Cailyn de Beer, India Cockcroft, Abigail Kruger*
Absent: *Thalanda Rala, Rebecca van Niekerk, Juke Has*

Hugh Geffort – Emily Colebank
Helping people is a prize he gives out
Unable to speak that's no doubt
Getting a small sweet is a great prize
His cuteness bringing tears to our eyes

Gets a stylish haircut every once in a while
Everybody loves his beautiful, small smile
Fun or boring days – he doesn't mind
Funny legs that can't move – he is one of a kind
On Miss Lombard's desk we need him like a pill
Right there every single day, just acting chill
Taking everyone's heart forevermore!

NumberSense – Matthew Hickman
We do a task everyday
We have no time to play
Together we go up every book
All of our brains start to cook!
When it's over, we all cheer!
And also shed a little tear.
We are quiet like a mouse
Don't finish – take it to your house.
It feels like forever long,
We always get a question wrong.
All our brains dance in our head
And be careful – you might run out of lead!
Maths is a roller coaster, you have ups and downs
When you are done, you act like a clown
But we all have a smile
And our brain is like a file!

Our car (Hyperbole Poem) – Ahla Nzo
Our car is the best in the world!
Tires stronger than a fire engine.
Louder than a thunderstorm.
Faster than the speed of light.
It flies past faster than the wind,
and will even blow your hair off!

Trees – Avia Oakes
Climbing up high above the clouds,
feeling as free as a bird.
Sleeping and swinging, like a sloth.
Thousands of branches waiting to be explored.
Games and stories galore!
Childhood memories are all here in this one tree.
Memories that will never disappear!

Kate's Fricken Chicken – Jacob Stone
Best fried chicken in the South!
No one is going anywhere but here
It melts in your mouth
So crispy and tender, you might shed a tear!
Everyone loves to chow on it
You might get stuck like a glue stick
Tastes so good and the place is lit
We even have a pet mouse!
My minion Maya makes all our chicken
Where she cooks is a chef's paradise!
Tastes too good its finger licken
Sitting with choms, ordering that spice!
Dinner or lunch – enjoying a crunch
There's even lockers for all your goods
Have a party, come in a bunch
So good, our chicken is never misunderstood!

Big Bad Wolf – Alka Makame
I'm walking up to an old oak door with a handle that looks like it's on it's last days. I'm feeling nervous, my breakfast from this morning feels like it's dancing in my stomach. I knock on the Big Bad Wolf's door, my mouth goes dry, and I feel a lump forming in my throat as the footsteps get closer and closer. The door creaks open and a tall, gaunt figure is standing there. He has a wicked grin on his face. His teeth are decaying, he looks like he hasn't brushed them in decades. His eyes are blood shot, they almost look hollow. His breath smells like rotting old meat. He looks me up and down like he's about to pounce any second from now. I'm trembling in fear. Sweating uncontrollably. I can't even form any words.

Flying in Paradise – Avia Oakes
Gliding weightlessly in the sky
Flying peacefully way up high
Colourful as a rainbow just sleeping in the trees
Happily enjoying the morning breeze
One of Brazil's beautiful birds
Their squawks and cries always to be heard
Eating fruit straight from the trees
Looking down from the canopies
Their beaks are an artist's explosion
Their eyes as blue as the ocean
Birds of a feather
Will always stick together
Living a jungle life
Without any strife
One thing about our feathered friend,
Everyone hopes to see them again!

Dumb Brunettes – Zara Bradley
Lots of lip gloss, just no money
But she is really sweet like honey
Takes compliments like a queen
She is never afraid to be seen
She is even nice to her kidnapper
Even when he tried to trap her
In the box she had to sit
She has been working out, so she's really fit
Salad dressing is syrup,
That you can only find in Europe.
She talks a lot more than her sister,
And this guy is not a great mister.
In the evening, he takes her back
In the shop, she's still in the sack
Then he said: Stay in school,
But she left it – what a fool!

Granny – Lianie Carelse
Loving, Kind
Cooking, Knitting, Sleeping
Best food in town!
Watching, Chatting, Laughing
Smiling, Caring
Chef!

Horses – Cailyn de Beer
Horses running for days
Never stopping for a graze
They run so fast they kick up dust
Creating sandstorms, what a fuss!
Biting, kicking, throwing a tantrum,
Having fun like they're in a mansion.
Swimming through the beautiful lake
Evening knowing it's getting late.

Mr Big Bad's sticky home – India Cockcroft
As soon as I opened Mr Big B's scratchy, and clearly homemade front door, a wicked, savage – you could even say obnoxious – smell attacked my sinuses! It smells as if a rat has climbed in its own butt and died! The smell is also so thick, I can taste it, and it clasps onto me as soon as I step inside. When I look around, all I can see is a colossal mess, so vast I can barely move! The Big Bad Wolf is busy snoozing in one of the few open spaces, chewing on a finished fish bone while he sleeps! He is also snoring so loudly that my ears start hurting. But over the sound of snoring, I hear flies zooming and bussing in a harsh, unpleasant way as if I am not welcome in the presence of this godly figure, which the Big Bad Wolf certainly was not! But then, suddenly, he wakes up...

Woodridge – Regard Ferreira
Woodridge is more than a school,
It's actually really nice.
The subjects we do are very cool,
It's as cool as ice!
School is like an adventure,
You never know what's next.
It brings pleasure you can't measure,
They teach you how to read text.
Robotics, music and ICT,
These subjects are really fun.
The teachers even get nice tea,
Woodridge would win number one!
Afrikaans, English, Robotics and Maths,
This is stuff we learn.
There are so many paths,
But success is what we yearn.

Tortoises – Janse van der Walt
I have a tortoise, the size of the sun!
He can't run bur he has the most fun!
He takes one million years to go from place to place,
But he could still beat a cheetah in a race!

The B.B Wolf's house – Isabella Doman
As I opened the door to the B.B wolf's house, I saw all of the beautiful green life fade away into a sort of dark room. The wooden floorboards creaking under my feet. The room had an odd scent, like those blue balls you put in a toilet to make it smell better. And in the corner of the room was the Big Bad Wolf! He was sitting in a wooden chair that could barely hold his weight, smoking a yellow cigar, grinning like he was a child about to get a big lollipop! In the back room was his kitchen counter and on the shelf above it was a bunch of rotten foods that looked absolutely disgusting! The walls fell through and cracked like an ancient artifact!

The Grocery Store – India Cockcroft
Me and my mom go shopping,
Every solemn Saturday.
She tells me "Darling come with",
When I would rather stay home and play.
We need to get all the groceries,
It's like a 10km walk.
And when we see someone we know...
My mom just wants to talk and talk and talk!
The store is a marvellous majestic maze,
You never know where you are.
I keep on looking for my mom,
Turns out she's not that far.
When we are finished shopping,
We go stand right by the till.
My mom unpacks the trolley,
And takes out the 100-dollar bill!

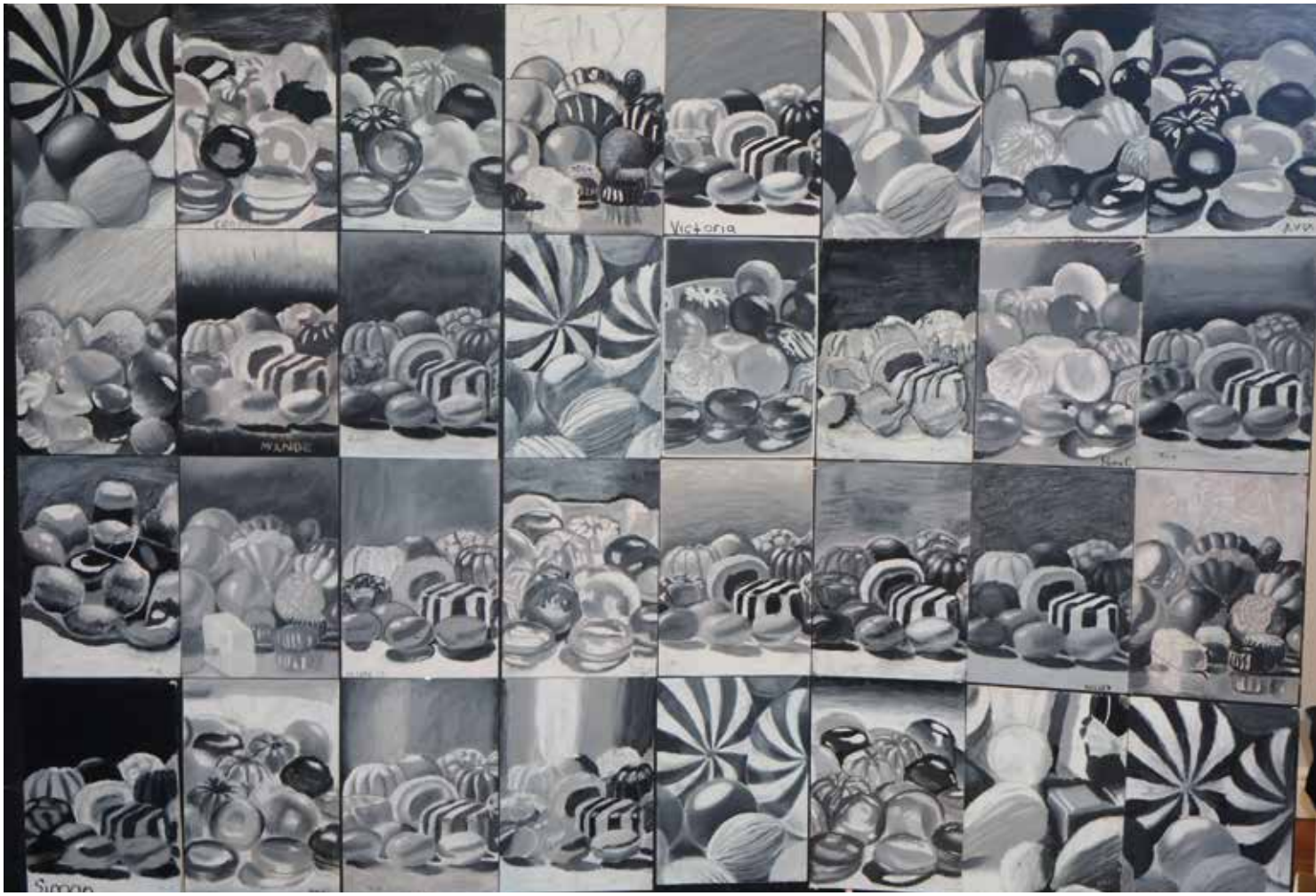
The Big Bad Wolf – Abigail Kruger
As I knocked on the door, I began to have a vast feeling as if he would blow me away. Soon enough, the door creaked as it opened. I could smell something cooking inside like a stew of some sorts. Standing in the doorway was the so called "bad wolf". He was large and a bit frightening. I could see inside the house a bit. There was a stove with stew, a rocking chair – still slightly rocking – and some furniture. I must have taken long to look around because several coughs came out as if he was waiting for me. I looked at him standing there. He has something in his mouth. He looked a bit old and grey. In a deep voice he spoke, "What do you need?" I froze... I didn't know what to say as he looked unpleasant. So I just nodded. He turned and looked at his food and I saw his tail was gone! I heard him mumble under his breath, but I couldn't understand. I felt nervous. I could feel my heart racing. Once he came back he gestured for me to leave and closed the door. I felt relieved. As I walked away, the smell of stew and smoke faded.

Watermelon – Juke Has
Round, seeds
Eating, farming, smashing
Juicy in my tummy
Chewing, sucking, slurping
Red, green
Fruit

Giraffe – Rebecca van Niekerk
Giraffes so big and tall
In the savannah
Ruling us all
All will fear his might
Funny animals running in its sight
Fabulous spots so big
Ever so huge to reach the twig

The dog, cat, and rat – Regard Ferreira
Banging, barking, hissing,
Roaring, stomping, meowing,
Smashing, crashing, squirming,
The dog chased the cat,
But instead caught a rat!

"it's not
what
you
look at
that
matters,
it's what
you see"


Victoria

ART COLLAGES

Grade 6

Miss Hannah Werth • Mrs Sandy Kingwill • Mrs Cindy Botes

Excerpt from a descriptive writing piece titled "Africa is a Feeling – The African Sunset" by Holley Diedericks

Africa is a feeling, a place where the soil is always healing. While the birds crow, you stack your lamb chops in a row. All you can smell is the baobab Trees and your whole body feels at ease. The red skies feel like a prize, with the sunset upon your eyes. The clouds are starting to fade away, as it is the hope of a new day. The feeling of peacefulness is in the air, as hyenas are laughing without a care. It is a relaxing feeling, it makes you feel like everything is healing. The African sunset, an unforgettable experience.

Excerpt from a descriptive writing piece titled "Africa is a Feeling – Street Soccer" by Sofia Boretti

There's sweat dripping down my nose, joy and laughter in the air. I feel the crisp sand in my toes and the feeling of happiness which is painted on everyone's faces. People running and laughing, kicking and shooting. Hot and tired but they carry on playing. Playing all day. However, sadness still lingers in the air. The hard road under my feet. The pain I feel but the pain they don't know. As the trees sway and the kids play I feel sad in a way. It could be the hard road, or their bare feet, but they seem happy and together they thrive in their own kind of way. The only problem is where do they learn and study all day? They are the future, our future and we need to help.

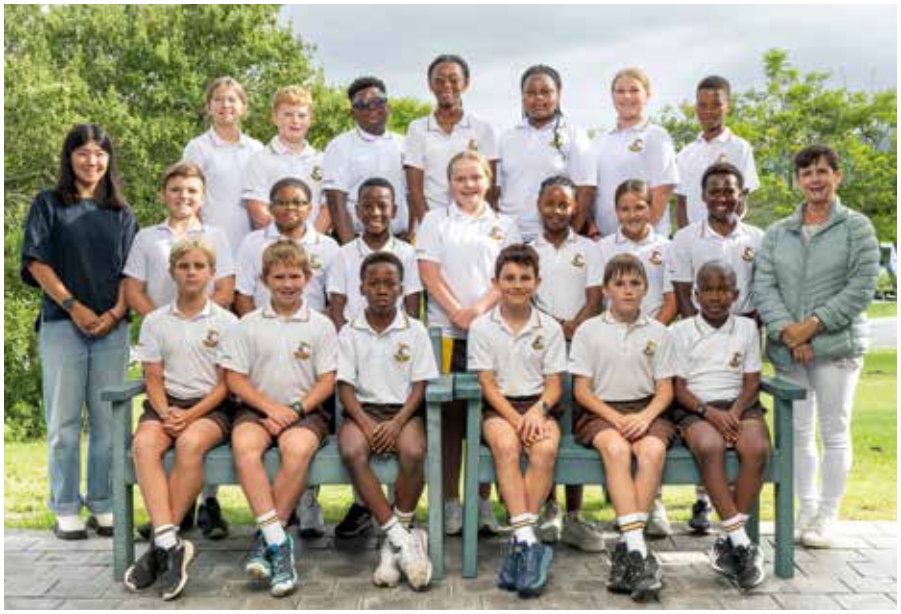
Excerpt from an African slave's diary entry by Kai Zimmermann

Dear Diary – In times of uncertainty

Today has been a very rough day, and that is putting it mildly. This morning, I was going around like normal, no nagging and not naughty. But then ....when I was going to and from the river to collect water for the village, I saw a flag coming over the mountain, to the west of where the village lay, peacefully sleeping unaware of the approaching threat. Terror filled the entirety of my heart, as I realized that the day we had all been dreading was upon us. Since our neighbouring tribes had started being captured by the feared slave traders, we knew that one day it would be us.

GRADE 6.1

Back Row: *Julia Varrie, Minke Loots, Mpande Mantshongo, Simnikiwe Msipa, Adriaan De Wit, Nicholas Venter, James White*
Middle Row: *Miss Erica Zhang, Malakai Hart, Daniel Reed, Tristin Bury, Lia-Grace van der Westhuizen, Holley Diedericks, Jerome Mwita, Liam Botha, Matthew Lokotsch, Miss Hannah Werth*
Front Row: *Rabia Salie, Mackenzie Davidson, Sofia Boretti, Naye Mzinyane, Jean-Paul Borbet, Chuma Nkuhlu*
Absent: *Nina Curtis*



GRADE 6.2

Back Row: *Zerande van Deventer, Jasper Poultney, Sean Oba, Ntombentle Maqoma, Zingce Ezenwa, Luca Johnson, Likhanyile Nyoka*
Middle Row: *Miss Erica Zhang, Joshua Joubert, Mhlahlo Heshu, Phetho Ramohai, Charlotte France, Lukho Mbangula, Cassandra Bellingan, Umelwe Memani, Mrs Sandy Kingwill*
Front Row: *Adam Reitz, Ethan Meyer-Wilson, Thato Segatla, Kai Zimmermann, Austin Elson, Liyomeleza Magwa*
Absent: *Rogan Barratt, Yara de Paiva Renk*

GRADE 6.3

Back Row: *Ruby Stutterheim, Luke Bailes, Rudra Mohan, Isabella Radue, Leah Scheepers, Kira Koekemoer, Jack Lokotsch*
Middle Row: *Ms Erica Zang, Christian Taljaard, Jo-mari van Rooyen, Connor Hartley, Jim Conyers, Amila Faltein, Mohamed Hassim, Mrs Cindy Botes*
Front Row: *Royce Chang, Christopher Wilson, Ella Stutterheim, Christiaan Bothma, Angelique Plaatjie, Ava Adams*
Absent: *Ruby Darke*

My head swam with nausea as I was
forced to walk in the blazing sun
with a yoke around my neck. The
long journey to the ocean, where
the slave traders were taking us was
treacherous and filled with unwanted
surprises.

Brighter Days Ahead
by Cassandra Bellingan
I had to leave my whole world
No time to say good-bye
My home was in danger
So I ran beneath the sky.

The road was cold
My heart was full of fear
But I just kept walking forward
Wiping every single tear

I miss the sound of laughter
And the smell of fresh air
Now, silence is all around me
With memories in my head.

But I won't stop believing
That better days are near
I am far from where I come
But I still hold hope here.

It Squeaks and squawks
by Charlotte France
I have a secret
That nobody knows
Except for my sister
Who snoops in my clothes.

The secret is not big,
Nor very small.
But almost the size of a rugby ball.

It sleeps all day
And nibbles on my socks,
Just like the house dog,
That is as dumb as rocks.

But why keep it a secret?
Well, I don't know.
Should I tell my parents?
They'd make me let it go.

It sqeaks and it squawks
And it snuggles in my socks
When the cupboards creaks
My heart skips a beat.

I have a secret
That nobody knows
It's fluffy and round
And makes a lot of sound.

Secrets by Yara de Paiva Renk
We all know about secrets,
Some good and some bad.
It is easy to tell the difference,
Good secrets are full of excitement
and hope
They make you feel soft and warm
Like a cat on your shoulder
Purring
Snuggling
Soft and sweet.

But the bad secrets are the problem
They are full of hate
Lies
Regret
You feel shame
Like maggots crawling,
disgustingly slimy
Eating up lies and begging for more.
Slishing and sloshing around
Tearing up families
'Til nothing is left
Nothing but darkness
Darkness
No sound
Just darkness.

Refugees by Joshua Joubert
Refugees make me sad
Because they flee their homeland.
They make me want to cry
And I don't want them to die.
For they are people
We need to let them come to our land
Give them food and schools
Give them toys to make a noise.
Let the refugees stay here
And we all give them a prayer.

I have a secret by Ava Adams
I have a secret I can't tell
To you, to her, to him as well.
I've got a secret I cannot share
I feel I can't tell anyone, anywhere.

Maybe I can tell you, you I shall.
Now come in close and listen well
My secret is very dark, very bad
I think that it might make you sad.

Ok, here we go, but
I tell you very slowly
I thank you till the end
My secret is, my bendy ruler
doesn't bend.

Refugees by Luca Johnson
Refugees work hard, like you and me
But their work is different, see
Day to night
Left to right
Walking, running
Sometimes jogging,
Dodging bombs here and there
They don't get to shower or wash
their hair.
It's crazy to think this is happening all
over the world.
Families separated, and lonely children
Schools, work and homes are gone
While we're all eating Cinnabon.
They're dodging gunshots
While people are creating AI bots
Refugees need our help.
Shelter food and water
They'll be happy or even better.
So let's put ourselves to the test
To try and offer refugees the best!

Nobody knows by Ella Stutterheim
I have a secret
Nobody knows.
I skipped my maths lesson
While blowing my nose.

I just asked to go to the bathroom
And happened to meet Mackenzie
McMarthoom.
We walked and talked then I heard a
ding, ding, ding!
Oh no, the bell!
I ran, I ran, I thought oh no
My mom is going to kill me!

So I put my book in my bag
And made sure to hide it under a rag.

Refugee Poem by Ruby Darke
We ran through the night
Chasing a dream out of sight.
Our home was a bird with broken
wings now we fly towards kind things.

The road was long and full of fear
But hope walked with us, always near.
My heart felt heavy like a stone
Yet I know we're not alone.

The stars above still softly glowed
As if they lit a safer road.
Though war had torn our world apart,
We carried courage in our heart.

The secret with wings by Gibran Hassim

I have four secrets just for me
But one is worse and overpowers the other three.
If it got out it would ruin my life
It would cut me open like a knife.

At my school there was a special tree
Why didn't anyone say how brittle it would be.
I was playing and climbing like any other child,
little did I know this is where things would go wild.

I climbed one branch after,
looking for more and more nests to discover
but my finger slipped and I reached for the nest.
I'm pretty sure you should know the rest.

Crash! Bang! Snap! I had fallen to the floor
With a nest under me and all the birds frightened to the core
I had hurt a bird's wing and the bird made sure to say.
In assembly they said that they would find me
and I should live in fear every day,
but I feel that holding this guilt is already a big enough price to pay.

A Magical Secret by Liam Botha
I know a big secret, one that I can't tell
It's right up the alley, in a lake I know well.
You jump in the lake and swim deep down,
You swim until you can't, and you think you'll drown.

You reach fresh air, at the bottom of the lake.
It's so beautiful that you don't want to wait.
It's a portal to a magical world,
Where if I tell, the secret will unfold.

The grass is more green, the sky is more blue.
There are more birds that koo and koo and koo.
The river is still, clam and flows gracefully.
It is as graceful as a swaying tree.

In the night, the stars shine night,
They look like a bird taking flight.
But please don't tell anyone,
Or else... they'll think that you are the silly one.

My Little Secret by Minke Loots

Everyday when I get home from school,
I cry because the kids there are very cruel.
I wipe the tears away because i have a home,
I only go there when I'm alone.

The flowers being strung across,
This place is so beautiful that no one can be cross.
My books are stacked as high as my head.
I sit here and read until i go to bed.

I smile at my hideout
Here in peace, I never doubt
My intelligence, my looks
Never matters when I'm reading books.

His Secret by Naye Mzinyane
He wears the same shoes every day,
His clothes don't match in any major way.
He sits at lunch in a quiet place,
Afraid to show his true face.

He rides his bike to school each day.
Because there is no other way.
He looks like everyone else, you see
But deep down he is hiding something from me.

His smile so bright, his heart so strong
But he has kept this secret for too long.
He is hiding something, don't you see..
Something that makes him different from me.

Excerpt from an African slave's diary entry by Angeliqu e Plaatjie
I still remember the day I was taken. I remember my mom's screams and my sibling's cries. That was 1 June 1800. I tried to hide, but they found me. They covered my face, tied my arms and legs. I could feel movement and heard horrid screams and cries...

Grade 7

Mrs Lerischia Scheepers
Mrs Alexa Calitz
Mr Daniel Boreham

In R.J. Palacio's novel Wonder, Mr Browne inspires his students with monthly precepts (powerful principles that guide how we live and treat others). Now, the Grade 7s of 2025 have taken up the challenge! Each pupil has crafted a personal precept as an original rule or truth that reflects what matters most in their lives today. These are not just words; they are windows into the values, hopes, and wisdom of a remarkable generation.

If you feel down, remember God is with you – Tyler

Accept those who never change – Kimber

Don't be tortured by the memories of the past – Addison

The bad days make the good ones even better – Isabel

Rather stay silent than letting your words wander – Emma

If you cant do it, no human can – Osi

Just beat it – Ruben

What ever prevents you from being your best don't do it – Josh

Stay Humble.
Never forget where you came from.
Stay True.
Be real with yourself and the world.
Stay Hungry. Never let that fire in your soul burn out. – Elvis

No matter who or what you are, YOU BELONG. – Mmutle

Rest is not laziness, it is renewal. – Khumo

If a blind man took a true or false quiz, he would get 50% right? Take chances! – Gabi

With every leaf that falls a new one grows. – LeJac

You can have all you want when you want, but all you'll ever need is kindness. – Anna

Your creativity is what makes you YOU, and your individuality can push you far. – Lila

It's nice to be called a friend, but you need to earn that title! – Jenna

Don't Try To Be Cool! Just Be You:) – Yinhla

When GOD closes a door, Don't worry, he will open a better door for you – Amber

Being kind shows you are brave enough to do what's right even if the worlds against you – Elton

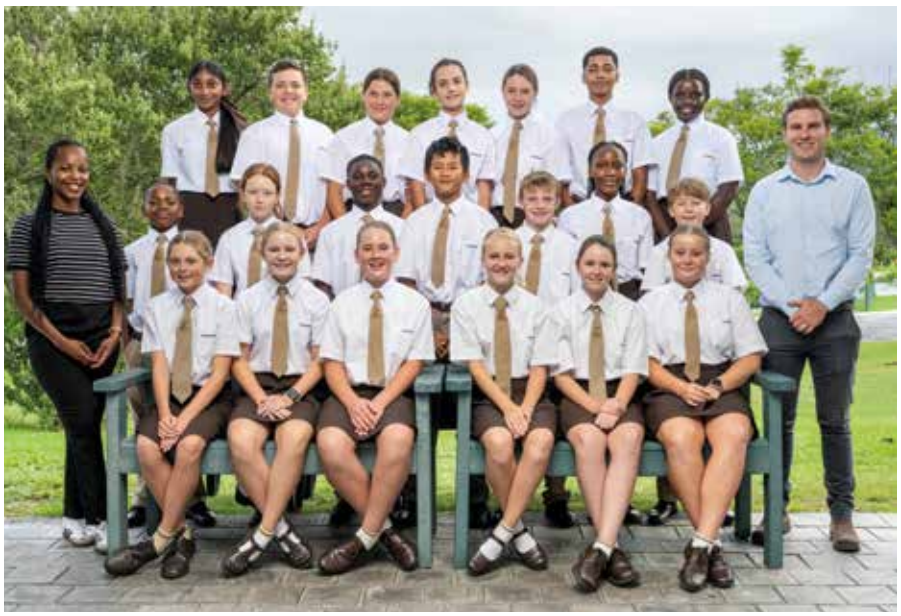
Accept other who are different or do not look nor act the same – Ella

GRADE 7.1

Back Row: *Lila Kaarse, Yinhla Mbedhli, Christiaan Dintwe, Ruben Janse van Vuuren, Mmutle Maputle, LeJac de Meillon, Joshua Paxton*
Middle Row: *Amber Botes, Isabel Ferreira, Elvis James, Elton James, Tyler van der Nest, Gabriel Micheletti, Olivia Mukheibr, Mrs Lerischia Scheepers*
Front Row: *Anna Hickman, Kimber Rautenbach, Ella Clemence, Addison Shaw, Emma Darke, Khumo Makapela*
Absent: *Jenna Kinnell*

GRADE 7.2

Back Row: *Murray-John Boonzaier, Ayodeji Olubiyi, Mackenzie Mountford, Aqhama Macembe, Wyatt Kretzmann, Abigail Dyer, Austin Botes*
Middle Row: *Ms Yanelisa Matrose, Asonwabise Peter, Lyla Leshem, Lily-Grace Anderson, Liam van der Walt, Ben Keld, Daniel Jackson, Katie Combe, Sokhana Martin, Mrs Alexa Calitz*
Front Row: Alex Horsfield, Zining Gao, Inathi Bangazi, Anina Krugel, Sophia Stutterheim, Uyamanelisa Gqiba, Ayola Xalisile
Absent: *Ayla Zonnekein*



GRADE 7.3

Back Row: *Gia Moodley, Simon Scheepers, Rachel Herselman, Ava Duxbury, Hayley Kruger, Elgan Anthony, Victoria Jagwer*
Middle Row: *Ms Yanelisa Matrose, Oyinthanda Makoyi, Olivia Liebenberg, Tanatswa Chari, Pengjie Huang, Finn Wilson, Thenjiwe Mashopha, Noah Blignaut, Mr Daniel Boreham*
Front Row: *Hayley Holmes, Mia Nel, Ashley Pietersen, Riley Rex, Bella Watson, Lea Wenning*
Absent: *Ava Ohaga*

Kindness has no cost, though it's worth more than any gold, silver, or precious gems in the world. so, do not hesitate to give it away – Ben

Small Steps Still Move You Forward – Austin

Everything has a start or end, but kindness doesn't have an end – Zining

When life gets difficult learn to rest not quit – Inathi
Do you know what's cooler than being cool being? YOU – Wyatt

Trust is earned through words – Mackenzie

Never give up, keep going until the end. – Daniel

It's good to laugh, but not good to laugh at. – Ayla

Be kind because you never know – Uya

Be careful, what benefits you might put others at a disadvantage. So think things through. – Anina

MESSY consistence is better than Slow perfection – Ayodeji

Remember, no matter what, The water isn't DEEP enough to drown – Liam

People won't always be by your side, but the one who is always there for you, is God. – Aqhama

Be kind, for kindness makes you truly wonderful inside and out – Sophia

It's not about achieving the goal. It's about who you have to become in order to achieve the goal. The juice is in the growth! – Lily

Don't be too quick to speak if you haven't listened. – Lyla

Kindness costs nothing but changes everything. – Katie

YOLO! You only live once choose kindness. – Abby

Always be the shoulder to cry on, not the reason they're crying. – Sokhana

Don't judge a book by its cover – Lolo

Miss an intercept? Keep pushing and you'll get it next time – Hayley.K

If life gets tough, remember, you'll always have a safe space somewhere – Ava D.

Respect yourself and others, and you will make the world a better place – Mia Nel

Butterflies can't see their wings so they can't see their beauty. Most people are butterflies. – Olivia.L

The way you treat others often shapes the way the world treats you. – Ava. O

Whether it's hard or not, you're alone or not, do what you know is right! – Rachel H

In a world full of roses, be the sunflower. – Riley.

A group of friends gets stronger every time you open it – Thenji

No what ifs. Just live have fun and go for it. – Ashley.

Choose presence over worry and action over hesitation. – Oyi

Hard work always beats talent. – T.K
T
he hills don't kill you. You kill the hills. – Finn

Don't cross oceans for those who wouldn't walk a puddle for you. – Gia. M

Do all the good you can, because you never know when it may come back to you. – Victoria. J

It's not about the destination... it's the journey that matters. – Bella Watson

No man is an island entire of itself – Hayley Holmes

Growth begins the moment you stop needing to be understood by everybody – Lea

A small act of kindness can make a big difference – Elgan

When in doubt go flat out ! – Simon Schepers

Prep Academic

Ursula Venter: Head of Academics

Education in the 21st century requires much more than learning content for tests. With information available at the touch of a button, children need skills to find and evaluate the right information for their tasks. In an age where false information is often posted by those hoping to gain financially, our children must become critical thinkers who question what they encounter. Pupils come to school to develop skills in reading, researching, writing, and logical thinking while remaining creative.

In line with this philosophy, Woodridge has been encouraging pupils to approach learning through the inquiry method. This does not mean they research whatever they want whenever they want; rather, it is an inquiry guided by the teacher. Teachers set out the learning path, directing pupils along structured lines of inquiry. This approach has encouraged greater engagement and participation, as opposed to pupils being given a limited scope of information to memorise and regurgitate.

Teachers have noticed that pupils who previously remained silent in class have become more engaged in lessons. By allowing pupils to use various methods of completing tasks, once-inhibited learners have begun to shine through their strengths. When pupils interact directly with research and create their own understanding, retention improves significantly. We want pupils to wonder about the world around them and retain the curiosity they naturally possess in the early grades. Learning needs to be meaningful and worthwhile. Rubrics are one tool used to help pupils understand assessment criteria and provide a checklist to ensure they have covered all aspects of a learning task.

Through collaborative learning, pupils develop teamwork and leadership skills. Character Education becomes an integrated part of all learning rather than a separate 30-minute session on the timetable. The 6 Round Square IDEALS and 12 Discoveries form the framework for the academic explorers in our school.

The school has listened to parents' concerns that a no-exam policy might put pupils at a disadvantage. As pupils enter Grade 7, they also enter the Senior Phase of the curriculum, which is grouped with Grades 8 and 9. This is an ideal time to prepare them for high school by teaching them how to prepare for and write examinations. While continuous assessment remains important, exams provide a new experience that supports the high school methodology.

The Pupil-Led Conference was experienced for the first time this year and was well-supported by parents who participated actively in their children's learning journeys. This initiative was enjoyed by all involved, and we look forward to the 2026 Conference.

We thank our dedicated teachers who have invested countless hours in professional development to support the school in attaining its academic goals. They truly embody lifelong learning!

Primary school is the time for exploration and rich experiences for all pupils.

A Year of Stories, Creativity, and Fun in the Afrikaans Classroom

This year has been an exciting journey of imagination and learning for our Grade 6 and 7 Afrikaans pupils. Through reading, writing, acting, and even baking, the children explored language in fun and creative ways, proving that Afrikaans can be both educational *and* enjoyable!

In Grade 6, we read two wonderful books: *Lena se Bottelboom* and *Superheroes Vlieg Net Saans*. These stories inspired a range of engaging activities that helped pupils connect with the characters and themes on a deeper level. One of the biggest highlights of the year was the roleplay projects, where children brought scenes from the books to life. It was amazing to see how confidently they performed in front of their classmates, using expression, body language, and creativity to tell each story in their own way. From shy readers to budding actors, everyone had a chance to shine!

The stories also sparked class discussions about friendship, courage, and standing up for what is right, themes that resonated with pupils and encouraged them to think critically about the messages behind the stories.

In Grade 7, the Afrikaans classroom turned into a hub of activity as we dived into *Vis en Tjips*. This light-hearted yet meaningful book gave us plenty to explore, from language work to hands-on experiences.

One of the favourite projects for 2025 was following Afrikaans instructions to make a microwave cake, a fun and delicious way to practice comprehension skills! The classroom smelled amazing that day, and everyone agreed it was one of the tastiest lessons of the year.

Another memorable moment was the scavenger hunt, where pupils worked in teams to find clues and complete Afrikaans challenges hidden around the school. It was a fantastic way to combine teamwork with language learning.

To end the term on a creative note, pupils prepared and presented a poem of their choice to the class. From heartfelt recitals to dramatic performances, every presentation showed confidence and flair, a perfect reflection of how far our children have come.

Both grades can be proud of how they have grown in Afrikaans this year. Through books, laughter, teamwork, and creativity, 2025 truly was a year to remember in the Afrikaans Department!

Mrs Tanya von Berg
Head of Afrikaans

Gedig geskryf deur Gia Moodley en Victoria Jagwar

'n Dag in die 7.3 klas

Ava O sê sy is moeg, sy wil net rus.
Thenjiwe eet baie, haar groot pak 'chips' is die beste.
Olivia droom die heledag van Felix.
Bella lees stil in die klas op haar eie manier.
Ava Duxbury, met modder in haar hand,
Meng kleure en teksture, 'n modderwonderland.
Gia is altyd besig om iets nuuts te teken.
Victoria speel die fluit met plesier.

Mia lag altyd, haar vreugde vul die lug.
Rachel is snaaks en vriendelik, soos min.
Hayley Holmes sing met 'n stem so soet.
Hayley Kruger is altyd gelukkig, sy kan nie geklop word nie.

Lea is 'n meisie-meisie, omgee en waar.
Riley is sportief, daar is niks wat sy nie kan doen nie.
Ashley is behulpsaam, sy is daar vir ons almal.
TK is onskuldig snaaks, dit laat ons lag.
Simon is geheimsinnig, maar hou dit stil.
Finn is vol energie, altyd aan die gang.
Oyi en Lolo is die klas grappiemakers.
Elgan het altyd 'n stertjie om aan te las.

Mevrou von Berg hou ons besig en op koers.
En tog teen Vrydag het ons die week oorleef

E-pos geskryf deur Lia-Grace van der Westhuizen

Aan: mrvanderberg@gmail.com
Van: mnrroux@woodridge.co.za

Onderwerp: Miek se gedrag

Goeie dag Meneer en Mevrou, ek skryf die e-pos oor Miek se gedrag hy het vandag die natuurwetenskap se wit muis groen geverf.

Miek het vanoggend in die natuurwetenskap se klaskamer ingebreek en die witmuis met groen voedselkleursel en 'n grimeerkwassie groen geverf. Dit kon die muis seer maak en dit is onaanvaarbaar en hy het ook in die klaskamer ingebreek.

In gevolg van hierdie onaanvaarbare gedrag sal hy die volgende straf kry hy sal detensie en gemeenskapdiens kry omdat hy ingebreek het ek hoop U verstaan

Vriendelike Groete
Meneer Roux

Gedig geskryf deur Mia Nel, Rachel Herselman en Lea Wenning

Kersfeesfees

Sneeuvlokkies val sag en wit,
Sterre blink in die nag se lig.
Ons hang kousies aan die boom,
Wag vir geskenke, vol van droom.
Koekies bak in die warm oond,
Familie lag en voel so goed.

Liggies flikker, rooi en groen,
Die mooiste Kersfees wat ons gesien.
Ons sing karolle, vrolik en klaar,
Vreugde versprei oral waar.
Warm kakao in ons hand,
Kersfeesvreugde in die land.

Renosters vlieg oor die lug,
Kersvader groet met sy stug.
Ons speel en lag, geniet die dag,
Tel geskenke een vir een sag.
Kersfees kom net een keer per jaar,
Bring liefde, geluk en heerlike Kersfeesvaar.

Gedig geskryf deur Jenna Kinnel
Winter
Die bome staan so kaal en koud
Die sneeu lê wit oor die veld en straat
Die wind waai hard en strek en oud
Die son verdwyn al baie laat

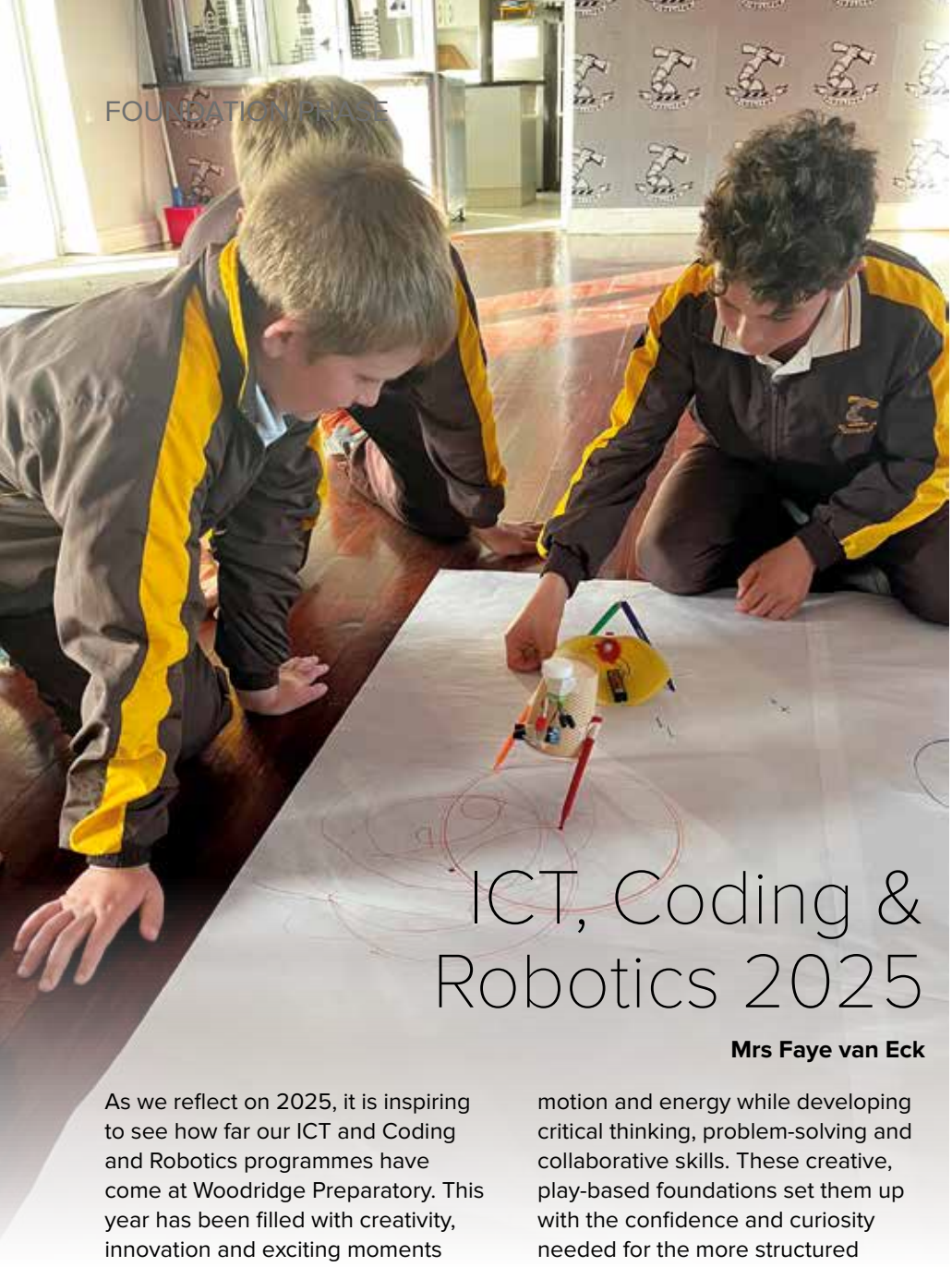
Die doudruppels lê sag op elke blaar
Die nag se lug is stil en diep
Die sterre blink so wonderlik
Terwyl die wêreld koud bly slaap

Die rook styg op uit elke huis
Waar mense warm kuier bymekaar
Die koue sing steeds sy dowwe reis
Maar binne straal die vuur alklaar

Boekresensie – Lena se bottelboom
Wendy Martens

Wendy Maartens is n Suid-Afrikaanse outeur. Sy is geinspereerd deur die mense wat haar omring en lief het.
Lena is dankbaar en deel die storie oor haar lewe. Toe haar ma oorlede is moes sy leer om dit te aanvaar.
Ek het geleer dat selfs in die harde tye moet jy deur druk leer.
Ek dink dat die boek nie spanned is nie en dat die boek hartseer is omdat Lena se ma oorlede is.
Ek sal nie die boek aanbeveel nie, want die boek was hartseer en ek hou nie van die tipe stories nie.

Kai Zimmermann
Rolspel: Leerders moes hulle voorstel dat hulle die karakters is in die leesboek 'Superheroes vlieg net saans'. Miek is in moeilikheid omdat hy die Natuurwetenskapklas muis groen gekleur het. Die hoof (Mnr Roux) het vir Miek se ouers 'n e-pos geskryf wat hulle inkennis stel van wat hy gedoen het en sy straf. Die leerders moes 'n vertoning doen oor hoe hulle sou gereageer het as hulle die ouers was.



ICT, Coding & Robotics 2025

Mrs Faye van Eck

As we reflect on 2025, it is inspiring to see how far our ICT and Coding and Robotics programmes have come at Woodridge Preparatory. This year has been filled with creativity, innovation and exciting moments of discovery as pupils from Grade R to Grade 7 continue to grow in confidence and skill within our ever-evolving digital world.

Our goal remains simple: we strive to ensure every Woodridge pupil becomes a confident, creative, and responsible user of technology. From mastering mouse control in Grade R to coding and engineering robots in Grade 7, pupils are developing the problem-solving and digital skills they will need for the future.

Coding and Robotics

Early Foundations: Grades 1 and 2

In the early years, our youngest pupils engage in hands-on technology and engineering activities that introduce key STEM concepts in an exciting and practical way. Using LEGO bricks and simple construction tools, they explore ideas such as balance, motion and energy while developing critical thinking, problem-solving and collaborative skills. These creative, play-based foundations set them up with the confidence and curiosity needed for the more structured Coding and Robotics curriculum that begins in Grade 3.

Grades 3 to 7:

Coding and Robotics: Grades 3 to 7

From Grade 3 to Grade 7, our Coding and Robotics programme has grown into an exciting, future-focused learning journey. Pupils begin with structured workbooks in Grade 3 and transition to an online learning platform from Grade 4 to 7, where interactive tasks guide them through increasingly complex coding, robotics and engineering concepts. This hands-on, project-based approach encourages creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking.

Each grade builds progressively on core skills such as pattern recognition, algorithm design, sequencing, debugging, and digital awareness. Using a design thinking process of inspiration, ideation, and implementation, pupils learn to identify problems, brainstorm solutions, and build prototypes to test and refine their ideas.

The programme makes use of a rich variety of platforms and tools including ScratchJr, Scratch, Tinkercad, Micro:bit, DroneBlocks, Minecraft Education, and MakeCode. Through this exploratory learning, pupils begin to understand real-world applications of technology while developing resilience, curiosity, and a strong sense of digital confidence.

Coding and Robotics Club

A highlight of 2025 has been the launch of the Coding and Robotics Club, met with tremendous enthusiasm. Pupils meet weekly to experiment with robotics kits, tackle coding challenges, and pursue personal projects that extend classroom learning. The club has quickly become a hub for curious minds, a space where pupils share ideas, test prototypes and build confidence as young innovators.

ICT: Building Digital Confidence and Creativity

From Grade R to Grade 7, our ICT programme equips pupils with the skills to navigate an increasingly digital world with confidence and creativity. Through hands-on, project-based learning, they learn not only how to use technology effectively but also how to think critically, communicate ideas, and collaborate with others. Beyond technical ability, we focus on developing responsible digital citizens who apply their knowledge with curiosity and integrity.

Foundation Phase: Grades R to 3

In the Foundation Phase, pupils follow the Knowledge Network programme, a structured and progressive course that builds creativity, logic, and confidence with computers. They learn mouse control, typing, saving and organising files, and begin exploring programs like Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Paint. These early skills allow pupils to express ideas digitally and connect technology meaningfully to their world.

Intermediate and Senior Phases: Grades 4 to 7

As pupils move into the Intermediate and Senior Phases, they focus primarily on Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams, and OneDrive while also exploring other digital platforms that enhance creativity and problem-solving.

ICT projects are closely aligned with classroom themes to make learning engaging and relevant. This year, pupils completed a wide range of creative and practical projects including travel brochures and book covers in Canva and PowerPoint, AI-generated story illustrations, kindness campaign videos, digital portfolios, and business documents with professional formatting.

These projects highlight how pupils combine creativity and technical skill to produce purposeful digital work.

Pupils also developed awareness of AI literacy, responsible use of technology, and digital citizenship, learning to stay safe online, communicate respectfully and protect personal information. At Woodridge, pupils do not just use technology; they understand it, apply it creatively and use it ethically.

Looking Ahead: Pupil Tech Leadership and Growth

In 2026, Woodridge will introduce a pupil-led Tech Committee, a group of pupils passionate about technology who will assist at school events, offer peer tech support and model good digital citizenship. This initiative will strengthen technical skills while building leadership, responsibility, and community spirit, helping pupils grow into capable and thoughtful digital leaders.

Infrastructure and Progress

A major milestone in 2025 was the ICT lab upgrade, which brought new Windows devices into classrooms. This upgrade has significantly improved speed and reliability, enabling pupils to explore multimedia and AI-based projects with greater ease and creativity.

Preparing for the Future

Looking ahead, our focus remains on deepening the skills pupils are developing through ICT and Coding and Robotics. We aim to strengthen progression across all grades, offering engaging opportunities that blend creativity with critical thinking and real-world application. Pupils will continue to take ownership of their learning, collaborate on meaningful projects and explore how technology can be used to solve authentic problems.

We are dedicated to preparing every Woodridge pupil to thrive in a digital world, fostering confidence, curiosity and integrity every step of the way.

Conclusion

The 2025 academic year has been one of remarkable growth and discovery for ICT and Coding and Robotics at Woodridge Preparatory. From our youngest builders in the Young Engineers programme to our senior pupils designing digital worlds and coding their own solutions, every pupil has taken meaningful steps toward becoming a capable, responsible and imaginative digital citizen.

As we look toward 2026, we will continue to nurture curiosity, resilience and creativity, providing each Woodridge pupil with the inspiration, support, and opportunities to grow both academically and personally. By encouraging pupils to explore new ideas, solve problems and take initiative, we aim to ensure they are not only future-ready in skill but also confident, thoughtful and adaptable individuals ready to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Round Square

Head of Round Square
Mr Garron Adlard

In 2025, Round Square at Woodridge Preparatory School has continued to evolve, not as a programme that sits alongside what we do, but as a philosophy that defines how we do it. Through inquiry, reflection, and authentic connection, we have seen Round Square become more deeply woven into the daily rhythm of Woodridge life, from our Pre-Primary classrooms to our senior pupils. It has become part of our collective identity as something that quietly shapes our conversations, our lessons, and the way our pupils see the world.

Round Square is an international network of schools that share a common vision to educate the whole child through character, values, and real-world engagement. Rooted in the six IDEALS of Internationalism, Democracy, Environmentalism, Adventure, Leadership, and Service, it challenges pupils to grow in courage, curiosity, and compassion through experience. At Woodridge, this philosophy has found a natural home as we have intentionally aligned the Round Square Discoveries with our school's own values of mutual respect and dignity; integrity and honesty; empathy, engagement, and interaction; tenacity and teamwork; and appreciation and care for the environment. These shared principles now define a school culture that values who our pupils are becoming just as much as what they are learning.

In the Preparatory School, this connection is lived out through our merit programme, where children are recognised for demonstrating Courage and Tenacity; Inquisitiveness, Inventiveness, and Problem Solving; Kindness and Inclusion; Responsibility and Pride in our School; Self-Awareness; and Teamwork and Communication. These qualities reflect the essence of Round Square at Woodridge Preparatory as tangible actions that show up in classrooms, on sports fields, during outdoor education activities, and in the simple moments of kindness and perseverance that make our school community so special.

This year has marked a significant milestone in our Round Square

journey as international collaboration has extended into the Foundation Phase classes through our Round Square Show-and-Tell series. Opportunities for global engagement now begin in the early years where curiosity, empathy, and resilience first take root. Our younger pupils have taken part in online exchanges with schools around the world, sharing in lively discussions on topics such as how they get to school, the places they live, what they have for breakfast, the weather in their country, and even introducing their headmaster or favourite local snacks. These sessions have allowed our children to experience what it means to be part of a global community, and the confidence and joy they display when speaking to peers from other countries are a delight to witness. Through these same Show-and-Tells, our foundation phase pupils continue to grow in awareness and enthusiasm, using storytelling and reflection to identify values such as courage, teamwork, and compassion in their everyday lives. Whether they are helping a classmate, persevering with a challenging task, or caring for the natural world around them, these shared experiences are helping to build strong moral foundations.

In August, six of our senior pupils travelled to India to attend a Round Square International Conference, held under the theme *"Leadership: The Eyes Behind the I."* It was an unforgettable experience that stretched our pupils' perspectives and deepened their understanding of what it means to lead. Immersed in India's colour, warmth, and energy, they engaged in discussions, cultural activities, and keynote sessions that invited them to think more deeply about themselves and their place in the world. They came to see that leadership is not about standing in front, but about standing with others and listening, learning, and acting with integrity and care. The lessons they brought home have quietly shaped many of our conversations this year, reminding us that leadership begins with awareness of others and a willingness to serve.

Equally enriching this year have been our Round Square Postcards. These online collaborations are tailored for our intermediate and senior phase pupils in which pupils gather virtually and engage with schools from around the world on shared themes. These sessions are carefully prepared for in advance by the pupils. In these sessions, children from all over the world meet in small groups to discuss the theme, form questions, and think about how the topic connects to their own lives. During the postcard itself, they join baraza groups with children from other countries, learning to listen respectfully and speak with confidence. Afterward, they reflect on what they have learnt, often connecting their insights to our Woodridge values. The process has had a noticeable effect as our pupils are becoming more globally aware, more confident in expressing their opinions, and more open to perspectives different from their own.

Back Row: *Mrs Roslyn Pienaar, Austin Botes, Mohamed Hassim, Mr Garron Adlard*
Front Row: *Murray-John Boonzaier, Anina Kruger, Jasper Poultney*

Through these simple yet powerful exchanges, they are discovering what it means to be both proudly South African and part of a wider, interconnected world.

Perhaps the most meaningful development this year has been the way Round Square and Character Education have merged into one living, breathing practice. Character at Woodridge is not taught through a single programme or event; it is woven through everything we do. The integration of the Round Square Discoveries with our values and merit structure ensures that pupils are constantly reflecting on how they show courage, kindness, curiosity, and resilience. Teachers intentionally draw links between what happens in the classroom, on the sports field, and during outdoor pursuits and how it connects to who we are becoming as people. This intentional integration across academics, sport, music and culture, and outdoor education has deepened the culture of respect, gratitude, and responsibility that defines our school.

As we look ahead to 2026, our Round Square vision remains clear: to keep embedding Round Square and Character Education as inseparable parts of life at Woodridge. We aim to further expand international collaborations for the Pre-Primary and Foundation Phase, giving even our youngest pupils the opportunity to develop intercultural understanding.

Round Square at Woodridge has never been about a badge or a title, at the Preparatory School it is about a way of living and learning that places humanity at the centre of education. It is about raising young people who are thoughtful, courageous, and compassionate, who understand that character is built through perseverance and kindness. As we reflect on this past year, we do so with gratitude for the connections we have made, the lessons we have learnt, and the people we are becoming. Through this lived philosophy, our pupils are developing into confident, kind, and globally minded young leaders who live the core values of Woodridge every day.

Outreach

Mrs Geneè Reed

Woodridge Preparatory School: A Year of Giving Back Through Outreach Initiatives

At Woodridge Preparatory School, our heart beats for the community. Throughout the year, we have been privileged to support a variety of outreach initiatives that allow us to make a positive difference in the lives of those around us.

These projects embody our core values and demonstrate the power of coming together as a school family to serve others.

Our outreach journey began with supporting the incredible CHOC Foundation (Childhood Cancer Foundation). To raise awareness and funds, our school hosted a "Flip Flop Day," where pupils came to school wearing flip flops in solidarity with children battling cancer. The event was a great success, with enthusiastic participation from both pupils and parents. We are truly grateful for the strong support from our school community.

Continuing our spirit of giving, we once again partnered with the Reach For A Dream Foundation through our annual "Slipper Day." This initiative raises funds to help terminally ill children fulfill one of their cherished dreams. Our pupils loved coming to school in their cozy slippers, and we were thrilled by the overwhelming support from families. Being able to contribute to such an inspiring cause is a privilege we hold dear.

One of our key initiatives was a Shoe Drive, through which we collected over 150 pairs of sports shoes. We are proud to partner with The Friends of Van Stadens, an organisation dedicated to uplifting communities in our surrounding areas. With their guidance, the donated shoes were distributed to Uprising Stars, a football club based in Thornhill, where they are now helping young athletes pursue their passion with confidence and dignity. In conjunction with the shoe drive, we also ran a Winter Warmer Collection, gathering a significant number of blankets and warm clothing. These items were also donated to families in the Thornhill community. Additionally, we collected food items that were donated to

the Mosaic and Re-Trade Re-Cycle Project, a remarkable initiative based in the Walmer Township that supports vulnerable communities. These projects highlight the power of collaboration. Through our partnerships, we are able to ensure that all donations are allocated fairly and put to good use. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed, whether by donating, organising, or assisting with distribution. Your efforts are truly making a difference in people's lives.

To close off the year, we held our annual Food Hamper Collection, aimed at blessing our hardworking support staff with small hampers filled with grocery essentials. From maintenance and housekeeping to grounds, equestrian, and kitchen teams, every member plays a crucial role in keeping our school running smoothly. This initiative is our way of showing appreciation for their dedication.

In the spirit of spreading joy, we also ran a "Love Box" collection. These boxes, filled with gifts and essentials, were donated to a local community in need, bringing comfort and happiness to children during the Christmas season.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our parents and the entire Woodridge community for their ongoing support of our outreach programmes. Every contribution, big or small, makes a real difference. It is vital that we model a "giving back" attitude for our children, inspiring them to embrace kindness and generosity throughout their lives.

As Mother Teresa once said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

At Woodridge Preparatory School, we are proud to live this truth every day through our outreach initiatives, making a meaningful impact one step at a time.

Prep Sport

Director of Sport Prep:
Mr Anda Sakube

As we reflect on 2025, we celebrate a year marked by growth, resilience, and remarkable achievements across all sporting codes at Woodridge Prep. Our pupils have once again demonstrated their passion, commitment, and sportsmanship, making this year one of the most memorable yet.

We began the year with our much-anticipated U13 Cricket Festival, welcoming schools from across the region. The energy and camaraderie set a vibrant tone for the term. Our U13A team continued their strong form with a tour to East London and where they impressed with both skill and character.

Just before the start of our winter season, our Netball Department hosted a festival that included a coaching clinic for both pupils and staff. We were privileged to welcome the talented national player, Karla Pretorius.

Winter brought with it a flurry of activity and excitement. Our pupils embraced the season with enthusiasm, participating in rugby, hockey, and netball fixtures with determination and pride. The highlight of the term was our rugby tour to Makhanda, where our teams competed in the Independence Schools Rugby Festival which was well hosted by St Andrews Preparatory School.

Our athletics programme continued to thrive, with standout performances at the Independence Schools Athletics Meeting.

Several pupils broke long-standing records, and the spirit of competition and camaraderie was evident throughout the day.

Outdoor Education remained a cornerstone of our holistic approach, with pupils engaging in trail running, canoeing, and cycling across our scenic campus. These activities not only build physical endurance but also foster a deep appreciation for nature and teamwork.

Water polo saw significant development this year, with our teams showing great promise during training and fixtures. The foundation laid this year will undoubtedly lead to future success.

Girls' cricket continues to flourish, with our team touring to East London and being hosted by well-established girls' cricket teams. Their performances and team spirit were commendable, and they continue to be trailblazers for girls' sport at Woodridge Prep.

Soccer has grown in popularity, and this year we expanded our programme with internal Soccer Saturday matches, culminating in a team representing us at the Grey Soccer Festival. The enthusiasm from pupils and staff alike signals a bright future for soccer at our school.

We also celebrate the achievements of pupils who excelled in non-traditional school sports and those who proudly represented our province and country. Your dedication and excellence is a source of immense pride.

As we close the chapter on 2025, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our coaches, staff, and parents. Your unwavering support and commitment have been instrumental in shaping our sporting culture. To our pupils thank you for your passion, perseverance, and pride. You continue to embody the spirit of Woodridge Prep.

We look forward to 2026 with excitement and anticipation, confident that the foundations laid this year will lead to even greater heights.

Outstanding Achievements

EP REPRESENTATIVES

Back Row: *Aqhama Macembe, Zenande Martin, Rogan Barratt, Tristan Burry, Murray-John Boonzaier, Addison Shaw, Jamie White, Sophia Stutterheim,*
Fourth Row: *Ms Hannah Werth, Emma Darke, Hayley Holmes, Alegra Cockroft, Ashley Pietersen*
Third Row: *Amila Faltein, Abigail Dyer, Luke Bailes, Jo-Mari van Rooyen, Joshua Brink, M Anda Sekube*
Second Row: *Ivanka van Vuuren, Jacob Stone, Matthew Lokotsch, Regard Ferreira, Jack Lokotsch, Stella Giulietti*
Front Row: *Iris Deseta, Carlo Pineda, Quan-Carlo Stone, Mikayla Moller*

Athletics

Mr Erich Kruger

The athletics calendar at Woodridge Preparatory has been nothing short of extraordinary this year, culminating in a triumphant performance at the Independent Schools Athletics competition. From our spirited inter-house event to our commanding victory at a prestigious meet, our athletes have demonstrated exceptional talent, dedication, and school spirit throughout the season.

The year began with great promise during our inter-house athletics day, held at the end of the first term. The excitement was evident as athletes pushed themselves to their limits, and the event was marked with several records being broken. These early achievements set the tone for what would become an outstanding athletics season. Loerie emerged victorious from the inter-house competition, capturing the trophy and cementing their athletic accomplishment early in the year.

Following this successful inter-house meet, anticipation began to build for larger competitions ahead. At the end of the second term, just before the August holidays, the athletics team representing Woodridge Preparatory School at the Independent Schools Athletics was formally announced. This selection marked a significant milestone, as the chosen athletes represented the finest talent our school had to offer. For many of these competitors, selection to the team was a dream realized, while for others, it represented validation of their hard work and commitment to the sport.

With their team confirmed, our athletes and coaching staff embarked on training sessions throughout the latter part of the second term and into the third term. Utilising both regular sports time and additional second sessions, the team refined their techniques, built their endurance, and worked to perfect their performances. This dedicated period of preparation was crucial in ensuring that our athletes would be in peak condition for the challenge ahead.

The Independent Schools Athletics competition finally arrived on September 11th, 2025, hosted jointly by St. Andrews Preparatory and The Diocesan School for Girls (DSG). The venue hummed with nervous energy as staff and pupils from all participating schools gathered, uncertain of what the day would bring. Upon arrival at the competition venue, the weather threatened to dampen spirits. Overcast skies hung overhead, and rain seemed imminent. However, as if fortune was smiling upon our athletes, the weather held. The threatening clouds never delivered their downpour, allowing competition to proceed without interruption and creating the perfect conditions for peak athletic performance.

What unfolded throughout the day was nothing short of remarkable. The Woodridge Prep athletes delivered exceptional performances across all events, accumulating the highest overall points and securing victory at the meet. The achievement was not a result of any single standout performance, but rather the collective excellence demonstrated by every participant who represented our school with pride and determination.

Recognition must be given to those who achieved particularly outstanding results. India Cockcroft delivered an especially impressive performance, breaking not one but two records during the competition - an extraordinary feat that showcased her incredible talent and training. Additionally, our Under-12 Girls 4x100m relay team produced a blistering display of speed and coordination, successfully breaking their respective record and thrilling spectators with their performance.

As we reflect on this athletics season, there is much to celebrate. From the spirited inter-house competition that kicked off the year to the triumphant victory at the Independent Schools Athletics, our athletes have proven themselves worthy ambassadors for Woodridge Preparatory School. Every pupil who participated deserves recognition for their individual contributions toward our success. This season will be remembered as a time when our school's athletic excellence truly shone, inspiring future generations of athletes to aim high and achieve their dreams on the track and field.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS' ATHLETICS TEAM

Back Row: *Tanatswa Chari, Hayley Holmes, Addison Shaw, Sophia Stutterheim, Rogan Barratt, Aqhama Macembe, Mackenzie Mountfort, Elgan Anthony, Rachel Herselman, Abigail Dyer, Liam van der Walt, Joshua Paxton*
Fourth Row: *Hlub'elihle Dunga, India Cockcroft, Lia-Grace van der Westhuizen, Amila Faltein, Matthew Lokotsch, Luke Bailes, Likhanyile Nyoka, Christian Dintwe, Yinhla Mbedhli, Jo-mari van Rooyen, Jean Joubert, Alka Makame*
Third Row: *Kyle Meyer-Wilson, Israel de Beer, Buikotso Segatla, Alakhe Faltein, Cole Kaschula, Jacob Stone, Cailyn de Beer, Austin Botes, Hendrik Jordaan, Layla van der Walt, Sophia Ralph, Mr Erich Kruger*
Second Row: *Matthew Hickman, Bavumile Molakeng, Caleb Sakube, Ella Stutterheim, Roxy Rex, Lungaka Pepeta, Ruby Stutterheim, Regard Ferreira, Abigail Kruger, Mikayla Moller*
Front Row: *Ava du Preez, Lauren Kruger, Carlo Pineda, David Kruger, Kadyn Mashaka, Allegra Cockcroft, Neo Matuludi, Alexander Hancke, Mia Kruger*

Trail Running

Mrs Geneé Reed

At Woodridge Preparatory School, we are truly privileged to have some of the most beautiful trails right on our doorstep. This year's Inter-House Trail Running event was a perfect celebration of the great outdoors and the incredible spirit of our young athletes.

The weather could not have been more ideal; sunshine filled the skies, a gentle breeze kept the air fresh, and the atmosphere on Monaghan Field was electric. From Grade 1 through to Grade 7, our "Preppies" showed up with enthusiasm, determination, and grit. Whether walking, jogging, or sprinting the course, every participant embraced the challenge with a smile.

What stood out most about the day was not the competition, but the spirit of participation and enjoyment. It was heartwarming to see the joy and camaraderie shared amongst all the runners. The event truly embodied the school's values of perseverance, sportsmanship, and community.

The overall results on the day were as follows:

First Place: Kingfisher House *(1131 points)*
Second Place: Loerie *(1151 points)*
Third Place: Hoopoe *(1308 points)*

Following the success of our school event, a few of our athletes had the exciting opportunity to represent Woodridge at the inter-school trail running competition hosted by DSG in Grahamstown. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and resilience as they pushed themselves against tough competition.

Congratulations to all our athletes who participated and represented our school with pride, Woodridge Preparatory School came third overall in this event.

Trail running is more than just a sport at Woodridge; it is a celebration of fitness, nature, and community spirit. Every step taken along the trail builds endurance, resilience, and character qualities we cherish and nurture in our pupils. We look forward to many more exciting trail running events that inspire our athletes to challenge themselves and enjoy the great outdoors.

Inter-House Trail Running Results:

Grade 1 Boys: 1st: Edrè Combrinck 2nd:Tanaka Chari 3rd: Tadiwa Chari	**Grade 1 Girls:** 1st: Gia Kietzmann 2nd: Amy du Preez 3rd:Sichumisele Moyake
Under 9 Boys: 1st: David Kruger 2nd: Alex Hancke 3rd:Benjamin Boretti	**Under 9 Girls:** 1st: Ava Chadwick 2nd: Allegra Cockroft 3rd: Mia Kruger
Under 11 Boys: 1st: Matthew Hickman 2nd: Buikotso Segatla 3rd: Juan-Carlo Stone	**Under 11 Girls:** 1st: India Cockroft 2nd:Zara Bradley 3rd: Ava du Preez
Under 13 Boys: 1st: Ayola Xalisile 2nd: Matthew Lokotsch 3rd: Jack Lokotsch	**Under 13 Girls:** 1st: Ella Stutterheim 2nd: Ruby Stutterheim 3rd: Spohia Stutterheim

Water Polo

Head of Water Polo:
Hannah Werth

The Woodridge Prep water polo players have had an incredibly busy and rewarding year defined by commitment and improvement. From the beginning of the season, it was clear that this would be a year of exceptional growth both in and out of the pool.

The season kicked off with an interschools fixture held in Grahamstown, featuring teams from Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown and East London. It was the perfect start as a day of great weather, competitive water polo, and an infectious sense of enthusiasm. Our players took full advantage of the opportunity to test themselves against strong opposition. The day proved to be valuable as lessons about teamwork and resilience were learnt. This experience set the tone for the months ahead as a season that was built on hard work, determination, and the joy of playing together.

For the U13A Boys and Girls, the highlight of the year was undoubtedly the Oakhill Chukka Festival in Knysna. This tour is always a calendar favourite, and 2025 was no exception. Dedicated training and preparation lead to outstanding performances from both teams. The results were the best either side has ever achieved, a true reflection of how far our players have come. The girls' team can be proud of their remarkable record, winning most of their games with confidence and composure. The boys' team also shone, matching some of the strongest schools in the country with skill and spirit. These performances speak volumes about the players' focus, teamwork, and steady improvement.

It has been inspiring to watch our young athletes grow not only as players but as people. Their commitment to training, their respect for one another, and their enthusiasm for challenges have made this season a memorable one. Every player has demonstrated a willingness to learn as well as a drive to improve. They have really taken pride in representing Woodridge Prep Water Polo.

A particularly exciting development this year has been the introduction of Splash Ball for our Grade 4 and 5 learners. This modified form of water polo has been an instant hit, and the energy it has brought to the pool has been infectious. The early exposure to the sport is helping to bridge the gap between our junior and senior players, building both confidence and skill from a young age. It is promising to see the growing depth in our programme, a sign of a strong future for Prep Water Polo.

As coaches, it has been incredibly rewarding to see players apply what they have learnt, not just technically but tactically as well. Their improvement in game awareness, teamwork, and discipline has been exceptional.

The 2025 season also brings a historic milestone. It marks the highest number of provincial representatives Woodridge Preparatory has ever produced. This achievement is a proud moment for the school and stands as a testament to the dedication, consistency, and determination of our players.

A heartfelt congratulations to our provincial representatives:

- Hayley Holmes and Addison Shaw (NMB U13A Girls)
- Amila Faltein and Lily-Grace Anderson (NMB U13B Girls)
- Jack Lokotsch, Matthew Lokotsch, and Murray-John Boonzaier (NMB U13A Boys)
- James White and Rogan Barratt (NMB U13B Boys)

Each of these players has shown exceptional commitment to their sport, balancing schoolwork, training, and competition with maturity and passion.

Their selection is richly deserved and reflects not only individual talent but also the strong culture of encouragement and perseverance within our teams.

As the season draws to a close, sincere thanks must go to our coaches, parents, and supporters for their invaluable contribution throughout the year. The 2025 water polo season will be remembered as one of growth. Our players have embodied the spirit of Woodridge by striving for improvement, showing respect to all, and supporting one another. With such talent and dedication in the pool, the future of Woodridge Prep Water Polo looks brighter than ever.

1ST TEAM WATER POLO GIRLS

Back Row: *Lyla Leshem, Miss Angelique Killian, Ruby Stutterheim, Ella Stutterheim, Amila Faltien, Julia Varrie, Miss Hannah Werth, Emma Darke*
Front Row: *Sophia Stutterheim, Lily-Grace Anderson, Addison Shaw, Rachel Herselmann, Hayley Holmes, Abigail Dyer*

1ST TEAM WATER POLO BOYS

Back Row: *Mr Erich Kruger, Umelwe Memani, Tristan Bury, Liam van der Walt, Rogan Barratt, Liam Botha, Mr Garron Adlard*
Front Row: *Jack Lokotsch, Jasper Poultney, Jamie White, Murray-John Boonzaier, Gibran Hassim, Matthew Lokotsch*
Absent: *Nicholas Venter*

Prep Cricket

Mr Nicholas Stephenson

The cricket season at Woodridge was filled with excitement, growth, and outstanding achievements.

From the first ball bowled to the final whistle, there was an undeniable buzz around the cricket fields and nets this year, from both our boys and girls. Prep cricket is flourishing, and it has been wonderful to see every team holding its own in the various leagues they competed in. The atmosphere has been electric, and the enthusiasm of our players has made this season truly memorable.

Once again, we kicked things off with our annual U13 T20 Festival, which proved to be a fantastic early-season opportunity to get valuable time on the field before the competitive fixtures began. The festival showcased some thrilling cricket, allowing our players to test their skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship while enjoying the spirit of the game.

Throughout the season, Woodridge teams dominated weekend derbies against our traditional rivals, displaying grit, skill, and determination. Both the U13A boys and girls enjoyed successful tours to East London, where they competed against tough opposition and gained invaluable experience both on and off the field. Our U11A team had the privilege of taking part in the Heritage Cricket Festival in Knysna, where they achieved excellent results while learning valuable lessons about teamwork, resilience, and the joy of competition.

We are proud to share that a large group of boys and girls attended provincial trials, and several of our players earned well-deserved selections to represent Eastern Province (names to be added). Their achievements are a testament to their effort, dedication, and passion for the game. We know they will make both Woodridge and their province proud.

This year also saw continued investment in our cricket facilities, with upgraded scoreboards and a generous donation of topsoil helping us maintain our beautiful fields in top condition. These improvements, both big and small, ensure that our players have the very best environment in which to train and compete.

Behind every successful team is a group of dedicated coaches, and we are truly fortunate at Woodridge to have such passionate individuals leading our cricket programme. Their countless hours of planning, coaching, and mentoring have ensured that every player, whether in the A team or the junior squads, has had the opportunity to learn, grow, and enjoy the game. Their enthusiasm and commitment are at the heart of our success.

A very special mention must be made of Miss Lombard, whose unwavering commitment and enthusiasm have been instrumental in getting girls' cricket off the ground. Her passion and drive have laid an incredible foundation for the future of the sport at our school. As she leaves us at the end of the season, we extend our heartfelt thanks and wish her every success in her new journey. Her legacy will continue to inspire our young cricketers for years to come.

We would also like to extend our deepest gratitude to our Headmaster, Mr von Berg, who will be retiring at the end of this year. His invaluable insight, mentorship, and genuine love for sport have played a vital role in the growth and success of cricket at Woodridge. Whether offering to umpire a match, helping young bowlers fine-tune their actions, or simply taking the time to ask players how their games went, Mr von Berg has been a constant source of encouragement and guidance. His passion for developing young people through sport has left an indelible mark on our cricket programme. We thank him sincerely for his support, leadership, and belief in our vision to build Woodridge cricket into what it is today. He will be sorely missed, but his influence will continue to be felt across our fields for many seasons to come.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our parents, who spend countless hours on the side of the field cheering, encouraging, and celebrating every wicket and run. Your presence and passion mean the world to our players and staff, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to the Woodridge cricket family.

As we reflect on this successful season, we do so with immense pride in our players' achievements, their sportsmanship, and the shared joy that cricket brings to our community. We look forward to building on this momentum and watching Woodridge cricket continue to thrive in the years to come.

TOTAL
WKTS
TARGET
BAT A
OVERS
BAT B

U13A

Back Row: *Joshua Paxton, Pengjie Huang, Tyler van der Nest, Aqhama Macembe, Rogan Barratt, Daniel Jackson, Tanatswa Chari, Mr Avile Thiso*
Front Row: *Luke Bailes, Daniel Reed, Austin Botes, Caleb Sakube, Finn Wilson, Christian Dintwe*

U13B NOMADS

Back Row: *Jack Lokotsch, Ruben Jansen van Vuuren, Elgan Anthony, Likhanyile Nyoka, Mmutle Maputle, Mr Daniel Boreham*
Front Row: *LeJac de Meillon, Yinhla Mbedhli, Naye Mzinyane, Umelwe Memani, Matthew Lokotsch, Ethan Meyer-Wilson*

U13C LEGENDS

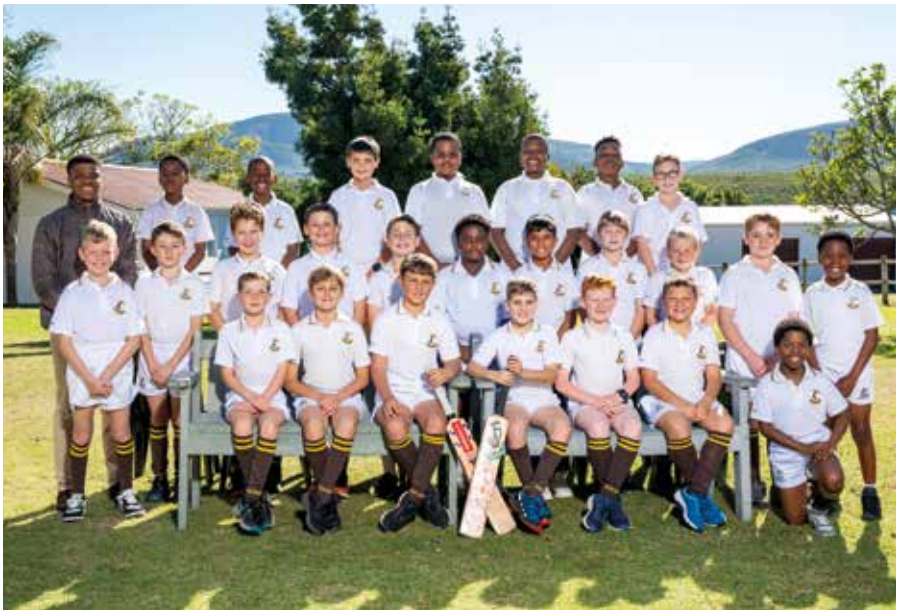
Back Row: *Mpande Mantshongo, Gabriel Micheletti, Jim Conyers*
Middle Row: *Mr Cliff Reed, Austin Elson, Rudra Mohan, Ayodeji Olubiyi, Jasper Poultney, Mhlahlo Heshu, Liam Botha*
Front Row: *Christian Taljaard, Phetho Ramohai, Jean-Paul Borbet, Thato Segatla, Chuma Nkuhlu, Christiaan Nkuhla*

U11A

Back Row: *Bavumile Molakeng, Israel de Beer, Alakhe Faltein, River Little, Mr Nick Stephenson*
Middle Row: *Hendrik Jordaan, Luke Norton, Regard Ferreira, Jacob Stone*
Front Row: *Alexander Hanke, Adrian Stelmaszczyk, Matthew Hickman*

U11B (INGRAM)

Back Row: *Mr Sange Sakube, Buikotso Segatla, Kangelani Burwana, Janse van der Walt, Luphawu Zwane, Lungaka Pepeta, Ahlangene Nzo, Reuben Combrinck,*
Middle Row: *Bailey Lues, Caleb de Villiers, Mihran Hassim, Nate Biddulph, Louw Niemann, Thalanda Rala Zakariya Salie, Kyle Meyer-Wilson, Keagen Bury, Ezra Flepu*
Front Row: *Ryan Wilson, Zachary Smith, Heath Shaw, Quan Stone, Auden Poultney, Angus Loubser, Wongalethu Koom*



U9A

Back Row: *Mr Aiden Elsworthy, Onokholo Gqiba, Cole Kaschula, Maximus Kietzmann*
Front Row: *Carlo Pineda, Maddock de Beer, Samuel Boretti, Benjamin Boretti, Andre Bezuidenhout, Alex Horsfield*

U9B

Back Row: *Mr Damian Miles, Joseph Leeson Oliphant, Sixten Katzen, Nkanyiso Mangwane*
Middle Row: *Neo Matuludi, Jacob Rudolph Antony van Deventer, Luca Kaarse, Henri Krugel*
Front Row: *Arnaldo Aylward, Oliver Doman, Benjamin Goodwin, Josh Brink*

U13A GIRLS' CRICKET

Back Row: *Uyamanelisa Gqiba, Holley Diedericks, Hayley Kruger, Mackenzie Mountfort, Inathi Bangazi, Ashley Pietersen, Abigail Dyer*
Front Row: *Zining Gao, Riley Rex, Miss Tarryn Lombard, Khumo Makapela, Ava Adams, Sofia Boretti*

U13B GIRLS' CRICKET

Back Row: *Lea Wenning, Zara Bradley, Thenjiwe Mashopha, Leah-Grace Van Der Westhuizen, Amber Buys*
Middle Row: *Victoria Thimna Jagwer, Alexander Horsefield, Gia Moodley, Ntombentle Maqoma, Sokhana Martin, Asonwabise Peters, Simnikiwe Msipa, Hayley Holmes Mr Vuyo Mpahlwa*
Front Row: *Olivia Liebenberg, Kira Koekemoer, Amila Faltein, Lukho Mbangula, Rabia Salie, Lila Kaarse*

Rugby

Mr Avile Thiso

The 2025 Woodridge Preparatory Rugby season was truly one to remember. This year, the school fielded seven competitive teams, the U13A, U13B, U13C, U11A, U11B, U9A, and U9B, all of which displayed great passion, commitment, and impressive skill throughout the season. Each team not only played attractive rugby but also competed strongly in their fixtures, achieving encouraging results while embracing the values and spirit of the game.

A special mention must also go to our Grade 1 and 2 Tag Rugby coaching staff, who continue to lay the foundation for the future of Woodridge rugby. Their enthusiasm, energy, and developing understanding of the game create an exciting atmosphere, especially during home derby days when they take to the field. Their participation continues to inspire older players and reminds us of all the joy of playing rugby for the love of the sport.

Our rugby season began with the U13A team taking part in a pre-season festival hosted by Lorraine Primary School, and this was the first time Woodridge Prep had participated in this event. With only a week to prepare, the boys showed tremendous grit and determination. Despite facing well-prepared opposition, they played with courage and unity, giving the first glimpse of the potential that would unfold during the season. Although there was still much to work on, the festival proved that this group had the character and talent to become a formidable side.

A few weeks later, our U11A team represented the school at the Clarendon Primary Rugby Festival, which also served as a pre-season opportunity to test combinations and identify areas for growth. The young team faced tough opposition, and while the results did not go our way, valuable lessons were learned.
The official start of our winter season commenced on 30 April 2025, marking the beginning of Term 2 and the school's involvement in weekly league fixtures. Woodridge Prep entered five teams in the local school rugby league, with most matches taking place on Wednesdays.

Our U9A, U11A, U11B, U13A, and U13B teams were all in action throughout the term, producing a mix of results each week. However, the most important takeaway was the positive feedback from coaches and the growing enjoyment displayed by the players.

The boys consistently gave their best on the field, embodying the school's values of sportsmanship, teamwork, and perseverance.

Our U13C team also featured in several friendly fixtures during the term. Despite not being part of the official league, they approached each match with enthusiasm and determination, producing competitive performances and making noticeable progress under the guidance of their coach.

The Saturday derby matches remain one of the most anticipated highlights of the Woodridge Prep rugby calendar. These encounters bring out the best in our players as they face quality opposition from across the province. This year's main derby fixtures included Clarendon Park Primary, Westering Primary, Port Alfred, Kingswood, St Andrews Prep, and Union.

Each Saturday carried a special sense of excitement, with players, coaches, and supporters rallying behind their teams. The level of rugby displayed across all age groups was outstanding, and the boys often punched above their weight against strong opponents. The improvement and confidence gained as the season progressed were evident, particularly in the latter stages, where many of our teams finished their campaigns with impressive victories.

A major highlight of the season was once again the participation of our U13A team in the Independence Schools Rugby Festival, hosted this year by St Andrew's Prep in Makhanda. The festival was exceptionally well organized, and our boys represented Woodridge with pride and determination. Although the results did not always reflect the effort and quality of play shown on the field, the experience proved invaluable. The festival offered an opportunity for the team to test themselves against some of the strongest preparatory schools in the country. It also provided a chance for camaraderie, sportsmanship, and lasting friendships.

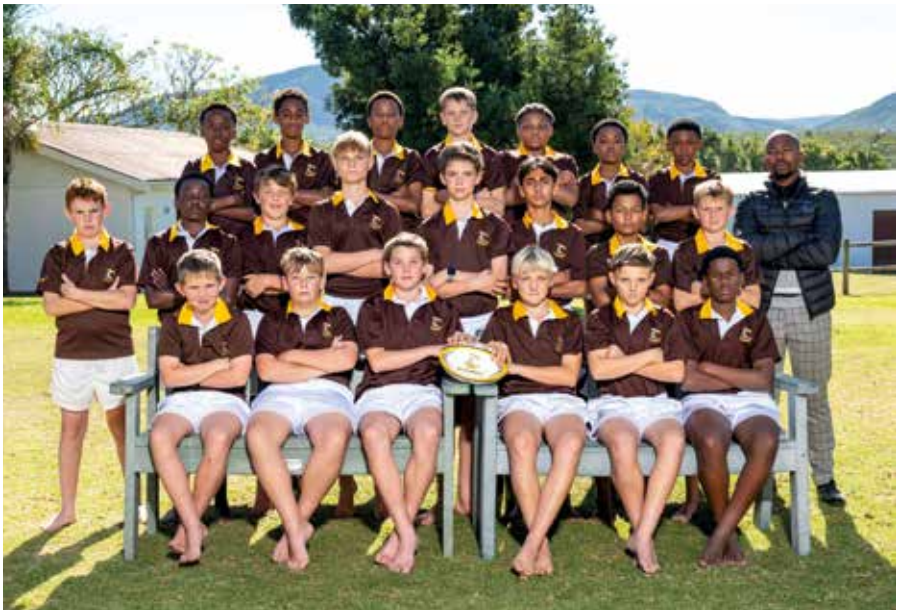
The success of the season would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our rugby coaching staff. Their passion for the game, commitment to player development, and positive influence on the boys have been exceptional. The improvement and enthusiasm seen across all age groups are a direct reflection of their efforts and professionalism. A heartfelt thank you goes to each coach, parent, and supporter who contributed to making this season a memorable one. The 2025 Woodridge Prep Rugby season will be remembered not only for the results on the field but also for the sportsmanship, teamwork, and pride shown by every boy who wore the Woodridge jersey.

U13A

Back Row: *Mr Avile Thiso, Likhanyile Nyoka, Pengjie Huang, Gabriel Micheletti, Tyler van der Nest, Tanatswa Chari*
Middle Row: *Austin Botes, Malakai Hart, Mmutle Maputle, Elgan Anthony, Aqhama Macembe, Rogan Barratt, Jasper Poultney, Mhlahlo Heshu, Mr Cliff Reed*
Front Row: *Matthew Lokotsch, Christian Dintwe, Luke Bailes, Jack Lokotsch, Finn Wilson, Joshua Paxton*

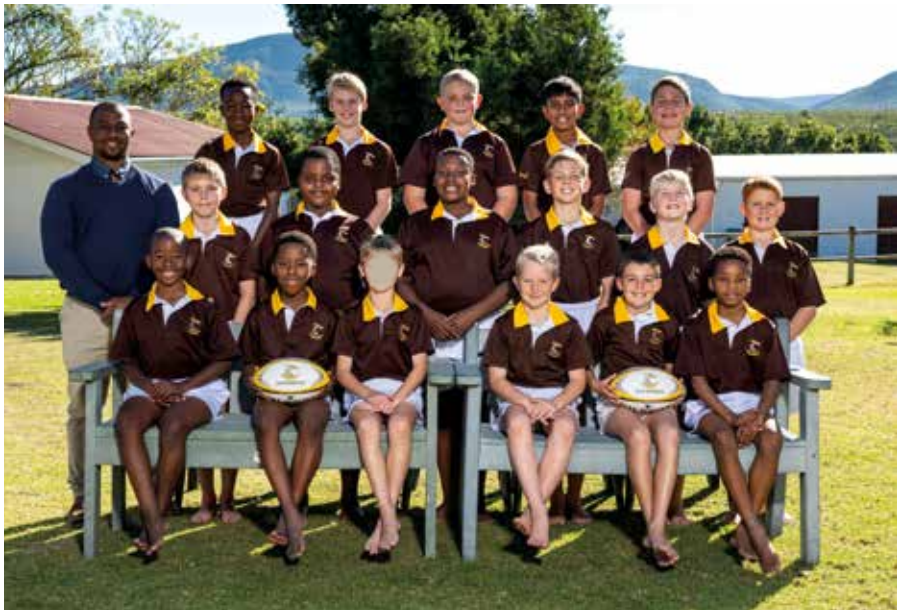
U13B

Back Row: *Thato Segatla, Caleb Sakube, Yinhla Mbedli, Joshua Paxton, Mhlahlo Heshu, Naye Mzinyana, Chuma Nkuhlu*
Middle Row: *Daniel Reed, Umi Memani, Malakai Hart, Liam van der Walt, Johan du Toit, Rudra Mohan, Gibron Hassim, Ruben Jansen van Vuuren, Mr Vuyo Mpahlwa*
Front Row: *Ethan Meyer-Wilson, Le jac De meilon, Jamie White, Murry John Boonzaier, Joshua Joubert, Mpande Mantshongo*



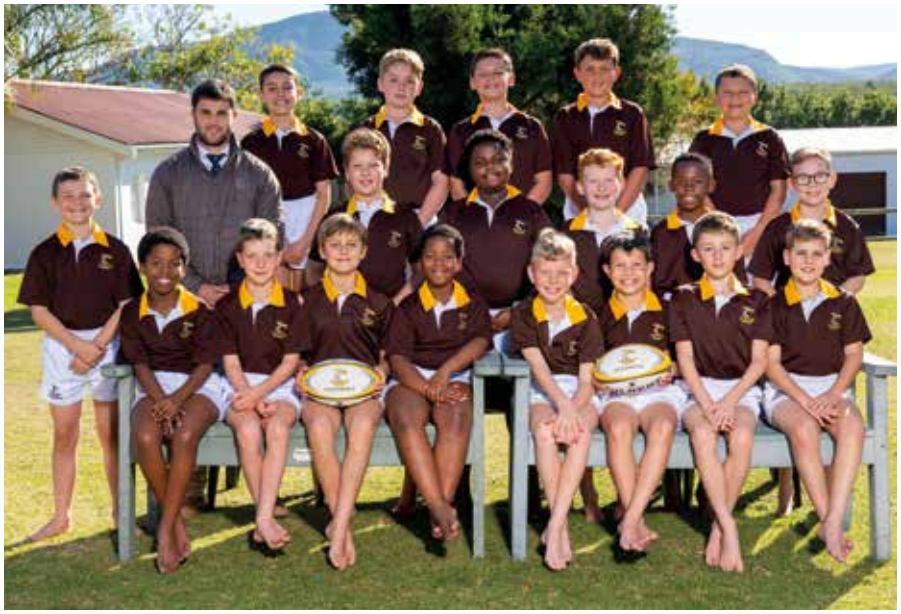
U13C

Back Row: *Tristan Burry, Christian Taljaard, Kai Zimmerman, Adrian de Wit*
Third Row: *Jim Conyers, Benjamin Keld, Johan du Toit, Adam Reitz*
Second Row: *Liam Botha, Pheto Ramahai, Christopher Wilson, Jerome Mwita*
Front Row: *John-Paul Borbet, Christiaan Bothma, Mr Sanga Sakube, Liyomeleza Magwa, Austin Elson*



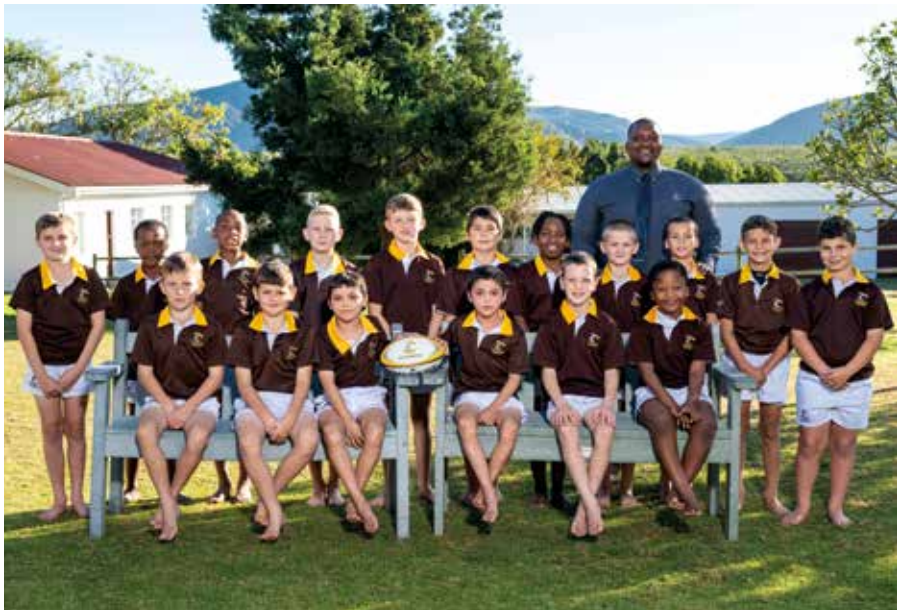
U11A

Back Row: *Alakhe Faltein, River Little, Jacob Stone, Mohamed Zakariya Salie, Louw Niemann*
Middle Row: *Mr Anda Sakube, Regard Ferreira, Luphawu Zwane, Lungaka Pepeta, Jean Joubert, Noah van Niekerk, Luke Norton*
Front Row: *Kangelani Burwana, Buikotso Segatla, Adrian Stelmaszczyk, Kyle Meyer-Wilson, Matthew Hickman, Bavumile Molakeng*



U11B

Back Row: *Josh Brink, Keagan Bury, Nate Biddulph, Heath Michael Shaw, Angus Loubser*
Middle Row: *Israel de Beer, Mr Divan Lamprecht, Mihran Hassim, Thalanda Rala, Auden Poultney, Ndinawe Zakumba, Reuben Combrinck*
Front Row: *Wongalethu Koom, Ryan Wilson, Zachary Marshall-Smith, Langalethu Koom, Bailey Lues, Matthew Curtis, Caleb de Villiers, Quan-Carlo Stone*



U9A

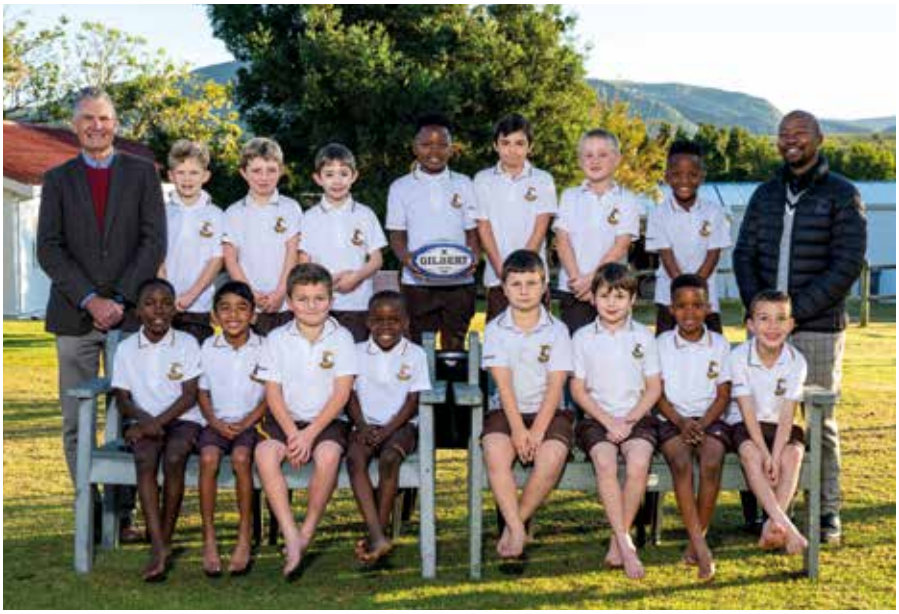
Back Row: *Mr Avile Thiso*
Middle Row: *Alexander Horsfield, Lentle Maputle, Neo Matuludi, Marche Mulder, Cole Kaschula, Henri Krugel, Onokholo Gqiba, Henry Nolan, Maximus Kietzmann, Sebastian Ferreira, Carlo Pineda*
Front Row: *David Kruger, Andre Bezuidenhout, Samuel Boretti, Benjamin Boretti, Maddock de Beer, Bontle Maputle*

U9B

Back Row: *Mr Damian Miles, Zirong Gao, Nkanyiso Mangwane, Luca Kaarse, Arnaldo Aylward, Likhanya Boya, Mr Sean Africa*
Middle Row: *Lennard Weis, Benjamin Goodwin, Ian Sibanda, Sixten Katzen, Joseph Leeson Oliphant, Riley Russett*
Front Row: *Oliver Doman, Jan Bouwer, Gabriel Radue*

GRADE 1

Back Row: *Mr Trevor von Berg, Edre Combrink, Wyatt Campbell, Luka Stokoe, Seth Oba, Izan Navarro-Morales, Silas Henrico, Koketso Mosiane, Mr Vuyo Mpahlwa*
Front Row: *Tadiwa Chari, Varshay Govender, Walter van der Merwe, Tanika Chari, Dante Pineda, Dean Watson, Mendo Flepu, Carter Scheepers*



Netball

Mrs Tanya von Berg

A Netball Season to Remember

The 2025 netball season will long be remembered as one of our finest. From an early start to exciting new opportunities. This year was filled with firsts, unforgettable moments and remarkable achievements. Our players worked hard, embraced every challenge, and showcased not only their skill but also their passion for the game.

This year's season kicked off much earlier than usual bringing with it a burst of excitement and anticipation. To set the tone, Woodridge proudly hosted its very first U12 and U13 Netball Festival, an event that brought together teams, coaches and parents, from different schools, for two days of competitive netball and community spirit. The atmosphere was electric as our players took to the courts with determination; eager to make their mark. What made this festival extra special was the presence of Karla Pretorius, the former Vice-Captain of the South African national netball team. Karla shared her netball journey with the girls, offering insight, encouragement and inspiration. Her words resonated deeply with both players and coaches, reminding everyone that netball is not just a sport, but a platform for growth, teamwork and lifelong passion.

Adding to the thrill of the early start, our U13A players were invited to the Lorraine Netball Festival. This gave them the unique chance to compete against other strong schools, testing their skills and building confidence ahead of the competitive season. These early matches set the foundation for the season to come, and it was clear from the very first whistle that Woodridge was ready to give their all in 2025.

One of the highlights of the season was travelling to Knysna for the prestigious Backward Point Netball Festival with the U12A, U13A and U13B teams, during the April holidays. This tournament is well known for bringing together some of the strongest school teams, and it offered our players the invaluable experience of competing on a bigger stage. The trip was about much more than merely netball. It strengthened friendships, encouraged resilience, and taught our players the importance of representing Woodridge with pride, both on and off the court. For many of our girls, it was

U13A

Back Row: *Riley Rex, Ashley Pieterson*
Middle Row: *Miss Lauren Selby, Khumo Makapela, Lily-Grace Anderson, Hayley Kruger, Victoria Jawger, Mrs Tanya von Berg*
Front Row: *Uyamanelisa Gqiba (Captain), Inathi Bangazi*

U13B

Back Row: *Anna Hickman, Lyla Leshem*
Middle Row: *Mrs Tanya von Berg, Hayley Holmes, Sokhana Martin, Mackenzie Mountfort, Alex Horsefield, Zi-Ning Geo, Miss Lauren Selby*
Front Row: *Emma Darke, Addison Shaw*

U13C

Back Row: *Isbel Ferreira, Thenjiwe Mashopha*
Middle Row: *Mrs Tanya von Berg, Angelique Plaatjies, Ava Ohaga, Gia Moodley, Lila Kaarse, Miss Lauren Selby*
Front Row: *Olivia Liebenberg, Entle Maqoma*

U13D

Back Row: *Anina Krugel, Amber Buys*
Middle Row: *Mrs Tanya von Berg, Jenna Kinnel, Asonwabisa Peter, Ella Clemence, Miss Lauren Selby*
Front Row: *Lea Wenning, Katie Combe*

U12A

Back Row: *Lia-Grace van der Westhuizen, Zerande van Deventer, Simnikiwe Msipa, Minke Loots, Ruby Darke*
Front Row: *Miss Angelique Killian, Kira Koekemoer, Ava Adams, Amila Faltein, Miss Yanelisa Matrose*

U12B

Back Row: *Lukho Mbangula, Jo-mari van Rooyen, Isabella Radue, Leah Scheepers, Mackenzie Davidson*
Front Row: *Miss Yanelisa Matrose, Cassandra Bellingan, Sofia Boretti, Rabia Salie, Miss Angelique Killian*

U12C

Back Row: *Miss Angelique Killian, Julia Varrie, Zingce Ezenwa, Holley Diedericks, Luca Johnson, Miss Yanelisa Matrose*
Front Row: *Ella Stutterheim, Nina Curtis, Ruby Stutterheim*
Absent: *Ivanka van Vuuren*

U11A

Back Row: *Mrs Lesley Vickery, Cailyn de Beer, Hlub'elihle Dunga, Stella Jackson, India Cockcroft, Roxy Rex, Miss Erica Zhang*
Front Row: *Alka Makame, Abigail Kruger, Zara Bradley*

U11B

Back Row: *Miss Erica Zhang, Thoriso Mosiane, Rebecca van Niekerk, Isabella Doman, Emily Colebank, Mrs Lesley Vickery*
Front Row: *Lianie Carelse, Avia Oakes, Olerato Dasheka*

U10A

Back Row: *Mrs Demi Maybery, Sophie Wilson, Katlego Yoyo, Lyla van der Walt, Ms Yanelisa Matrose, Mrs Cindy Botes*
Front Row: *Mikayla Moller, Florence Fleming, Emma Borbet, Stella Giulietti, Ava Du Preez*

U10B

Back Row: *Mrs Cindy Botes, Niva Coleman, Zenande Martin, Lisakhanya Mthembu, Ms Yanelisa Matrose, Mrs Demi Maybery*
Front Row: *Ariya Pillay, Lily Witteveen, Micaela Beech, Victoria Edwards, Sophia Ralph*

U9A & B

Back Row: *Miss Mudi Mungenga, Kadyn Meshaka, Riley Upman, Ava Chadwick, Allegra Cockcroft, Miss Sherri-Leigh Dyantyi*
Front Row: *Joelle Adams, Mia Kruger, Lauren Kruger, Talia Botha*
Absent: Jordan Pote, Lara Kruger

a highlight of their school sporting careers, and their performances at Backward Point reflected their growth and determination.

As the winter season unfolded, it became clear that 2025 would be remembered as a golden year for Woodridge netball. Week after week, our teams played with skill, energy and heart. While every team gave their best and displayed constant improvement, there were two teams whose remarkable consistency really stood out. Our U12B and U13B teams remained undefeated, an incredible achievement that speaks volumes for their teamwork, discipline and love of the game. Remaining unbeaten throughout the season is no small feat; it requires not only skill but also resilience, focus and an unwavering display of teamwork.

Beyond the scores and the victories, what stood out most this season was the sense of growth and camaraderie across all age groups. Whether it was a thrilling match, a tough loss or a training session on a chilly afternoon, our players approached every moment with enthusiasm and determination. Coaches praised the girls not only for their progress in technical skills but also for the way they encouraged and supported one another.
Parents and supporters added to the spirit of the season, cheering from the sidelines and creating an atmosphere that made every match day feel like a celebration.

The 2025 netball season has been one for the books, marked by our first netball festival, new tournament adventures, and unbeaten records under the guidance of legends like Karla Pretorius. But beyond the wins, it is the confidence and growth of our players that truly stand out. As we close this chapter, we are filled with gratitude for our dedicated coaches, supportive families, and passionate players. The spirit of teamwork and determination that defined our season will live on, setting a high standard for years to come. Netball will always hold a special place in the heart of Woodridge Preparatory School.

GRADE 2

Back Row: *Miss Yanelisa Matrose, Elke Wijnants, Isla Fell, Alena Duxbury, London Little, Kayla Nel, Luana de Paiva, Mrs Demi Mayberry*
Front Row: *Paiton Devenish, Stella Oaks, Catherine Edwards, Hannah Wittenveen, Arianna Bellingam, Navya Serfontein, Lana Ferreira, Iris Deseta*

These teams embodied the spirit of Woodridge sport, proving that dedication and unity can lead to extraordinary success.

GRADE 1

Back Row: *Mrs LesleyHansel, Gia Kietzmann, Grace van den Berg, Amy du Preez, Zara Main, Miss Sherri-Leigh Dyantyi*
Front Row: *Lilitha Notshe, Sichumisele Moyake, Hanna Abbott, Zoe Zakumba, Minentle Kula, Sophie de Klerk*

Girls' Hockey

Mr Nick Stephenson

The winter derby programme at Woodridge always brings a certain air of excitement. The energy and passion for hockey are infectious, and the spirit in which our girls approached this season was nothing short of inspiring. Building on last year's successes, we set the bar high once again, aiming not only to perform with excellence but to do so with enthusiasm, teamwork, and heart. From our youngest juniors to our senior players, every girl played her part in making this season memorable.

The season was jam-packed with fixtures, with our nine girls' teams entered in the various EP school leagues as well as our full and competitive derby calendar. Week after week, our players showcased resilience and a true Woodridge "can-do" attitude. This sense of grit and positivity shone through across all age groups, with our teams rising to every challenge against larger schools. The season's results made it clear that Woodridge is a force to be reckoned with and our teams gave their opponents no easy matches.

Their determination on the field reflected the pride they have in representing their school.

The Knysna Festival in March once again provided our senior girls with an incredible start to the season. We continued with last year's blueprint and took two equal-strength squads, giving more players the opportunity to test their skills against some of the top schools from the Southern Cape. The improvement in both individual skill and team cohesion was remarkable, and the festival truly set the tone for what would become a season of promise and growth. I am immensely proud of the high standard of hockey displayed throughout the season. Our players performed with confidence, commitment and an evident love for the game. A special congratulations goes to Emma Darke for her well-deserved selection to the Eastern Province U13C team, a wonderful achievement that reflects her hard work and dedication.

One of the key focus areas of this season has been building depth within our teams, and this has been crucial to our sustained success. Our hockey culture, rooted in commitment, positivity, and mutual respect, continues to thrive. A special mention must go to Miss Lombard, whose second team enjoyed an unbeaten season. This outstanding result is testament to the passion of our coaches and the depth we are developing across our senior teams, as well as the healthy, competitive spirit that pushes every player to do her best. The third team, under the guidance of Mrs van Eck, also had an exceptional season. Their teamwork, enthusiasm and determination were evident in every match they played, and they deserve recognition for their growth and perseverance.

Our junior teams have also shown tremendous progress. We continue to reap the rewards of our mini astro, which has provided a wonderful platform for skill development in our U9 and U10 players. The improvement in their confidence, control and understanding of the game has been impressive. Our junior hockey coaches have done an outstanding job instilling not only the technical fundamentals of hockey but also a deep love for the sport. This nurturing approach ensures that our players are not only developing their skills but also enjoying every moment on the field, something we value deeply at Woodridge.

We remain committed to striking a balance between competitiveness and enjoyment. Our goal is to continue to perform at a high level while fostering a genuine love for the game in every player. We want our girls to leave each season not only as better hockey players but as confident young women who have learned the value of teamwork, perseverance and sportsmanship.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the incredible support that surrounds our hockey programme. We are privileged to have access to exceptional facilities

U13A

Back Row: *Ashley Pietersen, Emma Darke, Lyla Leshem, Lily-Grace Anderson, Mackenzie Mountfort, Inathi Bangazi, Mia Nel, Uyamanelisa Gqiba, Mr Nick Stephenson*
Front Row: *Ava Adams, Amelia Faltein, Rachel Herselman, Abigail Dyer, Lia-Grace van der Westhuizen, Riley Rex*

U13B

Back Row: *Lea Wenning, Zara van Deventer, Addison Shaw, Hayley Kruger, Holley Diedericks, Anna Hickman, Zining Gao, Hayley Holmes*
Front Row: *Sofia Boretti, Cassandra Bellingan, Khumo Makapela, Miss Tarryn Lombard, Kira Koekemoer, Ruby Darke*

U13C

Back Row: *Jo-mari van Rooyen, Tenjiwe Mashopa, Julia Varrie, Isabel Ferreira, Sophia Stutterheim, Victoria Jagwer, Isabella Radue, Amber Buys*
Front Row: *Ruby Stutterheim, Mackenzie Davidson, Nina Curtis, Mrs Faye van Eck, Lukho Mbula, Ella Stutterheim*

U13D

Back Row: *Luca Johnson, Olivia Liebenberg, Alex Horsfield, Ava Duxbury, Gia Moodley, Sokhana Martin, Zince Ezenwa, Simnikiwe Msipa, Ms Iman Adam*
Front Row: *Buncwane Angelique Plaatjie, Bella Watson, Anina Krugel, Rabia Salie, Leah Scheepers, Minke Loots*

U13E

Back Row: *Ivanka van Vuuren, Charlotte France, Ava O'Hara, Inathi Bangazi, Asonwabise Peter, Ella Clemence*
Front Row: *Katie Combe, Ayla Zonnekein, Mrs Lerischia Scheepers, Ms Paige Hall, Lila Kaarse, Jenna Kinnell*

U11A & B

Back Row: *Rebecca van Niekerk, Zara Bradley, Cailyn de Beer, Roxy Rex, Thoriso Mosiane, Stella Jackson, Hlub'elihle Dunga, India Cockcroft, Isabella Doman, Mrs Sandy Kingwill*
Front Row: *Alka Makame, Lianie Carelse, Emily Colebank, Avia Oakes, Olerato Dasheka*

U10A

Back Row: *Flo Fleming, Layla van der Walt, Katlego Yoyo, Miss Hannah Werth*
Front Row: *Ava du Preez, Emma Borbet, Stella Giuletti*

U10B

Back Row: *Victoria Edwards, Micaela Beech, Zenande Martin, Lisakhanya Mthembu, Niva Coleman, Lily Witteveen, Mrs Nicky Puttergill*
Front Row: *Sophie Wilson, Sofia Ralph, Mikayla Moller*
Absent: *Carli Bouwer*

U9A & B

Back Row: *Riley Upman, Kadyn Meshaka, Talia Botha, Ariya Pillay, Allegra Cockcroft, Mrs Genee Reed*
Front Row: *Ava Chadwick, Joelle Adams, Lauren Kruger, Mia Kruger*
Absent: *Jordyn Pote*

GRADE 2

Back Row: *Mrs Geneé Reed, Mr Kobese, Arianna Bellingham, Isla Fell, Alena Duxbury, London Little, Kayla Nel, Luana de Paiva, Ms Paige Hall*
Front Row: *Paiton Devenish, Stella Oakes, Catherine Edwards, Hannah Witteveen, Elke Wynants, Navya Serfontein, Lana Ferreira, Iris Deseta*

GRADE 1

Back Row: *Mrs Tracey du Plessis, Amy du Preez, Zara Main, Gia Kietzmann, Grace van den Berg, Miss Erica Zhang*
Front Row: *Hanna Abbott, Sichumisele Useminathi Moyake, Lilitha Notshe, Zoe Bizoluhle Zakumba, Minentle Kula, Sophie de Klerk*

that elevate the experience for both players and supporters. Our heartfelt thanks go to the maintenance department, the catering staff and admin team. Your hard work behind the scenes makes a world of difference and contributes greatly to the positive atmosphere that defines Woodridge sport.

Finally, to all our coaches and parents, thank you for your dedication, encouragement and unwavering belief in our players. It has been a season filled with growth, achievement and pride. As we look ahead, we are excited to see how this year's accomplishments will continue to inspire our girls, strengthen our teams and elevate Woodridge Hockey for years to come.

Boys' Hockey

Mr Daniel Boreham

Woodridge Boys' Hockey 2025: Growth, Skill, and Team Spirit

The 2025 season of Woodridge Boys' Hockey has been a rewarding one, marked by skill development, strong teamwork, and a growing love for the game across all age groups. Competitive hockey was played from U9 through to U13, providing our young athletes with consistent opportunities to test themselves, develop their skills, and build confidence on the field.

It was a busy season of derby days, where our teams were competitive across the board. From pre-season matches to intense derby fixtures, Woodridge players demonstrated determination, teamwork, and passion. Our U11 and U13 teams were entered into their respective leagues this year and competed very well, showing clear improvement from the previous season.

The U13 boys, in particular, grew in confidence and strategy, making their mark in every match while displaying excellent sportsmanship and enthusiasm for the game. A highlight of the season was the annual Backward Point Festival, which doubled as a trial platform for our top players. Twenty-four boys, representing effectively our A and B teams, joined the festival alongside the girls' teams for a weekend of competitive hockey.

U13A

Back Row: *Christian Dintwe, Tanatswa Chari, Murray-John Boonzaier, Daniel Jackson, Pengjie Huang, Liam van der Walt, Ayola Xalisile, Ruben Jansen van Vuuren*
Front Row: *Daniel Reed, Yinhla Mbedhli, Austin Botes, Joshua Paxton, Oyinthanda Makoyi, Caleb Sakube, Mr Daniel Boreham*

U13B

Back Row: *Mr Erich Kruger, Finn Wilson, Luke Bailes, Aqhama Macembe, Likhanyile Nyoka, Le Jac de Meilon*
Front Row: *Matthew Lokotsch, Ethan Meyer-Wilson, Elgan Anthony, Tyler van der Nest, Naye Mzinyane, Jack Lokotsch*
Absent: *Thato Segatla*

U13C

Back Row: *Mr Sange Sakube, Austin Elson, Royce Chang, Mhlahlo Heshu, Jasper Poultney, Umelwe Memani, Tristen Bury, Kai Zimmerman, Mr Patrige Chimwendo*
Middle Row: *Mmutle Maputle, Mpande Mantshongo, James White, Gabriel Micheletti, Rogan Barratt, Rudra Mohan, Phetho Ramohai*
Front Row: *Christopher Wilson, Jean-Pierre Borbet, Wyatt Kretzman, Christian Taljaard, Chuma Nkhulo, Lian Botha*

U11A & B

Back Row: *Bavumile Molakeng, Janse van der Walt, Nate Biddulph, Alakhe Faltein, Hendrik Jordaan, Luke Norton, Kyle Meyer-Wilson, Kangelani Burwana, Mr Aiden Elsworthy*
Front Row: *Matthew Curtis, Matthew Hickman, Regard Ferreira, Jacob Stone, Caleb De Villiers, Quan-Carlo Stone, Adrian Stelmaszczyk*

U11C

Back Row: *Lungaka Pepeta, Luphawu Zwane, Jean Joubert, Heath Michael Shaw, Keagan Bury, Louw Niemann, Mr Damian Miles*
Front Row: *Zachary Marshall-Smith, Ryan Wilson, Auden Poultney, Buikotso Segatla, Bailey Lues, Israel de Beer*

U11D

Back Row: *Ahlangene Nzo, Noah van Niekerk, Angus Loubser, Thalanda Rala, Mihran Hassim, Phillip Ferreira, Reuben Combrinck, River Little, Mr Damian Miles*
Front Row: *Langalethu Koom, Ezra Flepu, Wongalethu Koom, Ndinawe Zakumba, Josh Brink, Muhammad Jeeva*

U9A

Back Row: *Lentle Maputle, Israel De Beer, Maximus kietzmann, Sixten Katzen*
Middle Row: *Dante Pineda, Onokholo Gqiba, Cole Kaschula, Alexander Hancke, Alexander Horsfield, Mr Sange Sakube*
Front Row: *Samuel Boretti, Benjamin Boretti, David Kruger*

U9B

Back Row: *Gabriel Radue, Mr. Asanda Kobese, Nkanyiso Mangwane, Neo Matuludi, Jacob van Deventer, Henri Krugel, Arnaldo Aylward*
Front Row: *Benjamin Goodwin, Andre Bezuidenhout, Luca Kaarse, Oliver Doman, Zirong Gao, Joseph Leeson Oliphant*

GRADE 2

Back Row: *Gabriel Radue, Henry Nolan, Lennard Weis*
Middle Row: *Mr Erich Kruger, Riley Russett, Likhanya Boya, Sebastian Ferreira, Marche Mulder, Ian Sibanda, Bontle Maputle, Jan Bouwer, Mr Patrige Chimwendo*
Front Row: *Jamiey Lues, Sikhanyiso Dladla, Aiden Barnard, Sentle Maputle, Edrian Kok, Jefferson Adams, Arian Coleman, Joshua Bouwer*

GRADE 1

Back Row: *Mr Erich Kruger, Luka Stokoe, Carter Scheepers, Edré Combrink, Seth Oba, Izan Navaro-Morales, Dante Pineda, Tadiwa Chari, Mrs Lesley Hansel, Mr Patrige Chimwendo*
Front Row: *Mendo Flepu, Koketso Mosiane, Walter van der Merwe, Wyatt Campbell, Silas Henrico, Dean Watson, Tanaka Chari, Varshay Govender*

This event provided a valuable opportunity to challenge themselves against strong opposition, encourage camaraderie, and showcase their progress throughout the season.

Special congratulations go to Joshua Paxton, who was selected as a non-playing reserve for the U13B Eastern Cape Provincial team. His commitment, skill, and attitude throughout the season set a great example for his peers and to all our young players.

The U9 boys enjoyed a busy season of derby fixtures, where they were consistently competitive and showed impressive improvement as the year progressed. This year also brought a new structural change for our U11 group, as the A & B and C & D teams combined to form larger squads sharing a single goalkeeper. Despite this change, they continued to play as individual 8-a-side teams, which allowed even more teams to take part in fixtures against other schools and ensured that every player gained valuable match experience.

None of the successes this season would have been possible without our passionate and committed coaches. Heartfelt thanks go to Mr Sange Sakube, Mr Aiden Elsworthy, Mr Damian Miles, Mr Patrige Chimwendo, Mr Asanda Kobese, and Mr Erich Kruger for their guidance, encouragement, and dedication throughout the season. Their expertise and support have been crucial in helping our players grow both on and off the field. As we reflect on another year, we also thank Mr Trevor von Berg as he retires from his role as the Headmaster of Woodridge Preparatory School. His unwavering support for our department has been deeply appreciated. His influence has reached far beyond the pitch. Through the lessons of teamwork, perseverance, and respect he has instilled in countless pupils. We wish him well in his next chapter and thank him for everything he has poured into the Woodridge cricket community.

Overall, 2025 was a season full of growth, excitement, and achievement for Woodridge Boys' Hockey. With strong foundations in place, a thriving coaching team, and a busy, competitive calendar behind them, the future is bright for our young athletes as they continue to develop in skill, sportsmanship, and passion for the game.

Chess & Umlabalaba

CHESS

Back Row: *Likhanyile Nyoka, Ntombentle Maqoma, Ayodeji Olubiyi, Rudra Mohan*
Middle Row: *Thato Segatla, Jo-mari van Rooyen, Phetho Ramohai, Bailey Lues, Mr Vuyo Mpahlwa*
Front Row: *Chuma Nkuhlu, Lukho Mbangula, Amila Faltein, Austin Elson, Liam Botha, Jasper Poultney*
Absent: *Joshua Joubert, Zirong Gao*

UMLABALABA BOARD GAME

Back Row: *Ntombentle Maqoma, Lukho Mbangula, Thato Segatla, Mr. Asanda Kobese, Pheto Ramohai, Umelwe Memani, Khangelani Burwana, Likhanyile Nyoka*
Front Row: *Langalethu Koom, Alka Makame, Austin Elson, Adrian Stelmaszczyk, Olerato Dasheka, Zachary Marshall-Smith, Ryan Wilson, Chuma Nkuhlu*

Art club

Back Row: *Amber Buys, Gia Moodley, Zerande van Deventer, Anna Hickman*
Middle Row: *Aqhama Macembe, Ella Clemence, Luca Johnson, Adam Reitz, Minke Loots, Lia-Grace van der Westhuizen, Lila Kaarse*
Front Row: *Royce Chang, Mackenzie Mountford, Miss. Hilana Marais, Miss. Erica Zhang, Christopher Wilson, Kai Zimmermann*

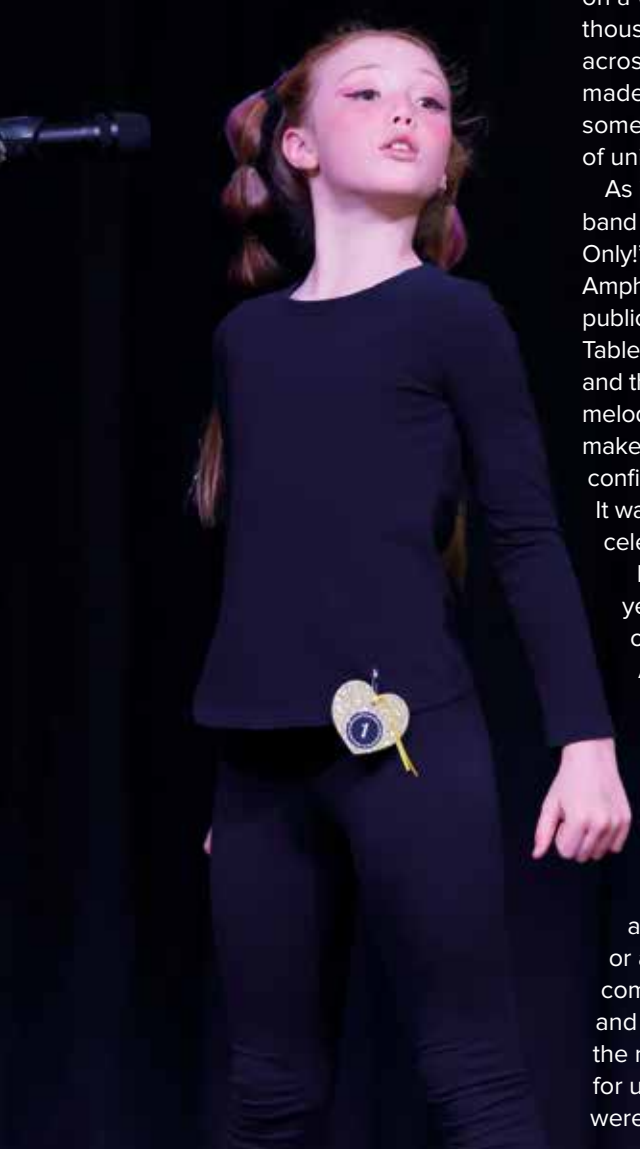
Music

Dear 2025, The Year That Flew Too Soon... ***In this heartfelt reflection, our Head of Cultural Department, Mr. Lesego Mkhwanazi, looks back on a year filled with creativity, collaboration, and unforgettable cultural milestones at Woodridge Preparatory.***

Head of Prep Arts and Culture: Lesego Mkhwanazi

Dear 2025,
You arrived with quiet excitement and a sense of promise, like the first note before a symphony. And now, as you end, it feels as though you've passed far too quickly. Yet, in your brief stay, you filled our hearts, stages, and hallways with colour, creativity, and music that will echo long after you've gone.

For the Cultural Department, you have been a masterpiece, a blend of passion, teamwork, and artistic discovery. From the sound of marimbas to the harmonies of our choirs, from expressive performances to the artwork that spoke louder than words, you have been a reminder that creativity is alive and thriving at Woodridge.



Our Woodridge Marimba Band became one of your most unforgettable stories. From the 31st of July to the 3rd of August, our young musicians embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime journey to Cape Town on a tour that was filled with rhythm, friendship, and pride. Their energy was electric as they took part in the official Guinness World Record attempt for the largest marimba ensemble at the Grand Arena in Grand West Casino. Performing on a world-class stage alongside thousands of marimba players from across the country, they not only made history but became part of something much bigger, a celebration of unity through music.

As if that wasn't enough, our band brought their "Wood Vibes Only!" energy to the V&A Waterfront Amphitheatre, performing for the public on the 1st of August. With Table Mountain in the background and the Cape breeze carrying their melodies, they showcased what makes Woodridge culture so special: confidence, collaboration, and joy. It wasn't just a tour; it was a living celebration of passion and possibility.

Back home, the rhythm of the year continued to build toward one of our proudest moments, the Art, Music, and Drama Festival held in the Raymond Ritchie Hall from the 22nd to the 25th of July. The hall came alive with light, sound, and expression as our pupils filled the stage with performances that radiated creativity and courage. Each act, whether musical, dramatic, or artistic, told a story of growth, commitment, and joy. Parents, staff, and adjudicators were all moved by the remarkable talent on display, but for us, the most special moments were seeing pupils take brave steps forward, performing for the first time, expressing themselves freely, and finding their own artistic voice.

Our choirs added their own unforgettable chapter to the year. Their journey was one of harmony in every sense, not just musical, but communal. This spirit was beautifully captured during our Heritage Event, where we proudly collaborated with Masifunde's Junior and Youth Choirs from their Academy of Creativity. Together, we celebrated South Africa's vibrant cultural tapestry through song, language, and movement. The event brought our school community together in a heartfelt celebration of heritage and unity, with the Raymond Ritchie Hall once again echoing with the joyful sound of shared voices. It was a day where learning went beyond music, it became about connection, pride, and the power of collaboration.

Throughout the year, every choir rehearsal and performance became a lesson in teamwork and empathy. Our singers learnt that music is not only about melody and rhythm, but also about listening to one another and creating something meaningful together. Whether on our own stage or alongside Masifunde, their performances carried the spirit of Woodridge - bold, heartfelt, and full of joy.

And then there were the moments that didn't need an audience: the rehearsals after school, the nervous laughter before a performance, the sound of marimbas drifting through the corridors, and the friendships built through shared creativity.

These small, beautiful moments were the heartbeat of 2025, proof that culture is not just seen or heard but deeply felt.

SENIOR CHOIR

Back Row: *Jo-mari van Rooyen, Isabella Doman, Hayley Holmes, Likhanyile Nyoka, Sophia Stutterheim, Aqhama Macembe, Ntombentle Maqoma, Simnikiwe Msipa, Holley Diedericks, Amila Faltein, Thoriso Mosiane* ***Third Row:*** *Lukho Mbangula, Cassandra Bellingan, Thenjiwe Mashopha, Zingce Ezenwa, Adriaan De Wit, Lily-Grace Anderson, Isabella Radue, Luca Johnson, Addison Shaw, Joshua Joubert, Kira Koekemoer, Alakhe Faltein* ***Second Row:*** *Naye Mzinyane, Chuma Nkuhlu, Mikayla Moller, Sophia Ralph, Stella Giulietti, Langalethu Koom, Emma Borbet, Victoria Edwards, Florence Flemming, Mackenzie Davidson, Olerato Dasheka, Ruby Stutterheim, Zanade Martin, Nate Biddulph* ***Front Row:*** *Katlego Yoyo, Hlub'elihle Dunga, Sophie Wilson, Avia Oakes, Emily Colebank, Ella Stutterheim, Ava Du Preez, Wongalethu Koom, Layla van der Walt, Alka Makame, Lianie Carelse, Niva Coleman, Roxy Rex, Mrs. Patti Van der Ploeg*
Absent: Mr Lesego Mkhwanazi

JUNIOR CHOIR

Back Row: *Allegra Cockroft, Joshua Brink, Alexander Hancke, Onokholo Gqiba , Micaela Beech, Lisakhanya Mthembu, Cole Kaschula, Ndinawe Zakumba, Marche' Mulder, Neo Matuludi, London Little, Henri Krugel, Kadyn Meshaka*
Third Row: *Sixten Katzen, Maximus Kietzmann, David Kruger, Benjamin Goodwin, Andre Bezuidenhout, Mia Kruger,Talia Botha, Maddock de Beer, Riley Upman, Lentle Maputle, Joelle Adams, Carlo Pineda, Arnaldo Aylward*
Second Row: *Mrs Patti van der Ploeg, Hannah Witteveen, Arianna Bellingan, Navya Serfontein, Rudan van Deventer, Alexander Horsefield, Nkanyiso Mangwane, Oliver Doman, Samuel Boretti, Benjamin Boretti, Ava Chadwick, Lauren Kruger, Alena Duxbury, Henry Nolan, Sebastien Ferreira, Ian Sibanda, Zirong Gao, Luca Kaarse, Joseph Leeson,, Stella Oakes, Catherine Edwards, Elke Wijnants, Mr Sean Africa* ***Front Row:*** *Jaimey Lues, Edrian Kok, Aiden Barnard, Joshua Bouwer, Likhanya Boya, Jefferson Adams, André Bouwer, Lana Ferreira, Paiton Devenish, Gabriel Radue, Lennard Weis, Iris Deseta, Luana de Paiva, Riley Russett, Bontle Maputle, Sentle Maputle, Isla Fell, Arian Coleman, Kayla Nel, Sikhanyiso Dladla*

GUITAR

Back Row: *Mr Sean Africa, Simon Scheepers, Zerande van Deventer, Alexander Horsefield*
Front Row: *Tristan Bury, Lejac de Meilin, Allegra Cockcroft, Adriaan de Wit, Nate Biddulph, Stella Giulietti*
Absent: *Regard Ferreira*

DJEMBE DRUMS

Back Row: *Elke Wijnants, Ian Sibanda, Alena Duxbury, Marche Mulder, London Little, Sebastian Ferreira, Henry Nolan, Isla Fell*
Third Row: *Stella Oakes, Edrian Kok, Sikhanyiso Dladla, Aiden Barnard, Sentle Maputle, Joshua Bouwer, Mrs Patti van der Ploeg*
Second Row: *Hannah Witteveen, André Bouwer, Iris Deseta, Ariaan Coleman, Luana de Paiva, Paiton Devenish, Jefferson Adams, Lana Ferreira, Bontle Maputle, Gabriel Radue, Catherine Edwards*
Front Row: *Likhanya Boya, Arianna Bellingan, Lennard Weis, Navya Serfontein, Kayla Nel, Riley Russett*

MARIMBA

Back Row: *Mr Damian Miles, Kai Zimmerman, Thenjiwe Mashopha, Mackenzie Davidson, Mr Lesego Mhkwanazi*
Third Row: *Lungaka Pepeta, Uyamanelisa Gqiba, Lukho Mbangula, Tristan Burry*
Second Row: *Amila Faltein, Sokhana Martin, Inathi Bangazi*
Front Row: *Leomeleza Magwa, Victoria Jagwer, Liam Botha, Khumo Makapela*

VIOLIN AND CELLO

Back Row: *Onokholo Gqiba, Amber Buys, Mrs Janette Muller, Royce Chang*
Front Row: *Elke Wijnants, Jaimey Lues, Amila Faltein, Khumo Makapela, Rabia Salie, Zi Ning Gao*

RECORDER

Back Row: *Allegro Cockroft, Joshua Brink, Alexander Hancke, Onokholo Gqiba, Micaela Beech, Lisakhana Mthembu, Cole Kaschula, Ndinawe Zakumba, Neo Matuludi, Henri Krugel, Kadyn Meshaka*
Middle Row: *Sixten Katzen, Maximus Kietzmann, David Kruger, Benjamin Goodwin, André Bezuidenhout, Mia Kruger, Talia Botha, Maddock de Beer, Riley Upman, Lentle Maputle, Carlo Pineda, Arnaldo Aylward*
Front Row: *Rudan van Deventer, Alexander Horsefield, Nkanyiso Mangwane, Oliver Doman, Samuel Boretti, Benjamin Boretti, Ava Chadwick, Lauren Kruger, Zirong Gao, Luca Kaarse, Joelle Adams, Joseph Leeson, Mrs. Patti van der Ploeg*

VOCAL GROUP

Back Row: *Mrs Patti van der Ploeg, Isabella Radue, Luca Johnson, Mackenzie Mountfort, Ntombentle Maqoma, Sophia Stutterhiem, Hayley Holmes*
Front Row: *Addison Shaw, Kira Koekemoer, Isabella Doman, Stella Giulietti, Mackenzie Davidson, Niva Coleman*
Absent: *Mr Lesego Mkhwanazi*

1st
2nd
3rd

WGT

WGT
1st
2nd

Back Row: *Liam Botha, Heath Shaw, Kira Koekemoer, Zakariya Salie*
Third Row: *Isabella Radue, Isabella Doman, Gia Moodley, Bejamin Keld, Ayodeji Olubiyi, Murray-John Boonzaaier*
Second Row: *Mrs Patti van der Ploeg, Ella Stutterheim, Mikayla Muller, Josh Brink, Lily Witteveen, Florence Flemming, Adia Yoyo, Rose Graham, Nat Denis, Mrs Rose Graham, Mrs Talia Botha*
Front Row: *Langalethu Koom, Ava du Preez, Sophie de Klerk, Jefferson Adams, Wongalethu Koom*
Absent: *Mia Nel, Joshua Bouwer, Zirong Gao, Nkanyiso Mangwane, Joseph Oliphant-Leeson, Buikotso Segatla, Thato Segatla, Thalanda Rala*

To our teachers and cultural coaches, thank you for your vision, patience, and unwavering passion. To our interns, ground staff, and technical teams, thank you for your tireless work behind the scenes, you make the magic possible. To our parents, your support and encouragement fill every performance with warmth. And to our pupils, the artists, actors, singers, and marimba players who bring it all to life, thank you for your courage and your joy. You are the reason 2025 will always be remembered as something truly special.

Dear 2025, you may have flown by too soon, but you've left us richer in experience and spirit. You've reminded us that creativity isn't just an event on the calendar, it's a way of seeing, feeling, and celebrating life.

As we turn the page to 2026, we carry your melodies and memories with us. Thank you for a year of laughter, learning, and love through art. You have been extraordinary, and though your curtain is closing, your encore will live on in every note, every brushstroke, and every heart you've touched.

Front Row: *Jenna Kinnell, Victoria Jagwer*
Absent: *Mrs Liza Klopper*

Outdoor Education

Mr Daniel Boreham

Woodridge Preparatory Outdoor Education and Adventure Pursuits: A year of growth in the Outdoor Classroom.

"There is more in us than we know, if we could be made to see it; perhaps, for the rest of our lives we will be unwilling to settle for less." – Kurt Hahn

Outdoor Education (OE) at Woodridge Preparatory continues to be one of the school's defining strengths. A lived expression of our belief, that learning is the richest when it takes place in the outdoor classroom. Whether knee-deep in a river, on a mountain trail, or under the stars, our pupils learn resilience, leadership, compassion, and self-discovery.

The ECAPE model remains at the heart of our OE programme. Environmentalism, Conservation, Adventure, Play, and Experiential Learning. Each strand shapes not only the skills our pupils learn, but also the kind of people they are becoming. Our Round Square Discovery Framework further anchors this philosophy, nurturing pupils who are courageous in challenges, compassionate in service, tenacious in difficulty, and reflective in growth.

Environmentalism:
Where growth takes root.

Woodridge's environmental story continues to flourish. Our Eco Committee, under the leadership of Mrs Roslyn Pienaar, has led a thriving rewilding initiative, restoring indigenous habitats and attracting a variety of new and returning bird and insect species.

This year, our efforts took root as indigenous trees were planted alongside Van Staden's Flower Reserve, leaving a lasting legacy. Alongside this, our Eco team, together with Working on Fire, made excellent progress in clearing alien vegetation. A continual effort that teaches teamwork, responsibility, and care for creation. Environmentalism at Woodridge is not just taught; it is lived every day.

Conservation:
The guardians of tomorrow.

2025 marked another milestone in our Baton of Hope Journey, a conservation initiative that began on World Rhino Day 2024 and has continued to grow in impact and participation. Led passionately by Mrs Pienaar, this initiative connects pupils' creative talents and physical energy in support of wildlife protection and conservation.

This year saw the second Woodridge Has Got Talent show, joyfully coordinated once again by our very own, Holly Diedericks. This event once again channelled the power of community spirit to drive awareness and empathy. Collectively, our school community raised money in support of the OLLI (One Land Love It) foundation.

Spirit of Adventure

The Adventure strand of ECAPE remains one of the highlights of the Woodridge Preparatory year. It is a celebration of our school culture and Round Square Discoveries.

The Grade 6 Xterra remains legendary as it marked the start of our adventure pursuit season. Pupils traversed from Woodridge to Van Staden's River Mouth and back. Two full and testing days of cycling, paddling, and running that included river crossings, time trials, and even a night run. The challenge demanded courage and endurance in equal measures.

Our new Grade 5 Rietfontein Rampage was a highlight of 2025. Teams used maps, compasses, and critical thinking to navigate a multi-discipline course of cycling and canoeing. The experience tested not just physical ability but also problem-solving and leadership.

The Grade 4 Crossways Adventure Challenge pushed pupils through 15 km of running, paddling, and cycling under intense heat, while the Grade 3 MTB Expedition took pupils beyond campus for the first time. A full day of exploration combining cycling, canoeing, and orienteering to the Van Staden's Flower Reserve and back.

At the foundation level, the Grade 1 and 2 Adventure Triathlon remains a joyful introduction to the world of outdoor pursuits, with mud, smiles, and plenty of laughter setting the tone for the years ahead.

Finally, the Grade 7 Eco Challenge Adventure Race once again stood as the pinnacle of outdoor achievement. After rigorous training in navigation, fitness, and leadership, 40 pupils tackled a 52 km course of mountain biking, trekking, and canoeing. Teams were selected with mixed abilities to strengthen collaboration and empathy, and each participant had to identify their strengths, whether as a navigator, motivator, or leader.

Through these adventures, pupils have lived the Round Square IDEALS of Adventure and Leadership. Learning that courage, humility, and service are the foundations of authentic success. These adventures would not have been possible without our dedicated staff. A heartfelt thank you to all of our incredible staff members who assisted in making each of these adventures a great successes.

Nature Play: Play with purpose

"Play is the work of childhood," and nowhere is that more evident than on the trails and fields of Woodridge. For our youngest learners, Nature Play is an intentional and cherished part of school life.

In the Outdoor Playground and Nature Reserve, pupils dig, climb, and build with natural materials. These are not random moments of free time but guided opportunities for curiosity, creativity, and connection. As one teacher reflected, *"In nature play, the children aren't escaping learning, they're discovering it for themselves."*

Through mud play, fort building, and exploration, pupils develop emotional regulation, problem-solving, and collaboration. It is education disguised as play, and it is wonderful to watch.

Experiential Learning: Learning by Doing

Learning by doing continues to define the Woodridge approach. Every Outdoor Education experience is rooted in reflection, connection, and action.

This year, pupils have engaged with our campus and what it has to offer. Various grades could be found analysing soil and water samples to understand ecosystem health. Others were out mapping and measuring distances during orienteering sessions. Furthermore, others participated in outreach that connects learning with empathy.

These experiences are guided by the Round Square discoveries of Inquisitiveness, Teamwork, and Sense of Responsibility. Pupils learn that knowledge gains meaning when it is applied, when it connects head, heart, and hands.

Outdoor Education at Woodridge Preparatory is no longer something we "do". It is part of who we are. It shapes our school's culture, our values, and our identity.

Looking Forward

As we reflect on another remarkable year, we also pause to honour and thank Mr Trevor von Berg as he retires from his role as Headmaster of Woodridge Preparatory. His belief in the power of the outdoors to shape young lives has been the driving force behind much of what makes Woodridge so special today. We thank him for his years of dedicated service, wisdom, and heart and we wish him fair winds and many adventures ahead.

The ECAPE model, grounded in the Round Square IDEALS, ensures that every child leaves the Prep not only with skills and knowledge but with character and conviction. It is about forming lives that are balanced.

At Woodridge, Outdoor Education isn't a bolt-on; it is our bloodstream. And in that heartbeat, you'll find courage, joy, curiosity, and hope for the future.

River Race

Miss Hannah Werth

The annual River Race once again lived up to its reputation as one of the most anticipated and spirited events on the school calendar. The day was filled with laughter, determination, and the unmistakable buzz of competition. From the Juniors starting the day off with their River Dash to the Seniors taking on the full River Race, it was a day that celebrated effort, teamwork, and the courage to try.

The beach flags, touch rugby, and ever-popular Grade 7 tug-of-war added an extra layer of energy and fun to the morning. The shouts of encouragement, the laughter echoing across the river, and the array of house colours painted a perfect picture of the Woodridge spirit at its best.

What stood out most was the way learners supported one another – cheering, clapping, and celebrating every finish, big or small.

While the results were exciting, the true success of the day lay in the bravery of those who stepped out of their comfort zones. Many learners arrived feeling nervous — uncertain of the cold water, the challenge of racing against others, or simply whether they could complete the race. Yet, one by one, they faced their fears with courage and heart. They discovered that bravery isn't the absence of fear, but the decision to push forward despite it. Those who gave their best effort, no matter the outcome, became the true champions of the day.

Days like this remind us that sport is about so much more than competition. It is about building confidence, developing resilience, and realising that every small act of courage adds up to something far greater. The memories made at the River Race are ones that will last a lifetime.

A heartfelt thank you must go to the parents who came down to support and encourage the learners throughout the day. Your enthusiasm and presence mean the world to the children. Sincere appreciation is also extended to the staff whose hands-on support and hard work ensured the event ran seamlessly — your dedication never goes unnoticed.

Finally, special thanks to Mr Daniel Boreham, who took over the coordination of this year's River Race and did an outstanding job. His organisation, energy, and passion for the event made the day a resounding success.

The 2025 River Race will be remembered not only for the competition, but for the courage shown by every learner who chose to dive in, give their best, and discover what they are truly capable of.

Eco-Committee

Mrs Roslyn Pienaar, Eco-Committee Co-ordinator

Woodridge Preparatory School has once again demonstrated its commitment to environmental sustainability, conservation education, and meaningful community engagement. From national recognition to firsthand eco-learning, 2025 has been a year of inspiring environmental growth and awareness for the Eco-Committee and the broader Woodridge community.

Diamond Decade Recognition

A highlight this year was Woodridge College and Preparatory School being awarded the prestigious Diamond Decade Award by WESSA (the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa). “This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our Eco-Committee and the entire Woodridge community.” “It’s a privilege to receive recognition for our collective efforts in building a greener, more sustainable future.”The Diamond Decade Award reinforces Woodridge’s long-standing partnership with WESSA and Round Square, organisations that continue to shape and inspire the school’s sustainability journey.

Inspiring Encounters and Conservation Partnerships

Environmental awareness took centre stage through several powerful guest engagements. One of the most moving visits was from Dr. William Fowlds, a world-renowned wildlife veterinarian and enthusiastic advocate against rhino poaching. Dr. Fowlds shared his remarkable story of Thandi the rhino, whose survival after a brutal poaching attack became a global symbol of resilience and hope. His heartfelt talk captivated students and staff alike, raising awareness about the escalating rhino poaching crisis and the importance of conservation technology.

Nikki Bolton from One Land Love It (OLLI) presented to the Preparatory School, captivating the audience with staggering and deeply concerning statistics about rhino poaching. Her enthusiastic talk inspired everyone to move from simply caring to acting in protecting these magnificent creatures.

The second annual Woodridge’s Got Talent Show, initiated by Grade 6 pupil Holley Diedericks, raised R6,300 for rhino conservation, with all proceeds donated to One Land Love It, strengthening the school’s ongoing commitment to wildlife protection.

Further enriching environmental learning, students enjoyed a presentation by Jake from Raggy Charters, a marine conservation organisation protecting Algoa Bay’s unique marine ecosystems. Learners discovered the bay’s remarkable biodiversity and innovative community projects such as The Mosaic Project, which exchanges collected waste for essential goods. Woodridge pledged ongoing support to this initiative and donated a boot-load of groceries to the Mosaic Project in Walmer in August.

First hand Environmental Learning

In May, Graeme Pienaar, field guide and flora specialist, led the Eco-Committee on an immersive ecology course exploring the diverse ecosystems of the Woodridge campus - home to forest, thicket, and fynbos biomes. Learners studied indigenous and medicinal plants, fungi, and foraging principles, deepening their understanding of biodiversity and environmental responsibility. These lessons continued during a guided nature hike, where pupils identified plant and fungal species, discussed invasive threats, and learned traditional uses of indigenous flora. The hike highlighted the success of the school’s rewilding area and reinforced the importance of protecting local ecosystems.

The Eco-Committee also welcomed the Working on Fire team, who educated learners about the dangers of invasive alien species such as Lantana, Black Wattle, and Blue Gum. The Eco-Committee joined in clearing these invasive plants, gaining first-hand conservation experience.

Back Row: *Anna Hickman, Amber Buys, Inathi Bangazi, Tyler van der Nest, Uyamanelisa Gqiba*
Middle Row: *Jenna Shae Kinnell, Asonwabise Peter, Ayodeji Olubiyi, Mackenzie Mountford, Benjamin Keld, Gia Moodley, Simon Scheepers*
Front Row: *Mrs Roslyn Pienaar, Riley Rex, Khumo Makapela, Bella Watson, Ava Duxbury, Oyintanda Makoyi, Lila Kaarse*
Absent: *Kimber Rautenbach*

Litter Awareness and Action
This year, the Eco-Committee presented an informative assembly on litter, highlighting the dramatic effects of pollution on the environment, from harm to wildlife to the degradation of natural spaces. The presentation inspired the school community to take responsibility for their waste and make daily sustainable choices. Putting these lessons into practice, the committee participated in several litter clean-ups around the campus trails, fields, and service roads, collecting bags full of waste. I am so proud of our group this year, as their actions serve as a powerful reminder that leading by example is the most effective way to instil a lasting culture of respect for the environment and a deeper understanding of the bigger picture.

Water Sustainability and Innovation
Woodridge's innovative water plant, affectionately named Moana - meaning "everything leads to water" - remained a cornerstone of the school's sustainability programme. Under the guidance of Operations Manager Mr. Arnold Aylward, the Eco-Committee explored how Moana supplies the campus with up to 120 cubic metres of purified water daily through a four-stage process. This initiative reduces reliance on municipal water and strengthens Woodridge's environmental resilience.

Shamwari Experience and Arbor Week
The Eco-Committee continued its partnership with Shamwari Conservation Experience, where our members completed a wildlife ecology course covering environmental ethics, wildlife management, and rhino poaching awareness. Visits to Shamwari's Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre and interactions at VulPro offered insight into the conservation of endangered vultures and the importance of ecosystem balance.

During Arbor Week, Woodridge celebrated the official opening of its rewilding area, marking a significant milestone in the school's conservation journey. Indigenous trees and plants were added to the space, including a sacred Milkwood tree planted by Mr. Trevor von Berg, symbolising growth, and resilience for generations to come.

"Someone is sitting in the shade today, because someone planted a tree a long time ago" **Warren Buffet**

Community, Reading, and Outreach
Woodridge's mission continues to extend into the community through literacy and outreach projects. The Preparatory School once again supported Thornhill Primary in the annual Phendulani Literacy Quiz, promoting reading and collaboration between schools. Author Roslynne Toerien also inspired younger readers through her eco-themed stories The Rumbling Rhino and The Speedy Six.

The school participated in the national Sweethearts Foundation Recycling Drive, collecting thousands of plastic bottle tops and bread tags to provide wheelchairs for those in need.

A Legacy of Leadership
The 2025 Eco team has been a privilege to work with. Their enthusiasm, commitment, and genuine interest in environmental awareness and conservation have been truly inspiring. As the custodians of our planet's future, today's children play a vital role in shaping a sustainable world. I have every confidence that this group will continue to demonstrate active and responsible stewardship of the environment in the years to come. "Creating a culture of environmental stewardship begins with awareness, but it flourishes through action. Our students are learning that small, consistent efforts can lead to extraordinary change."

Equestrian Centre

Mrs Eleni Pullen

A year in the saddle: What a year it has been at Woodridge Equestrian Centre! From first-time riders finding their balance to seasoned competitors testing their skills, our stables have been full of laughter, learning and plenty of hoofbeats.

Competitions and Achievements: Our riders have shone brightly this year, both at home and away. We celebrated personal bests at local Western Mounted Games shows, brave rounds at show jumping shows that earned their well-deserved rosettes.

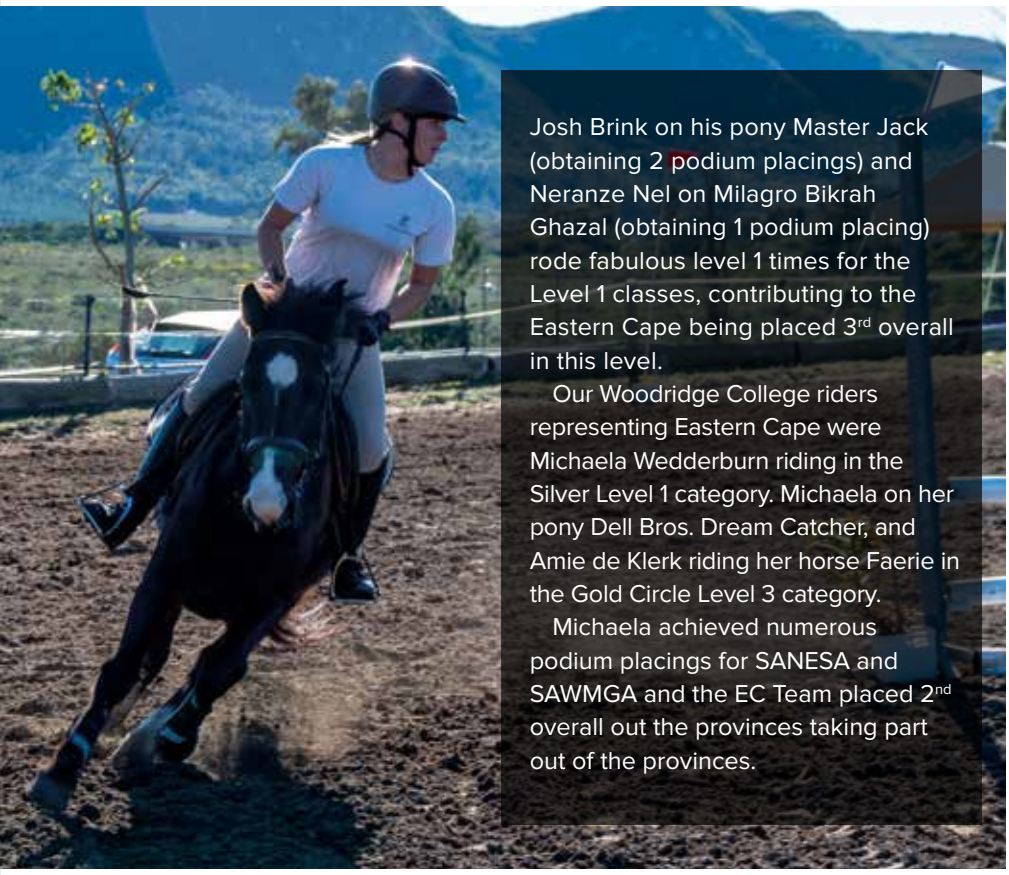
Three of our College Show Jumping riders, Annabelle Reitz, Iviwe Ngangelizwe and Kungamsa Sitoto were chosen to represent Eastern Cape 1.1m & 90cm teams respectively at the Annual SA Youth Championships held at Kyalami Equestrian Park in Gauteng during 28th June to 9th July.

Amidst tendon injuries to Annabelle's horse, we were able to find substitute horses for her classes, proving just how diverse and skilled Annabelle can be with the new rides, achieving 4th place in the Open Working Hunter Category. Iviwe and Kungamsa earned several top placings in large show jumping classes of 108 Junior riders per class, a testament to our riders' dedication to the sport.

A highlight was seeing our Western Mounted Games riders take the arena with speed and precision in the mounted games – weaving, bending and barrel racing with huge smiles. These events brought fantastic energy and showcased the incredible variety of talent within our Woodridge community.

Several of our Woodridge pupils and External WEC riders we chosen to represent Eastern Cape at the South African Western Mounted Games Nationals held at Parys during September to October. This year it boasted 697 horses competing over 5 grueling days, starting with 2 days of Silver Circle riders (Levels 0,1 &2 riders) and ending with 3 days of Gold Circle riders (advanced Levels 3 &4 as well as the SAEF Protea riders).

Prep riders Zenande Martins (placed 15th overall) and Stella Giulietti rode in the Rising Stars Level O classes, with Stella low flying and bringing home the Overall Sanesa Primary school Level 0 championship! First time out at such a huge competition for both Stella and her pony WEC Juan's Bacardi!



Josh Brink on his pony Master Jack (obtaining 2 podium placings) and Neranze Nel on Milagro Bikrah Ghazal (obtaining 1 podium placing) rode fabulous level 1 times for the Level 1 classes, contributing to the Eastern Cape being placed 3rd overall in this level.

Our Woodridge College riders representing Eastern Cape were Michaela Wedderburn riding in the Silver Level 1 category. Michaela on her pony Dell Bros. Dream Catcher, and Amie de Klerk riding her horse Faerie in the Gold Circle Level 3 category.

Michaela achieved numerous podium placings for SANESA and SAWMGA and the EC Team placed 2nd overall out the provinces taking part out of the provinces.

Amie and Faerie (a new partnership) placed top 15th in most of the games and with EC Sanesa Team achieving 4th place overall out of the many provinces participating this year at Nationals. Amie guided her feisty mare skillfully through all the games, a strong combination to follow in future.

Archery on Horseback is an exciting addition to our Equestrian disciplines offered at Woodridge! Riders learnt the art of balance, focus, and trust as they guided their horses while shooting arrows at targets. It was a true test of horsemanship and partnership, and it quickly became a fun activity for both participants and spectators. Nothing beats the thrill of hitting a bullseye from horseback! Prep rider Ivanka van Vuuren and College rider Kaitlyn Bellingan were chosen and represented Eastern Cape at the SANESA Mounted Archery Nationals held in Pretoria on the 12th October. Ivanka placed first for the SANESA Primary school Rising stars Level 0 category on WEC Juan's Bacardi. College rider Kaitlyn Bellingan on Wildfire, achieved an EC Team 2nd placing. Well done to both of you, a far way to travel with the ponies and dedication pays off.

Woodridge hosted 2 Eventing shows this year, with the second being the Eastern Championships which was well attended by local and Western Cape riders. Annabelle Reitz riding Cleopatra Delbart placed first in the SANESA 75cm High School category. While Iviwe Ngangelizwe placed 2nd in the High School 85cm class. Tough competition on the newly revamped courses.

Sanesa Prize giving kept us all in suspense as the audience waited in anticipation for the top 3 High school and Primary school results to be read out... and... (drum roll)... Woodridge College placed 1st overall amongst the participating High Schools in the Eastern Cape, and with Woodridge Preparatory school placing 2nd overall amongst the participating Eastern Cape Primary schools!

COLLEGE RIDERS

Back Row: *Mr Christiaan Petersen, Mr Athenkosi Hlebani, Mr Wilson Tsosane*
Middle Row: *Mr Siya Zondani, Iviwe Ngangelizwe, Kungamsa Sitoto, Ida-Marie Breitfeld, Gabriella Neethling, Kaitlyn Bellingan, Maya-Faye Maxwell*
Front Row: *Assia de Oliveira Rodrigues, Annabelle Reitz, Miss Elize Nel, Mrs Eleni Pullen, Emily Horsfield, Nicole Reid*
Absent: *India Walker*

SANESA

Back Row: *Mrs Elini Pullen, Mr Siya Zondani, Pony: Juan's Bacardi*
Middle Row: *Amie de Klerk, Michaela Wedderburn, Ivanka van Vuuren, Kaitlyn Bellingan*
Front Row: *Stella Giulietti, Joshua Brin, Zanande Martin*

Our Sanesa College Team riders are Annabelle Reitz (WEC Captain), Nicole Reid, Kaitlyn Bellingan, Iviwe Ngangelizwe, Emily Horsfield (Vice Captain), Maya-Faye Maxwell, Ida Breitfeld, Michaela Wedderburn, Amie de Klerk, Gabrielle Neethling and Kungamsa Sitoto.

The Sanesa Primary School Team riders are Ella Clemence, Zenande Martin, Wongalethu Koom, Lia-Grace van der Westhuizen, Stella Giulietti, Josh Brink, Caitlyn de Beer, Benjamin Keld, Ivanka van Vuuren, Riley Upman and Sibabalwe Mpongoshe.

A fabulous result for our dedicated Woodridge riders, well done to all our riders taking part in the SANESA Equestrian shows this year.

Our students also grew in numbers, from eager beginners on lead rein to adventurous riders trying mounted archery for the first time. Watching these partnerships blossom has been one of the year's great joys.

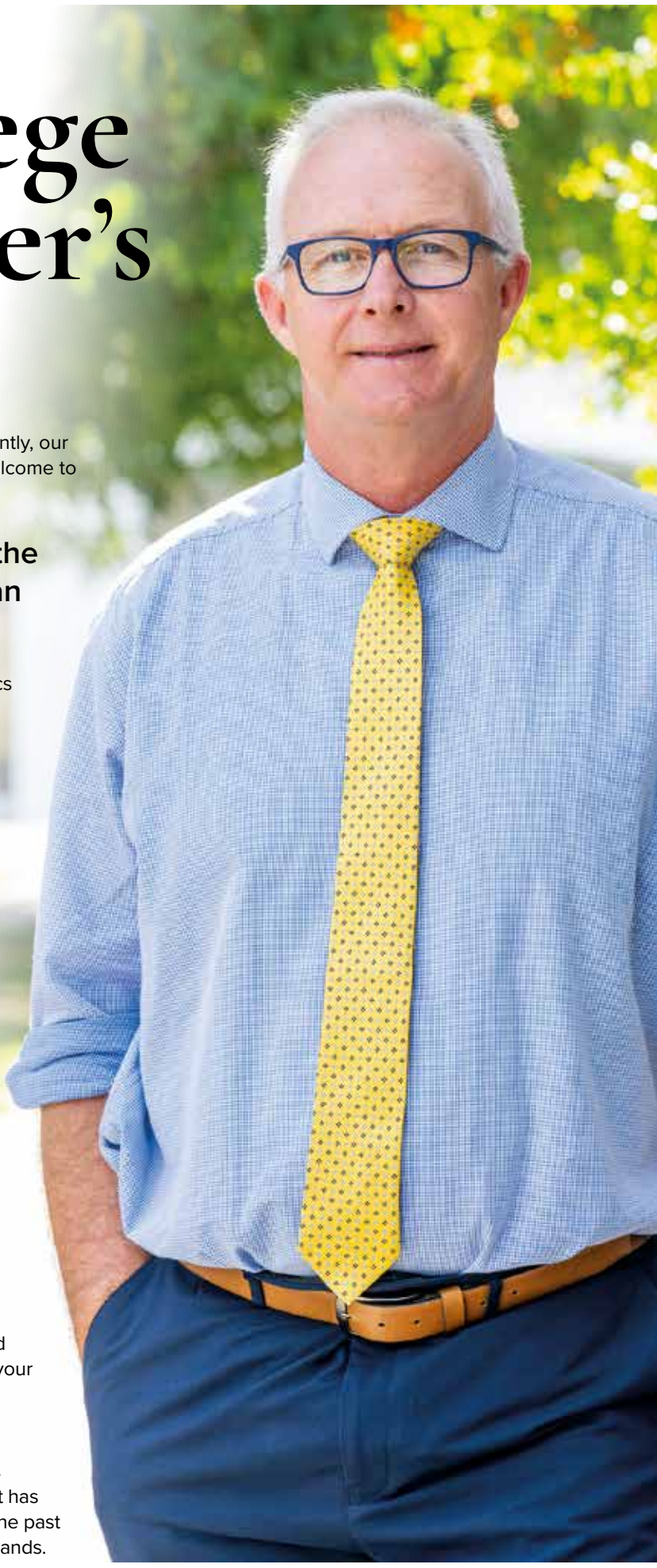
Education remains at the heart of everything we do. This year's combined traditional lessons with western games and archery sessions, giving riders a taste of many disciplines. While riders practiced everything from flatwork basics to competitive agility. Beyond the arena, stable management lessons helped students deepen their connection to horses by learning the importance of care and responsibility.

Our riders are all awaiting the annual December pony camp, which is always the highlight for closing off the school year for our riders.

Looking ahead, as we close off the chapter on an adventurous year, we are grateful to every rider, parent, volunteer and – most of all – every horse and pony who has made Woodridge Equestrian Centre such a vibrant place. With more Show Jumping, Western Mounted Games, more archery and more time in the saddle ahead, we're excited to see what new milestones the coming year will bring.

Back Row: *Mr Wilson Tsosane, Cailyn de Beer, Lia-Grace vd Westhuizen, Amila Faltain, Mia Nel, Anna Hickman, Lila Kaarse, Benjamin Keld, Ava Duxbury, Nina Curtis, Mr Christiaan Petersen.*
Middle Row: *Mr Athenkosi Hlebani, Lady Minx, Ella Clemence, Mrs Allison Duncan, Ms Elize Nel, Luana de Pavia, Sophie de Klerk, Niva Coleman, Flourence Fleming, Stella Giulietti, Maddock de Beer, Isreal de Beer, Ivanka van Vuuren, Zenande Martin, Wongalethu Koom, Josh Brink, Mirhan Hassin, Mr Siyabulela Zondani, Mikhalya Moller, Isabella (Izzy), Bella Watson.*
Front Row: *Riley Upman, Leo Katzen, Kirah Mohanlal, Caleb Ferreira, Rayden Ferreira, Iyana Notshe , Saskia Marshall-Smith, Scarlett de Beer, Yamihle Sishuba, Asande Kobese, Ayla Mohanlal, Taylor Davidson, Remi Scheepers, Ava du Preez*
Absent: *Mrs Eleni Pullen, Joelle Adams, Zirong Gao, Skyler Moss, Larsen Meyer, Kimber Rautenbach, Ziva Blignaut, Hayley Aldred.*

From the College Headmaster's Desk



Special guests, matric parents, staff and, most importantly, our matric class of 2025 – good morning and a warm welcome to the 2025 Valedictory Service.

Nelson Mandela said, "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Today marks a truly significant milestone in your lives, Matrics – the culmination of years filled with learning, laughter, late nights, unexpected challenges, and incredible personal growth. You have all come such a long way since Grade 8! Today is not just a time to celebrate the end of your formal schooling, but also a moment to pause and reflect on the journey that has brought you here, and the exciting road that lies ahead.

Your early high school years were incredibly uncertain times in our country (Nicci spoke to it in her address at prize giving), but through it all, you proved yourselves to be so much more than just survivors of a pandemic. You became resilient, resourceful, and remarkably adaptable.

Albert Einstein was quoted as saying: "In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity."

You embraced change with courage. Where others saw obstacles, your generation saw opportunities to grow. You have become independent, confident, and digitally fluent – often outpacing the world around you. You haven't just adapted to change; you've helped shape it.

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire" according to the Irish poet, William Butler Yeats.

And that fire – your curiosity, your drive, your ability to innovate – is what sets your generation apart. As a generation, you've learned how to think critically, to ask questions, to challenge norms, and to create new possibilities. You have become agents of change in a world that desperately needs your ideas, your compassion, and your servant leadership.

After all, "the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams" as Eleanor Roosevelt said.

As you stand at the edge of this chapter and look towards the next, remember this: your journey is not defined by what has happened to you, but by how you have responded. And, if the past few years are any indication, your future is in very capable hands.

So, as you move forward, carry with you the lessons you've learned, not just in textbooks, but in life. Be proud of whom you've become. And, most importantly, never stop learning, growing, and giving the best of yourselves to the world. The world needs good people who can make a positive difference.

As you look towards your futures, I ask you always to remember this one thing: You live in a beautiful country – a place rich in culture, spirit, and possibility. My hope is that, wherever life takes you, you remain a passionate South African at heart – committed to building, contributing, and uplifting.

As you sit here today, ready to step into the world beyond these walls, pause for a moment. Reflect on what you've achieved. You've spent thousands of hours in classrooms, on sports fields, in cultural spaces, and out in nature. And in doing so, you've shaped not only your minds, but who you are today.

You've formed friendships that will echo throughout your life. You've faced challenges, celebrated victories, and learned lessons far beyond the pages of any textbook.

My hope is that one of the most powerful lessons you've learnt is the strength of community. Community is not just about being together – it's about belonging. At Woodridge, you have experienced what it means to be part of something greater than yourself.

After all, in the words of Brene Brown, "true belonging doesn't require us to change who we are; it requires us to be who we are."

That sense of belonging – that shared humanity – is what gives us resilience. It reminds us that we matter to one another, that we are stronger together, and that, even in times of uncertainty, we are never alone.

As you leave this place, I hope you find your new community – your next tribe – one where you can continue to grow, contribute, and be fully yourself.

You carry with you the values that have shaped your time here. Compassion. Empathy. Tenacity. Respect.

These are more than just words on a wall – they are the compass that will guide you through both the calm and the storms in your lives to come.

Life beyond Woodridge will not always be easy. There will be moments of uncertainty, times when the path forward is unclear, or when the world feels heavy.

But remember this:

You are ready.

You are strong.

You are capable.

You all have within you:

The strength to overcome,

The wisdom to adapt,

And the courage to keep moving forward.

So go forward – with purpose, with pride, and with heart. Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.

This moment is not an ending, but a beginning – an exciting chapter waiting to be written.

Class of 2025, go out into the world with courage and purpose. Live boldly. Don't be afraid to take risks, to stumble, to start again. Great things rarely come without setbacks—and it is often in our failures that we find our greatest growth.

Robert F. Kennedy once said:

"Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly."

As you venture forward, lean on the friendships and connections you've built here at Woodridge. They are the foundation of your journey – reminders of where you come from, and of the family that stands behind you, always.

We are incredibly proud of you. You have left a mark on this school – through your spirit, your perseverance, your leadership – but now it's time to leave your mark on the world. Not just as adults, but as adults of significance: those who uplift others, stand for something greater than themselves, and lead with heart.

Of course, before that next chapter begins, there remains one final mountain to climb: your IEB Final Examinations. Approach them with confidence. With clarity. With the knowledge that you are capable – more than capable – of achieving great things.

Stay focused but stay balanced. Prioritize your well-being. Get enough rest. Give yourself space to pause, reflect, and breathe. A clear and rested mind will carry you further than late-night cramming ever could.

You are not alone in this. Behind you stand your teachers, your families, and your friends – ready to support you, to encourage you, and to remind you of your worth, especially when you forget it yourself.

Please take a moment in the next little while to express your thanks.

To your teachers – for their dedication, guidance, and belief in your potential.

To your families – your greatest supporters, whose sacrifices often go unseen.

And to your friends – those who have walked beside you, shared your laughter, and lightened your burdens.

Above all, remember this: Your exam results do not define you. They are important, yes, but they are just one part of a far greater journey. Your value is not measured by marks on a paper, but by the strength of your character, the kindness you show, and the way you carry yourself through life.

I have no doubt that you will make us proud—both in these final moments, and in the years to come.

Finish strong. Take with you the lessons, the friendships, and the values that Woodridge has instilled in you.

And as you step into the world, go forward with strength, compassion, and hope.

Always remember to dream big – and be kind.

The late Jane Goodall said that "what you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

Finally, to the stalwarts of Woodridge – those who have stood tall, lived our values, done the right thing even when no one was watching – you are the backbone of this College. I salute you.

To each of you, be safe, stay safe, and always look out for one another.

Wherever life takes you – take Woodridge with you.

Matrics, I trust you will ring the bell with pride after the service – enjoy this moment! Go well!

Speech Night address

Good evening – staff, parents, and most importantly, pupils.

Thank you for asking me to speak tonight Mr Hartley – it is indeed a honour and privilege.

Let me start with a simple but powerful question:

How do you show up?

How you show up – to class, to sports practices and matches, to your friends and family – determines how productive, meaningful, and successful those moments will be.

By showing up, I do not just mean being physically present. I am talking about your mindset – your energy, your attitude, your intention.

Are you prepared? Open-minded? Focused? Curious?

Are you excited to learn, to grow, to contribute, to improve your skills?

Because if you are, you have already laid a solid foundation for a successful and meaningful lesson or session.

I recall the time when I moved from teaching high school to working in a primary school. One thing became clear very quickly: how pupils show up for sports matches , can look vastly different at different ages.

At high school sports fixtures, I could count on the boys arriving focused, calm, and ready to compete.

In primary school? That was a different story.

You never quite knew how the boys would show up – sometimes focussed and ready however other times boys would be chasing each other around, burning off energy, eating chips and ice cream – not exactly the ideal pre-match meal or preparation , at those times – I remember thinking, "It's going to be a long day..."

Interestingly, when it came to academics, it was often the reverse.

Prep pupils walked into class buzzing with excitement, and eager to learn.

Collegers (as the prepies refer to you) ? Well, let us just say that energy can fade over time.

In sport, how a team warms up gives a coach a truly clear picture of what is to come from both your own team and the opposition.

If players are sluggish, unfocused, lack energy and intensity during the warm up drills, and are not listening to the captain or coach – you can tell they have not shown up with the right mindset.

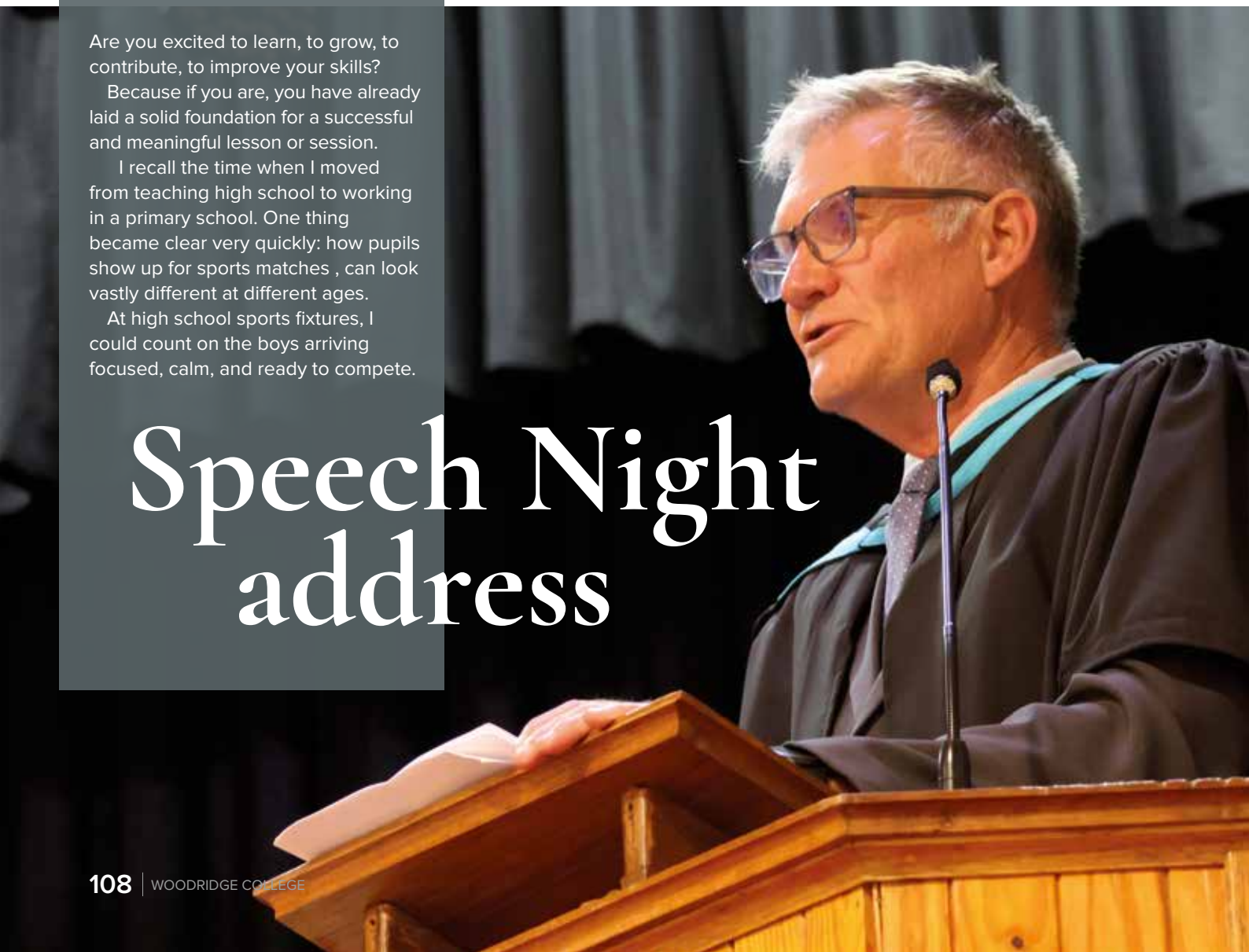
The game is often decided before the whistle blows – in the preparation, warm up, and in the attitude – this is the mindset that the team carries out onto the field.

Just like in sport, how you show up – also applies to the classroom.

If you arrive with the right books, you have done the homework, you are curious, engaged, respectful, and focused – then you have shown up with intention. And that changes everything, you are ready to learn and have a productive lesson.

How you show up – to school, to sport, to your relationships – is shaping the person you are becoming.

So, the question is not just how you show up for a match or lesson – it is how you choose to show up every single day."



Whether it is in a classroom, on the field, or with your friends and family , you owe it to yourself and to others to show up as your best self.

Showing up is the first step. Your mindset lays the foundation – your attitude builds on it.

Simon Sinek, a well-known motivational leadership speaker, once said:

"Companies do not hire for skills – those can be taught. They hire for attitude."

They employ people who want to learn, who are committed driven, full of integrity and work collaboratively.

Your attitude is what makes the difference.

Look at great sportspeople – They train with intention every single day. Every kick or pass, catch and hit on the practice field counts — they are not just going through the motions. By doing this, they are ready for the big moments on match days – the moments that can make the difference between winning and losing.

When a match is on the line, the habits they have built by always giving their best, and their mindset, give them the edge.

But the opposite is also true.

A poor attitude can bring down an entire team. During the last Rugby World Cup, in the early pool games the Springboks were not performing at their best. Rassie Erasmus noticed this. He called out Siya Kolisi – the captain – and two senior players for showing poor attitude and how it was affecting team performance. His message was clear: No one is bigger than the team.

After that tough conversation, the team's performance turned a corner.

This clearly shows – attitude defines performance.

Rassie, often asks his players: For whom are you showing up? Before the world cup, players even have photos of these people – family, mentors, friends – woven into the number on the back of their jerseys. It is a reminder that how they show up is bigger than just themselves. It is about honouring family , the people who believe in them. And the same is true for you. When you show up – with focus, with courage, with the right attitude – you are not just doing it for yourself, you are doing it for your family, your teammates, your classmates, and your school.

Be the person whose attitude inspires others.

Here is the truth: Attitude is your choice. Every single day.

It is not about being perfect – it's about being consistent.

Attitudes, if repeated regularly transform into habits

Habits are not something you can just turn on when convenient and turn off when it gets hard. You are either building discipline or letting it slip away. The mindset you choose – to push yourself or to take the easy road – is the one you carry with you from every lesson to every challenge, from the classroom to the sports field, and into the way you live your life."

Every day, you are either building strong attitudes or eroding them.

If you are always late to class, you are building a reputation of unreliability disrespectfulness.

If you are only kind when it is easy, kindness will not be your instinct when life gets tough.

If you are ill-disciplined in the classroom, you will be the same on the sports field – and instead of being an asset, you risk becoming a liability.

In business and in sport, people talk a lot about branding. A brand is more than just a logo or a name – it is the reputation you build through consistent actions. Think of sports teams: the All Blacks, the Springboks – when they walk onto the field, their brand is immediately recognised because of how they consistently show up. The same is true in business. Nike is known worldwide for their 'Just Do It' attitude – a brand built on energy, effort, and boldness. Apple has built its brand by showing up with innovation and style, year after year. The same principle applies to you: how you show up every day is your personal brand. If you are reliable, focused, respectful, and positive, that is the brand people remember. If you are lazy, distracted, or negative – that becomes your brand too. You do not choose whether or not you have a brand. You only choose what kind of brand you are building.

So, guard your attitude – and work at it.

Developing a good attitude forms the habits that define who you are.

In his book Die Empty: Unleash Your Best Work Every Day, author Todd Henry lists the 7 Deadly Sins of Mediocrity – habits that sneak in and limit our potential. Before you know it, these habits shape who you are:

- Aimlessness – No clear purpose or direction. Just going through the motions.
- Boredom – Lack of curiosity or drive, unwillingness to learn and improve.
- Comfort – Settling for average, unwilling to stretch or grow.
- Delusion – Believing you are giving your best when you are not.
- Ego – Thinking you have all the answers, so you do not ask for advice or help.
- Fear – Avoiding discomfort when that's where growth happens.
- Guardedness – Closing yourself off from others and new ideas.

Each of these habits is a trap – and they are easy to fall into if you are not paying attention.

Remember: Every time you choose ease over effort, you rehearse mediocrity.

So, ask yourself:

How am I showing up?

Am I showing up with purpose – not just presence?

With attitude – not just talent?

With courage – not just comfort?

Am I allowing fear and ego to hold me back?

Or am I building habits that lift me, strengthen others, and prepare me for future opportunities?

Because the way we show up is the way we live.

I will leave you with the words of Aristotle: "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."

So tomorrow, when you walk into class, run onto the sports field, or greet a friend , or sharing stories with you family – ask yourself: How am I showing up?

Because how you show up today shapes who you will become tomorrow.

College Headboy

Behind every achievement there is a mother who encourages, a father who sacrifices, a teacher who inspires, or a friend who cares.

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I stand before you tonight with the privilege of being the College Head Boy for 2025. This year has been a rollercoaster ride with many challenges, but here we are near the end, celebrating the achievements born of hard work and talent.

While the students – the prize-winners – are the stars of the show tonight, don't forget that every celebration is only made possible with support. Behind every achievement there is a mother who encourages, a father who sacrifices, a teacher who inspires, or a friend who cares. I encourage all of you tonight to reflect on those who saw something in you and allowed you to excel.

Let me start off with some sport achievements.

The Boys' 1st Cricket team faced a challenging start to the year, but have shown great resilience and determination, finishing the second half of the season with impressive victories over strong opponents such as Wynberg.

Despite starting the season late and having a change in management, the 1st rugby team managed to show guts against solid opposition. First team sports go through highs and lows, and the tough results this season don't reflect the effort put in by the team. Despite our often-smaller stature and the countless injuries suffered during the season, Woodridge's resilience shone through and the team managed to surprise in games that many others wrote off.

The Hockey schedule for our teams was a very busy but immensely successful one. The boys' 1st team took part in the Belgotex Tournament in Cape Town and managed to make a significant improvement in placing. The highlight of the year was no doubt the away fixture at York. After an unbelievably spirited 2nd team game resulted in a narrow loss, the boys ran on under the lights of a delayed start time with a point to prove. Braving the icy cold conditions, the supporters didn't stop singing alongside the newly formed Woodridge Cheer Band. Six instruments accompanied the singing, performing music written by one of

our own talented musicians. Two minutes remained when the winning goal was scored. The atmosphere made it a game that neither player nor spectator would forget soon.

And, yes, Water Polo Boys, you did outshine the rest. Boasting an incredible win rate, the boys faced some of the toughest opposition in the country and often managed to come out on top. The U15s accompanied the 1st Team to Croatia in August where both teams did really well and gained massive experience against European opposition. To date, this year's 1st Team is the most successful in our history, winning the Rob Carlton tournament, the Co-Ed festival and beating the Eastern Cape giants, Grey. Behind the glamorous results, however, came some unwavering dedication. The 5 a.m. alarms in my dorm going off for early fitness did wake me up, and were slightly annoying, but the results spoke for themselves. They are a testament to what Woodridge can achieve in the near future.

This year, the calendar shifted slightly, allowing for a three-week period dedicated to Outdoor Education and Interhouse Sport. Interhouse competition this year expanded to include all the major sports and even included a General Knowledge Quiz! It was great to see the competitiveness between the students and a revival of how serious the rivalry between houses used to be.

The beauty of Woodridge is that a student's opportunity is not limited to the conventional sports.

Outdoor Education runs through the entire year, and learners can do extra activities like Archery in the week and Rock Climbing on the weekends, to name a few. A newly formed Mountain Biking Team recently hosted an event on campus, and with the talent among our riders, I have no doubt the crew will soon be a force to be reckoned with.

We are also a home to many clubs which we get to participate in during our cultural lesson every Monday. One club that is making a huge difference is Woodridge Interact. They have been hard at work restoring the Thornhill library, all the while managing many different drives. Sanitary products and sandwiches are donated to nearby schools and this year they organised many fundraising events such as the Colour Run for Cansa.

Initiative taken by a few awesome people in my grade led to a new event, the Grade 11 Dance, being introduced at the end of last year. The event is a great teaser for the highlight of a matric girl's schooling, the Matric Dance. I want to thank all the people behind the scenes that made this logistical nightmare possible. This is also a perfect time to compliment Nicci on her sokkie skills - and thank her for all the work she has put in this year. She was a great teammate and leader, instrumental in helping everything run smoothly.

Hostel has been a home to me since Grade 8 and deciding to be a boarder has been one of the best decisions I have made. No stronger bond is formed than one founded on stealing each other's food and pretending it wasn't you.

A question I often get asked is what I actually do in this position. It's always a tough one to answer, because nothing massive springs to mind. The reality is that we seldom make a tangible impact. The job of a school leader is to be a role model and to give students a voice. Evidence of good leadership should be seen in the day-to-day morale of the students, and in this sense, I feel the prefect body has done a great job with its limited decision-making power. There have been a few hiccups this year that I was tempted to mention tonight, but it would be sad to give a few people the attention they don't deserve. Still, it's worth remembering that leadership exists at many levels, and when influence is used unfairly – by anyone – it affects the spirit of those who look up to them.

This school is an institution like no other and has moulded many into great men and women. For me, it has given me an opportunity to become the best version of myself.

A beautiful example of Woodridge spirit was displayed at the end of last year. One of my friends fought a tough upbringing to become one of the nicest people you could meet. Unfortunately, it is often the people with the happiest faces fighting the most difficult battles. A few bad decisions led to his being removed from hostel just before final exams began. Transport would be an issue from his home, and his chances of finishing with a matric certificate were plummeting. This is where the story takes a turn... One of the teachers welcomed him into their home and let him stay there for the last 6 weeks of matric. The teacher printed past papers and helped him with anything he needed, and he finished his year with strong results. It is this kind of story that makes me proud to call myself a product of the Woodridge culture.

This evening, I have not mentioned any names; however, I cannot help but mention the one that we all know of as the GOAT, Mr Bains. I had the privilege of spending my favourite 21 Days of high school with him in the Baviaans. Sir, you are a representation of everything that is good in this world. Your little talks to us go further than you think. Your kindness is an inspiration to everyone, and if I can make as big a positive impact on a life as you have had on mine and many others, my job as a human is done. Thank you for everything, sir.

As I end off, I'd like to leave you with some advice which I have accrued from my few years on this earth. Begin by realising that you are always going to have yourself as company. When it comes to achieving goals or the manner in which you speak or think, make sure that you aren't striving to please others, but rather pursue the ability to love living with yourself. Be proud of who you are, and the way in which you carry yourself each day.

Above all, keep your faith close, and don't be afraid to speak up – even when it's uncomfortable. George Martin said it best:

"When you tear out a man's tongue, you are not proving him a liar; you're only telling the world that you fear what he might say."

Thank you for your time and please enjoy the evening.

College Headgirl

That's what makes us all so "Woodridge" though. We show up, we try, we conquer.

Good evening parents, staff, members of the trust, OWA, and to my fellow pupils. It is an honour to stand here tonight as your 2025 College Head Girl.

Back in 2021, I walked into Carter wearing a mask, hands sanitized and nervous about how I would make new friends in a new school in the middle of a pandemic. Teams and OneNote were overwhelming. I had 90 new sisters all asking me where I'm from. It felt like that hostel bell was permanently ringing, and nobody ever knew what for. What was I thinking coming here? But then, the bell turned into the sound of laughter after lights out. Online lessons were replaced with classes and netball and paddling and band practice. 90 new sisters turned into eight girls embarking on their Woodridge camp, then into fourteen young women who braved the Baviaans together. Everything that felt so daunting eventually fell into place. Now I stand here, ready to cheer on the Woodridgeans to come, and I can't help but reflect on my time here, and the year we have had. Tonight, I have the privilege to share with you some highlights.

Starting at the beginning of the year, we welcomed our Grade 8s of 2025. Nerves, excitement, smiles, new friends and uniforms slightly too big, you all bravely took on the college. From bubble camps down at Lily Pad Pond, to braving your first few nights in boarding or morning bus rides, each of you proved that you carry the tenacity of a true Woodridgean and were properly welcomed at our first ever blazer hand-over and bell-ringing ceremony.

The start of the school year also brings summer sport. Girls' Cricket has very much grown in popularity, sporting a strong 2nd team this year. Our 1st team had a win rate of 70%, and we had six EP representatives. The 1st team girls are even currently participating in a festival all the way in Worcester.

Girls' Water Polo has also shown immense growth. Yes, it feels like every time I walk past the pool, you guys are training. And evidently, the girls' hard work and dedication has paid off. They have achieved amazing results against strong schools, particularly a 6-3 win over Pearson 1sts just the other weekend.

Similarly, the girls' Tennis is on the rise – taking on the B league, and some A-division schools for the first time. The 1st team girls had a 100%-win rate this year and an amazing doubles match against Kingswood resulting in a 6-2 win.

Moving on from summer sport, the winter season had an early start. At the beginning of the April holiday, for the first time ever, Woodridge netball went on an all-ages tour to Paarl, playing at Paarl Gim, and LA Rochelle Girls' High. The girls faced teams ranked much higher than them, and from schools much bigger than us, yet they persevered, grew, and delivered impressive results.

The 1st team, in particular, had a spectacular season, facing many challenging games, but each time rising to the occasion. Standout games would definitely be against York and Kingswood, where the girls were met with loud crowds but managed to keep their composure. Overall, 1st team netball won eight out of their twelve Derby matches.

Woodridge 1st Girls' Hockey has also had a commendable season. The team had many early mornings and late evenings on the astro, showcasing their true dedication and love for the sport. Facing a number of high-ranking schools, the girls won seven out of their twelve Derby matches. Standout games include a draw with York High School and a 1-0 victory over Kingswood in the last two minutes.

The successes don't end there. We all already know that Woodridge has the only school Surf-lifesaving Club in the world. But did you know that we also had seven EP, and five International representatives. Jessica Harcus, Liam Schweitzer and Gian Moolman attended the Commonwealth Championships in Wales, bringing home seven Gold medals all together. Talk about Woodridge represent!

This year, Woodridge Equestrian Club had three EP representatives. And, I don't know much about horse riding, but when I hear words like Mounted Archery, Eventing and Western Mounted Games flying around, I'm already impressed!

Woodridge is, of course, also doing well on the cultural front – how can we not when there is so much to offer! Earth Hour is always a Term 1 highlight, giving many pupils the opportunity of showcasing themselves 'mic-ed' up. Throughout the year, we also had a number of soirées and special performances. Six musicians took part in external music examinations, and five went on to participate in the Pearson Praeludium Festival, all showcasing their passion, dedication and skill.

Inter-house Plays is another yearly highlight. Senior Drama pupils write, direct, and sometimes even act in short plays. It is really amazing to see our friends and classmates up on stage, giving us all a show and often also a laugh.

Other Inter-house highlights include our Gala, Athletics Day, Trail Run, General Knowledge Quiz, sport events and the River Race.

And, of course, what would Woodridge be without an OE day? This year OE day was held on the OWA reunion weekend. Starting from Thursday night at Remo's, to our Founders' Assembly and OWA VS current pupils' sports matches on Friday, to The Wall on Saturday afternoon, the weekend was a major success. Every pupil who showed up gave it their all, whether it be for Carter, Founders or Kholer. This year, many Wall age groups even sported more than one team, and other Wall teams needed to adapt to last minute injuries or changes. The OWA impressed us with their speedy climb up the senior boys' wall, despite us worrying whilst watching their earlier practices... I guess the old boys aren't THAT old. That's what makes us all so "Woodridge" though. We show up, we try, we conquer.

Now, while I could stand here and ramble and boast about Woodridge all night, I must say that everything mentioned does not just happen. We have amazing teachers and coaches whom we often forget to thank. We have parents and guardians who support our teams and activities.

Further, many events were organized and pulled together with the help of the 2025 Prefect body. To all of you, I say thank you. I also must mention Dimitri, for all your hard work, dedication and openness to learning how to *sokkie* for our MD dance; as well as our Heads of School, Mr Hartley, Dr Logie, Mr Botha and Mr Kock, for your unwavering support and guidance throughout this jam-packed year.

I must also say thank you to the people who shaped me into who I am today, and who got me to where I am standing now. My parents, who made sacrifices and who supported my sister and I coming to this amazing school. Also, my second moms—my hostel moms—who have watched me grow since Grade 8. These amazing role models have shown me how to be myself, how to stand up for what I believe in, how to thrive under pressure. They have also helped me chase monkeys out of my dorm and have been on my case about weekend arrangements.

2025 has truly been a busy year – each of us sitting here has faced challenges that no one might have been aware of, as well as gained the small victories that have kept us going. Nearly a year ago, in my first speech as Head Girl in the Raymond Ritchie Hall, I said that everyone is a leader. In the same way, everyone deserves to be recognized for their victories, no matter how small. And I am not trying to take away from the accomplishments being honoured here tonight, but you all really are truly amazing. I also need to extend congratulations to those who may not be receiving an award tonight. Just because you haven't been invited to walk across the stage, does not mean your hard work or dedication or victories are not seen. You know what you have put in. You know how many trophies you have accumulated in your mental trophy cabinet this year. And that is what matters. Be proud of yourselves. As you may have heard, Woodridge is an incredibly busy school. Don't think your contribution doesn't count.

Thank you

Nicci Barnard

Prizegiving

GRADE 8		
Academic Achievement	Jade Beckley, Likhwa Dube (ICT), Lily-Rose Ferrant, Madison Klinkert, Lunawe Mthimunye, Sloan Radue, Abigail Reed, Sydney Stiemie, Bella Tassan, Alexa Thornton, Jenna Thornton, Mila von Hagen (Drama), Michael Wei	
Subject Prize	**Afrikaans**	Hayley Young
	isiXhosa	Sango Mashaya
Academic Excellence	Quinn Foreman (History), Xinyu Luo (Economic Management Sciences, Life Sciences), Tau Moloi, Amy Seymour, Simliziwe Swayena, Danté Williams (Mathematics)	
Third Prize	Lumae Van der Berg (Academic Excellence)	
Second Prize	Buhle Ngweba (Academic Excellence)	
First Prize	Amelie Meara (Academic Excellence, Afrikaans, Economic Management Sciences, English, Geography, Music, Physical Science, Visual Arts)	

GRADE 9		
Academic Achievement	Emma Abbott, Tulie Clarke, Amie de Klerk, Isla Kelly, Reinart Kok, Chloe Middleton, Gabrielle Neethling (Drama), Hudson Whitehouse	
Subject Prize	**Mathematical Literacy**	Zac Dysel
	Visual Arts	Caitlin Erlank
Academic Excellence	John Ackerman, Ashlee Buhr, Ava Chantson, Marcus Jansen van Vuuren (Physical Science), Daniel Lokotsch (History), Tandolwethu Ludidi (English, isiXhosa), Connor Meara (Economic Management Sciences), Sange Nogqala, Leah Owen, Hannah Potgieter (Music), Stephen Swanepoel, Gaby Webb (Afrikaans)	
Third Prize	Luca Hamlet (Academic Excellence, Mathematics, Physical Science)	
Second Prize	Iminathi Mashelele (Academic Excellence, Geography, ICT)	
First Prize	Olivia Montagna (Academic Excellence, Afrikaans, Drama, Life Sciences)	

GRADE 10		
Academic Achievement	Jon-Luc de Meillon, William Faifer, Mia Holme (Drama), Ella Leshem, Limilicebolenkosi Matanda (isiXhosa), Francois Nel (Accounting, Afrikaans), Gareth Steenkamp (Business Studies), Callyn Vickery	
Subject Prize	**Afrikaans**	Joshua Reed
	Computer Applications Technology	Hannah de Necker
	Geography, Life Orientation	Ava Horner
	Life Orientation	Mihlali Nyila
	Life Sciences	Phoebe Chantson
Academic Excellence	Luke Chantson (History), Britt Degoumois (Business Studies, Tourism), Daniel Potgieter (Physical Science), Harry Thompson (Physical Science)	
Third Prize	Lawrence Chang (Academic Excellence, Information Technology) and Sasha Stottelaar (Academic Excellence)	
Second Prize	Rebecca Stottelaar (Academic Excellence, Mathematics)	
First Prize	Kate Herselman (Academic Excellence, English, Mathematical Literacy, Visual Arts)	

GRADE 11		
Academic Achievement	Guinevere Birch, Zara Bonnasse (English), Corban Calitz, Daniel Darlow, Imitha Galada, Maria King, Mia Mapaling, Somila Voorslag, Sihle Zenzile	
Subject Prize	**Computer Applications Technology**	Ndapewa Aluteni
	Drama	Aidan Paine
	Mathematical Literacy	Ava Gerber
	Visual Arts	Cameron Whitehouse
Academic Excellence	Morgan Ackerman (Academic Excellence, Business Studies), Michael Gothard (Academic Excellence, Information Technology), Vaclav Horak, Salizwa Masoka (isiXhosa), Gian Moolman	
Third Prize	Alexa O'Riain (Academic Excellence, History, Life Orientation)	
Second Prize	Sienna Peens (Academic Excellence, Geography, Life Sciences, Tourism)	
First Prize	Siân Dearmer (Academic Excellence, Accounting, Afrikaans, Mathematics, Physical Science)	

GRADE 12		
Academic Achievement	Nicole Barnard, Chloe Bateman (Visual Art), Lucy Dyer, Nathan Flugel, Someleze Jacobs (Drama), Anna Kirsten, Daniel May, BuhlebeMvelo Mnyaka, Madison Morris, Aneeqah Smith, Rachel Stone	
Subject Prize	**Business Studies**	Joshua Basson
	Drama	Lauren Lippstreu
	Visual Art	Isabella Dinwiddy
	isiXhosa	Sthandiwe Salmani
Academic Excellence	Tamsin De Villiers (Information Technology), Conor Gallagher, Taylor-Anne Jones, Jade Kelly, Georgia Kilfoil (Life Sciences), Riley Slack, Daniella Smith (Life Sciences), Sandra Smith (Mathematical Literacy, Tourism), Dané Strydom (Afrikaans)	
Third Prize	Alexander Moolman (Academic Excellence)	
Second Prize	Dimitri Alexandris (Academic Excellence, Afrikaans, Computer Applications Technology, Physical Science, Harrison–Cowley Trophy for Maths and Science)	

First Prize	Rebecca Botha (Academic Excellence, Accounting, English, Geography, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Noel & Ira Parker Memorial Trophy for Grade 12 English, Harrison–Cowley Trophy for Maths and Science, Bob Ballantyne Trophy for the School Dux)

MUSIC AWARDS	
Waison Steel Band Trophy	Gabriella Puttergill
Steenkamp Trophy for Overall Contribution to Music	Mischa Killian
Barbara Dickinson Trophy for Consistent Effort	Jon-Luc de Meillon
Roelofsen Trophy for Most Promising Player of a Stringed Instrument	Siphesihle Mgogoshe
Adami Trophy for Most Promising Junior Musician	Hannah Potgieter
Linda Pledger Trophy for Most Promising Senior Musician	Ethan Foxcroft
Centaur Trophy for Most Promising Singer	Zintle Ramokolo
Kilian Choir Trophy	Zanele Mfuleni
Subject Music Trophy	Nathan Flugel & Ethan Foxcroft
The Botes Trophy for Outstanding Achievement in Music	Nathan Flugel
The Intle Trophy for Most Promising Woodwind Player	Konwaba Qeqe
Roelofsen Trophy for Most Promising Pianist	Daniel Potgieter

ART AWARDS	
Bailey Trophy for the Best Drawing	Kate Herselman
Carter Trophy for Most Promising Junior Artist	Caitlin Erlank
May Trophy for the Most Promising Senior Artist	Cameron Whitehouse
Raith Trophy for the Best Artwork	Lily Beneka
MacDonald for the Best Overall Artist (Practical)	Chloe Bateman

DRAMA AWARDS	
Erasmus Trophy for the Best Actress	Mia Mapaling
Trophy for the Most Improved Actor	Tenielle Renze

GENERAL TROPHIES, CUPS AND SHIELDS	
Best Creative Writer	Luvuyo Titus
Surf Lifesaving Trophy for Best Junior Male Competitor *(presented by Mrs Pam Starck)*	Gian Moolman
Peter Cuff Trophy for Surf Lifesaving awarded to Best Junior Female Competitor	Daniella Harcus
General Tire Trophy: Best Male Competitor	Vaclav Horak
Stuart Schouw Trophy for Contribution to Lifesaving	Liam Schweitzer
Amica de Jager Trophy: Best Female Competitor	Jessica Harcus
Dr Miles Bowker Trophy: Lifesaver of the Year	Jessica Harcus
John Berriman Trophy: Open Boys' Squash	Michael Gothard
John Berriman Trophy: Junior Boys' Squash	Iminathi Mashelele
Hume Trophy: Open Girls' Squash	Gabrielle Rowe
Lake Pleasant Trophy for Outstanding Effort in Swimming	Danté Williams
Gordon Trophy for Outstanding Achievement in Swimming	Vaclav Horak
Tim Gordon Trophy for River Mile Champion	Gian Moolman
Centaur Trophy for the most improved Rider	Ida Breitfeld
Boulet Trophy for The Best Overall Junior College Rider	Kungamsa Sitoto
Hayward Trophy for the Best Overall Senior College Rider	Iviwe Ngangelizwe & Annabelle Reitz
Equestrian Trophy: Dedication in All Spheres	Maya-Faye Maxwell
Lynch Water-Polo Trophy for Best Junior Boy	Daniel Lokotsch & Malachi Smith
Stuart Schouw Trophy for Best Junior Water Polo (Girl)	Leah Owen
Mulckhuyse Trophy for Most Valuable Senior Water-Polo Player (Boy)	Alexander Moolman & Oliver Martin
Milne Trophy for Best Senior Water-Polo Player (Girl)	Daniella Smith & Rebecca Botha
Lok Trophy – Most Improved Netball Player	Callyn Vickery
Ciska Longland Trophy for Netball Player of the Year	Georgia Kilfoil & Tamsin de Villiers
Cindy Botes Trophy for the most Improved Junior Netball Player	Lathi-Tha Mnyaka
Des Neville Trophy Junior Netball Player of the Year	Lulo Gcilitshana
Most Improved Junior Hockey Player (Boy)	Marcus Jansen van Vuuren
Best Junior Boys' Hockey Player	Sachin Moothoo
McNamara Trophy – Most Improved Senior Hockey Player (Boy)	Mpumelelo Magwentshu
Best Senior Boys' Hockey Player	Ethan Moothoo
Kingwill Trophy for Contribution to Boys' Hockey	Mick Kirsten
Hume Trophy for Most Improved Junior Player (Girl)	Gaby Webb
Estelle de Wet Memorial Trophy: Hockey Player of the Year Junior Girl	Ashlee Buhr
Fraser Trophy for Most Improved Senior Player (Girl)	Rebecca McNicol & Jade Kelly
Marsden Trophy: Hockey Player of the Year Senior Girl	Anna Kirsten
Molikoe Trophy for contribution to Girls' Hockey	Anna Kirsten
Sheila Whitehouse Trophy for Open Boys' Tennis Champion	Joshua Basson

Eales Trophy for Open Girls' Tennis Champion	Riley Slack
Dave Cato Cricket Trophy: Most Promising Junior Cricketer	Noah Jacobs
Lloyd Baldie Trophy: Best Junior Cricketer	Jack Feltham
Trophy for Most Improved Cricketer (presented by the Rushmere Family)	Jay-Reece Maddatt
Rik Jamieson Memorial Trophy for Best all-round Cricketer	Randy Syce
Chris Stone Trophy for Most Promising Senior Cricketer	Randy Syce
Best Girls' Cricketer	Ashlee Buhr
Most Improved Girls' Cricketer	Aneeqah Smith
Most Promising Girls Cricketer	Ava Horner
'Sport Stott' Trophy for Contribution to Junior Rugby	Juan Blou
Sieberhagen Trophy for Best Junior Rugby Player	Mbasa Mbengashe
Bromfield Rugby Trophy	Somila Voorslag
Harvey Smith-Chandler Memorial Trophy – Boots and All	Conner Gallagher
Pietie van Blommenstein Memorial Trophy for Rugby Effort	Oliver Martin
Campbell Trophy for Outstanding Contribution to Senior Rugby	Dimitri Alexandris
Vermaak Shield for Best All-round Sportsman	Oliver Puttergill
Carter Trophy for Best All-round Sportswoman	Rebecca Botha

GENERAL AWARDS
HEADMASTER'S AWARD

Provincial Chess Podium	Deacon Dugmore
Provincial Fishing Podium	Daniel Darlow
Qualified for SA Schools Swimming Championships	Kendal McKay
Qualified for SA Schools Swimming Championships	Danté Williams
Podium for Trampolining at National Club Championships	Nathan Flugel
Life Saving: SA President's Team for the Surf Championships in New Zealand	Daniella Harcus
Life Saving: SA President's Team for the Commonwealth Games	Gian Moolman
Czech Republic Life Saving National Team for the European Championships	Vaclav Horak
Life Saving: SA President's Team for the Commonwealth Games	Liam Schweitzer
Life Saving: SA President's Team for the Commonwealth Games	Jessica Harcus
Exceptional School Service Staff Videos and Photography	Yongama Qulu
Grade 10 Leadership Award	Madison Badenhorst
Junior All-Rounder Certificates	Amelie Meara
	Ashlee Buhr
	Daniel Lokotsch
Best Junior All-Rounder	Hannah Potgieter
Senior All-Rounder Certificates	Sienna Peens
	Dimitri Alexandris
	Nicci Barnard
	Dané Strydom
OWA for the best Senior All-Rounder	Rebecca Botha
Mark Spilkin Award	Lihle Moyo

(Awarded to the College by his father, Gerald, who was particularly delighted with Mark's progress as a person. He wanted the award to go to someone who persevered assiduously, whilst maintaining a positive attitude. The recipient would thereby have benefited in such a way that this would be noticeable in her character and personality development)

The Leviseur Cup for General Progress — Kohan Kok

(Awarded by a former master to a student who, through dogged determination and tenacity, achieved to the best of his or her ability)

Semper Fidelis — Morgan Bekker

(The burnt saxophone was found in the ashes of the music department after the 2017 fire. Symbolising the spirit of the school hymn, it is awarded to a matric student who exemplifies the Woodridge ethos of faithful determination. The recipient is representative of "he who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster")

Khazimla Adam Shield for Leadership — Sandra Smith

(For Outstanding, Selfless Leadership and Community Building beyond the School)

Woodridge Trophy for Development in Qualities of Leadership — BuhlebeMvelo Mnyaka

Kenny Fowlds Memorial Award — Sienna Peens

(Awarded to a Grade 11 pupil who has contributed most to the school in all aspects)

The Grand '06 Award — Bahle Lwana

(Voted for by the Student Executive and awarded to the Grade 8 pupil who best displayed the following attributes: (1) All-round enthusiasm (2) Respect towards leaders (3) Faithfull service to the school (4) Friendliness towards peers (5) Pride in oneself and in everything one does (6) Endurance through all circumstances)

Siege Perilous — Tamsin De Villiers

(Voted by the Matrics for one of their peers whose personality and character most closely reflect the qualities of compassion, courtesy, honour, gentleness, kindness, selflessness and truthfulness)

COLLEGE STAFF

Back Row: *Mr Bongani Mangwane, Mr Staunton Goliath, Mr Herman Venter, Mr Garry Baines, Mr Nash Dondashe, Mr Wayne Rathbone, Mr Darryn Campbell, Mr Daniel Ward, Mr Kyle Deasy, Mr Siyabonga Mvubu,*
Fourth Row: *Mr Lwazi Zakumba, Ms Emma Broadway, Mrs Sandi-Leigh de Bruyn, Mrs Kirsty Witteveen, Ms Adele Vorster, Ms Desreé Neville, Mrs Deane Loubser, Mrs Karen Opperman, Mr Tal Leshem, Mr Courtney Watson*
Third Row: *Mr Asiwe Swazi, Mr Tyrone Scholtz, Mr Evan Perkins, Ms Lindani Majeke, Miss Tiffany August, Ms Caren Bestbier, Ms Danielle Viljoen, Mrs Anneliese Van Niekerk, Mrs Jordan Deasy, Ms Leah te Bruggen, Mr Wesley Henrico, Mr Peter Maartens*
Second Row: *Miss Leah Cripps, Mrs Elsa Ross, Miss Keira Deacon, Mrs Manesha Boreman, Mrs Hajira Dladla, Mrs Ann Polglase, Ms Juli-Anne Norton, Ms Elizabeth Herselman, Mrs Heather von Berg*
Front Row: *Mrs Sheree Ferreira, Mr Anthony de Villiers, Mr Jacques Botha, Dr Catherine Logie, Mr Luke Hartley, Mr Nicholas Kock, Mr Yaldren Vickery, Mr Christoff Opperman*
Absent: *Mrs Lizel Feltham, Dr Herman Kitshoff, Mr Graham Beyer, Mr Wade Inglis, Mrs Roslyn Pienaar, Mr Lesley Mhlambiso, Mr Christian Sebastian, Miss Chantal Minnie, Miss Aisha Muaka, Mr Billy Teeton*

COLLEGE PREFECTS

Back Row: *Georgia Kilfoil, Rebecca Botha, Jade Kelly, Jessica Harcus, Tenielle Renze, Ayabulela Madaka, Lucy Dyer*
Middle Row: *Oliver Puttergill, Dané Strydom, Isabella Dinwiddy, Liam Schweitzer, Mr Luke Hartley, Siphesihle Mgogoshe, Thato Mbangula, Oliver Martin*
Front Row: *Mvelo Mnyaka, Anna Kirsten, Nicole Barnard, Dimitri Alexandris, Joshua Basson, Randy Syce*
Absent: *Kei MacDonald, Alex Moolman*

Academic Staff

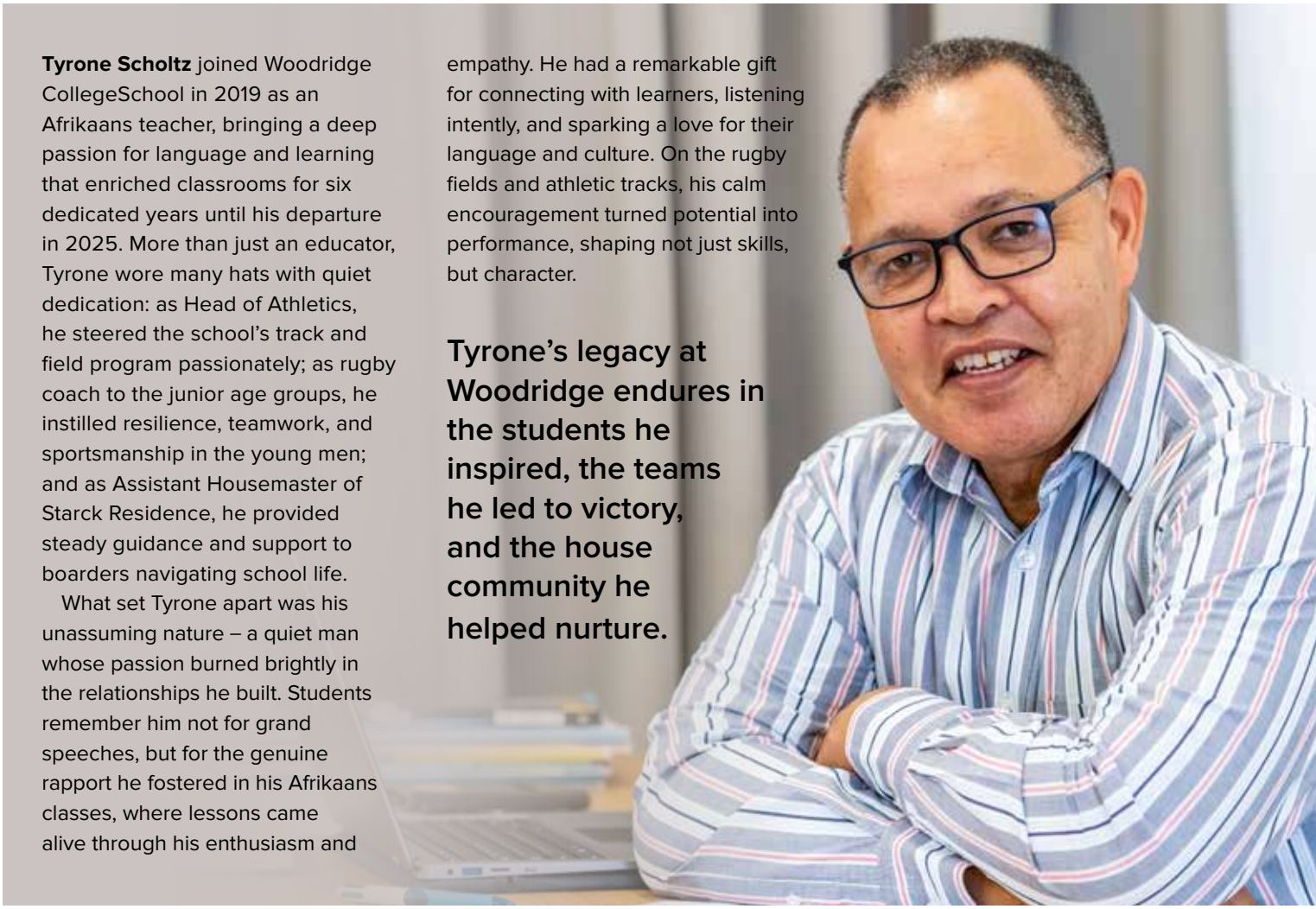
Luke Hartley	BA HDE (Rhodes)	Headmaster, Geography
Jacques Botha	B.Sc HDE (UPE) BEd (SA)	Deputy Head Operations, Mathematics, Physical Sciences
Catherine Logie	PhD (Rhodes) B.Sc (Hon) (Rhodes) PGCE (NMMU)	Deputy Head Academics, Physical Sciences
Nicholas Kock	BA HDE (UWC) N.Dipl.T. (SA) Certificate in School Management and Leadership (Harvard)	Deputy Head Student Affairs, Discipline, Boarding, and Transformation and Diversity, HOD: IT
Tiffany August	BA (Media & Comm) PGCE (Cum Laude)	English, Life Orientation
Garry Baines	B.Ed (UNISA)	HOD: IsiXhosa & Tourism, Grade 12 Head
Caren Bestbier	H.Nat Dip (FINE ARTS) (PE Tech) LTCL Speech and Drama (Drama Teaching) (Trinity College London)	HOD: Dramatic Arts
Sheree Ferreira	B.Mus, PGCE (UP)	Head of Music and Culture
Deane Loubser	BA (HMS) HDE	English, Life Orientation
Emma Broadway	B.Sc (Hons) (UCT) PGCE (UNISA)	Geography
Sandi-Leigh de Bruyn	B.Ed (UP)	Afrikaans, Grade 8 Head
Jordan Deasy	B.Ed (UNISA)	English, HOD Life Orientation
Kyle Deasy	B.Ed (UNISA)	History, Tourism
Lizel Feltham	BA HDE (UPE)	HOD: Afrikaans
Elizabeth Herselman	BA HDE (UPE)	English, Life Orientation
Herman Kitshoff	PhD (Stellenbosch)	HOD: History
Tal Leshem	BA (Science Open University Israel) PGCE (Bristol University)	Physical Sciences, Mathematics, Grade 9 Head
Peter Maartens	BTh PGCE (UNISA)	HOD: Physical Sciences, Assistant Housemaster: Kohler
Bongani Mangwane	B.Sc (Mathematics) (UJ), PGCE (Varsity College)	Mathematics
Lesego Mkhwanazi	Dip Mus (UCT) Certificate in Education (NMU)	Music
Christopher Sebastian	B.Mus (Hons) (NMU) PGCE (Stadio)	Music
Desree Neville	B.Sc (HMS) HDE (Stellenbosch)	HOD: Life Sciences, Assistant Housemistress: Founders
Darryn Campbell	B.Com (NMMU) PGCE (UNISA)	HOD: Business Studies, Grade Head
Christoff Opperman	B.Com HDE (UPE)	Director of Boarding, Business Studies, HOD: Accounting
Karen Opperman	B.Sc (UPE) HDE (SA)	HOD: Mathematical Literacy, Housemistress: Founders
Evan Perkins	B.Mus. (NMMU) LTCL (Piano Performance) (Trinity College)	Music
Wayne Rathbone	B.Sc (Hons) HDE ACE (Rhodes)	Life Sciences, Housemaster: Starck
Elsa Ross	B.Sc. HDE	Life Sciences
Tyrone Scholtz	BA (UWC) HDE (NMU)	Afrikaans, Assistant Housemaster: Starck
Asiwe Swazi	BCom Law, LLB (cum laude) (Fort Hare) PGCE (Rhodes)	Business Studies, EMS
Manesha Boreham	B.Com (Informatics)	CAT, IT

Keira Deacon	B.Ed (Mathematics and English) (UNISA)	Mathematics
Anneliese Van Niekerk	NHD and B.Sc Meteorology (UP)	HOD: Mathematics
Herman Venter	National Dip IT Support Services,	CAT
Adele Vorster	B.Sc (Hons) (PU for CHE)	HOD: Geography, Grade 11 Head
Daniel Ward	B.Ed (Economics and Business) (UNISA)	Mathematics and Business Studies
Courtney Watson	BA (Gen), BA Hons (Eng), PGCE	HOD: English, Life Orientation
Juli-Anne Norton	Btech Fine Arts (NMMU), PGCE (Rhodes)	HOD: Art

Auxiliary Staff

Graham Beyer	Music	**Aisha Muaka**	Outdoor Education assistant
Hajira Dladla	PA to the Headmaster	**Ros Pienaar**	Librarian
Anthony De Villiers	Round Square Director	**Eleni Pullen**	Equestrian Centre Manager
Nash Dondashe	Intern	**Elize Nel**	Equestrian Assistant
Kirsty Witteveen	Sports Administrator	**Robert Smith**	MIC: Surf Lifesaving
Staunton Goliath	Sport Assistant	**Leah Chipps**	Intern
Haydn Greener	Sports Coach	**Billy Teeton**	Outdoor Education Campus Head
Josie Greener	Sports Coach	**Yaldren Vickery**	Director of College Sport, Housemaster: Kohler
Wesley Henrico	Chaplain	**Heather von Berg**	PA to Deputy Head
Wade Inglis	Biokineticist	**Lindani Majeke**	College Reception, Bus Transport
Lesley Mhlambiso	Laboratory Assistant	**Leah ter Bruggen**	Psychologist
Timon Oosthuizen	Music	**Siyabonga Mvubu**	Intern
Chantel Minnie	Psychologist	**Matthew Rusteburg**	History

Staff Farewell



Tyrone Scholtz joined Woodridge CollegeSchool in 2019 as an Afrikaans teacher, bringing a deep passion for language and learning that enriched classrooms for six dedicated years until his departure in 2025. More than just an educator, Tyrone wore many hats with quiet dedication: as Head of Athletics, he steered the school's track and field program passionately; as rugby coach to the junior age groups, he instilled resilience, teamwork, and sportsmanship in the young men; and as Assistant Housemaster of Starck Residence, he provided steady guidance and support to boarders navigating school life.

What set Tyrone apart was his unassuming nature – a quiet man whose passion burned brightly in the relationships he built. Students remember him not for grand speeches, but for the genuine rapport he fostered in his Afrikaans classes, where lessons came alive through his enthusiasm and empathy. He had a remarkable gift for connecting with learners, listening intently, and sparking a love for their language and culture. On the rugby fields and athletic tracks, his calm encouragement turned potential into performance, shaping not just skills, but character.

Tyrone's legacy at Woodridge endures in the students he inspired, the teams he led to victory, and the house community he helped nurture.

Wade Inglis, a proud past pupil of Woodridge College, served as the school's physiotherapist from 2020 to 2025, leaving an indelible mark on generations of pupils through his unwavering dedication to their well-being and performance.

As a Woodridge alumnus, Wade embodied the true spirit of loyalty and passion for his alma mater. He poured his expertise into strength and conditioning programs, transforming pupils (especially our first teams) into resilient athletes ready to excel. His meticulously designed pre-match warm-up routines became a cornerstone of our sports culture, preventing injuries, boosting confidence, and igniting peak performance on the field.

Beyond the gym and sidelines, Wade's commitment extended to every pupil he interacted with. He treated each one with the same fervour, fostering not just physical strength but also the mental toughness that defines Woodridge champions. His journey from student to steadfast guardian of our school's athletic heart inspires us all.

Thank you, Wade, for your selfless service, we salute you.

Chantel Minnie

The School "Shrink". The fixer of all things crisis. The one who didn't just tell us about boundaries from Day 1, but gave us all a masterclass in what they actually look like. The go-to person when you needed a kind but very honest answer; the one you didn't want to need, but absolutely did.

The day Ms Minnie walked into the staffroom, Ms Witts turned to Mrs Deasy and said, "I like that one, can she be our friend?" She made a strong first impression, with her feisty attitude, tattoos and kind smile.

Chantel Minnie has been described as kind, honest, thoughtful, empathetic, tough as nails, motivated, ambitious, grounded, patient, tolerant, and (most of all) a really strong human.

Life throws challenges at us, and life has shaped Ms Minnie into something extraordinary, something beautiful, something strong, something quietly whimsical. It's only when something cracks that the light can truly shine through.

We knew we couldn't keep Ms Minnie here at the College forever. We wish her well as she moves on to Private Practice; we will miss her!

As a school we thank Chantel Minnie, not only for who she has been to us, but for who she helped us become, whether it be in private consultation or in one of her excellent motivational talks. We'll even miss her motivational posters and sayings pinned up around the school. The impact Ms Minnie made on this school is enormous. We thank her for creating a space where we can all feel that much safer and for everything else you did for us at Woodridge.

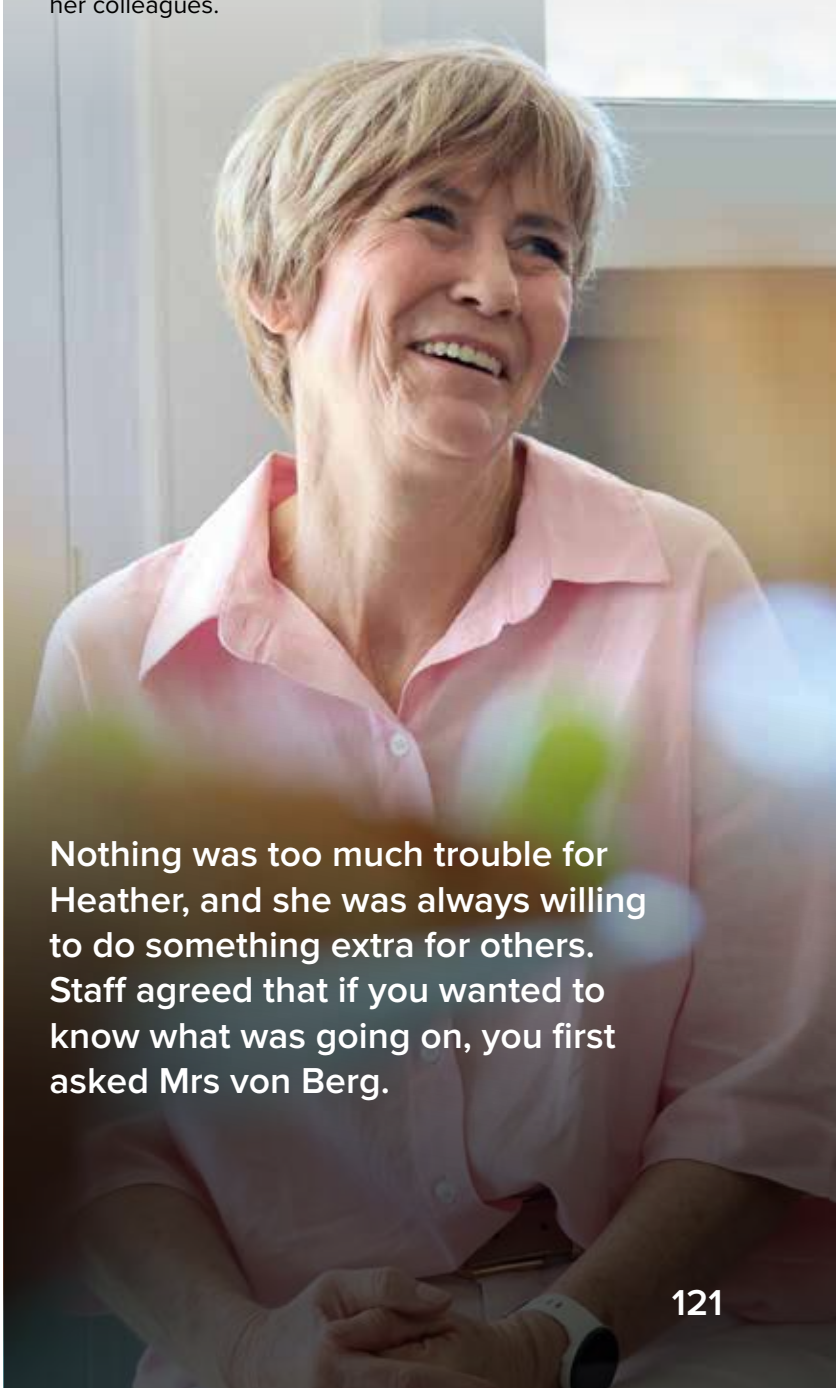
Heather von Berg

While she was officially the PA (Personal Assistant) to the Deputy Head for the past 20 years, Heather was in practice the Chief General Administrator for the college and even the Human Resources Department.

For most staff, she was one of the first people you met at the college, whether to complete a file for the Guardian programme, to assist with the Medical Aid transfer or to connect you to various staff who would be a part of your transfer. Her warm, approachable and helpful manner made new staff feel welcome and ensured the smooth running of the school.

Beyond her attention to detail in booking flights or accommodation, distributing tests, or sending out academic reports and the like, Heather was a confidante to many, who were able to share aspects of their lives with Heather.

She retires to Port Alfred with her husband Trevor. We will miss her faithful service and her overwhelming support of her colleagues.



Nothing was too much trouble for Heather, and she was always willing to do something extra for others. Staff agreed that if you wanted to know what was going on, you first asked Mrs von Berg.

Herman Kitshoff
In the short time that Dr Kitshoff was here, I had the privilege to work closely with him in the History Department, and to learn from him as subject head.

The best way to sum up Dr Kitshoff would be from those who learned even more from him than I did – his pupils.

When asked what they loved most about Dr Kitshoff, there were some interesting answers:

'We always knew what mood he was in based on his socks.'

'The way he [could] never tell you about a funny reel because he [was] too busy still laughing at the joke.'

What really shone through is how fortunate the kids felt to be taught by someone so passionate about all that he does. A common thread in all the answers I was given was the way Dr Kitshoff inspires his pupils in his determination to work hard, with passion and dedication, and the way he was actively involved in the process right alongside his pupils.

They spoke of his obvious love for history, hockey and human rights, setting an example as someone who fights for what he believes in.

They also mentioned that they'd miss the giant cooler box of water and energy sweets he had become associated with!

From everything the children in his class and teams had to say about the moments they shared with their history teacher and coach, it is clear that Dr Kitshoff brought professionalism, diligence, dedication, good humour and excellent socks to the team.

Although we might not have spent much time together with his leaving after just over a year, we wish Herman nothing but the very best for the road ahead, in the US.

We thank him for all that he brought to the History and hockey spheres here at Woodridge, and wish him growth, happiness, and success.

Matric Valete

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	HOUSE	ACHIEVEMENTS
Alexandris	**Dimitri**	Kohler	Head Boy, Deputy Head of Kohler Residence, Academic Honours, Music Standards, 1st XI Cricket, Cricket Standards, 1st XV Rugby, Rugby Standards, ABRSM Grade 7 French Horn
Barnard	**Nicole**	Carter	Head Girl, Deputy Head of Carter Residence, Head of Outdoor Education, Academic Colours, 1st Netball, Band Leader, Music Standards, Gold Presidents Award
Basson	**Joshua**	Kohler	Prefect, Deputy Head of Starck Residence, Academic Colours, 1st Tennis, Tennis Standards, 1st XI Hockey, Hockey Standards
Bateman	**Chloe**	Founders	Surf Lifesaving Squad Leader, Surf Lifesaving Standards, Most Promising Artist Award, Academic Standards, Academic Achievements
Bekker	**Morgan**	Founders	Academic Standards, 1st Netball
Beneka	**Lily**	Kohler	Hostel Prefect, Dance Committee
Botha	**Rebecca**	Founders	Prefect, Academic Honours, 1st Netball, Netball Colours, 1st Water Polo, Water Polo Colours, 1st XI Hockey, Hockey Half Colours, Class Rep, Best Sportswoman, Best Senior All-rounder, Steelband, Wind Ensemble, NMB U19 Water Polo, Dux Student
Brugman	**Emma**	Founders	1st Netball, Netball Standards, 2nd XI Hockey, 2nd Tennis, MD Committee 2024, Interact
Burrows	**Luke**	Kohler	Surf Lifesaving Squad, 1st XV Rugby, 2nd Team Tennis, Choir, Music Standards
Chandler	**Josè**	Founders	1st XV Rugby, Athletics, 1st Soccer
Claassen	**Pauline**	Kohler	Most Improved Pupil, 12 years at Woodridge
Collett	**Keagen**	Founders	1st XI Hockey, 1st XI Cricket
Collins	**Lennard**	Carter	Trail Run Winner, 1st XI Hockey, 2nd Water Polo, Athletics, 2nd XV Rugby, Dorm Senior, Hostel Prefect
Cullingworth	**Julia**	Kohler	1st Team Water Polo, Water Polo Standards, 2nd XI Hockey
Daniels	**Didier**	Founders	Computer Programming Olympiad Bronze Award, Round Square Baraza Leader, 2nd XV Rugby
de Villiers	**Tamsin**	Carter	Academic Honours, 1st Team Netball (Vice Captain), Netball Half Colours, Eco Committee Chairperson, 2nd XI Hockey, Siege Perilous
Dech	**Joshua**	Founders	Brian Miller Trophy – Endeavour in Outdoor Education Witteklip Shield Outstanding Contribution to Outdoor Education – Excellence in Discipline and Dedication Award, LA lifeguard award, Dorm Senior, Head of Outdoor Education, 2nd Water Polo, 2nd XI Hockey, Head of Backstage Crew, Gold Award at Knock on Wood, Drama Standards Award
Dinwiddy	**Isabella**	Kohler	Prefect, Deputy Head of Carter Residence, President of Interact, 1st Water Polo, Most Improved Art Award 2nd Netball
Dyer	**Lucy**	Kohler	Prefect, 1st XI Hockey, Hockey Standards, Most Improved Hockey Player, Mammoth Adventure Race Winner
Dysel	**Kyra Ruby**	Founders	Marketing and Photography Rep, 2nd Netball, Cricket
Flugel	**Nathan**	Founders	Academic Standards, Music Standards, Grade 8 Piano, A Double Gold and 2 Golds at Knock on Wood, Most Promising Pianist, Best Senior Musician, 2 Golds at Pearson Praeludium
Forsyth	**Kaia**	Carter	Surf Life Saving, Surf Lifesaving Standards, Academic Standards
Foxcroft	**Ethan**	Carter	Gold Award at Knock on Wood, Grade 8 Vocals, Distinction in Music
Gallagher	**Conor**	Kohler	1st XV Rugby (Captain), Rugby Standards, 1st Water Polo, EP Water Polo, Academic Colours

Harcus	**Jessica**	Kohler	Prefect, 1st Water Polo, Senior EP Surf Lifesaving, SA Surf Lifesaving (Orange Cup and Commonwealth Games), Surf Lifesaving Honours
Heath	**Liam**	Founder	3rd XI Hockey, Dorm Senior, Head of Sound Tech Crew
Huang	**Shih-Hua**	Kohler	2nd XV Rugby
Jacobs	**Someleze**	Kohler	Hostel Prefect, Baraza Leader, Academic Standards, Drama Merit, Top 20 Academic, 2nd XI Cricket, Inclusion and Belonging Committee, Knock on Wood Creative Writing Winner
Jones	**Taylor-Anne**	Founders	Academic Standards, 1st Netball, Netball Standards
Kelly	**Jade**	Kohler	Prefect, Interact Committee, 1st XI Hockey (Vice-Captain), Academic Colours, Hockey Standards
Kihoro	**Peter**	Founders	2nd XV Rugby, Class Rep, Steelband, Athletics, Dorm Senior, Hostel Prefect
Kilfoil	**Georgia**	Founders	Prefect, 1st Netball (Captain), Netball Colours, Most Improved Netball Player, 1st XI Hockey, Hockey Standards, Academic Honours, Academic Top 10, Founders House Captain
Kingston	**Oliver**	Founders	1st XV Rugby
Kirsten	**Anna**	Kohler	1st Water Polo, Water Polo Colours, 1st XI Hockey (Captain and 100 Caps), Hockey Colours, EP U18 Hockey, Athletics (Victrix Ludorum), Trail Running Winner, Surf Lifesaving, Surf Lifesaving Colours, Academic Colours, Academic Top 10, Deputy Head Girl, Prefect, Dorm Senior
Kirsten	**Mick**	Carter	1st XI Hockey (Vice-Captain), EP U18B Hockey, 1st Tennis
Kok	**Kohan**	Kohler	2nd Squash
Lees	**Imogen**	Carter	2nd Water Polo, Equestrian, Founders Hostel
Lippstreu	**Lauren**	Carter	Drama Standards, Best Director, Supporting Actress, Creative Design for Inter House Plays, 2 Gold Awards at Knock on Wood
Mabusela	**Inati**	Founders	Silver at Knock on Wood, Drawing Award, Computer Olympiad Bronze
MacDonald	**Kei**	Founders	1st Water Polo, 1st XV Rugby, Prefect
Madaka	**Ayabulela**	Kohler	Prefect, Academic Colours, Top 10 Academics, Academic Excellence Award, Music Standards, Most Promising Woodwind Player, 1st Netball, 2nd XI Cricket
Martin	**Oliver**	Kohler	1st Water Polo, EP Water Polo, 1st XV Rugby, Rugby Standards, Prefect, Hostel Prefect, Kohler House Captain
Matanda	**Phindimbali**	Founders	Drama Merit
May	**Daniel**	Carter	Surf Lifesaving, Surf Lifesavings Half Colours
Mbangula	**Thato**	Carter	Head of Kohler Residence, Prefect, 1st XI Hockey, 2nd XV Rugby
Mgogoshe	**Siphesihle**	Kohler	1st XI Hockey, Hockey Half Colours, Music Standards, Rock Band, Head of Carter Residence, Prefect
Mnyaka	**Mvelo**	Carter	Head of Founders Residence, English Olympiad Gold, Prefect, Academic Standards, Photography Award, 2 Golds at Knock on Wood
Moolman	**Alex**	Kohler	1st Water Polo (Captain), Water Polo Colours, SA Surf Lifesaving (Captain) Surf Lifesaving Honours, Academic Honours, Top 3 Academics
Moothoo	**Ethan**	Founders	1st XI Hockey (Captain and 96 Caps), EP U18A Hockey, 1st XI Cricket
Morris	**Madison**	Carter	Dorm Senior, 2nd XI Hockey, 2nd XI Cricket, Gold at Knock on Wood, Class Rep
Moyo	**Lihle**	Kohler	Steal Band, 1st XI Hockey, 2nd XI Cricket, 2nd XV Rugby, Interact, Eco Committee, Hostel Prefect, Dorm Senior
Ndlazi	**Anovuyo**	Carter	Choir Standards
Ngunga	**Amara**	Carter	Matric Dance Committee, Eco Committee, Round Square Leader
Nogqala	**Yanda**	Carter	2nd XV Rugby
Nyila	**Liyakhanya**	Carter	1st XV Rugby
Puttergill	**Oliver**	Founders	Prefect, 1st XI Cricket, 1st XV Rugby, 2nd XI Hockey (Captain), Sportsman of the Year

Qulu	**Yongama**	Carter	Hostel Perfect, 2nd in River Race, Headmaster's Award for Media, 2nd Water Polo, First Aid
Ramokolo	**Rorisang**	Carter	First Place in General Knowledge Quiz, Voice and Piano, Interact
Reid	**Nicole**	Founders	Equestrian, Round Square Exchange to Germany
Renze	**Tenielle**	Kohler	2 Gold Awards at Knock on Wood, Prefect, 1st Netball, Head of Kohler OE
Ring	**James**	Founders	1st XV Rugby
Ross	**Aidan**	Kohler	Double Gold at Knock on Wood
Salmani	**Sthandiwe**	Founders	Subject Award for isiXhosa
Saunders	**James**	Kohler	1st XI Hockey, EP Hockey, 12 Years at Woodridge
Schweitzer	**Liam**	Carter	Prefect, Dorm Senior, 1st XI Hockey, Surf Lifesaving Club Captain, SA Surf Lifesaving (Orange Cup and Commonwealth Games), Surf Lifesaving Honours
Scott	**Daniel**	Founders	3rd XI Hockey
Seymour	**Alexander**	Kohler	2nd XV Rugby
Shugu	**Zizo**	Carter	Dorm Senior, Interact, Steel Band, Athletics, Eco Committee
Slack	**Riley**	Kohler	1st Tennis, Tennis Prize, 1st Netball, 1st XI Hockey, Hostel Prefect
Smith	**Aneeqah**	Carter	1st XI Cricket, Cricket Half Colours, Round Square Baraza Leader, Round Square Leader, Mathematical Literacy Award, Top 20 Academics, Academic Achievement, Inter House Plays
Smith	**Daniella**	Founders	Academic Excellence, Academic Colours, 1st Water Polo, Water Polo Colours, 1st XI Hockey, Hockey Standards, Music Standards, Deputy Head Founders Residence
Smith	**Sandra**	Carter	Academic Honours, Top 10 Academics, Interact Board Member, Business Subject Prize, Round Square Baraza Leader, Khazimla Adam Leadership Award, Class Rep, Junior City Council Mayor of Nelson Mandela Bay, Free SA Young Leaders Award Finalist, Round Square Leader, Hostel Prefect, Mail & Guardian 200 Young South Africans Winner in the Editor's Choice Category, Woodridge's Youth Representative Forum
Sommer	**Tim**	Carter	2nd XV Rugby
Steenkamp	**Ryan**	Kohler	2nd XV Rugby
Stone	**Rachel**	Carter	Top 20 Academics, 1st Water Polo Squad, 2nd Water Polo, Model UN Rep, Surf Lifesaving Squad Leader, Tourism Prize, Carter House Captain
Strombeck	**Taylor**	Founders	1st Squash, Model UN Rep, 2nd Tennis
Strydom	**Dané**	Kohler	1st XI Hockey, 1st Netball, 1st XI Cricket, 1st Tennis, Prefect, Gold Presidents Award, Academic Colours, Afrikaans Subject Prize
Strydom	**Dewald**	Carter	1st XV Rugby, 1st Tennis (Vice Captain) 3 Years Senior Wall Team
Stuurman	**Gregory**	Founders	Archery
Syce	**Randy**	Carter	Starck Head of House, Prefect, 1st XI Cricket (Captain) EP Coke Week Cricket, 2nd XI Hockey, 1st XV Rugby
Thompson	**Isabella**	Carter	2nd XI Cricket, Model UN Rep, Inclusion and Belonging Committee
Titus	**Luvuyo**	Kohler	Hostel Prefect, 2nd XI Hockey, 2nd XI Cricket, Round Square Baraza Leader, Model UN Rep, Eco Committee, Winner of the Matric Poetry Competition
van der Merwe	**Joshua**	Founders	Class Rep, 2nd XV Rugby, 2nd Water Polo
van der Walt	**Mika**	Kohler	Academic Standards
Van Huyssteen	**Rebecca**	Founders	2nd XI Hockey, 2nd XI Cricket, Round Square Baraza Leader
Vincent	**Thomas**	Founders	1st XI Hockey
von der Marwitz	**Declan**	Carter	2nd XI Hockey, First Aid
Watson	**Caleb**	Kohler	1st XV Rugby Squad, 2nd XV Rugby (Captain)

Residence

Kohler Boys' Residence

Housemaster: Mr Yaldren Vickery • Assistant Housemaster: Mr Peter Maartens • Head of House: Thato Mbangula

Life in a boarding house is more than just a place to sleep – it's a vibrant community where friendships are forged, values are instilled, and memories are made. At Kohler House, 2025 was a year that truly embodied this spirit.

Kohler boys are known for their sociability and strong bonds. Living together in cabins, they develop a deep sense of camaraderie and accountability. These relationships go beyond shared spaces – they become lifelong connections. Each cabin evolves its own unique identity, shaped by the personalities and interactions of its residents. It's this dynamic that gives Kohler its heartbeat.

This year marked a significant milestone: Kohler transitioned into a seniors-only boarding house, welcoming boys from Grades 10 to 12. With academics taking centre stage, the boys embraced a culture of discipline, focus, and responsibility. Prep time became sacred, and the maturity displayed by the boys made the house a joy to manage.

The matric group stood out for their leadership and inclusivity. They made a concerted effort to welcome senior boys from Stark House and new boarders, ensuring everyone felt part of the Kohler family from the start. Their efforts created a cohesive and supportive environment that set the tone for the year.

Boma braais remain a highlight. Gathered around the campfire, boys shared stories, laughter, and music under the stars.

These evenings captured the essence of Kohler life – connection, warmth, and joy.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering dedication of our boarding house staff. A heartfelt thank you goes to Mr. Peter Maartens, Mr. Nash Dondashe, and Mr. Staunton Goliath. Your commitment, care, and daily interactions with the boys are the backbone of Kohler's success.

Back Row: *Samuel Barclay, Carter Rosser, Liam Schweitzer, Liyakhanya Nyila, Caleb Watson, Mick Kirsten, Daniel Darlow, Christian Chandler* ***Fourth Row:*** *Likho Dumalisile, James Waller, Sanda Ngweba, Aaron Erlank, Daniel Henning, Mihlali Sonqayi, Lisekhona Hote, Konwaba Qeqe, Corban Calitz, Julian Teulon, Somila Voorslag, Liam Heath, Josh Dech*
Third Row: *Anastasios Tasioulas, Cameron Ferrant, Callum Pledger, Jac Duval, Mark Janse van Rensburg, Elan Scott, Joshua Ongole, David Turro, Jasper Truman-Baker, Chuma Kate, Lubabalo Mpalala, Thato Norton, Cwenga Limetyeni*
Second Row: *Iviwe Ngangelizwe, Lithalethu Hanabe, Tertius Strydom, Harry Thompson, Daniel Potgieter, Gareth Steenkamp, Nkululeko Kona, Nicholas Ras, Jon-Luc De Meilon, Pingyen Huang, Jay-Reese Maddat, Ahlumile Sowazi, Kurt Krull*
Front Row: *Mr Nash Dondashe, Mr Yaldren Vickery, Oliver Martin, Yongama Qulu, Thato Mbangula, Dimitri Alexandris, Oliver Puttergirl, Jose Chandler, Mr Staunton Goliath, Mr Peter Maartens* ***Absent:*** *James Saunders, Thomas Vincent*

Starck Boys' Residence

Housemaster: Mr Wayne Rathbone • Assistant Housemaster: Mr Tyrone Scholtz • Head of House: Randy Syce

2025 saw a change to the structure of Starck House with it now being a Grade 8 and 9 only residence. Fortunately, the 2024 Grade 8 and 11s were still with us with Randy Syce leading the house and Josh Basson as his deputy, along with the Grade 11s who acted as dormitory seniors. The presence of these young men allowed for some continuity from 2024, and it helped the new Grade 8s and 9s settle in quickly.

While there was a rocky start to the year, it resulted in some important lessons being learnt by both the seniors and juniors in the house and I think that the house was better for it.

Having so many juniors meant that the energy around the house was very different to previous years and if Eskom could harness 1% of it, the country's energy woes would be over. Fortunately, the grass on the quad provided an excellent space for the boys to blow off steam after preparatory sessions in the evening with many alley cricket, touch rugby and quad soccer games. This also freed up some space in the kitchen, which was a very popular space for the ravenous teens. That said, having 40 other "brothers" around also meant that there was always someone to chill and watch a movie with when they felt grumpy and sore with growing pains.

I was very pleased to hear Dr Logie often mention Starck House boys' names in the list of "Most improved academics" as well as the Top 10 academics. While classroom preparatory sessions on a Monday and Tuesday were not very popular with some of the boys, the time spent working there clearly paid dividends.

The year ended well with some excellent sporting and academic results to celebrate, but most importantly new friendships were forged. It is this brotherhood which will ensure that Starck continues to be a relevant and safe space for the young men to call "a second home" while they are at school and it bodes well for the next chapter in the Starck House story.

Back Row: *Hayden Lues, Shih-Hua (Brian) Huang, Ryan Steenkamp, Pieter Strydom, Peter Kihoro, Juan Blou*
Fourth Row: *Zozibini Sqwepu, Dylan Erlank, Lwanda Nkomana, Deacon Dugmore, Ben Ackerman, Gabriel Ohaga, Phelo Kwitshana, William Quinn, Martin Cloete, Sinovuyo Meyi, Max Gerber, Tylor Merrington, Benjamin Othembi*
Third Row: *Oyama Ngeni, Mbasa Mbengashe, Connor du Preez, Speto Mani, Lusindisolwethu Zondani, Christian Paxton, Jeandré Strydom, Matt Rosewarne, Morgan Flugel, Illungile Arosi, Malachi Smith, Noah Jacobs*
Second Row: *Nande Ntontela, Adam Brugman, Zac Dysel, Cameron Badenhorst, Sango Mashaya, Hudson Whitehouse, Sachin Moothoo, Tau Moloi, Blake Roomer, Kyan Milsom, Thomas Abernethy, Ruark Kotze, Sydney Stiemie, Harrison Rosser,*
Front Row: *Mr Wayne Rathbone, Lihle Moyo, Ethan Moothoo, Randy Syce, Joshua Basson, Lennard Collins, Mr Kyle Deasy, Mr Siya Mvubu* ***Absent:*** *Mr Tyrone Scholtz*

Carter Girls' Residence

House Parent: Mrs Kirsty Witteveen • Assistant House Parent: Mrs Jordan Deasy (Term 1-2); Mrs Sandi de Bruyn (Term 3) • Assistants: Miss Aisha Muaka; Mrs Ranel Taljaard
Head of House: Siphesihle Mgogoshe; Isabella Dinwiddy; Nicci Barnard

Welcome to Carter Residence – where the beds are made (mostly), the snacks vanish faster than you can say 'study break,' and laughter echoes down the halls like a well-rehearsed symphony. This year has been a delightful mix of academic focus, community spirit, and a sprinkle of chaos!

We kicked off the festive season with a Thanksgiving celebration that reminded us all to be grateful for good food, great friends, and to show gratitude towards our Matrics. Carter joined forces with other residences for a Christmas bash that could rival Santa's workshop. There was music, laughter, and enough festive cheer to power the fairy lights for a year. We said goodbye to our incredible Matrics as they spread their wings and fly into the next chapter. Mrs Deasy also bid us farewell, leaving behind a legacy of care and dedication. We'll miss you both dearly!

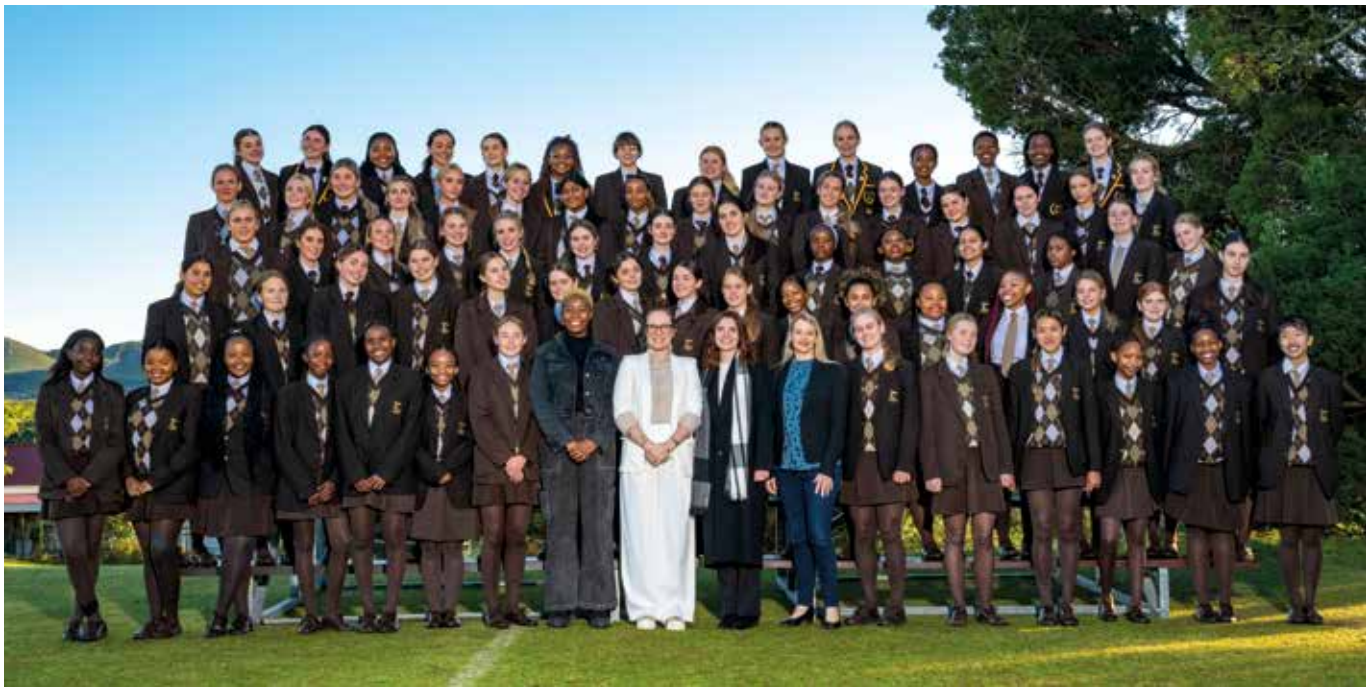
Despite the allure of late-night chats and snack raids, our residents have maintained strong academic performance. Study sessions were productive, and the phrase 'But, Ma'am, my Streaks!!' was heard significantly less often. Progress!

A huge shout-out to my incredible team in Term 3:

– Mrs. Taljaard – for keeping everything running smoothly and being the calm in every storm.
– Miss Aisha – for bringing energy, warmth, and a smile that lights up Carter Residence. And, finally Mrs De Bruyn, who only arrived this term, and kicked-off as if she had been here for years!

As I finish my time in boarding this year, I want to say thank you for the laughter, the late-night chats, and the unforgettable memories. Carter Residence will always hold a special place in my heart. Keep the spirit alive, and remember—life is too short to go to bed on time!

Carter Residence is more than a boarding house; it's a family—a slightly quirky, snack-loving, Wi-Fi-dependent family. Here's to another year of laughter and learning!



Back Row: *Madison Morris, Anna Kirsten, Bahle Lwana, Isabella Dinwiddy, Lucy Dyer, Ayabulela Madaka, Lauren Lippstreu, Kyra Dysel, Lily Beneka, Nicci Barnard, Someleze Jacobs, Luvuyo Titus, Siphesihle Mgogoshe, Jade Kelly*
Fourth Row: *Franki Dace, Camryn Joubert, Milla Aylesbury, Charlotte Reitz, Ava Gerber, Lucy Dinwiddy, Reeva Naidoo, Ndapewa Aluteni, Alexa O'Riain, Aimee Carstens, Layla Reynolds, Ava Pledger, Morgan Ackerman, Kyra Pledger, Liz Bender, Emma Steenkamp*
Third Row: *Georgina Bain, Rebecca McNicol, Lily van der Nest, Madison Badenhorst, Lisa Barnard, Gabriella Puttergill, Nieves Slack, Alinah Seccombe, Bukho Resha, Iminam Nini, Daynah Blignaut, Unethemba Melitafa, Leane de Wit, Amy Reynolds*
Second Row: *Caitlyn Looman, Ava Horner, Hannah de Necker, Sasha Looman, Olivia Montagne, Anna Bandey, Lily Barnhoorn, Gabi Webb, Caitlin Erlank, Liqhamile Mehlo, Tulie Clarke, Cwenga Jam-Jam, Kumani Sohaba, Madison Klinkert, Mila Murray, Saran Seccombe* ***Front Row:*** *Hannah Kamau, Mihlali Tatani, Somilangaye Jam-Jam, Lathi-Tha Mnyaka, Jeanelle Mndolwa, Omphile Magashula, Isla Kelly, Miss Aisha Muaka, Ms Kirsty Witteveen, Mrs Jordan Deasy, Mrs Ranel Taljaard, Ashlee Buhr, Hannah Potgieter, Arabella Horsfield, Simliziwe Swayena, Ubuhlebakhe Gwinja, Xinyu Luo*
Absent: *Annie Cornish, Sihlumile Klaas, Kendal McKay, Katherine Scott*

Founders Girls' Residence

House Mistress: Mrs Karen Opperman • Assistant Housemistress: Ms Desreé Neville
Assistant: Miss Emma Broadway • Head of House: Mvelo Mnyaka

As the school year comes to end, we look back at 2025, and all the beautiful memories made in Founders House. At the beginning of the year, we welcomed our grade 10s and their parents into Founders. Not only did we have girls transferring from Carter, but we also had girls new to Woodridge and a German exchange student, further diversifying our little home.

Throughout the year, we were spoiled with all kinds of dinners and treats, from Valentines Day, hostel dinners with karaoke and interesting Winter Solstice braais with braai broodjies, wors, kebabs, and lots of hot chocolate. We welcomed the cold season in the most South African way possible.

The excitement doesn't end there! We had a visit from the Easter Bunny, who left chocolate goods for us to find in the morning, and throughout the year, we were surprised with delicious baked goods from our hostel moms. The weekends were equally as exciting with trips to Jeffreys Bay for surf lessons and pottery with Ms Broadway, to cinema outings with the Carter girls to watch the classic 10 Things I Hate About You, and even endless movie nights watching random films we could find and filled with laughter. Recently, our Matric girls were treated to a nice dinner at The Coachman, where we reminisced and celebrated our time in the hostel.

Whilst Founders has been fortunate with spoils and excitement, we were even more blessed with a beautiful group of girls and house mothers. Founders is a home rather than a house because of the love and sisterhood that runs through its walls. Of course, it is not a perfect place, but no home is, and it has truly been an honour serving our home and being a part of something so incredibly special.

Back Row: *Nina Stiemie, Maria King, Caitlyn van Jaarsveldt, Sienna Peens, Assia Rodrigues, Mia Mapaling, Ruby Mwami, Michaela Wedderburn, Limilicebolenkosi Matanda, Katlotso Makgamatho, Mihlali Nyila*
Middle Row: *Mrs Karen Opperman, Ms Desreé Neville, Zanele Mfuleni, Bailey Varrie, Annabelle Reitz, Cameron Whitehouse, Jaime Schweitzer, Kathleen van Niekerk, Ida Breitfeld, Emma-Kate Vincent, Maya-Faye Maxwell, Miss Emma Broadway*
Front Row: *Riley Slack, Anovuyo Ndlazi, Imogen Lees, Isabella Thompson, Dané Strydom, Mvelo Mnyaka, Daniella Smith, Emma Brugman, Aneeqah Smith, Sandra Smith, Amara Ngunga, Sthandiwe Salmani, Phindimbali Matanda*

Grade 12

Mr Tyrone Scholtz
Mr Courney Watson
Ms Desreé Neville
Ms Caren Bestbier

GRADE 12A

Back Row: *Rorisang Ramokolo, Liyakhanya Nyila, Peter Kihoro, Lennard Collins, Oliver Kingston, Caleb Watson, Mika van der Walt, Thato Mbangula*
Middle Row: *Mr Tyrone Scholtz, Anna Kirsten, Anovuyo Ndlazi, Riley Slack, Dané Strydom, Nicole Barnard, Dimitri Alexandris, Tim Sommer, Oliver Martin, Yanda Nogqala, Thomas Vincent*
Front Row: *Lucy Dyer, Isabella Thompson, Siphesihle Mgogoshe, Someleze Jacobs, BuhlebeMvelo Mnyaka, Isabella Dinwiddy*

GRADE 12B

Back Row: *Daniel May, Luvuyo Titus, Connor Gallagher, Ryan Steenkamp, Joshua van der Merwe*
Middle Row: *Mr Courtney Watson, Joshua Dech, Liam Heath, Ethan Foxcroft, Yongama Qulu, Sthandiwe Salami, Phindimbali Matanda, Zizo Shugu, Lihle Moyo*
Front Row: *Pauline Claassen, Inati Mabusela, Rebecca Botha, Ayabulela Madaka, Tamsin de Villiers, Lily Beneka*
Absent: *Kei MacDonald, Alexander Seymour*

GRADE 12C

Back Row: *Jade Kelly, Madison Morris, Kyra Dysel, Jessica Harcus, Lauren Lippstreu*
Middle Row: *Nicole Reid, Declan von der Marwitz, Aidan Ross, Nathan Flugel, Mick Kirsten, Josè Chandler, Daniella Smith, Amara Ngunga, Randy Syce*
Front Row: *Rachel Stone, James Ring, Taylor Strombeck, Ms Desreé Neville, Morgan Bekker, Taylor-Anne Jones*
Absent: *Arthur Moolman, James Saunders*

GRADE 12V

Back Row: *Ethan Moothoo, Didier Daniels, Aneeqah Smith, Sandra Smith, Imogen Lees*
Middle Row: *Dewald Strydom, Liam Schweitzer, Oliver Puttergill, Shih-Hua Huang, Daniel Scott, Joshua Basson, Kohan Kok, Julia Cullingworth, Emma Brugman*
Front Row: *Ms Caren Bestbier, Luke Burrows, Chloe Bateman, Rebecca van Huyssteen, Tenielle Renze, Georgia Kilfoil, Kaia Forsyth-Tancredi*
Absent: *Keagan Collett*

Grade 11

Mr Lwazi Zakumba
Mrs Deané Loubser
Mrs Manisha Boreham
Mr Daniel Ward

GRADE 11D

Back Row: *Cwenga Limetyeni, Khahlamba Zita, Vaclav Horak, Carter Rosser, Daniel Darlow, Aaron Erlank, Likho Dumalisile, Cameron Ferrant*
Middle Row: *Mr Lwazi Zakumba, Sanda Ngweba, Ndapewa Aluteni, Siyavuya Bangazi, Jaycee Diedericks, Gemma Fodor, Siân Dearmer, Zara Bonnasse, Umthawelanga Captain, Maphango Martin, Lisekhona Hote*
Front Row: *Somila Voorslag, Kyra Pledger, Zanele Mfuleni, Imitha Galada, Charlotte Reitz, Jordin Demaar*
Absent: *Jac Duval*

GRADE 11E

Back Row: *Samuel Barclay, Mark Janse van Rensburg, Christian Chandler, Michael Williams, Callum Pledger, Connor von der Marwitz, Mihlali Sonqayi, Liam Hegemann*
Middle Row: *Mrs Deané Loubser, Salizwa Masoka, Sebastian Zoghby, Milla Aylesbury, Sihle Zenzile, Franki Dace, Bailey Varrie, Ava Pledger, Konwaba Qeqe, Michael Gothard*
Front Row: *Guinevere Birch, Alexa O'Riain, Kathleen van Niekerk, Cameron Whitehouse, Kaitlyn Bellingan, Morgan Ackerman*

GRADE 11F

Back Row: *Julian Teulon,Ethan Hurley, Samuel Barnes, Corban Calitz, Mpumelelo Magwentshu, David Zhang*
Middle Row: *Mrs Manesha Boreham, Daniella Harcus, Caitlyn Van Jaarsveldt, Mia Mapaling, Michaela Wedderburn, Mischa Kilian, Ruby Mwami, Leila Kretzmann*
Front Row: *Camryn Joubert, Aimee Carstens, Reeva Naidoo, Imaan Mahomed, Lucy Dinwiddy, Katelyn Stamos, Grace Till*

GRADE 11T

Back Row: *Sachin Pillay, Mohamed Ravat, Carl Borbet, Daniel Henning, James Waller, Ava Gerber*
Middle Row: *Mr Daniel Ward, Jordyn Neethling, Gabrielle Rowe, Keira-Lee Armoed, Hayley Quinton, Maria King, Sienna Peens, Layla Reynolds, Aidan Paine*
Front Row: *Michella Tilston, Hannah Tinderholm, Jaime Schweitzer, Reece Tassan, Nina Stiemie, Rebecca Tinderholm, Annabelle Reitz*
Absent: *Jordan Puttergill*

Grade 10

Ms Tiffany August
Mr Bongani Mangwane
Mr Wesley Henrico
Miss Emma Broadway

GRADE 10G

Back Row: *Michael Beckley, Nicholas Ras, Elan Scott, Iviwe Ngangelizwe, Lubabalo Mpalala, Sonwabise Gotyana, William Faifer, Daniel Potgieter, Jon-Luc de Meillon*
Middle Row: *Nkosisiphile Dunga, Imivuyo Galada, Mihlali Nyila, Gabriella Puttergill, Tiffany August, Katlotso Makgamatho, Kee-Lynn Armoed, Sikeleleka Mavakala*
Front Row: *Ella Leshem, Nieves Slack, Lisa Barnard, Toby, Georgina Bain, Ahlumile Sowazi, Daynah Blignaut*

GRADE 10H

Back Row: *Devanté Domingo, Lawrence Chang, Joshua Ongole, Harry Thompson, Nkululeko Kona, Asanda Ndlovu, Chuma Kate, Yu Wang*
Middle Row: *Lithalethu Hanabe, Callyn Vickery, Limilicebolenkosi Matanda, Iminam Nini, Madison Badenhorst, Zintle Ramokolo, Oliver Stutterheim, Mr Bongani Mangwane*
Front Row: *Unethemba Melitafa, Kate Joubert, Lily van der Nest, Hannah de Necker, Bukho Resha, Lukhonathi Kama*

GRADE 10J

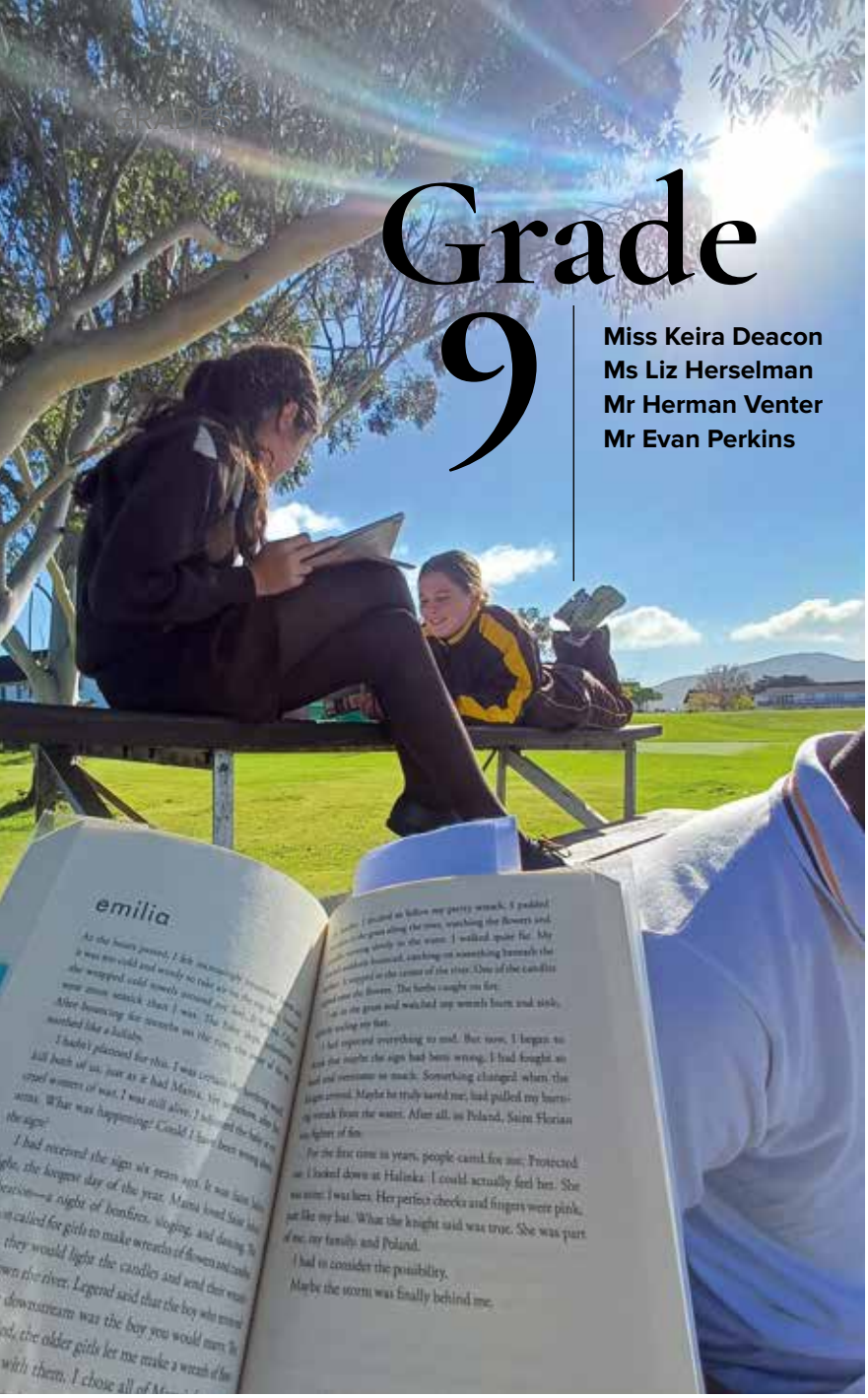
Back Row: *Thato Norton, Luke Chantson, Gareth Steenkamp, Anastasios Tasioulas, Joshua Reed, Ignatius Ferreira*
Middle Row: *Mr Wesley Henrico, Kurt Krull, Sasha Stottelaar, Alinah Seccombe, Sasha Looman, Emma France, Anna Maartens, Taylor Oberholzer, Marco Micheletti*
Front Row: *Ida Breitfeld, Assia Rodrigues, Jay-Reece Madatt, Rebecca McNicol, Maya-Faye Maxwell, Mia Holme*
Absent: *Annie Cornish, Adam Prins, Sean Quinn, Christina Vorrath*

GRADE 10X

Back Row: *Kadin Walter, David Turro, Cade Klinkert, Joel Fourie, Jasper Truman-Baker, Pingyen Huang, Francois Nel*
Middle Row: *Shawn Young, Tertius Strydom, Suiram van Heerden, Miss Emma Broadway, Keeleigh Ryan, Kate Herselman, Phoebe Chantson, Aaron Slater*
Front Row: *Lize Ferreira, Ava Horner, Emma-Kate Vincent, Emily Horsfield, Rebecca Stottelaar, Brit Degoumois*

Grade 9

Miss Keira Deacon
Ms Liz Herselman
Mr Herman Venter
Mr Evan Perkins



GRADE 9K

Back Row: *Tristan Kretzmann, Malachi Smith, Kyan Milsom, Cameron Jones, Lwanda Nkomana, Lusindisolwethu Zondani*
Middle Row: *Miss Keira Deacon, Tandolwethu Ludidi, Laney Knoetze, Oscar Deseta, Stephen Swanepoel, Matt Rosewarne, Jeandré Strydom, Ndalo Langa*
Front Row: *Liqhamile Mehlo, Lulo Gcilitshana, Amy Reynolds, Anna Bandey, Olivia Montagna, Sinda Sneli*
Absent: *Adam Brugman, Sihlumile Klaas*

GRADE 9L

Back Row: *Maximillian Murray, Christian Paxton, Robert Frost, Gabriel O'Haga, Illungile Arosi, Mbasa Mbengashe, Oyama Ngeni, Lisakhanya Nyoka*
Middle Row: *Mrs Liz Herselman, Sinehlanhla Skosana, Sadie van Niekerk, Keegan Bradley, Marcus van Vuuren, Tulie Clarke, Sange Nogqala, Chloe Middleton, Seth Rensburg, Cruz Sylvester*
Front Row: *Kumani Sohaba, Cwenga Jam-Jam, Lily Barnhoorn, Liyabona Xipula, Azasakhe Peter, Ruark Kotze*

GRADE 9M

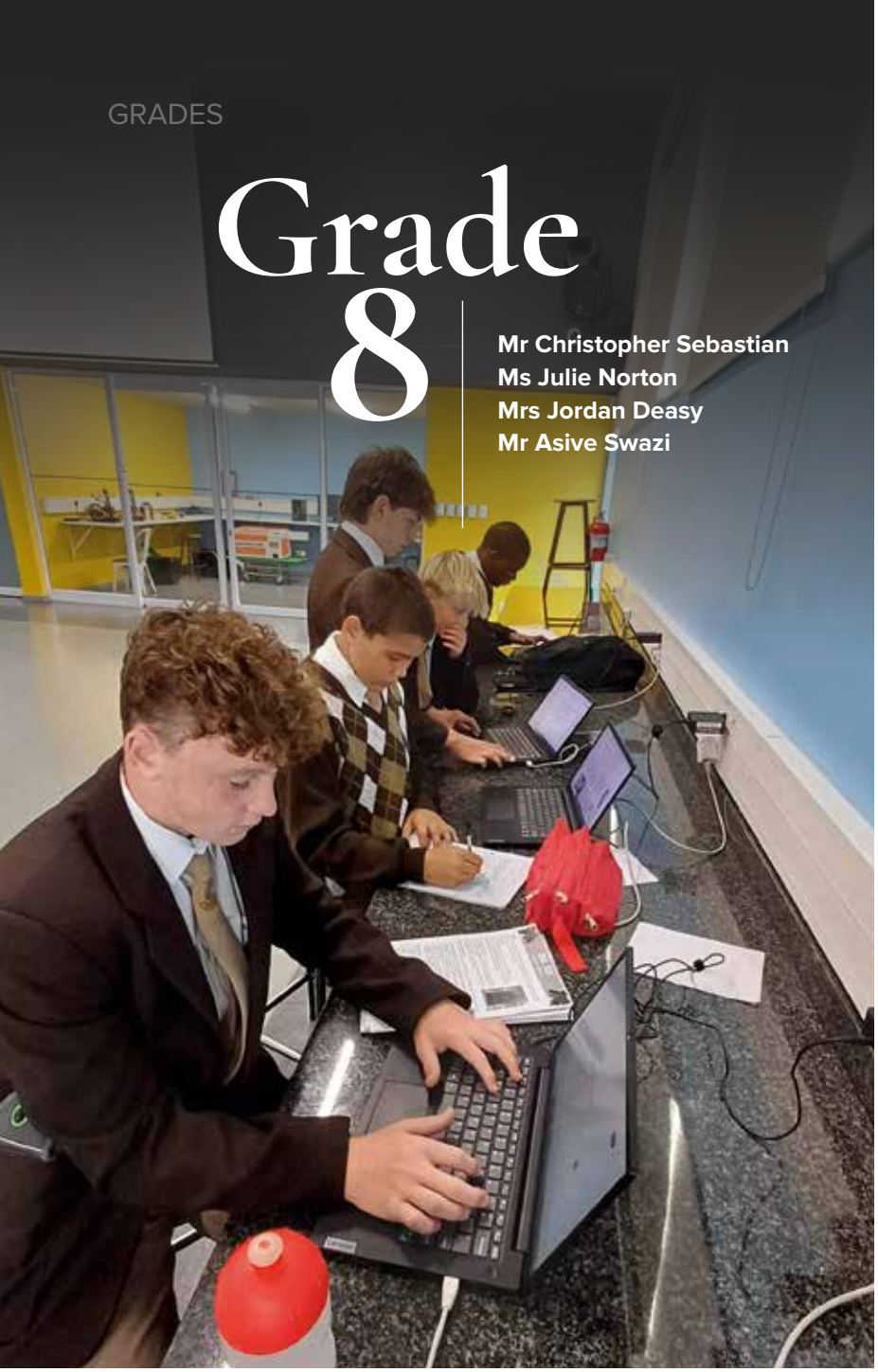
Back Row: *Liam Niemann, Ruben Terblanche, Luca Hamlet, Hudson Whitehouse, Lunathi Ndima, Joshua Dayce, Reinart Kok, Stefan Ferreira*
Middle Row: *Mr Herman Venter, Saran Seccombe, Scott Davidson, Nina Ferreira, Emma Abbott, Iminathi Mashelele, Aura Zonnekein, Gabrielle Neethling, Arabella Horsfield, Isla Kelly*
Front Row: *Amie de Klerk, Leah Owen, Michael Michau, Connor du Preez, Daniel Lokotsch, Ashlee Buhr*

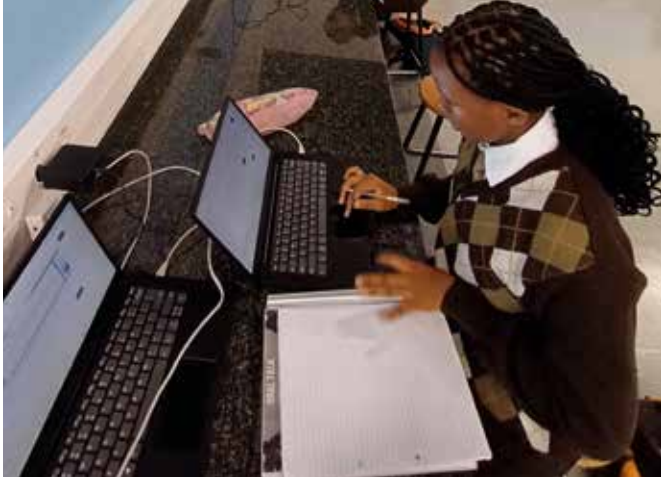
GRADE 9Z

Back Row: *Edward Ferreira, Reid Boucher, Connor Meara, Joshua Moon, Josh Hartley, Johann Steffens, Kyle Elson, Morgan Flugel*
Middle Row: *Mr Evan Perkins, Sachin Moothoo, Jack Feltham, Deacon Dugmore, Leané de Wit, Laurens de Vaan, Ben Ackerman, Zac Dysel, Thomas Abernethy, Gaby Webb*
Front Row: *Chloe Pistorius, Zi Yan Gao, Katherine Scott, Hannah Potgieter, Ava Chanston, Caitlin Erlank*
Absent: *Kendal McKay*

Grade 8

Mr Christopher Sebastian
Ms Julie Norton
Mrs Jordan Deasy
Mr Asive Swazi





GRADE 8N

Back Row: *Kube, Sloane, Likhwa Dube, Sango Mashaya, Sinovuyo Meyi*
Middle Row: *Dylan Erlank, Brody Mc Kinnon, Jordan Snyman, Speto Mani, Lunawe Mthimunye, Jenna Thornton, Ubuhlebakhe Gwija*
Front Row: *Katie Gothard, Bella Tassan, Hlomisa Heshu, Emma Steenkamp, Hayley Young,Kungamsa Sitoto*
Absent: *Mr Christopher Sebastian*

GRADE 8P

Back Row: *Cameron Badenhorst, Harrison Rosser, Phelo Khwitshana, William Quinn, Cole Bartlett, Milowo Bovungana, Pengxiang Huang*
Middle Row: *Landa Arosi, Noah Jacobs, Hannah Kamau, Mihlali Tatani, Buhle Ngweba, Daniel Herselman, Mrs Jordan Deasy*
Front Row: *Omphile Magashule, Mia Taljaard, Akha Mbili, Abigail Reed, Amy Seymour, Lathi-Tha Mnyaka*
Absent: *Joshua Bailes, Rhesa Malgas*

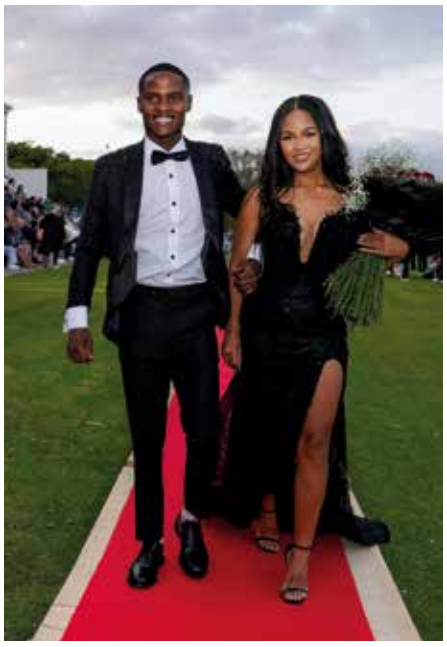
GRADE 8R

Back Row: *Sydney Stiemie, Matthew Venter, Martin Cloete, Sky, Simli, Mila*
Middle Row: *Madison Klinkert, Mbali, Mia Abbot, Yana Loubser, Lizzie Bender, Elize de Vaan, Amelie, Alexa Thornton, Ms Julie Norton*
Front Row: *Tau Maloi, David-Joshua Makoter, Tyler Merrington, Juan Blau, Hayden Lues, Mishal Nathoo*

GRADE 8S

Back Row: *Blake Roomer, Lily-Rose Ferrant, Zozibini Sqwepu, Michael Wei, Max Gerber, Nande Ntontela*
Middle Row: *Mr Asive Swazi, Mila Murray, Caitlyn Looman, Jade Beckley, Xinyu Luo, Benjamin Othembi, Akhiwe Dlamini, Zokhanya Sonwabo*
Front Row: *Somilangaye Jam-Jam, Quinn Foreman, Dante Williams, Lumae Van der Berg, Bahle Lwana, Jeanelle Mndolwa*
Absent: *Mila von Hagen*

Matric Dance 2025



Academics

Dr Catherine Logie

The 2025 academic year stands as a remarkable reflection of the dedication, perseverance, and commitment to excellence that characterise Woodridge College. With exceptional examination results, dynamic teaching approaches, and a vibrant array of extracurricular experiences, the year has been distinguished by significant accomplishments and meaningful progress.

Our academic achievements are rooted in the steadfast effort of our pupils and the guidance of our passionate teachers. Together, they have met challenges with curiosity, explored new avenues for learning, and continually aimed to elevate their standards and aspirations.

This report highlights key moments from the year, celebrating pupil successes and the initiatives designed to support their growth. It showcases our ongoing commitment to a holistic educational experience which is one that balances academic depth with opportunities for creativity, critical thought, and collaborative learning.

Every academic year starts with the awarding of Honours, Colours and Standards for academic achievement.

Based on academic achievement in Grades 10 and 11 in 2024 the following academic awards were made to 2025 Grade 11s and 12s.

- **Academic Standards** - Morgan Ackerman, Ndapewa Aluteni, Chloe Bateman, Morgan Bekker, Daniel Darlow, Nathan Flugel, Kaia Forsyth-Tancredi, Someleze Jacobs, Taylor-Anne Jones, Mvelo Mnyaka, Gian Moolman, Alexa O'Riain, Sienna Peens, Riley Slack, Aneeqah Smith
- **Academic Colours** – Nicole Barnard, Joshua Basson, Siân Dearmer, Conor Gallagher, Vaclav Horak, Jade Kelly, Georgia Kilfoil, Anna Kirsten, Ayabulela Madaka, Salizwa Masoka, Daniella Smith, Danè Strydom
- **Academic Honours** – Dimitri Alexandris, Rebecca Botha, Tamsin de Villiers, Alexander Moolman, Sandra Smith

Based on academic achievement in Grade 12 during 2025 the following academic awards were made to 2025 Grade 12s after the Preliminary Examinations in September.

- **Academic Standards** - Isabella Dinwiddy, Lucy Dyer, Jessica Harcus, Lauren Lippstreu, Madison Morris, Amara Ngunga, Aidan Ross, Ryan Steenkamp, Isabella Thompson, Mika van der Walt

– **Academic Colours** – Someleze Jacobs, Taylor-Anne Jones, Mvelo Mnyaka, Rachel Stone
– **Academic Honours** – Georgia Kilfoil

Our Grade 8 and 9 pupils once again benefited from study skills workshops held ahead of the June and November examinations. The Grade 9 Market Day was a great success, with pupils gaining both profit and practical business insight. Cross-curricular links added richness, as pupils designed posters in Art and created jingles in Music.

Across the curriculum, teachers have made a conscious effort to use our open spaces to enhance learning. When the weather allows, classes read setworks under the trees, write creatively outdoors or carry out messy science practicals in natural surroundings. The Challenge Course also proved ideal for Physics practicals exploring energy and friction.

Life Sciences and Geography pupils enjoyed outdoor lessons on campus and at the Van Staden's Flower Reserve, where they studied local plant species, observed ecosystems and discussed conservation, strengthening their understanding through direct experience.

Our Grade 9 EMS pupils and Grade 12 Accounting students excelled in business games run by Banango Traders, and the Grade 12 Mathematical Literacy pupils also benefited from an engaging activity with the same organisation. To enrich the study of setworks, we hosted the Put Produksies team and welcomed Afrikaans pupils from neighbouring schools, creating a valuable collaborative experience.

The 2025 matric group of 88 pupils achieved a 100% pass rate, with 85 Bachelor's Degree passes and three Diploma passes, alongside an impressive 195 distinctions.

Leading the way were our top achievers: Dimitri Alexandris, Rebecca Botha, and Alexander Moolman, each earning seven distinctions.

Close behind were Tamsin de Villiers, Jade Kelly, Georgia Kilfoil, Sandra Smith and Danè Strydom, with six distinctions each.
Additionally, Nicole Barnard, Taylor-Anne Jones, Anna Kirsten, Ayabulela Mdaka and Rachel Stone earned five distinctions apiece.

Special recognition goes to:
– Dimitri Alexandris and Rebecca Botha, who featured on the Outstanding Achievement list for placing within the top 5% nationally in six subjects and scoring over 80% for Life Orientation.
– Rebecca Botha who achieved within the top 1% nationally for Accounting, English, Geography, Life Orientation, and Mathematics, and Dimitri Alexandris who earned top 1% rankings for Computer Applications Technology and Mathematics.
– Alexander Moolman (for Geography), Isabella Dinwiddy and Chloe Bateman (for Visual Art), and Danè Strydom (Afrikaans) who also achieved in the top 1% for their respective subjects.

Each year more matriculants ask for their results to not be published and them to remain private. Of those wishing to keep their results private there was one additional pupil with 5 distinctions and four pupils in the top 1% for Mathematical Literacy.

In addition to writing their National Senior Certificate or matric examinations, 3 of our pupils took on the additional challenge of Further Studies Mathematics. We are especially proud of Dimitri Alexandris, who achieved 93% for Further Studies Mathematics Standard (Calculus and Algebra).

As Woodridge College concludes another year of academic endeavour, we take pride in the dedication and progress shown within our classrooms and beyond. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to our teachers, parents, and guardians, whose unwavering support underpins our success. We look forward to building on this year's achievements as we continue to uphold our commitment to academic excellence and holistic development.

Teaching Science by Doing Science

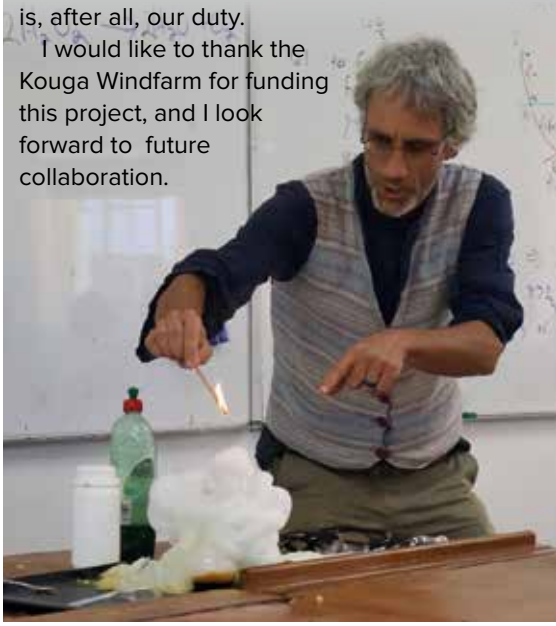
The Science Teachers' Programme was born out of a desire for lifelong learning. Creativity is an essential part of what makes us human, so if we want to live a life that is more than just survival, we need to find a purpose and work towards it. That means we must continuously learn.

The programme included four science teacher training workshops, with seven schools from Hankey, Lourie, Thornhill, Jefferys Bay and Humansdorp. In addition, each participating school received a basic science apparatus kit.

The central aim of these workshops was to encourage and enhance the use of scientific investigations in the classroom, thereby strengthening science teaching and learning in the Kouga region.

Feedback from the teachers was very positive and showed a real demand for the continuation of the workshops. We are currently hoping to repeat and expand this project next year, with similar workshops in Mathematics and English, alongside further Physical Science workshops. My personal vision is for Woodridge to become a local centre for academic excellence, supporting and improving local schools' academic programmes. As a privileged school with excellent teacher and facilities, it is, after all, our duty.

I would like to thank the Kouga Windfarm for funding this project, and I look forward to future collaboration.



My Woodridge

A breeze of silky fresh air swept across Knight field,
Penetrating my nostrils
The cabins are quiet, but
The air filled with rich triumph
No one dares to shy away from these lights

Lady slipper watches her children
cry, laugh and shout for space.
These grounds hold memories
Memories that are stained in the fabric of our hearts.

Bubble camp, sits a small grade 8
Listening wide-eyed to the tale of Dead shot George.
The fire cracked, my heart skipped a beat
Fear had a name that night,
We shared the tent together.

Then came The Way.
Twenty-one days of blissful torture.
The horizon stretching further than I thought I could walk.
That day I learnt that heroes aren't crowned.
But are carved by the trails of river crossings,
Rucksacks heavy with more than just gear
But by the weight of their own doubt.

The hero's journey isn't just a story in a book.
It's the flight back home,
The mud on your clothes
The friendships woven in the gold of sunrise
For I once feared a campfire tale
Now I stand unshaken in the darkness.
Knowing that the path still stretches on,
I will still keep moving.

Step out and take a breath
For education must not be confined to these walls.
I thank you Woodo's
For showing me laughter that stitched courage,
For the wind that pushed me forward,
For showing the vastness of this world
And preparing me to walk it.

– **Luvuyo Titus** –

Visual Arts

Ms Juli-Anne Norton

The year 2025 has been both a dynamic and inspiring period for the Visual Arts Department at Woodridge College. The Art studio was consistently abuzz with creativity and dedication, as pupils across all grades contributed to a remarkably high standard of artistic output.

This report aims to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding achievements of our pupils in Visual Arts during the academic year.

Grade 8 Overview
In the first term, Grade 8 pupils engaged with the foundational principles of colour theory and colour mixing, culminating in a vibrant series of acrylic self-portrait paintings. Terms two and three were dedicated to developing academic drawing skills using pencil and black ballpoint pen. The result was a series of technically sound and visually accurate still life studies. We commend the following pupils who consistently achieved above 95% in their practical assessments: Caitlin Looman, Hannah Kamau, Elize De Vaan, Bahle Lwana, Abigail Reed, Michael Wei, Hayley Young and Amelie Meara, who also received the Subject Prize for Visual Arts.

Grade 9 Overview
The first term saw Grade 9 pupils explore the theme "What Makes South Africa Beautiful" through black ballpoint pen drawings. In Terms two and three, they developed their understanding of colour theory through the creation of expressive acrylic pet portraits. A series of tonal pencil exercises followed, designed to teach the rendering of form and depth. These techniques were applied in an A4 still life drawing, followed by observational studies using black pen. We extend special recognition to the following pupils who consistently produced exceptional practical work (achieving above 95%): Iminathi Mashelele, Ava Chantson, Zi Yan Gao, Ashlee Buhr, Hannah Potgieter, Tristan Kretzmann, Laney Knoetze, Connor Meara, Arabella Horsfield, Joshua Dayce, Reinart Kok, and Caitlin Erlank, who was awarded the Subject Prize for Visual Arts and the Carter Trophy for Most Promising Junior Artist for 2025.

Grades 10 and 11 Overview
Grades 10 and 11 focused on a more exploratory and concept-driven approach to artmaking. Pupils worked across various media and were encouraged to develop their own creative processes through Visual Journals, reflecting on their growth and personal expression. Each project concluded with a final artwork and drawing which was supported by sketches and concept development, emulating the process required for the Grade 12 portfolio.

Noteworthy achievements include:
Kate Herselman
(Grade 10) – awarded both the Visual Arts Subject Prize and the Bailey Trophy for Best Drawing, recognising the technical excellence and originality within her diverse portfolio.
Cameron Whitehouse
(Grade 11) – Awarded the Subject Prize for Visual Arts and the recipient of the May Trophy for Most Promising Senior Artist, in recognition of her developing personal style and refined skill, which point toward a bright future in Visual Arts.

The Exhibition of Recognition
A major highlight for the department this year was the launch of The Exhibition of Recognition, an initiative introduced by the new Head of Department, Ms Juli-Anne Norton. This exhibition showcased outstanding works from Grades 8 to 11 from Terms 1 and 2 in the dedicated Visual Arts Exhibition Space. The exhibition not only celebrated the skill and dedication of our young artists but also promoted greater awareness and appreciation of Visual Arts within the wider school community.

The exhibition presented a broad spectrum of media, including mixed media, pencil, graphite, ink, charcoal, oil pastels, watercolour, acrylic and oil paints, as well as three-dimensional installation works. Each piece reflected the individuality and conceptual depth of the pupils' artistic journeys. Events such as these are integral to the Visual Arts programme, offering pupils the opportunity to exhibit their work publicly, engage with an audience, and receive meaningful recognition from peers, staff, and families. They also serve as a powerful tool in encouraging future participation in the subject at senior levels.

The overwhelmingly positive response to the exhibition ensures that this will become a feature on the department's calendar.

Grade 12 Final Portfolios
The twelve Grade 12 Visual Arts pupils of 2025 were: Chloe Bateman, Lily Beneka, Luke Burrows, Pauline Claassen, Isabella Dinwiddy, Kaia Forsyth-Tancredi, Imogen Lees, Inati Mabusela, Buhlebemvelo Mnyaka, Anovuyo Ndlazi, Aidan Ross and Daniella Smith. All matric pupils engaged deeply with the IEB Visual Arts curriculum, producing exceptional practical portfolios in response to the theme "Secrets and Surprises". Their portfolios included Final Artworks, Drawings, and Visual Journals, all of which were showcased in the Art Department's formal exhibition space.

This final exhibition, opened to parents and invited guests, was a resounding success and a fitting celebration of their commitment and creative talent. While every matric portfolio was of a high standard, several pupils deserve special recognition:

Chloe Bateman – awarded both an Academic Achievement for Visual Arts and the MacDonald Trophy for Best overall Practical Portfolio Prize for her sensitive and evocative family portraits executed in layered mixed media and ink.
Lily Beneka – recipient of the Raith Trophy for the Best Artwork Prize for her powerful and expressive self-portrait, noted for its dynamic colour palette and emotive impact.
Isabella Dinwiddy – was awarded the Subject Prize for Visual Arts.

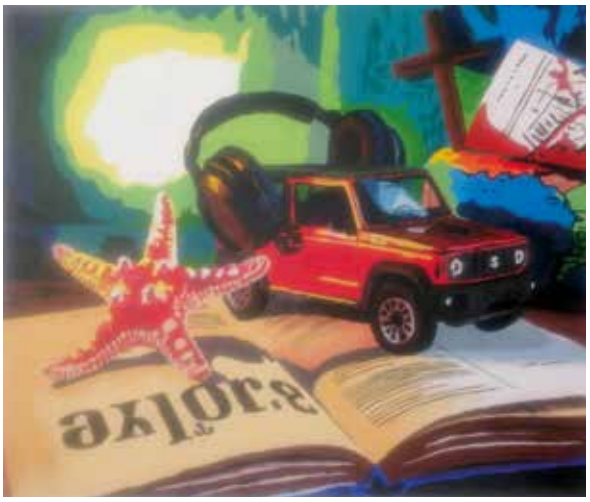
The exhibition's lighting and professional presentation elevated the works on display and created a memorable experience for all who attended.

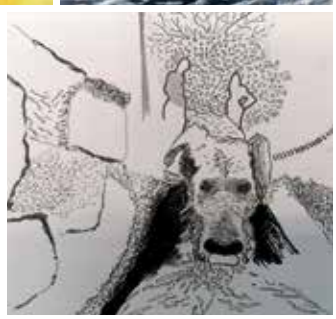
Closing Reflections
The Visual Arts Department wishes to commend every pupil who has been part of our classes in 2025. Each pupil is on a unique creative journey, and it is both a privilege and a joy to witness their growth. Visual Arts offers a space for holistic expression, mind, body, and spirit—and provides a meaningful outlet for the exploration of identity, imagination, and emotion.

In conclusion, we reflect on the words of Stella Adler:

Life beats down and crushes the soul, but Art reminds you that you have one.

Let us continue to value and nurture the joy, freedom, and self-discovery that Visual Arts brings, and appreciate the privilege of being part of a school that recognises and supports artistic excellence.





Outstanding Achievements

EASTERN PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVES

Back Row: *Sam Barnes, Oliver Martin, Mpumi Magwentshu, Ethan Moothoo, Mick Kirsten, Randy Syce, Anna Kirsten*
Fourth Row: *Liam Schweitzer, Jessica Harcus, Daniella Harcus, Malachi Smith, Gareth Steenkamp, Josh Ongole, Vaclav Horak, Oliver Stutterheim* ***Third Row:*** *Iviwe Ngangelizwe, Phoebe Chanston, Rebecca Stottelaar, Gaby Webb, Hannah de Necker, Madison Badenhorst, Cameron Jones, Stefan Ferreira, Charles Frost, Deacon Dugmore, Edward Ferreira*
Second Row: *Olivia Montagna, Imi Nyila, Sasha Stottelaar, Sky Zakumba, Katie Gothard, Akha Mbili, Sienna Peens, Lisakhanya Nyoka, Noah Jacobs, Jay-Reece Madatt, Sachin Moothoo, Ava Horner, Connor du Preez, Dante Williams*
Front Row: *Mr Daniel Ward, Mr Zinzo Dondashe, Maria King, Daniella Smith, Rebecca Botha, Annabelle Reitz, Gabriella Rowe, Zara Bonnasse, Ashlee Buhr, Cameron Badenhorst, Tyler Merrington, Leah Owen, Quinn Foreman, Lily Ferrant, Daniel Lakotch, David-Joshua Makotter, Miss Victoria Williams, Mr Staunton Goliath* ***Absent:*** *Carter Rosser, Christian Chandler*

SA REPRESENTATIVES

Liam Schweitzer, Daniella Harcus, Jessica Harcus
Absent: *Gian Moolman*

Daniella Harcus
Daniella has demonstrated exceptional talent and dedication in Surf Lifesaving, representing both her province and South Africa with distinction. Her achievements this year highlight her growth as an athlete and team member, earning her multiple podium finishes and international selection.

Dani Harcus states: “Lifesaving has given me the opportunity to grow as an athlete and team member while representing my province and country. This year, I was selected for the Eastern Cape Provincial Pool Team and achieved several podium finishes at both the Western Cape and South African Lifesaving Championships, including first place in the Ironwoman and Run-Swim-Run events. I also had the honour of being chosen for the South African President’s Team to compete in New Zealand.

Lifesaving continues to inspire me to work hard, stay dedicated, and give my best in everything I do.” These accomplishments underscore Dani’s versatility across pool and open-water events, her ability to excel under pressure, and her commitment to team success. She exemplifies the values of discipline, resilience, and excellence in Surf Lifesaving, making her a proud representative of South Africa on the global stage.

Jessica Harcus

Jessica shone brightly in the world of lifesaving sports throughout 2025, demonstrating unparalleled skill, determination, and competitive prowess. She kicked off the year with dominant performances at both the Western Province and Eastern Province Life Saving Championships, where she claimed an impressive nine gold medals, underscoring her versatility and supremacy across multiple events.

Representing Woodridge at the South African National Championships in Gqeberha, Jessica elevated her legacy by clinching the national champion title in the Manikin Tow with Fins event. Her exceptional results not only highlighted her technical mastery, but also propelled her onto the global stage, earning her a coveted spot on the South Africa Presidents Team for the Commonwealth Games in Wales.

There, Jessica delivered medal-winning brilliance, securing gold medals in both the 50m and 100m Manikin Carry events, as well as a thrilling team gold in the 4x25m Manikin Carry relay. Her contributions were instrumental in elevating South Africa's standing on the international podium. Capping off an extraordinary year, Jessica's consistent excellence led to her selection for the South African National Junior Team at the International Surf Rescue Challenge in New Zealand, positioning her as a rising star with boundless potential.

Jessica exemplifies the pinnacle of athletic dedication, resilience, and team spirit, inspiring peers and coaches alike with her remarkable journey from provincial dominance to international acclaim.

Liam Schweitzer

Liam's 2025 season represented a pinnacle in his Surf Lifesaving journey, marked by extraordinary personal triumphs and contributions to South African pride on the global stage. His achievements this year highlight his skill, resilience, and role in elevating Lifesaving South Africa.

Liam represented Lifesaving South Africa as a valued member of the President's Team at the prestigious Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships. He claimed two gold medals and one silver medal, delivering standout performances across demanding disciplines. His efforts propelled the team to a remarkable third place overall, underscoring his ability to excel under international pressure and contribute to collective victory.

At the South African Championships (SA Champs), Liam's strong results solidified his reputation as a top competitor, securing his selection to the Eastern Province Senior Surf Lifesaving Team. This progression reflects consistent excellence in events like board racing, ocean swims, and rescue challenges, positioning him among the nation's elite.

This unforgettable season delivered not only medals and team accolades for Liam but also embodied the grit and dedication that define Surf Lifesaving.

Vaclav Horak

Vaclav's 2025 season in Surf Lifesaving was marked by remarkable domestic success in South Africa and prestigious international representation for the Czech Republic. His performances reflect elite athleticism, resilience, and national pride, culminating in awards and invaluable experience at top-tier competitions.

Vaclav dominated the SA Championships in Port Elizabeth earlier in the year, clinching the coveted Victor Ludorum in the pool section—a testament to his supremacy across multiple events. This led to his selection for the Eastern Province (EP) pool lifesaving team, which competed at the Inter-Provincial Tournaments (IPTs) in Johannesburg. His standout season earned him the Senior Male Lifesaver of the Year award, a rare and prestigious honour recognising overall excellence.

Later in the year, the Czech Republic national lifesaving team called upon Vaclav to represent his country at the European Championships in Poland—his second time donning the national colours. He advanced to several finals, with his highlight being a strong second-place qualification in the board race final, finishing seventh overall despite the challenge of capitalizing on his position.

This international exposure at elite European level is invaluable, building on his prior national representation and creating lasting memories of high-stakes competition. Vaclav's 2025 achievements—from domestic dominance to European finals—underscore his status as a world-class lifesaver. These milestones not only honour the Czech Republic but also position him for future success, blending South African grit with international poise.

Gian Moolman

Gian has demonstrated exceptional talent and dedication in surf lifesaving, earning numerous accolades at national and international levels.

At the South African Championships in Port Elizabeth, Gian secured multiple medals, showcasing consistent excellence in competitive events.

Representing Eastern Province at the Inter-Provincial Tournaments (IPTs), Gian achieved a first-place finish along with three second-place finishes, contributing significantly to the team's success.

Gian was selected for the South African Commonwealth Games team in Swansea, Wales, where he won three gold medals, one silver medal, and one bronze medal. Additionally, as part of the relay team, Gian helped break two junior national records, marking a highlight in his career.

These accomplishments reflect Gian's commitment, skill, and potential as a standout athlete in surf lifesaving.

1st XI Boys' Cricket

Captain: Randy Syce • Coach: Mr Haydn Greener

The 2025 season for the Woodridge 1st XI was one of steady growth, commitment, and competitive spirit. Over the course of a demanding fixture list, the team faced a variety of strong opponents both locally and beyond our borders. While results fluctuated, what remained constant was the side's determination and willingness to compete until the final ball. It is easy to find rhythm in a winning season, but true character is forged in the moments that test resolve – and this group of young cricketers displayed plenty of that throughout the year.

The season began with three warm-up fixtures that served as valuable preparation and an early measure of the team's potential. Against Peterhouse Zimbabwe, Hellenic Academy, and Framesby, the boys produced some promising performances. Highlights included a fluent century from Jack Feltham (106) and an unbeaten 51 from Oliver Puttergill in the opening declaration match, and a commanding 113 by Randy Syce against Framesby. These early games showcased the team's ability to adapt across formats and conditions, setting a positive tone for the competitive fixtures to follow.

As the season unfolded, the 1st XI experienced a balance of triumphs and testing encounters. There were comprehensive victories, such as the emphatic nine-wicket win over Union High and a convincing performance against DF Malherbe, where Jay-Reece Madatt's 5/30 led the way with the ball. The team also produced an outstanding all-round effort at the Pearson Festival, chasing down Wynberg's 123 in the final over, with Oliver Puttergill (48 off 41) anchoring the innings under pressure.

Several matches, however, were tightly contested and could have swung either way. Narrow defeats to sides such as Graeme College and Westering underlined both the competitiveness of the opposition and the fine margins of the game. Throughout these encounters, the players demonstrated fight and focus, refusing to let setbacks define their season.

The Independent Schools Festival in Pretoria presented unique challenges, including persistent rain that limited play. Nonetheless, the boys recorded a memorable victory over St George's (Harare), dismissing them for just 66 thanks to a superb spell from Jay-Reece Madatt (5/10 in 5 overs), and chasing the total comfortably. Despite difficult results against other festival sides, valuable experience was gained from competing against top-level schools.

In the latter part of the season, Woodridge's form showed a clear upward trend. The side registered dominant performances against Reddam Constantia—winning both T20 and 50-over encounters—and against Nico Malan, where a blistering 72 from Ethan Moothoo* sealed a nine-wicket victory. Unfortunately, the much-anticipated clash against St Andrew's College was abandoned due to rain after a promising start with the ball.

Individually, several players stood out across the season. Randy Syce led by example, contributing significantly with both bat and ball, amassing 496 runs and claiming 36 wickets, while Ethan Moothoo (458 runs, 26 wickets) consistently influenced games in both departments. Oliver Puttergill (377 runs) also proved reliable at the top of the order, and Mpumi Magwentshu (32 wickets) spearheaded the bowling attack with pace and aggression.

Their combined efforts, supported by valuable contributions throughout the squad, ensured that Woodridge remained a competitive and spirited outfit in every fixture.

As a collective, the team has grown tremendously. Injuries and weather disruptions occasionally interrupted momentum, but the side's unity and work ethic never wavered. Many of these players will return next season, bringing with them the experience and composure gained from a year of challenging, high-quality cricket.

Captain Randy Syce led with energy and example, both on and off the field, inspiring his teammates through his performances and calm leadership. Under his guidance, the 1st XI embodied resilience, sportsmanship, and pride in representing Woodridge.

The 2025 season was one of progress – a building block for greater success to come.

The commitment shown by the players, the mentorship of the coaching staff, and the steady improvement in all areas provide an encouraging platform for the seasons ahead. Special thanks must be extended to the coaching team for their tireless efforts in guiding and developing the squad.

The Woodridge 1st XI can look back on 2025 with pride and look forward to 2026 with confidence – ready to turn hard-earned lessons into even greater achievements.

Top Row: *Keegan Collett, Dimitri Alexandres, Daniel Darlow*
Middle Row: *Jay-Reece Madatt, Cameron Ferrant, Mpumi Magwentshu, Mark Janse Van Rensburg, Oliver Puttergill, Salizwa Masoka*
Bottom Row: *Randy Syce, Mr H. Greener, Mr L. Hartley, Ethan Moothoo*

2nd XI Cricket

Captain: Somila Voorslag • Coach: Mr Staunton Goliath

The Woodridge College 2nd Team Cricket side showed tremendous growth, character, and commitment throughout the season. Every fixture presented a challenge, yet the team consistently stepped onto the field with passion, determination, and a competitive spirit that reflected their pride in representing Woodridge.

From the outset, the team identified fielding as one of its greatest strengths. The players took enormous pride in their standards, often outperforming their opponents in the field. Remarkably, not a single catch was dropped during the entire first term, a testament to their concentration and discipline.

The team celebrated strong wins against Alexander Road and Victoria Park, where both bowling partnerships and disciplined batting performances came to the fore. Against tougher opposition such as Daniel Pienaar, Kingswood College, and Westering High, the 2nd team showed impressive resilience and skill, narrowly losing matches that could have gone either way. These encounters highlighted the team's competitiveness and growth mindset.

As the season progressed into longer formats, the boys continued to develop. The results did not go in our favour in the 50-over match against Graeme College in Makhanda or the T20 fixture against Nico Malan, but the team's attitude remained positive and focused. The players supported and encouraged one another, and the sense of team unity and shared responsibility was evident both on and off the field.

Every player made meaningful contributions throughout the season—whether with the ball, the bat, or in the field. The collective improvement from the first practice session to the final match of the term has been substantial. The squad played with enthusiasm, self-belief, and sportsmanship, consistently reflecting the values of Woodridge College.

This was a season defined not only by performances, but by growth, maturity, and togetherness. The foundation laid this year promises exciting development for the seasons ahead.

2ND XI BOYS' CRICKET

Back Row: *Somila Voorslag, Lubabalo Mpalala, Nkululeko Kona, Kurt Krull, James Waller, Lwanda Nkomana, Joshua Ongole, Jon-Luc de Meillon*
Front Row: *Francois Nel, Sonwabise Gotyana, Lithalethu Hanabe, Mr Staunton Goliath, Chuma Kate, Joel Fourie*

U15 Boys' Cricket

Coach: Glenn Bester • Captain: Jack Feltham

The Woodridge College U15A cricket team once again proved themselves a dominant force in the Eastern Cape. This is a group of players who play for each other. Their unity, maturity, competitive spirit and respect for the game made them ambassadors not only for Woodridge College, but for schoolboy cricket.

The year began with a confident 70-run win over Daniel Pienaar, where Jack announced his form for the season with a commanding 82 not out, well supported by Ithi and Jeandre. Lisa led the bowling effort superbly. A week later against Alexander Road, Woodridge produced a batting display of rare quality, posting a remarkable 386/5 in 40 overs. Contributions flowed throughout the order, with Thomas, Cameron and Ithi laying the platform before Jeandré blasted 64 from 28 and Jack reached a stunning century from just 40 balls. Lisakhanya, Sachin and Ithi combined well with the ball to seal a 240-run victory.

Confidence continued to grow, and against Despatch the team maintained their high standards with another impressive batting performance, posting 207/2 in 20 overs thanks to Sachin's anchor role, Jack's fluency and Jeandré's explosive 58. Despatch was dismissed for 90, with Stephen taking three wickets in an excellent spell. The match against Westering demanded character after Westering reached 166/3, but a game-changing spell from Mbasa drew the momentum back, paving the way for another controlled Woodridge run chase, led by Stephen's 72.

Kingswood and Framesby were both swept aside through disciplined, intelligent bowling and calm chases. Against Union High, Sachin's outstanding return of 5 wickets for 27 set up another comprehensive win. The side then faced a resilient Graeme College outfit, and in a moment of real test and maturity, Jack and Jeandré delivered two exceptional innings under pressure to guide Woodridge to 226, before the bowlers dismantled Graeme for just 95.

The Grey U15 Cricket Festival in October showcased the team's adaptability in multi-day and limited-overs formats. Against Selborne, Woodridge batted deep and boldly declared on 284/8, before bowling their opponents out and enforcing the follow-on to claim U15 Cricket Festivals in a victory on the first innings.

U15A XI BOYS' CRICKET

Back Row: *Stephen Swanepoel, Lisakhanya Nyoka, Edward Ferreira, Kyan Milsom, Mr Glenn Bester, Mbasa Mbengashe, Cameron Jones, Stefan Ferreira, Hudson Whitehouse*
Front Row: *Jeandré Strydom, Thomas Abernethy, Jack Feltham, Ilungile Ithi Arosi, Sachin Moothoo, Seth Rensburg*

U15B XI BOYS' CRICKET

Back Row: *Zukhanye Sonwabo, Kyle Elson, Daniel Herselman, Phelo Kwitshana, Reinhart Kok, Deacon Dugmore, Lunathi Ndima, Iminathi Mashelele*
Front Row: *Lusindiso Zondani, Oyama Ngeni, Mr Zachary Hendricks, Sloan Radue, Joshua Dayce*

The match against SACS was a hard-fought classic, with the team showing immense resolve before narrowly losing by one wicket. They responded superbly against Menlopark, posting 256/8 with Jeandré playing one of the innings of the year—93 not out off 77 balls—and then clinically closing out the match with intelligent, sustained pressure. Seth's five catches behind the stumps were a standout. The final matches of the year saw Woodridge handle Nico Malan with confidence, before the much-anticipated clash with St Andrew's was, unfortunately, abandoned in difficult conditions, though not before Jeandré played a sparkling 45 from 22 balls.
This season was defined not by individual brilliance alone—though there was plenty of it—but by collective pride, shared responsibility and a team culture built on trust. Every player knew his role, embraced it, and executed it for the good of the team. They supported each other, worked relentlessly on their skills, and consistently competed with maturity beyond their age.

Woodridge College can be immensely proud of this U15A side. Their legacy is one built on character, unity, and excellence. Each player has contributed to a season that will long be remembered, and the foundations laid here will continue to carry Woodridge cricket forward with confidence and strength.

Under 15B Cricket
Coach: Zackary Hendricks
Captain: Oyama Ngeni

The U15B cricket side made a strong start to their season, showing discipline with the ball, bravery with the bat, and a growing confidence in their all-round game. In the opening fixture against Patterson High, Woodridge posted 123, led by a composed innings from Lusindiso Zondani (31 off 27 balls) and well supported by Deacon Dugmore (19 off 15 balls). The bowlers then delivered a dominant performance to dismiss Patterson for 90, with Sloan (4 overs, 5 runs, 3 wickets), Oyama (4 overs, 12 runs, 3 wickets) and Lusindiso Zondani (4 overs, 20 runs, 2 wickets)

all making key contributions. Lusindiso was named Man of the Match as Woodridge secured a 33-run victory.

The momentum continued against Despatch High, where Woodridge reached 111/9, thanks to Hudson (29 off 33 balls) and Kyle (24 off 25 balls), before another excellent display with the ball saw Despatch bowled out for 71. Oyama led the attack superbly with 4 wickets, supported by Sloan and Hudson, who each claimed two, earning Hudson the Man of the Match award and a 40-run win for Woodridge.

The final match saw the team face a strong Pearson outfit, who posted 149/6 despite tight spells from Hudson (4 overs, 17 runs, 2 wickets) and Iminathi (4 overs, 19 runs, 2 wickets). Woodridge fought hard in reply, with Deacon (22 off 24 balls) and Keagan (17 off 27 balls) showing determination, but the team finished on 106/6, falling short by 43 runs. Overall, the side produced two convincing victories and a competitive performance in their only loss, demonstrating resilience, teamwork, and a growing maturity in their cricket.

Standout contributions throughout the series came from Lusindiso Zondani, Hudson Whitehouse, Sloan Radue, and Oyama Ngeni, who consistently led from the front with both bat and ball. The squad can be proud of their progress and the strong foundation laid for the remainder of the season.

Match Results – 2025 Season

Notes	Result	Opponent
Jack Feltham 82; Lisakhanya Nyoka1/3 (3 overs)	**Won by 70 runs**	Daniel Pienaar
Jack Feltham 100 (40 balls); Ithi Arosi 83; Jeandré 64	**Won by 240 runs**	Alexander Road High
Sachin Moothoo 55; Jeandré 58; Stephen 3 wickets	**Won by 117 runs**	Despatch High
Stephen Swanepeol 72; Mbasa 4 wickets	**Won by 4 wickets**	Westering High
Stefan 51; Lisa & Jeandré 3 wickets each	**Won by 5 wickets**	Kingswood College
Stefan 4 wickets; Jack 42	**Won by 8 wickets**	Framesby High
Sachin 5/27; Ithi 32	**Won by 8 wickets**	Union High
Jack 107; Jeandré 61; Ithi 3 wickets	**Won by 131 runs**	Graeme College
Jack 83; Mbasa 47; Edward 3/18	**Won on 1st innings**	Selborne College (Declaration)
Jack 58; Jeandré 39; Ithi 3/19	**Lost by 1 wicket**	SACS (Declaration)
Jeandré 93; Seth 5 catches;	**Won by 54 runs**	Menlopark (50 overs)
Sachin 3/14; Ithi & Jack controlled the chase	**Won by 7 wickets**	Nico Malan (T20)
Jeandré 45 off 22 balls	**Match Abandoned**	St Andrew's College

This season was defined by teamwork, commitment, and the strong bond formed within the squad. The players demonstrated maturity, humility, and a genuine respect for the game. It was a season to remember, and a foundation for future success.

U14 Boys' Cricket

Captain: Noah Jacobs • Coaches: Mr Nash Dondashe

The Woodridge U14A cricket team began their season in emphatic fashion, setting the tone early with a dominant victory over Alexander Road. The side produced a remarkable all-round performance, winning the game by an astonishing 335 runs. This fixture was highlighted by two outstanding centuries – Noah Jacobs scoring 124 and Joshua Bailes adding 108 – giving the team momentum and confidence heading into the rest of the season.

Our next challenge was against Westering, where the team showcased disciplined and intelligent bowling. Restricting the opposition effectively, Woodridge secured a comfortable 7-wicket victory, further strengthening the team's belief in their ability.

The fixture against Kingswood provided our first real test. After bowling them out for 146, our top order experienced a collapse early in the chase. However, it was Juan Blou who stood firm under pressure, playing a courageous and mature knock of 44 not out, guiding Woodridge to a hard-fought 4-wicket win. His innings was a defining moment in the season, reinforcing the team's resilience and composure.

One of the standout fixtures of the season was against Pearson. Bowling first, Woodridge worked in partnerships, showing control and intent to restrict Pearson to 181 all out. Tylor Merrington led from the front, delivering a brilliant spell to claim 4 wickets. He later stepped up with the bat as well, scoring 53 to lead the chase, securing another composed 4-wicket victory.

The momentum continued into the Framesby fixture, where the bowlers once again kept control, dismissing Framesby for 169. A superb knock of 81 from Noah Jacobs anchored the run chase and secured a 3-wicket win for Woodridge.

The match against Graeme College showcased perhaps our most disciplined bowling performance of the season. In a clinical display, Woodridge bowled Graeme out for 100 and chased down the target swiftly to win by 8 wickets.

The team also took part in two T20 fixtures, defeating Reddam Constantia and Nico Malan, both by 6 wickets. A special mention goes to Joshua Bailes for an excellent 53 not out against Nico Malan.

Throughout the season, the identity of the team became increasingly clear. While we had strong contributors with the bat, it was our bowling and fielding unit that consistently put us in winning positions. We became known for taking control of matches early through disciplined, aggressive and strategic bowling. A massive commendation goes to the core bowling group led by Tylor Merrington, Juan Blou, Ashlee Buhr, and Joshua Bailes, who were instrumental in ensuring that every opponent we faced this season was bowled out.

We are incredibly proud of this team –not only for their results, but for the way they represented Woodridge College both on and off the field.

U14A XI
BOYS' CRICKET

Back Row: *Sango Mashaya, Sinovuyo Meyi, Juan Blou, Ashlee Buhr, Cole Bartlett, Milowo Bovungane*
Front Row: *Tau Moloi, Noah Jacobs, Mr Nash Dondashe, Mr Pranavan Balakistan, Tylor Merrington, Quinn Foreman*
Absent: *Wyatt Kretzmann, Oyinthando Makoyi.*

Margin / Notable Highlights	Outcome	Opponent
By 335 runs (Jacobs 124, Bailes 108)	**Won**	Alexander Road
By 7 wickets	**Won**	Westering
By 4 wickets (Blou 44* anchoring chase)	**Won**	Kingswood
By 4 wickets (Merrington 4 wickets & 53 runs)	**Won**	Pearson
By 3 wickets (Jacobs 81)	**Won**	Framesby
By 8 wickets (bowled out for 100)	**Won**	Graeme College
By 6 wickets	**Won**	Reddam Constantia (T20)
By 6 wickets (Bailes 53*)	**Won**	Nico Malan (T20)

Girls' 1st XI Cricket

Captain: Ava Horner • Coach: Mrs Josie Greener

The Woodridge College Girls' First Team enjoyed a remarkable and historic cricket season, showcasing exceptional growth, teamwork, and determination across a challenging fixture list. The season opened with dominant wins over Alexander Road, Collegiate, and Framesby, where the team's disciplined bowling attack and confident top-order batting set a strong early standard.

A major milestone in the season was hosting the inaugural Woodridge Girls' Cricket Festival, welcoming some of the top cricketing schools in South Africa. While the team faced tough competition, they demonstrated courage, maturity, and resilience—particularly through standout performances from Ashlee Buhr and Grade 8 player Milandile Saul, who both rose to the occasion against high-level opposition.

A historic moment followed in Knysna, where Woodridge posted a record 228/3, highlighted by Ashlee Buhr's unbeaten 110—the first-ever century in Woodridge girls' cricket.

Margin / Notes	Result	Opponent / Event
By 6 wickets (Bonnasse 3/4)	Won	Alexander Road
By 81 runs (Horner 58, Buhr 52)	Won	Collegiate
By 6 wickets (Buhr 4/25)	Won	Framesby (First Meeting)
Close contests, valuable growth	Mixed	Woodridge Girls' Cricket Festival
By 203 runs (Buhr 110*, Puttergill 3/2)	Won	Knysna High
By 3 runs (Saul 4/14)	Won	Stellenberg
By 10 wickets (Ferreira 3/9)	Won	Victoria Park
By 83 runs (Bonnasse 56, Saul 4/0)	Won	New Brighton Hub
By 4 wickets (close match)	Lost	EP High Performance Squad
By 6 wickets (Puttergill 4/9)	Won	Reddam Constantia (Thirsti Festival)
By 129 runs (Buhr 111*)	Won	Somerset College (Thirsti Festival)
By 9 wickets (Buhr 52 & 3 wickets)	Won	Curro Durbanville (Thirsti Festival)
Narrow contest	Lost	Drostdy (Thirsti Festival)
Finished 4th on NRR	Lost	Pearson (Thirsti Festival)
By 27 runs (Foreman 51*)	Won	Framesby (SA20 Semi-Final)
By 4 wickets (Buhr 47*) — Regional Champions	Won	Pearson (SA20 Regional Final)

The team continued to build momentum, securing dramatic victories against Stellenberg and resuming the season after the break with further wins over Victoria Park and New Brighton Hub.

The team also tested themselves against an EP High Performance side, gaining invaluable experience in a narrow loss decided in the final few balls.

A major highlight came at the Thirsti Cricket Festival in Drostdy, where Woodridge claimed strong victories over Reddam Constantia, Somerset College, and Curro Durbanville, tying for second overall in the tournament standings.

The season reached its pinnacle in the SA20 Regional competition. After defeating Framesby in the semi-final, Woodridge faced Pearson in the regional final—a side they had not previously beaten. In a composed and courageous performance under pressure, the girls secured a memorable 4-wicket victory, becoming SA20 Regional Champions.

This season will be remembered for its historic milestones, record-breaking performances, and the inspiring unity shown by every member of the squad. The journey was defined by pride, passion, and a belief in one another—setting a powerful foundation for the future of girls' cricket at Woodridge College.

Girls Junior Cricket:
As the source of the second team girls' cricket, this group of girls was eager to understand the fundamentals of the game and laid back enough to have fun while learning a new skill. Their passion for learning the fundamentals inspired me. It was beautiful to see how happy they were after executing a skill and carrying that confidence into the next day. Cricket is a sport of repetition, and they pulled their weight.

Their general knowledge of cricket has shot through the roof compared to the start. They are an exceptional group of girls who can now play a good game of cricket.

1ST XI GIRLS' CRICKET

Back Row: *Daynah Blignaut, Aneeqah Smith, Dané Strydom, Siân Dearmer, Ashlee Buhr, Nina Ferreira, Milandile Saul*
Front Row: *Gabriella Puttergill, Zara Bonnasse, Mrs Josie Greener, Mr Luke Hartley, Ava Horner, Quinn Foreman*

2ND XI GIRLS' CRICKET

Back Row: *Imivuyo Galada, Lumae von Berg, Luvuyo Titus, Lucy Dyer, Anovuyo Ndlazi, Isabella Thompson, BuhlebeMvelo Mnyaka, Madison Morris, Kyra Dysel, Umthawelanga Captain,*
Front Row: *Jordin Demar, Siphesihle Mgogoshe, Rebecca van Huyssteen, Someleze Jacobs, Tenielle Renze, Ayabulela Madaka*
Absent: *Liqhamile Mehlo, Lulo Gcilitshana, Sange Nogqala, Liyabona Xipula, Laney Knoetze*

GIRLS' JUNIOR CRICKET

Back Row: *Mihlali Tatani, Lathi-tha Mnyaka, Jeanelle Mndolwa, Simliziwe Swayena, Buhle Ngweba, Mr Herman Venter*
Front Row: *Zi Yan Gao, Chloe Pistorius, Miss Tiffany August, Tulie Clarke, Hayley Young, Mbali Xawuka*
Absent: *Lunawe Mthimunye, Hlomisa Heshu, Thando Ludidi, Sinda Sneli, Sine Skosana, Somilangaye Jam Jam*

1st Boys' Water Polo

Coach: Mr Daniel Ward
Captain: Alexander Moolman

Across a demanding and action-packed season, the Woodridge College 1st Team Boys played over 50 matches, recording an impressive 72%-win rate and capturing two major tournament titles, the Rob Charlton Trophy and the National Co-Ed Schools Trophy.

The team's success was built on commitment, discipline, and strong leadership within the squad. The 2025 season will be remembered as a year of progress, pride, and purpose for Woodridge Water Polo, one that set new standards and inspired the next generation to dream even bigger.

The season began in East London at the Vides Tournament, hosted by Selborne College. This set the tone for the year, as the boys competed fiercely against some of South Africa's top sides. Despite narrow losses to Clifton (8–9) and Grey High (7–8), the team displayed resilience and quality throughout, eventually reaching the Plate Final, where they went down to Wynberg. The tournament established early confidence and belief that Woodridge could hold their own among the country's elite.

Building on that momentum, the boys travelled to Makhanda to defend their title at the Rob Charlton Tournament—and they did so in style. With a flawless record of seven wins from seven games, Woodridge once again proved their dominance.

A commanding 6–0 victory over Pearson in the Semi-Final and an 8–3 triumph over Glenwood House in the Final saw them crowned champions for the second consecutive year.

The first half of the season concluded with the Reef Cup Tournament in Johannesburg, where Woodridge faced top schools from across the country. Highlight wins against Steyn City (9–5) and Glenwood KZN (14–4) carried the team into the quarterfinals, where they were narrowly beaten by a strong Durban High School side. The boys showed excellent resolve to finish 5th overall, clinching a dramatic 7–6 penalty win over St Benedict's.

The second half of the season was marked by high intensity, focus, and historic achievement. Leading up to the National Co-Ed Schools Tournament, the Woodridge boys achieved a landmark victory, beating Grey High School 6–5 for the first time in history. This result stood as a powerful testament to the team's relentless work ethic, belief, and unity.

At the National Co-Ed Tournament, Woodridge delivered one of their most dominant displays of the season. With a perfect run of victories, the team advanced confidently to the final, where they faced the hosts, Pearson High School. In an emphatic performance, Woodridge claimed an 11–2 victory, lifting the National Co-Ed Trophy for the very first time.

It takes hard work to climb to the top, but consistency and discipline to stay there.

The latter part of the season tested the boys' mental strength as much as their skill. At the Woodridge Stayers Tournament, the team entered as one of the favourites and topped their pool in convincing fashion. A narrow quarterfinal loss to Stirling (3–4) was a tough blow, but the boys showed admirable resilience to finish 7th overall, closing the tournament with a strong 10–4 win over Grey Bloem.

To close out the year, Woodridge travelled to Johannesburg for their first-ever appearance at the prestigious St Stithians Stayers Tournament, following their promotion. Competing against the country's top 20 schools, the boys faced tough encounters and narrow defeats to Reddam Constantia, Grey High, and Durban High. Despite these results, the performances demonstrated that Woodridge belongs among South Africa's best, capable of competing at the highest level with courage and determination.

All in all, the 2025 season stands as a monumental chapter in the story of Woodridge Water Polo. The team's success, from historic victories to national recognition, has firmly established Woodridge as an emerging powerhouse in South African school water polo.

The season embodied the values of grit, growth, and greatness, proving that, with hard work and belief, even the smallest schools can achieve the biggest goals.

Woodridge Water Polo is no longer just competing; it's contending. And the best is yet to come.

Back Row: *Oliver Stutterheim, Callum Pledger, Samuel Barnes, Carter Rosser, Christian Chandler, Gareth Steenkamp, Gian Moolman, Liam Hegemann, Daniel Henning, Jac Duval*
Front Row: *Oliver Martin, Alex Moolman, Mr Daniel Ward, Mr Luke Hartley, Conor Gallagher, Kei MacDonald*

Boys' 2nd Water Polo

Coach: Mr Jacques Botha • Captain: Ryan Steenkamp

It was pleasing to have a large contingent of Matrics commit themselves to the season and contribute well to the team. The boys integrated well and remained in good spirits during practices, working towards improved fitness, skills and game understanding.

An early set of matches hosted by St Andrew's featured losses to their 2nd and 3rd teams and a 4-4 draw to the Pearson 2nd team. During home fixtures the next weekend we lost to the Pearson 2nd team but beat their U15As.

A return to Makanda saw the team boosted by the presence of three of the boys who had played mostly in the first team. Their firepower and the hard work of the regulars almost led to a victory over the Kingswood 1st team, while a goal in the dying seconds of the game, by goalkeeper Caleb Watson, secured a win against the St Andrew's U15A team.

A set of fixtures at Pearson saw us lose 4-6 to the Pearson 2nd team as well as heavier defeats against St Andrew's and the Pearson 1st team. A midweek fixture at Alex allowed a greater rotation of players. We beat the Pearson 3rd team and the Alex 2nd team.

The highlight for most players was a very enjoyable Chukka Festival. The accommodation on Leisure Isle was well-suited to team building. A massive home-made breakfast with bacon, eggs, fried tomatoes and mushrooms also featured blueberry pancakes. Braai-master Yongama featured strongly during the supper preparations. Visits to the Waffle House next door and swims in the lagoon completed the experience. The actual matches were played with intensity, and our defence was generally a strength. Michael Michau made a massive impact at centre forward and was chosen as our "Player of the Festival". We beat the Parklands 1st team 4-3 but lost narrowly to the Pinelands 1st and Paarl Boys' 2nd team. The losses to St Andrew's 2nds Somerset College 1sts and Wynberg 2nds were not as close but still allowed us to compete.

Over half-term the team competed in the Rob Charlton Tournament, hosted by Kingswood. Again, they competed well against first teams from other schools, showing the depth in open water polo.

The new season saw limited fixtures, but some Grade 10s did form part of an Invitational team, along with the U15As. All the boys contributed to a good season.

With that momentum, the U15 boys played some brilliant water polo and ended up placing 3rd in their pool, which placed us in the quarter finals."

Back Row: *Josh van der Merwe, Lenny Collins, Ryan Steenkamp, Caleb Watson, Joshua Dech*
Middle Row: *William Faifer, Corban Calitz, Ethan Hurley, Cade Klinkert, Daniel Potgieter, Julian Teulon*
Front Row: *Joshua Hartley, Mr Jacques Botha, Yongama Qulu, Michael Michau*

Boys' U15 Water Polo

The U15 Boys' Water Polo team took part in the Annual Investec U15 Grey High Tournament hosted in Port Elizabeth, in February, at the start of the year. The boys had a tough start to the tournament, playing against Paul Roos in their second game of the day and, unfortunately, coming out of that game with a loss. The U15s ended up placing third in the pool after having a hard-fought defeat with a close game, losing 5-4 against St John's College from Zimbabwe. The boys kept their heads up high and continued to have a very competitive tournament. Overall, they placed 11th out of 16 teams.

Throughout the start of the year, the U15 boys played fixtures against schools in the Nelson Mandela region. These fixtures provided the players with some needed game experience and learning moments. This helped with their development and understanding of the game.

In August, we started our preparation for the season by going on a school trip to Croatia. The Woodridge boys travelled to Croatia for a two-week trip. They had water polo sessions almost every single day across the Croatia coastline, coached by multiple national coaches. They played against some top ranked clubs and got amazing experience from all those sessions.

Back Row: *Zac Dysel, Charles Frost, Luca Hamlet, Christian Paxton, John Ackerman, Mr Cole Edworthy*
Front Row: *David-Joshua Markotter, Adam Brugman, Daniel Lokotsch, Malachi Smith, Matt Rosewarne, Connor du Preez*

At the start of the second season of the year, just coming back from our trip from Croatia, the U15 Boys took part in the U15 Snow Cup Water Polo Tournament hosted by Michaelhouse in Durban. The boys started the tournament on a high note, by beating Jeppe High School from Johannesburg 16-6. With that momentum, the U15 boys played some brilliant water polo and ended up placing 3rd in their pool, which placed us in the quarter finals. Unfortunately, things did not go our way and, after a very tough opposition, the team lost 7-6 to the KZN Invitational team. Notably, the boys kept their heads lifted high, going on to win our play-off game against Kingswood, 14-5. This brought us to our final game of the tournament, the 5th – 6th play off. After losing to Hellenic from Zimbabwe, 7-6 in our pool stages, the U15 Boys fought for what they deserved. They ended up winning the game 14-8, which placed us 5th overall.

In October, Selborne College hosted their Annual Sterrenberg U15 Water Polo Tournament in East London. The U15 Woodridge Boys' Team had an outstanding result to this tournament, winning all their pool stage games and placing 1st in their pool which placed us in the quarterfinals. In our Quarterfinal game, we played against one of the top schools in Durban, Northwood School. After having an extremely tight quarter, the game ended in a draw, 6-6. Having a nail-biting penalty shootout, Woodridge College came out of the trenches with a win, winning our quarter final 9-8. For the first time in history, Woodridge College played in the semi-finals at the Sterrenberg Tournament, playing against the hosts, Selborne College. Unfortunately, things did not go our way, and we lost to a very strong put-together side. Overall, the U15 Woodridge boys placed 4th in the tournament.

Boys' U14A Water Polo

Coaches: Mr Cole Edworthy • Me Matthew Rusteberg

The U14 Boys' Water Polo team took part in the 22nd Annual Jason Murray Tournament in the beginning of the year. This tournament was hosted by Selborne College in East London.

The boys played in a very tough tournament, especially for most of them, being their first tournament that they are playing in. Throughout the tournament they played some good water polo and learnt a lot. The boys made it through to the Quarterfinals after placing 4th in their pool.

Unfortunately, things did not go our way and the boys ended up placing 8th out of 13 teams.

Throughout the start of the year, the U14 boys played fixtures against schools in the Nelson Mandela region. These fixtures provided the players with game experience, helping develop their understanding of the game.

In October, Hudson Park hosted the annual Peter Cuff Tournament. Our U14 Boys travelled to East London for the tournament. The boys had some tough opposition in their pool and, knowing that, they played some excellent water polo throughout the tournament. They lost against U14A Grey High, a well drilled side, in a narrow loss, 6-3. The U14 boys set the tone for the remainder of the tournament and, after placing 3rd in the pool, the U14 Boys played against a strong U14A Selborne side, just falling short to lose 6-4. After a very good tournament, the boys placed 6th overall. The U14 Boys can be very proud of themselves after an amazing performance in the tournament.

Back Row: *Akhiwe Dlamini, Max Gerber, Sydney Stiemie, William Quinn, Matthew Venter, Jordan Snyman, Mr Cole Edworthy*
Front Row: *Danté Williams, Blake Roomer, Harrison Rosser, Hayden Lues, Cameron Badenhorst, Dylan Erlank*

1st Girls' Water Polo

MIC: Mr Darryn Campbell • Coach: Mr Darryn Campbell and Miss Iman Akomolafe
Captainship shared by the matric players

The 2025 season has been a remarkable year of growth, resilience, and achievement for our 1st Team Girls' Water Polo. Competing against some of the top schools in South Africa, our players have shown incredible improvement, determination, and team spirit throughout a challenging but rewarding season.

The year kicked off with the Summer Splash Festival in Makhanda, where our girls faced tough opposition from powerhouses such as Clarendon, Glenwood House, and Hudson. Despite some early losses, the team used every match as a learning opportunity, sharpening their defence, improving their communication, and building confidence with each game. åTheir next stop was the prestigious Brian Baker Tournament, also hosted in Makhanda, where the team faced an intense schedule against some of the strongest teams in the country, including St Dominic's, Rhenish, and St Stithians. Their hard work paid off with a fantastic 13–1 victory over Alex, and narrow contests that showed real competitive grit. The girls' teamwork and perseverance throughout this tour reflected their growing maturity and passion for the game.

In the ECO Pool fixture, the team battled bravely against DSG and Kingswood, showing great character in a 3–3 draw against DSG's U16A team and a narrow loss to Kingswood.

The highlight of this part of the season came during the week post this weekend against Pearson, where the girls put in one of their best performances, narrowly missing out with a 3–4 result after leading for most of the match.

Momentum built heading into the Reef Cup, where the girls truly came into their own. With outstanding wins against Pretoria Girls (6–0), Rand Park (16–2), DGC (5–3), and a strong finish beating DGC again in the 9th/10th playoff, they secured an impressive 9th place overall. The determination, fitness, and teamwork displayed at this tournament reflected just how far this group had come in a short time.

The second half of the season continued to showcase the team's steady rise. Despite a tough start in the NMB Night Series against Kingswood, the girls bounced back in their home fixtures, notching a brilliant 6–3 victory over Pearson – one of the standout wins of the year.

Their season concluded on a high at the National Co-Eds Tournament, where the team made their mark on the national stage. With convincing wins over Steyn City (10–4), Merrifield (9–4), and Westerford (10–4), the girls claimed a proud 11th place finish – a testament to their progress, discipline, and spirit.

This year's journey has been about much more than the results. It has been about growth, teamwork, and the belief that with hard work and heart, our girls can compete with the very best.

From their first whistle in January to their final game in October, they have shown what true perseverance looks like.

Well done to our 1st Team Girls Water Polo – you have made us all proud!"

Back Row: *Milla Aylesbury, Hannah De Necker, Caitlyn van Jaarsveldt, Ava Pledger, Madison Badenhorst*
Middle Row: *Bailey Varrie, Danielle Smith, Isabella Dinwiddy, Anna Kirsten, Lize Ferreira, Julia Cullingworth, Rebecca Botha*
Front Row: *Mr Darryn Campbell, Ms Iman Akomolafe, Mr Luke Hartley Mrs Deane Loubser*

Girls' 2nd Water Polo

Coach: Miss Emma Broadway • Captain: Franki Dace

This year was a memorable one for our team, marked by growth, grit, and great camaraderie. The highlight of our season was undoubtedly the Chukka Festival hosted by Oakhill, where we faced a mix of 1st and 2nd teams from across the Western Cape. Our team rose to the challenge, securing four impressive wins and only two losses, showcasing our determination and team spirit.

Throughout the season, we celebrated strong victories against strong 2nd teams in the province, including DSG, Kingswood, and Pearson. A particularly momentous occasion was our defeating DSG's 2nd team, having lost to them earlier in the season – a testament to our mental strength, teamwork and resilience.

While individual skill development was a key focus, the greatest achievement of the season was the incredible team culture we built.

We learned that our best performances came when we were having the most fun together, and that joy and unity in the pool translated into success.

We're proud of every player's commitment and contribution to a great season, and very grateful for all the 'bomb squad' memories.

Back Row: *Miss Emma Broadway, Morgan Ackerman, Leila Reynolds, Rebecca Stottelaar, Georgina Bain, Mihlali Nyila*
Front Row: *Kyra Pledger, Charlotte Reitz, Franki Dace, Ruby Mwami, Imogen Lees, Sasha Stottelaar*

Girls' U15A Water Polo

Captain: Hannah Potgieter • Coach: Mrs Deane Loubser

Back Row: *Amy Reynolds, Lily Barnhoorn, Mrs Deane Loubser, Katherine Scott, Caitlin Erlank*
Front Row: *Olivia Montagna, Anna Bandey, Leah Owen, Arabella Horsfield, Hannah Potgieter, Chloe Middleton*

Girls' U14A Water Polo

Captain: Jade Beckley
Coaches: Ms Meghan Rautenbach and Mrs Anneliese van Niekerk

The U14 Girls' Water Polo team took part in the Jason Murray Tournament at the beginning of the year. This tournament was hosted by Selborne in East London.

The girls played very well and learnt a lot. It was a tough tournament for them, but they held their heads high.

Collegiate hosted a few league games at the beginning of the year. This was very important learning ground for the girls. It gave all the girls game time which helped with their development in a non-competitive environment.

In October, Hudson Park hosted the annual Peter Cuff Tournament. Our U14 girls and boys travelled to East London for the tournament. The girls did very well to make the semi-finals. Unfortunately, they lost their semi-finals game and ended up 4th overall. Caitlin Looman played an excellent game as a centre-back and proved herself in that position. A huge thank you must go to Ms Rautenbach for her excellent coaching throughout the year.

Back Row: *Mia Abbot, Sakay Zakumba, Yana Loubser*
Middle Row: *Ava Chanson, Elize de Vaan, Mia Taljaard, Jenna Thornton, Emma Steenkamp, Madison Klinkert*
Front Row: *Caitlin Looman, Abigail Reed, Ms Meghan Rautenbach, Mrs Anneliese van Niekerk, Jade Beckley, Amy Seymore*

The U15 Girls' Water Polo team enjoyed a busy and rewarding season filled with growth, determination, and teamwork. The year began with the Alexander Road Tournament and the much-loved Chukka Festival in Knysna, where the girls gained valuable experience and built strong team spirit.

In Term 3, they competed in the Collegiate Spring Festival, securing two impressive wins and finishing 17th overall—a clear sign of their growing confidence and tactical skill.

The season highlight was the U15 Clarendon Tournament, where the team faced tough competition and delivered standout performances, including a thrilling 7–6 win against Oakhill in a penalty shootout and a confident 5–2 victory over Merrifield to claim 11th place overall.

Throughout the season, the girls showed impressive improvement, fitness, and sportsmanship. Their commitment and positive attitude both in and out of the pool made this a truly memorable year.

Congratulations to the players and coaches on a fantastic season and a bright future ahead for girls' water polo at our school!

Athletics

Head of Sport: Mr Lwazi Sakumba

Our athletics coaching team experienced a few changes this year. We acknowledge the immense contribution that Mr Tyrone Scholtz made to our athletics programme. While we bid him farewell at the end of Term 2, I would like to, once again, thank him for his leadership over the years. Without the work he has done, our athletics programme would not be where it is today.

The athletics year is divided into two parts: the competition season, which takes place in Term 1, and the pre-season/off-season training, which takes place in Term 3. The busiest of these two is the competition season, but the most important is the pre-season/off-season, where our athletes train hard to prepare for upcoming competitions.

The competition season consists of a series of events where students progress to the next round only if they meet the qualification requirements. Each stage of competition has slightly different qualifying standards, particularly at the higher levels.

We began the year with our school's internal athletics day, held on 29 January. The inter-house athletics is always a wonderful opportunity for our athletes to represent their houses in their chosen events.

The first of the external school competitions was the Zonal Meeting, held on 5 February, followed by the Port Elizabeth High Schools (PEHS) Competition on 7 and 8 February and Nelson Mandela Bay Schools (Metro) Championships on 28 February and 1 March. Finally, we had one student qualify for the Eastern Cape Championships (EC Champs), which took place from 13 to 15 March.

At the Zonal Meeting, held at the Westbourne Oval, we entered seventeen athletes, and our team did us proud, with nine progressing to the PE High Schools Athletics Association Competition, held at the NMU Sports Stadium. Five of the nine qualifying students performed exceptionally well. Once again, our athletes displayed determination and tenacity against strong competition.

Sango Mashaya – Gold medal
(U14 – 100m)
Gaby Webb – Silver medal
(U15 – 400m)
José Chandler – Silver medal
(U19 – Long Jump)
Katelyn Stamos – Bronze medals
(U17 – Long Jump & High Jump)
Speto Mani – Bronze medal
(U14 – Long Jump)

"A Year of Transition and Change"

The Metro competition also took place at the NMU Stadium. From our five participants, one qualified for the EC Champs, which were held in Queenstown. Congratulations to Sango Mashaya for representing our school and the Metro schools at the Eastern Cape Championships.

I am deeply grateful for the help and support of Mr Herman Venter and Ms Mudi Mungenga (from the Prep). These two coaches have been fully committed to helping our athletes prepare for next year's competition season, and, if this year's participation and results are anything to go by, I am confident that next year will be even better.

Back Row: *Mr Tyrone Scholtz, Lennard Collins, Sachin Pillay, Johann Steffens, Elan Scott, Thatho Norton, Joshua Dech*
Front Row*: Gaby Webb, Jay-Reece Madat, Katelyn Stamos, Sango Mashaya*

1st XV Rugby

Captain: Conor Gallagher
Coaches: Mr Anthony de Villiers and Mr Rory Kockett
Manager: Mr Wayne Rathbone

The 1st XV Rugby side's 2025 season was marked by positive development and resilience despite some tough challenges. Over the course of 10 matches, the team faced strong opposition and, while results did not always go their way, the squad never gave up and continued to show great spirit. It is easy playing in and for a winning side when everyone is singing your praises. Showing up to every game and every practice during a tough season is a real test of character and these young men passed it with flying colours.

The season saw four convincing defeats against sides boasting very talented players, highlighting the high level of competition faced. However, the team also played four closely contested matches where the scorelines were tight, although a winning result narrowly escaped them. Among the season's highlights was a hard-fought victory over Paul Sauer, winning 20-18, and a commendable draw against Victoria Park High School.

Injuries disrupted the squad's rhythm, and as a collective, the team grappled with settling into a consistent form. Despite these setbacks, individual players made encouraging strides, showing promise that bodes well for the future.

Many of these players will be returning next year, equipped with valuable experiences and lessons learned from a challenging season, which should help them convert these gains into more successful results.

The forward pack showed rotations, with the front row shared between James Ring, Konwabo Qeqe, Lisekhona Hote, Somila Voorslag, and Kei Mac Donald. The lock pairing of Conor Gallagher and Oliver Martin was a formidable presence, while the loose trio rotated among Dimitri Alexandris, Oliver Kingston, Callum Pledger, and José Chandler.

Oliver Puttergill and Daniel Henning combined effectively as halfbacks, while Christian Chandler and Corban Calitz provided strength in the centre partnership. The wings saw rotations involving Luke Burrows, Liyakhanya Nyila, José Chandler, James Waller, and Thato Norton, with Julian Teulon consistently anchoring the backfield at fullback.

Captain Conor Gallagher led the side with passion and positivity throughout the season, maintaining team morale even in difficult moments. The 2025 season was a building block for the 1st XV, who will look ahead to next year with hope and determination to translate their hard work and learning into greater success.

Special thanks must go to Mr Rory Kockett for sharing his international playing experience and expertise with the open division—his passionate input was well received and the boys responded to the disciplined approach he put forward.

STORMFORCE
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1ST XV RUGBY

Back Row: *Julian Teulon, Callum Pledger, Christian Chandler, Daniel Henning, Oliver Kingston*
Middle Row: *Mr Anthony de Villiers, Somila Voorslag, Liyakhanya Nyila, Lisekhona Hote, Corban Calitz, Luke Burrows, Oliver Puttergill, Mr Wayne Rathbone*
Front Row: *Oliver Martin, Conor Gallagher, Mr Luke Hartley, Dimitri Alexandris*

2nd XV Rugby

Captain: Caleb Watson • Coaches: Mr Wayne Rathbone and Mr Haydn Greener

When reviewing the season's results, it's clear that not every match went in our favour, but that wasn't the only metric we used to measure the team's success. The metrics were based on the following:

If you're not having fun, then you are doing it wrong!

Secondly, they were challenged, as individuals, to measure themselves against their own self-determined goals at the end of each game; and thirdly, we asked ourselves: did we, as a team, play in such a way that we honoured ourselves, our school, the team, and our opposition?

Clearly, we got the first one right – it was plain to see that they were having fun. Each week, depending on the team's makeup, they would run new moves, which led to some entertaining tries. Their willingness to defend like demons, the laughter at practice, and the ever-growing number of #Skabenga's Instagram followers all speak to how much fun they had. So much fun that even some first-choice hockey players had serious FOMO and joined the Thursday practices to be selected on Saturdays.

During the season, several players were asked to bench and play for the 1st XV. At first, just to replace injured players, but when they didn't come back down, I believe this indicated that they were achieving their goals and had developed enough throughout the season to be considered for the 1st XV.

Lastly, the fact that we left the field having looked our opponents in the eye, shaken their hands, and in some cases hugged familiar foes from the last 12 years of rivalry, shows that the last metric was also met. For many of the players, this was their final season of rugby, and many of them commented that it had been their most enjoyable one. As a coach, that, to us, indicated that it was a job well done.

2ND XV RUGBY

Back Row: *Konwaba Qeqe, Mark Janse van Rensburg, Sanda Ngweba, Yanda Nogqala, James Waller, Peter Kihoro, Didier Daniels*
Middle Row: *Kurt Krull, Mihlali Sonqayi, Alexander Seymour, Randy Syce, Joshua van der Merwe, Lennard Collins, Mohamed Ravat*
Front Row: *Mr Wayne Rathbone, Caleb Watson, Ryan Steenkamp, Mr Haydn Greener*
Absent: *Tim Sommer, Connor von der Marwitz, James Ring, James Saunders, Thato Norton, Maphango Martin, Khahlamba Zita*

U16 Rugby

Captain: Nkululeko Kona
Coaches: Mr Daniel Ward and Mr Christoff Opperman

The U16 rugby team displayed remarkable potential throughout the year. While the squad was filled with incredibly talented individuals, it quickly became clear that true success would require more than just individual brilliance; it would take unity, discipline, and collective effort to unlock the team's full potential.

The season began with a series of pre-season fixtures, where the team secured only one win out of four matches. These early games tested the boys' patience, attitude, and cohesion. Yet, through adversity comes growth, and the way a team responds to challenges ultimately determines how much they grow from them.

Following a much-needed attitude shift, strengthened camaraderie, and improved discipline on the field, the U16s began the regular season with a series of outstanding performances. They claimed victories over York, Alexander Road, Paul Sauer, and Victoria Park. Special mention must be made of Nkululeko Kona, whose resilience in defence and leadership qualities stood out throughout the campaign.

The latter part of the season brought the toughest fixtures, presenting a true test of the team's character and development. Unfortunately, a return to some old habits resulted in just one win from the final four matches. However, the hard-fought victory against Union High was a highlight, showcasing the boys' determination and willingness to battle until the final whistle.

Overall, this U16 group is exceptionally talented. While they may not have fully reached their potential this season, the glimpses of brilliance were inspiring. It is exciting to imagine what this team could achieve at their peak.

They were tested in every aspect of the game, both physically, mentally, and responded with heart, growth, and resilience.

U16 RUGBY

Back Row: *Joshua Reed, Liam Niemann, Tristan Kretzmann, Daniel Potgieter, Lubabalo Mpalala*
Middle Row: *Mr Daniel Ward, Lithalethu Hanabe, Francois Nel, Gareth Steenkamp, Michael Beckley, Ignatius Ferreira, Jasper Truman-Baker, Mr Christoff Opperman*
Front Row: *Josh Hartley, Ruben Terblanche, Nkululeko Kona, Chuma Kate, Joel Fourie, Joshua Ongole*
Absent: *Sean Quinn, Asanda Ndlovu, Iviwe Ngangelizwe, Likho Dumalisile*

U15 Rugby

U15A rugby
Captain: Oyama Ngeni
Coaches: Mr Nash Dondashe, Mr Tyrone Scholtz and Mr Nolan Kemp

The U15A rugby team enjoyed a memorable and competitive 2025 season, filled with determination, teamwork, and growth. The boys played an exciting brand of rugby throughout, demonstrating both physicality and flair in every fixture.

The team kicked off their season with a friendly against Framesby B, securing a hard-fought 10–7 last-minute victory. This match served as crucial preparation for the Michaelhouse Independent Schools Rugby Festival, where Woodridge faced two challenging encounters – a thrilling 19–17 win over Uplands College and a tough 12–29 loss to a strong St Alban's side.

Returning from the tour, the team began their regular season fixtures in George against York High, producing an entertaining attacking display to claim a 34–26 win. Momentum continued with a commanding 26–0 victory over Alexander Road, followed by another solid 24–10 win over Victoria Park.

A narrow 14–20 loss to Bergsig tested the team's resilience, but they bounced back impressively to defeat Union High 24–14 and Westering 17–15, both matches highlighting their defensive grit and attacking flair. The season concluded with a spirited 12–12 draw against Kingswood College, reflecting the team's balanced and competitive campaign.

The U15A side can be proud of their efforts, finishing the season with seven wins, one draw, and two losses – an impressive 70%-win rate.

The players displayed exceptional growth, teamwork, and discipline throughout the season, setting a strong foundation for their future rugby journeys.

U15B Rugby
Captain: Thomas Abernathy
Coaches: Mr Nash Dondashe and Mr Tyrone Scholtz

This season, the Woodridge College U15B rugby team showcased their passion and determination throughout an eventful series of matches. With a big squad of enthusiastic boys eager to play, they approached each practice and fixture with commitment and heart.

The journey began with a challenging game against the Grey C team. Despite facing a well-prepared opponent with several matches under their belt, our boys demonstrated tremendous effort and drive on the field. Although the match ended in a tough 24-0 loss, the team's spirit remained unbroken.

In their next fixture, the boys faced Victoria Park in our home derby. This time, they bounced back spectacularly, clinching their first win of the season with a dominant performance. The squad showcased excellent structure and patience, ultimately securing a 31-7 victory. This win not only lifted the boys' spirits but set the tone for the rest of the season.

Following this success, the team faced Bersig, where they continued their winning streak. In a convincing display of teamwork and skill, the boys triumphed with a resounding 43-12 win. This match highlighted their growth as a unit and their ability to execute plays effectively.

The season culminated in a challenging away game against Union High School in Graaf-Reinett. After a long three-hour journey, the boys led for most of the match, demonstrating resilience and determination. Unfortunately, fatigue set in towards the end, and they narrowly lost the game 27-25. Despite this heart-wrenching finish, the boys should be proud of their efforts throughout the season.

Overall, the Woodridge College U15B rugby team showed remarkable growth, camaraderie, and dedication this season. Their hard work and passion for the game laid a strong foundation for future success.

U15A RUGBY

Back Row: *Thomas Abernethy, Lusindiso Zondani, Cameron Jones, Kyan Milsom, Mbasa Mbengashe, Seth Rensburg*
Middle Row: *Zac Dysel, Liskhanya Nyoka, Stephen Swanepoel, Ben Ackerman, Luca Hamlet, Christian Paxton, Morgan Flugel, Matt Rosewarne, Malachi Smith, Mr Nolan Kemp*
Front Row: *Daniel Lokotsch, Mr Nash Dondashe, Oyama Ngeni, Ithi Arosi, Mr Tyrone Scholtz, Jeandré Strydom*

U15B RUGBY

Back Row: *Edward Ferreira, Kyan Milsom, Deacon Dugmore, Cameron Jones, Joshua Dayce, Matt Rosewarne, Malachi Smith*
Middle Row: *Adam Brugman, Daniel Herselman, Stefan Ferriera, Charles Frost, Anesu Zakumba, Ndalo Langa, Michael Michau, Linathi Ndima*
Front Row: *Sloan Radue, Mr Nash Dondashe, Thomas Abernathy, Zukhanye Sonwabo, Mr Tyrone Scholtz, Hudson Whitehouse*

U14A Rugby

Coaches: Mr Avuyilek Kwinana and Mr Siya Mvubu

The 2025 season was one to remember for the Woodridge U14A Rugby Team. From their spirited debut at the Alexander High Festival to a thrilling showdown against Kingswood College, the boys delivered a campaign filled with heart, resilience, and standout performances.

The season kicked off at the Alex Festival, where they faced three tough matches in one day. They opened with a commanding 33–0 win over Uitenhage High, followed by a gritty 12–0 victory against Westering. Despite a narrow 10–7 loss to Grey U/14B, the team's courage and cohesion set the tone for the season ahead.

A mid-season tour to Michaelhouse tested the team's endurance and unity. After a 17-hour bus ride, they stunned St David's Inanda 33–12 and capped the tour with a dominant 38–12 win over Uplands College.

Back home, the team continued to impress. A comeback 29–25 win over York High showed their fighting spirit, and a convincing 84–0 victory over Bonzaai High electrified the school. They edged Victoria Park 12–10 despite injuries and outlasted Westering 17–8 in a tactical battle.

The season finale was against Kingswood. With an unbeaten record on the line, Woodridge fell just short, losing 15–12 to a late penalty.

Though the perfect season slipped away, the team's pride and performance never wavered.

Back Row: *Landa Arosi, Cole Bartlett, Eddie Huang, William Quinn, Mishal Nathoo, Sango Mashaya*
Middle Row: *Sinovuyo Meyi, Spheto Mani, Michael Wei, Sydney Stiemie, Matthew Venter, Max Gerber, Tyler Merrington, Nande Ntontela, Akhiwe Dlamini*
Front Row: *Juan Blou, Mr Avuyilek Kwinana, Mr Siya Mvubu, Phelo Kwitshana*
Absent: *Oyintanda Makoyi, Wyatt Kretzmann*

1st XI Boys' Hockey

Captain: Ethan Moothoo • Coach: Mr Peter Maartens

The 1st Boys' Hockey Team opened their season with a much-anticipated derby against St Andrew's College. Unfortunately, it wasn't the ideal start. With only three shortened matches played during the EP Trials as preparation, the team lacked full match sharpness. Despite showing flashes of exciting, attacking hockey and scoring some good goals at the trials, the team ultimately fell short, losing 5-1 to St Andrews. Strong defending in the first half kept us in the game, but poor decision-making and tackling in the second half proved costly.

Rather than dampening spirits, the loss served as motivation heading into the Tony Godding Festival. Determined to improve, the boys brought enthusiasm and grit to the tournament. The opening match saw a solid 2-0 win over Stirling. While the scoreline was positive, we missed several clear opportunities that could have made the result more emphatic. On Day 2, we faced a high ranking and strong Selborne outfit and struggled with our short-corner defence, leading to a tough 6-1 defeat. The score didn't reflect the team's effort but exposed defensive vulnerabilities that needed urgent attention. Against Merryfield, we edged a narrow 1-0 victory. Although not the most convincing win, it highlighted our attacking intent. The team dominated play but failed to convert many promising chances.

In the final match of the festival, we drew 1-1 against Queen's College. We worked hard to maintain possession and create scoring opportunities, but Queen's managed to equalize late in the match. This game emphasized the need for tighter defence and sharper finishing in front of goal. Overall, the Greg Beling Festival was a valuable learning experience. The team showed steady improvement, built stronger chemistry, and enjoyed their time both on and off the field. The signs of progress bode well for the remainder of the season.

Belgotex Tournament

During the holidays, the team travelled to Cape Town to participate in the highly competitive Belgotex Tournament, featuring 48 schools from around the country.

Our first match against Ashton ended in a 1-1 draw—a tough start in a must-win group. With pressure mounting, we needed to win our next two games to qualify for the top 16. Unfortunately, we fell 5-0 to a strong Stellenberg team. Despite the scoreline, our performance in the first half was promising, and we nearly went 2-0 up early on. Once again, our short-corner defence let us down, conceding four goals from set plays. Notably, Stellenberg went on to finish second overall, which speaks to the level of opposition we faced.

Knowing we had to win our final group game by at least four goals, the boys responded brilliantly with a 4-0 win over Robertson—a performance that reflected discipline, urgency, and execution. In the

playoff stages, we narrowly lost 2-1 to Langenhoven in a game filled with missed chances. This was followed by two more tight losses (1-0 and 2-0), both of which could have swung in our favour with better finishing.

Our final match of the tournament was a 0-0 draw against PRO-ED Akademie, and despite a valiant effort, we fell short in the 8-second shoot-out, finishing 16th in our bracket.

The team has shown resilience, growth, and flashes of real quality throughout a challenging but rewarding start to the season. With lessons learned and improvements made in key areas, the boys are well-positioned for the remainder of the season. Their dedication, team spirit, and willingness to learn continue to drive their development, and we look forward to more memorable performances in the matches to come.

Kingswood Festival

Not three weeks later, the team headed to Grahamstown to take part in the Kingswood Festival. We started the tournament on a high note, defeating Glenwood 4–1. A tightly contested match followed against the hosts, Kingswood, where despite multiple opportunities, the game ended in a goalless draw. We maintained our momentum against York Seconds and Framesby, putting a combined six goals past them. Our final match was against a spirited Oakhill side, where we played strong hockey and secured a 2–0 win—ending the festival unbeaten.

Back in league action, our first match was against a talented York side in George, played under lights and in front of an enthusiastic crowd. It was a thrilling, end-to-end game with both teams scoring spectacular goals. With just two minutes remaining, Woodridge found the winner to seal a 3–2 victory.

We next faced Framesby, a team we had already beaten earlier in the season. Determined to repeat that result, we took an early 1-goal lead through a field goal. Going into the 4th quarter we secured two more goals for the win. Against Alex, however, injuries and a short bench began to take a toll, and we eventually fell to a disappointing 2–1 loss.

Our home match against Priory was another tough encounter. Though we came away with a 2–1 win, it was far from our best performance. A similar battle followed against Victoria Park, where defensive lapses saw us concede two soft goals. However, the team showed resilience to hold onto a draw.

One of our most challenging fixtures came against Grey. We played some of our best hockey of the season, especially in defence, and nearly ended with a 1–1 draw. We kept the sheet clean in the first half and conceded the two goals in the 3rd quarter of the match to lose 2-0. Just two days later, we took on Outeniqua in what turned out to be another nail-biter. Both teams displayed high levels of skill and tactical awareness, and a 1–1 draw was a fair reflection of the game.

Next came Pearson, a game the boys were especially eager to win. Unfortunately, moments of lost concentration and clever short-corner routines by the opposition saw us fall 3–1. One of the season's highlights came against Westering, where we delivered a commanding 7–0 victory. It was a showcase of our attacking potential and a well-deserved confidence boost for the team.

Our final game of the season was away at Kingswood. It was a good contest, but while they made the most of their chances, we were unable to convert ours.

Player Contributions

Every player brought something unique to the team, and it was great to see individual growth and development over the season. Ethan led by example as Captain, combining excellent dribbling skills with clinical finishing. Thato, one of our Vice-Captains, made a strong impact at centre forward, while Julian used his speed to great effect on the right wing, consistently threatening defences. Cameron stood out at right half, delivering pinpoint overheads that often launched counter-attacks. Keagan was dependable as left midfielder, making crucial tackles and keeping play moving. Lennard improved his control and maintained consistency in defence.

Samuel was a constant threat at left wing, frequently getting into dangerous positions. Aaron contributed well on the links, combining intelligent passing with effective positioning. James Waller showed noticeable improvement in his striking and dribbling skills. Corban anchored the defence solidly throughout the season. Josh was a versatile asset, defending strongly and contributing on attack. Lubabalo demonstrated good skill and control in the midfield. Thomas, who joined later in the season, made an immediate and valuable impact. James Saunders impressed with his pace and ability to create scoring chances. Mpumelelo held onto possession well and displayed composure under pressure. Liam was excellent in midfield, with his one-touch passes proving vital to our fast transitions. A special mention must go to our Vice-Captain and goalkeeper, Mick, who had an outstanding season. His shot-stopping ability, composure under pressure, and leadership from the back were invaluable to the team.

Special congratulations to Ethan Moothoo for being selected to represent the Eastern Province U18A side and to Mick Kirsten and Mpumelelo Magwentshu who made the Eastern Province U18B side.

Final Thoughts

We played in a tightly contested game against our Old Boys on Founders weekend. It was entertaining hockey and played in a good spirit. It was a season filled with highs and lows, but above all, it was a journey of development, teamwork, and resilience. The boys showed growth, both individually and as a unit, and their efforts throughout the year are commendable. We look forward to building on this foundation next season.

Tony Godding 2025

Vs Stirling Won 2-0
Vs Selborne Lost 6-1
Vs Merrifield Won 1-0
Vs Queens Won 1-1

Belgotex

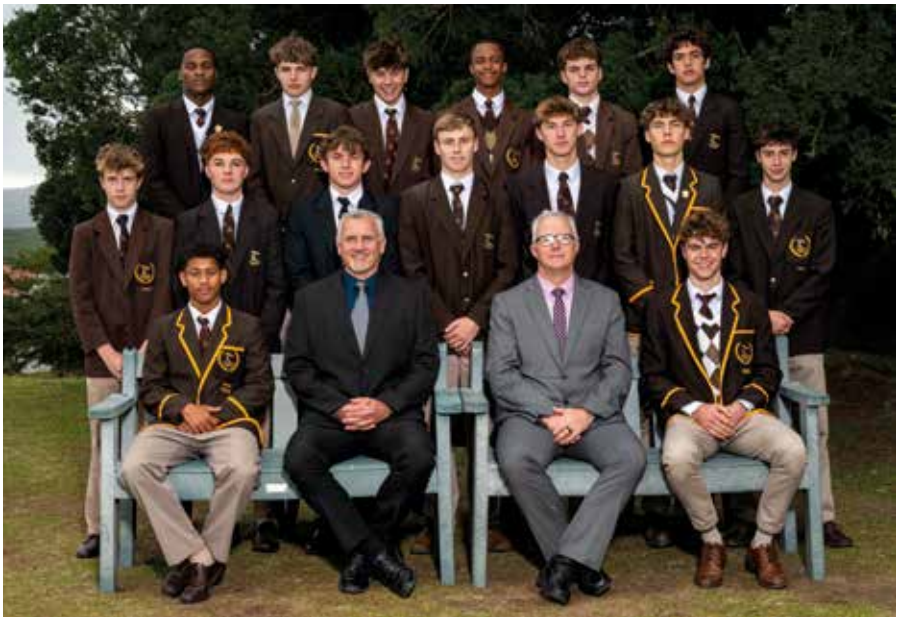
Vs Ashton Draw 1-1
Vs Stellenberg Lost 5-0
Vs Robertson Won 4-0
Vs Lagenhoven Lost 2-1
Vs Curro Durbanville Lost 1-0
Vs Nelspruit Lost 2-0
Vs PRO-ED Akademie Draw 0-0 (Lost on penalties)

Kingswood

Vs Glenwood Won 4-1
Vs Kingswood Draw 0-0
Vs York 2nds Won 2-0
Vs Framesby Won 4-0
Vs Oakhill Won 2-0

Fixtures

St Andrews Lost 5-1(h)
York Won 3-2(a)
Framesby Won 3-1(h)
Alex Lost 2-1(a)
St Dominics Priory Won 2-1(h)
VP Draw 2-2(h)
Grey A Lost 2-0(a)
Westering Won 7-0(a)
Pearson Lost 3-1(h)
Westering Won 7-0(h)
Kingswood Lost 2-0(a)



Back Row: *Thato Mbangula, James Saunders, Lennard Collins, Mpumelelo Magwentshu, Keagen Collett, Corban Calitz*
Middle Row: *Cameron Ferrant, Samuel Barclay, Liam Schweitzer, James Waller, Aaron Erlank, Joshua Basson, Julian Teulon, Thomas Vincent*
Front Row: *Ethan Moothoo, Mr Peter Maartens, Mr Luke Hartley, Mick Kirsten*

2nd XI Boys' Hockey

Captain: Oliver Puttergill
Coach: Mr Darryn Campbell

The 2nd Team Hockey squad has had an impressive and eventful season, continuing to establish itself as a highly competitive force in the school's hockey program.

With a blend of skill, teamwork, and determination, the team delivered some memorable performances that kept players and supporters on the edge of their seats.

The season opened with a commanding 6-0 win over Framesby, setting the tone for a confident and focused team. A narrow 1-2 loss to York was a standout game, filled with drama and excitement—KZ's phenomenal saves in the goals, Sanda's incredible goal-saving dive, and the roar of the school supporters made this a match that will be remembered for years.

The team quickly regained momentum, recording convincing wins against Alex (4-0) and VP (7-0), showcasing their attacking prowess and defensive solidity. A tough 1-3 loss to Grey and a narrow 1-2 defeat to Pearson tested the squad's resilience, while a hard-fought 1-1 draw with Outeniqua demonstrated their determination to fight until the final whistle.

The 2nd Team ended the season on a high note, producing dominant performances against Westering (8-0) and Kingswood (5-0). These victories highlighted not only the team's technical ability but also the growing cohesion and spirit among the players.

This season has been a testament to the team's growth, resilience, and commitment. With several thrilling games, strong wins, and moments of individual brilliance, the 2nd Team Hockey continues to build a reputation as a dynamic and highly competitive squad, leaving everyone excited for the seasons ahead.

Back Row: *José Chandler, Salizwa Masoka, Daniel Darlow, Khahlamba Zita, Mark Janse van Rensburg, Declan von der Marwitz*
Front Row: *Randy Syce, Mr Darryn Cambell, Oliver Puttergill*

U16 Boys' Hockey

Captain: Sachin Moothoo • Coach: Mr Zackery Hendricks

Very good hockey all round, all the players were well disciplined and easy to manage. The hockey picked up really well and the boys gave it their all every time they stepped onto the field. It was a privilege to represent Woodridge College as the Head Coach and I can guarantee more development and even better results in the future to come. Our goal as a team was to reach the top 20 schools in the country and with the efforts the boys put in, we managed to finish 40th out of 103 schools registered to SA Schools. In 2026 we will work even harder and smarter to compete for the top spot and will bring forward even better results.

Thank you to the staff who backed me in taking this role and I am looking forward to a stunning 2026 year of hockey.

Games this season:

Vs St Andrews 3-1 (W) Derby
Vs Grey B 2-3 (L) Festival
Vs Merrifield 1-1 (D) Festival
Vs Stirling 2-0 (W) Festival
Vs Montana 6-0 (W) Festival
Vs Pearson B 5-0 (W) Festival
Vs Framesby 7-0 (W) Derby
Vs York 1-1 (D) Derby
Vs Alex 8-0 (W) Derby
Vs Victoria Park 4-2 (W) Derby
Vs Grey A 1-10 (L) Derby
Vs Outeniqua 1-1 (D) Derby
Vs Pearson A 1-4 (L) Derby
Vs Westering 3-1 (W) Derby
Vs Kingswood 1-1 (D) Derby

U16A BOYS' HOCKEY

Back Row: *Jay-Reece Madatt, Seth Rensburg, Stephen Swanepoel, Stefan Ferreira, Marcus Janse van Vuuren*
Middle Row: *Hudson Whitehouse, Lisakhanya Nyoka, Lawrence Chang, Christian Paxton, Cameron Jones, Deacon Dugmore, Connor Meara, Connor du Preez*
Front Row: *Oliver Stutterheim, Josh Ongole, Mr Zackery Hendricks, Sachin Moothoo, Jack Feltham, Lubabalo Mpalala*

U16B BOYS' HOCKEY

Back Row: *Sonwabise Gotyana, Tertius Strydom, Harry Thompson, Elan Scott, William Faifer, David-Joshua Markotter*
Middle Row: *Scott Davidson, Keagan Bradley, Kyle Elson, Johann Steffens, Charles Frost, Laurens de Vaan, Reinhart Kok, Jon-Luc de Meillon, Ruark Kotze, Lunathi Ndima*
Front Row: *Mr Kyle Deasy, Adam Prins, Gareth Steenkamp, Edward Ferriera, Jasper Truman-Baker, Mr Garry Baines*

U16B Boys' Hockey
Captain: Edward Ferreira
Coaches: Mr Kyle Deasy and Mr Garry Baines

The U16 B Boys hockey squad enjoyed a good season, marked by determination, teamwork, and steady improvement. From the early fixtures to the final matches, the players displayed a strong competitive spirit and a commitment to giving their best on the field.

One of the season's most memorable encounters this season came against St Andrew's College. It was a tightly contested match, with both sides producing excellent hockey. The boys rose to the challenge and matched their opponents for much of the game, showing real composure under pressure. Although the final score did not go our way, the fixture highlighted the team's fighting spirit and growing confidence. Another notable game was against York High School. Despite the result not going our way, the boys walked away with their heads held high, knowing they had given everything and had pushed a strong side to the very end.

Throughout the season, the players displayed significant growth in both technical ability and game awareness. Their teamwork, passing, and discipline steadily improved, and their hard work at training translated into encouraging performances on the field. Several matches were marked by moments of individual brilliance as well as collective determination, laying a strong foundation for the future of hockey at the school.

Special mention must be made of standout performances from Edward Ferriera, who led with determination and composure, and Suiram van Heerden, whose consistency, skill, and fighting spirit were crucial to the team's success. Their contributions, combined with the efforts of the entire squad, ensured that this season was both competitive and rewarding.

U14A Boys' Hockey

Captain: Noah Jacobs • Coach: Miss Leah Cripps

The U14A Boys Hockey Team kicked off their season with determination and heart, led by Captain Noah Jacobs and Vice-Captain Harrison Rosser. Our early tour to East London for the Rob Taylor Tournament (3–5 April), hosted by Selborne College, set the tone for what would become a season of steady growth and standout moments. In East London, the boys delivered three commanding victories, beating Stirling 2–0, Cambridge 2–0, and Merrifield 3–1. Their only loss of the tournament came against hosts Selborne (0–2), but the overall performance was a strong signal of the team's potential

Back home, the season unfolded with resilience. The season brought some tough opponents, but the boys rose to the challenge. They held Outeniqua to a gritty 0–0 draw and stood out as the only boys' team to beat Pearson with a thrilling 2–1 victory. Despite a compact season of just 13 matches, the squad showed remarkable cohesion, tactical maturity, and relentless work ethic. The squad had 22 dedicated players at practices, and commendation goes to those who trained with the squad consistently, even without wanting to play in matches.

A special mention goes to Tylor Merrington, who finished the season as top goal scorer with an impressive six goals. His sharp finishing and consistency made a real impact in the team.

From the first whistle to the final pass, the U14A boys proved that teamwork, leadership, and perseverance can shape a season worth celebrating.

"A Season of Grit and Growth"

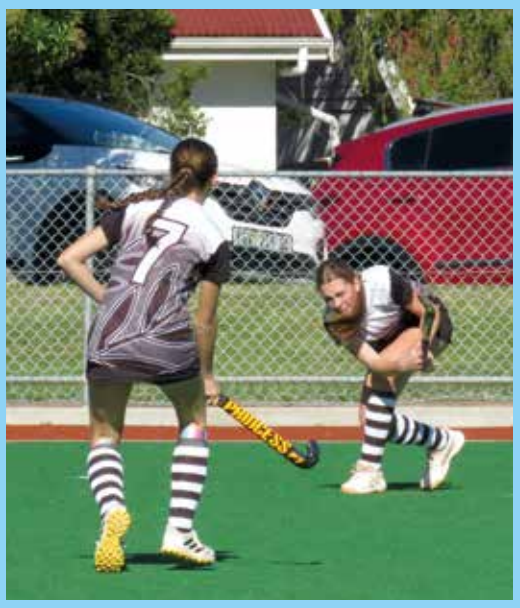
Back Row: *Danté Williams, Cameron Badenhorst, Juan Blou, Nande Ntontela, Hayden Lues, Pengxiang Huang*
Middle Row: *Likhwa Dube, Sango Mashaya, Blake Roomer, Dylan Erlank, Speto Mani, Michael Wei, Cole Bartlett*
Front Row: *Tylor Merrington, Miss Leah Cripps, Noah Jacobs, Harrison Rosser, Milowo Bovungana, Sinovuyo Meyi*

1st XI Girls' Hockey

Captain: Anna Kirsten • Coach: Dr Herman Kitshoff

The First Team girls experienced a hugely successful season as they continued to build on the successes of 2024. The many hours of off-season and pre-season work paid off during the EP trials in early-March, which included a well-earned 1-1 draw against a very strong Collegiate team.

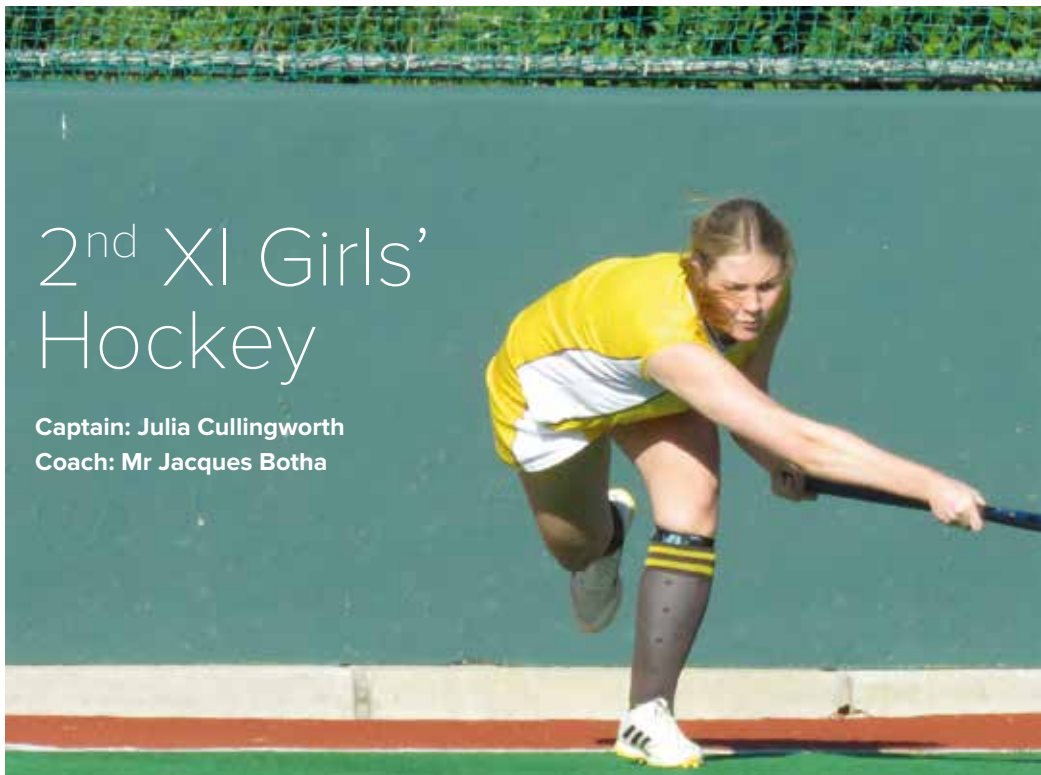
After a solid performance against top-ranked DSG (0-4), during which goalkeeper Sihle Mgogoshe made a number of astonishing saves, the team's first major festival of the season was the Beling-Godding Festival in East London. While the results didn't always go our way, the team showed remarkable resilience and managed to come from behind on two occasions to earn hard-fought draws. The Belgotex Easter Tournament in Cape Town was the next major challenge. Here, the team continued to show growth and intent and played superb hockey, most notably in their 1-1 draw to Hudson Park, and in their narrow 2-3 loss to highly ranked Linden High School; both pulsating end-to-end games.



Back Row: *Hannah Tinderholm, Dané Strydom, Riley Slack, Georgia Kilfoil, Alexa O'Riain*
Middle Row: *Rebecca Tinderholm, Ava Horner, Lucy Dyer, Phoebe Chantson, Siân Dearmer, Caitlyn van Jaarsveldt, Rebecca McNicol, Sienna Peens*
Front Row: *Sihle Mgogoshe, Anna Kirsten (Captain), Mrs J. Greener, Mr L. Hartley, Jade Kelly, Rebecca Botha*

2nd XI Girls' Hockey

Captain: Julia Cullingworth
Coach: Mr Jacques Botha



The Woodridge first teams returned to the Kingswood Festival in 2025, and the girls played arguably some of their best hockey of the season at this festival. They won four of their five games, losing only to York. With the three back-to-back festivals behind them, the lessons learned proved invaluable as the regular season derby games kicked off in May. The girls managed well-earned draws against highly ranked York (0-0) and Outeniqua (2-2), and only lost to Pearson (0-5), Union (0-2), and Collegiate (0-4). The girls ended a brief but jam-packed season on a high with superb victories against Westering (5-0) and Kingswood (1-0), with Riley Slack scoring in the final two minutes of that encounter off a Jade Kelly crash ball into the circle.

A number of girls reached 50 caps for the first team this season, while Anna Kirsten played her 100th game for the first team against York, a truly phenomenal milestone.

The team played a total of 30 games, winning 14, losing 11, and drawing 5.

Our first outing was a 0-1 loss against a strong DSG team just after the switch to winter sports. This was followed by the inaugural Framesby 2nd Tournament. An unusual format featured 12-minute halves without playing all teams in our pool. We looked likely for a place in the final, only to be deprived by a breakaway goal by Hudson Park after we failed to convert the many scoring chances created during the game. We had beaten Hudson Park and Pearson 3rd team 1-0 in earlier matches, as well as DF Malherbe in our final game. Luvuyo Titus was named as the Player of the Tournament by the organisers, a fine testament to her consistent work for the team.

During the normal interschools fixtures we beat Framesby 2-0 and York 1-0 in a tough encounter in George. We were, unfortunately, unable to stave off strong teams from Collegiate (0-5) and Pearson (0-3) although we put them under pressure by securing short corners and other scoring opportunities. A mark of the team has been a strong intent to attack and generally take the game to the opposition. The 0-1 loss to Alex was a bitter pill to swallow after again not converting multiple opportunities and superior possession and territory. Lessons were learnt about maintaining depth in defence and we continued to work hard at finishing skills in the D.

The 5-0 win over Victoria Park showed what the scoreline could look like when chances were converted. Outeniqua proved a good team who beat us 1-0 in an even contest. The 4-0 win over Union High was a good achievement as they had beaten us last year. We were solid in the 2-0 win over Westering.

The final match against Kingswood was approached with the same intensity and confidence as we had shown throughout the season. We dominated the first quarter without scoring, even from the penalty stroke awarded. The game became more even, and we were fortunate to escape the third quarter without conceding, largely due to superb work by goalkeeper Dani Smith. We were more assured in the final quarter and converted a short corner through a fine strike by Lilly Beneka, to win the game 1-0.

The team thus won 9 and lost 6 of their 15 games. We scored 18 goals and conceded 12.

The 2nd girls' team had a happy and successful season. A stand-out feature of all practices was the communal commitment, enthusiasm and intent.

Back Row: *Rebecca van Huyssteen, Lily Beneka, Tamsin de Villiers, Luvuyo Titus, Madison Morris*
Middle Row: *Jaycee Diedericks, Morgan Ackermann, Umthawelanga Captain, Cameron Whitehouse, Nina Stiemie, Jaime Schweitzer*
Front Row: *Daniella Smith, Emma Brugman, Mr Jacques Botha, Julia Cullingworth, Katelyn Stamos, Zara Bonnasse*

3rd XI Girls' Hockey

Captain: Mischa Killian
Coach: Mrs Anneliese van Niekerk

The 3rd Team played five matches during the season. It would have been nice to have more opponents on derby days. Our best game was against a strong Pearson team. We drew the game 1 – 1. The girls played a brilliant game against Union High, beating them 5-0. It was an excellent game to watch; the girls played a very good, structured game. Daniella enjoyed playing out for the 3rds. Some girls developed great skills as the season progressed. The important part was that the players had fun and got taught structured hockey.

Back Row: *Iminam Nini, Franki Dace, Michaela Wedderburn, Tenielle Renze, Julia Cullingworth, Mai Holme, Kate Herselman*
Front Row: *Unethemba Melitafa, Mrs Anneliese van Niekerk, Mischa Killian, Daniella Smith, Katelyn Stamos, Umthawelanga Captain*
Absent: *Ruby Mwami, Kyra Pledger*

U16 Girls' Hockey

Games played – 22
Games won – 13
Games lost – 8
Games drawn – 1

Goals for: 45
Goals against: 30

U16A Girls' Hockey
Captain: Madison Badenhorst
Coach: Mr Staunton Goliath
Assistant Coach: Mr Patrige Chimwendo

The U16A hockey girls can be very proud of their season. There was great hockey on display throughout the season. The team showed great unity, in playing as a team and fighting for each other on the field. It all started early in the year when we had pre-season training, where some of the girls sharpened their technical skill. These sessions were well attended and very beneficial as we got closer to the start of the season.

Our very first fixture was against DSG school for girls and proved to be a very tough affair. Shortly after, the U16 Girls' Hockey Team attended the annual Pearson hockey tournament in March. Results weren't always in our favour but the hockey on display was very good, and the chemistry started to form within the group. As a team we took great pride in our passing, moving the ball from all over the astro and that proved to be very rewarding later as our season progressed. In this tournament the growth was evident, and it made for an exciting buildup to our annual Co-Eds Hockey festival that we host at Woodridge College. The Co-Eds Festival did not disappoint as we were the dominant side in the festival by winning all five of our fixtures against Stirling, Cornwall Hill, Merrifield, Montana and Framesby. The festival for all schools involved formed part of the final preparation for the season. The games were played in good spirit and good sportsmanship. As a result of the festival, we were on the verge of completing our final preparation for the season.

Our season kicked off with a brilliant hockey game against Framesby—both teams fierce in attack, a game that provided five goals. Woodridge, unfortunately, lost that game 2-3. We then travelled to York and put on a comeback display that left the crowd in awe. Woodridge won the game 3-1 against a good York team. Our toughest game was against Collegiate who prove year in and out why they are the team to beat, and we, unfortunately, lost that game.

Character was shown in our fixture against Victoria Park. We lost 1-2 to VP in the Pearson tournament and the team was very determined to settle the score. We did so by putting on a beautiful display of speed, power and resilience and managed to win the game 4-2. We then played our very first fixture against Outeniqua, and it proved to be a quality game with both sides being evenly matched in terms of tactical and technical skill. We drew that game 1-1.

The team ended their season with great wins over Union High, Westering High and Kingswood College. We won those games respectively and showed our dominance as a team. In all our games, our fitness, our game awareness and that Woodridge fight is what got us over the line in those tough games, and I am very proud of the team. I would like to thank our captain, Madison Badenhorst, and vice-captain, Hannah de Necker, for their invaluable efforts in making this season one to remember. A big congratulations to Gaby Webb and Daynah Blignaut on representing the Eastern Province U16B side this year.

U16A GIRLS

Back Row: *Lily van der Nest, Olivia Montagna, Lulo Gcilitshana, Gaby Webb, Caitlin Erlank*
Middle Row: *Emma-Kate Vincent, Gabriella Puttergill, Anna Maartens, Emma France, Ashlee Buhr, Hannah Potgieter*
Front Row: *Daynah Blignaut, Madison Badenhorst, Mr Staunton Goliath, Mr Patrige Chimwendo, Hannah de Necker, Mbali Xawuka*
Absent: *Amie de Klerk*

U16B GIRLS

Back row: *Chloe Middleton, Emma Abbot, Katherine Scott, Zi Yan Gao*
Middle row: *Anna Bandey, Georgie Bain, Lily Barnhoorn, Mia Holme, Nina Ferreira, Ida Breitfield*
Front row: *Nieves Slack, Leah Owen, Lisa Barnard, Amy Reynolds, Miss Victoria Williams, Laney Knoetze*

U14 Girls' Hockey

U16B Girls' Hockey
Captain: Lisa Barnard
Coach: Miss Victoria Williams

This 2025 hockey season for the U16B Girls' Team truly caught me by surprise. We had a rocky start, trying to find our rhythm and understand each other's playing styles, but once everything clicked, that's when the magic began. The teamwork, the growth, and the energy that followed were incredible to watch. We lost some matches, drew a few, and celebrated great wins, but what stood out most was the progress made after every game. Each challenge taught us something new, and the girls grew stronger, more confident, and more united as a team. Every practice, every match, and even every setback became part of a journey that was both rewarding and inspiring. The laughter, encouragement, and spirit these girls shared made all the sacrifices worthwhile. It has been such a joy to see how far they've come, not just as players, but as teammates and friends. The U16B Girls truly embodied what it means to play with heart.

From a coach's perspective, this season was truly inspiring. Watching the girls grow from uncertain beginnings into a confident, united team was a privilege. Their dedication, teamwork, and resilience turned every challenge into a learning moment. Win or lose, they showed heart, discipline, and a genuine love for the game, and that's what made this season so special.

U14A Girls' Hockey
Captain: Quinn Foreman
Coach: Dr Herman Kitshoff

The U14A girls managed a number of superb results during the 2025 season. They started the season in positive fashion with excellent hockey at the EP trials, having only had one full training session beforehand.

The first major derby of the season was against DSG, and the girls managed a superb 2-2 draw in an edge-of-your seat encounter. This solid start to the season laid a positive foundation for the DSG Festival in April, where the team played excellent hockey, narrowly missing out on a place in the final.

Other highlights of the season included superb victories over York (1-0), Alexander Road (5-0), and Union High (2-1), as well as a very unlucky 2-3 loss to a strong Westering u14 team, in what was another pulsating encounter.

It was a season of development for most of the players, many of whom had to make the jump from U13B hockey in 2024 to U14A hockey in 2025.

The team played a total on 15 games, winning 6, losing 7, and drawing 2.

U14B Girls' Hockey
Captains: Mihlali Tatani
Coach: Ms Tiffany August

This 2025 season, the U14B Girls Hockey team set out on a journey that was as much about learning as it was about competing. With a squad made up largely of beginners—some of whom had never held a hockey stick before—the odds may have seemed stacked against us. But what these girls lacked in experience, they more than made up for in heart, determination, and team spirit.

From the very first practice, it was clear we had a special group. The early sessions were filled with laughter, missed passes, and plenty of dropped sticks—but also with curiosity, courage, and a willingness to try. As the weeks progressed, so did the team's cohesion. Stick skills sharpened, communication improved, and a sense of unity began to take root.

Our first match against Framesby set the tone. With a 2–0 win, the girls proved to themselves that they could compete – and win. That confidence carried into our next fixture against York High School, where we repeated the scoreline with another 2–0 victory. The team's defensive discipline and growing attack flair were on full display.

The season wasn't without its challenges. Matches against Collegiate, Pearson, and Outeniqua High tested our resilience, with heavy losses reminding us how much there still was to learn. But even in defeat, the girls never gave up. They showed up to every practice ready to improve, and their positive attitude never wavered.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the season was watching the team begin to gel. By mid-season, passes were crisper, positioning more strategic, and the understanding between teammates was clear. A hard-fought 0–0 draw against Alexander Road High School

showcased our defensive grit, while a commanding 6–0 win over Victoria Park High School highlighted our attacking potential.

The final stretch of the season brought more reasons to celebrate.

A thrilling 2–1 win over Union High and a confident 3–1 victory against Kingswood College were testaments to how far the team had come. Even our 0–0 draw with Westering High felt like a win, as the girls executed their game plan with teamwork and focus.

In total, the U14B Girls Hockey team played 10 matches, winning 5, drawing 2, and losing 3. We scored 15 goals and conceded 23. But beyond the numbers, this season was a triumph of growth, camaraderie, and courage. Every player contributed, every voice mattered, and every match was a step forward.

To the girls: thank you for your energy, your effort, and your endless enthusiasm. Coaching you has been a privilege. You've laid a strong foundation – not just for future hockey success, but for the kind of teammates and young ladies you're becoming. Here's to a season we'll never forget.

SEASON STATS
Matches Played: 10
Wins: 5
Draws: 2
Losses: 3
Goals Scored: 15
Goals Conceded: 23

MATCH RESULTS
Won 2–0 vs Hoërskool Framesby
Won 2–0 vs York High School
Lost 0–6 vs Collegiate School for Girls
Drew 0–0 vs Alexander Road High School
Won 6–0 vs Victoria Park High School
Lost 0–9 vs Pearson High School
Lost 0–6 vs Hoerskool Outeniqua
Won 2–1 vs Union High School
Drew 0–0 vs Westering High School
Won 3–1 vs Kingswood College

U14A GIRLS

Back Row: *Amelie Meara, Akha Mbili, Jade Beckley, Kungamsa Sitoto, Abigail Reed, Mia Abbott, Milandile Saul, Hlomisa Heshu*
Front Row: *Lumae van der Berg, Katie Gothard, Quinn Foreman, Lily Ferrrant, Lathi-Tha Mnyaka, Amy Seymour*

U14B GIRLS

Back Row: *Hannah Kamau, Jeanelle Mndolwa, Ms Tiffany August, Simliziwe Swayena, Cailyn Looman*
Front Row: *Bahle Lwana, Buhle Ngweba, Mihlali Tatani, Emma Steenkamp, Elize de Vaan, Yana Loubser*
Absent: *Mia Taljaard, India Charlie Walker*

1st Netball

Woodridge Netball: A Season of Strength, Spirit, Growth, and Success

U19A Netball report:
Captain: Georgia Kilfoil
Coach: Ms Desreé Neville

Woodridge netball across all age groups has enjoyed a remarkable 2025 season, filled with exciting new initiatives and growth within the Netball structure. The April holidays marked a historic first for the school, with the U14 to U17 teams competing at the Paarl Gymnasium Tournament and the 1st Team taking part in the prestigious La Rochelle Girls' High School Tournament. Facing schools ranked higher and much larger than Woodridge, the girls showed resilience, grew in confidence, and delivered impressive results.

The 1st Team's season began with a strong showing at the Despatch Tournament, where they won all their matches, defeating Pearson U19B (9–5), Uitenhage U19A (19–2), Nico Malan U19B (16–6), and Despatch U19B (14–2). Their first official fixture against DSG at home was a tightly contested battle, ending in a narrow 18–22 loss, but it highlighted the team's potential and determination.

A standout moment came during the tour to Punt High School in Mossel Bay. Over eight demanding matches, the girls showcased endurance, teamwork, and skill, finishing 6th out of 24 teams. Wins against Middleburg, Koster, Douglas, Elnatan (Namibia), Ferdinand Postma, and Vredenburg were tempered only by two losses to Aliwal North and defending champions Punt High School. The tour also brought recognition for Dané Strydom, Georgia Kilfoil, Megan Bekker, and Nicole Barnard, who were invited by Travel and Sport to compete abroad with other top players, a testament to the strength of Woodridge's defensive unit.

The 1st Team then made history with their first appearance at the La Rochelle Tournament in Paarl. Battling extreme heat and a reduced squad of eight, the girls finished 14th out of 20 teams in the B Division—a remarkable achievement for a debut.

Back home, the season gained momentum with strong league performances. The team recorded victories over Westering (35–21 and 32–27), Curro (35–5), York (30–27), Alex (25–22), and Victoria Park (26–16). The final stretch brought some of the toughest challenges of the year, with close losses to DSG (22–32) and Kingswood (16–26).

Among the standout fixtures were the matches against York, Westering, and Kingswood. The away game against York was a rollercoaster, with Woodridge storming ahead 21–10 before a third-quarter dip saw York close the gap. Yet the girls held their composure to clinch a thrilling 30–27 win. The clash against Westering on 13 June tested the team's resilience after an early injury setback. A strong first-half lead was challenged in the third quarter, but under calm leadership, Woodridge secured a 32–27 victory. The season finale against Kingswood in their indoor HPC was an intense battle, with the cheering crowd adding to the pressure.

After falling behind in the first three quarters, Woodridge refused to relent, winning the final quarter by three goals in a spirited finish that perfectly showcased their determination and teamwork.

The season concluded with the end-of-year awards ceremony, celebrating each player's contribution to a truly memorable and successful season. Woodridge netball 2025 was not just about wins; it was a story of growth, resilience, and the strength of a team united by spirit and passion. This team of matric girls has journeyed together for years, some even since preparatory school. I sincerely want to thank these girls for their dedication, their contribution to Woodridge netball, and for being an absolute pleasure to coach.

U19A NETBALL

Back Row: *Nicole Barnard, Emma Brugman, Rebecca Botha, Riley Slack, Dané Strydom, Ayabulela Madaka, Tenielle Renze*
Front Row: *Morgan Bekker, Tamsin De Villiers, Mr Luke Hartley, Ms Desreé Neville, Georgia Kilfoil, Taylor-Ann Jones*

U19B NETBALL

Back Row: *Katelyn Stamos, Umthawelanga Captain, Kyra Dysel, Ava Pledger*
Front Row: *Sihle Zenzile, Bukho Resha, Siyavuya Bangazi , Mrs Deane Loubser, Siân Dearmer, Layla Reynolds*

U19C NETBALL

Back Row: *Zanele Mfuleni, Sandra Smith, Maria King, Grace Till, Anovuyo Ndlazi, Charlotte Reitz, Gemma Fodor, Assia Rodrigues, Imitha Galada*
Front Row: *Aneeqah Smith, Ms Adele Vorster, BuhleMvelo Manyaka, Someleze Jacobs, Isabella Thompson, Jordin Demaar*

U19B Netball report:
Captain: Siyavuya Bangazi
Coach: Mrs Deane Loubser

The 2025 season was one filled with determination, growth, and teamwork for the Girls' 2nd Netball Team. From the very first match, the team showed true grit and passion on court, representing Woodridge College with pride and sportsmanship.

Highlights of the season included a hard-fought 12–12 draw against DSG, and an impressive 14–9 victory over Windhoek High School. The team also delivered dominant performances in matches against St Mark's (22–4) and Victoria Park (20–8), showcasing excellent attacking play and solid defensive work.

There were also some tough encounters, with narrow losses to Paul Sauer and Alexander Road High School, where the girls displayed commendable resilience and teamwork right until the final whistle. A particularly challenging tournament in Paarl tested the team against strong opposition from across the country, an invaluable experience that helped the players develop both skill and confidence.

Throughout the season, the girls showed commitment, camaraderie, and a genuine love for the game. Congratulations to every player for their hard work and positive spirit; it was a season to be proud of.

U19C Netball report:
Captain: BuhleMvelo Manyaka
Coach: Ms Adele Vorster

This netball season brought a renewed sense of excitement and energy to the team. The U19C and D squad was a blend of experienced players, who had honed their skills over the years, and enthusiastic newcomers, who had never played the game before. Despite the varying levels of experience, all the girls were eager to get on the court.
We were fortunate to have a relatively large squad, allowing for regular rotation of players. However, this meant that some girls, unfortunately, received limited game time. Nevertheless, the spirit of the team remained strong, and the early practices were dedicated to reacquainting players with the basic skills and reminding them of the rules of the game. Despite often playing against stronger, more seasoned teams, the girls' passion and unwavering enthusiasm made the season enjoyable and memorable.

Throughout the season, the girls showed remarkable commitment during practice, always eager to improve their skills and knowledge of the game. When competition days arrived, their effort and determination were unwavering. Regardless of what the scoreboard reflected, their cheerful outlook, sportsmanship, and refusal to give up were truly inspiring. Each player displayed a mature and dedicated approach, embodying the true spirit of teamwork and perseverance.

As the season draws to a close, I would like to congratulate every member of the team for their contribution to an enjoyable season.

Your willingness to step up and participate is a quality that will serve you well in the future.

A special farewell goes out to our Grade 12 players. Your leadership, input, and positive attitudes were greatly valued, and we wish you all the best for your final examinations and future endeavours. As we look ahead, I am excited for the challenges and opportunities that next year's season will bring. Here is to building on the solid foundation we have established!

U16 Netball

U16A Netball
Captain: Lisa Barnard
Vice-Captain: Madison Badenhorst
Coach: Miss Mudi Mungenga

The U16A girls had an incredible netball season! Our first tournament in Cape Town was a great starting point, allowing the team to bond and develop friendships on and off the court. We played seven games, won four and lost three. As their coach, I focused on the girls' overall performance throughout each match, rather than just wins or losses. I was impressed by their determination and teamwork; they never gave up!

What stood out was the team's versatility. Many players could fill multiple positions, showcasing their adaptability and skills. Competing in the B League, we won all our matches. Although we faced tough opponents, the girls showed remarkable spirit and energy, regardless of who was on the court.

I was grateful to coach this talented and dedicated group of girls this year. Their positive attitude and sportsmanship made the season truly enjoyable. Highlights included wins against strong teams like Kingswood, DSG, York, Alexander Road, Victoria Park, Westering and Pearson High Schools where we won six out of seven matches. This experience has been rewarding, and I'm proud of each player's growth and contribution to the team.

U16B Netball
Captain: Lulo Gcilitshana
Vice-Captain: Olivia Montagna
Coach: Miss Mudi Munganga

The U16B netball team has had an outstanding season, showcasing remarkable teamwork, determination, and growth. From the early games to the final whistle, these talented young athletes have consistently demonstrated their skills and sportsmanship.

Throughout the season, the team worked tirelessly, both individually and collectively, to improve their game. They supported each other through wins and losses, learning valuable lessons about perseverance and teamwork. Their hard work paid off, and the team's progress was evident in every match.

One of the highlights of the season was the thrilling draw against Kingswood, ending the series 7-7 all. This result is a testament to the team's dedication and belief in each other. The girls showed incredible spirit and resilience, fighting until the very end.

We are incredibly proud of each player for their commitment, passion, and sportsmanship. The team's success is a direct result of their hard work, teamwork, and unwavering support for one another. Congratulations to the U16B netball team on an exceptional season!

U16C Netball
Captain: Sange Nogqala
Coach: Mrs Karen Opperman

This season, our girls' U16 C Netball team showed great determination, teamwork, and improvement throughout the few matches they played. Despite facing some strong opponents, the team remained positive and displayed excellent sportsmanship both on and off the court. Training attendance was good, and players showed dedication to improving their fitness and skills. Special recognition goes to our captain for her good leadership.
Highlights:

- Improved passing accuracy and defensive coordination
- Strong team spirit and sportsmanship
- One solid wine with many well contested matches

The season was a success not just in results, but in development, commitment, and fun. The girls can be proud of their achievements.

U16D Netball
Coach: Mrs Karen Opperman

Although the results of the U16D's didn't go their way and they didn't manage to win a match, the effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship displayed by every player were truly commendable. Each game provided valuable learning experiences and opportunities for the girls to grow both individually and as a team. Despite the challenges, the players never lost their enthusiasm and always gave their best effort right up until the final whistle.

U16A NETBALL

Back Row: *Nkosisiphile Dunga, Limilicebolenkosi Matanda, Hannah de Necker, Lize Ferreira, Gabriella Puttergill*
Front Row: *Nieves Slack, Lisa Barnard, Miss Mudi Mungenga, Madison Badenhorst*

U16B NETBALL

Back Row: *Lulo Gcilitshana, Saran Seccombe, Sasha Looman*
Front Row: *Laney Knoetze, Liqhamile Mehlo, Leah Owen, Anna Bandey, Miss Mudi Munganga, Olivia Montagna*

U16C NETBALL

Back Row: *Mihlali Nyila, Mrs Karen Opperman, Zi Yan Gao*
Front Row: *Kumani Sohaba, Mbali Xawuka, Aza Peter, Sange Nogqala, Liyabona Xipula, Lily Barnhoorn*

U16D & E NETBALL

Back Row: *Emma Abbott, Cwenga Jam-Jam, Chloe Pistorius, Katlotso Makgamatho, Tandolwethu Ludidi, Tulie Clarke, Mrs Karen Opperman*
Front Row: *Zintle Ramokolo, Britt Degoumois, Taylor Oberholzer, Sinenhlanhla Skosana, Sinda Sneli, Lukhonathi Kama*

U14 Netball

U14A NETBALL

Back Row: *Ms Kirsty Witteveen, Hayley Young, Akha Mbili, Ava Chantson, Abigail Reed, Amelie Meara*
Front Row: *Sakay Zakumba, Lathi-Tha Mnyaka, Lumae van der Berg, Mrs Sandi-Leigh de Bruyn, Alexa Thornton, Hannah Kamau*
Absent: *Mr Leon McGear*

U14B NETBALL

Back Row: *Ms Kirsty Witteveen, Bella Tassan, Jenna Thornton, Mia Taljaard, Madison Klinkert, Caitlyn Looman*
Front Row: *Jeanelle Mndolwa, Simliziwe Swayena, Mrs Sandi-Leigh de Bruyn Mihlali Tatani, Emma Steenkamp, Bahle Lwana*

U14C NETBALL

Back Row: *Ms Kirsty Witteveen, Buhle Ngweba, Milandile Saul, Mrs Sandi-Leigh de Bruyn*
Front Row: *Omphile Magashule, Mila Murray, Ubuhlebakhe Gwija, Somilangaye Jam-Jam, Xinyu Luo, Amy Seymour*

U14A Netball
Captain: Hannah Kamau
Coach: Mr Leon McGear

The Woodridge U14A Netball team enjoyed an outstanding season, marked by teamwork, determination, and strong team spirit. The players showed continuous improvement with each game, developing greater confidence and skill on the court.

Accurate passing, consistent shooting, and solid man-to-man defence contributed to a series of impressive performances. The team's positive attitude and genuine support for one another made them a delight to watch and coach.

Every player played an important role in the team's success, both on and off the court. Congratulations to the U14A girls on an excellent season and for representing Woodridge with such pride and enthusiasm!

U14B Netball
Captain: Bahle Lwana
Coach: Ms Kirsty Witteveen and Mrs Sandi-Leigh de Bruyn

The U14B netball team has enjoyed an exciting and rewarding season, filled with hard work, laughter, and unforgettable moments on the court. From the very first practice, the girls displayed determination to sharpen their skills and a genuine sense of team spirit that carried them through every match.

Under the guidance of coaches Mrs S de Bruyn and Ms K Witteveen, the team focused on building strong foundations; from accurate passing and solid defence to confident shooting. Tough training sessions and fitness drills were not always easy, but the players' dedication never faltered. Their growth throughout the season has been remarkable, both as individual athletes and as a united team.

Beyond the scores and results, what truly stood out was the team's unwavering spirit. Whether celebrating a strong win or learning from a difficult match, the girls always lifted one another up and played with pride. Their sportsmanship and positivity reflect the true values of our school community.

As the season comes to a close, the U14B netball team can look back with pride on their journey. With growing confidence, skill, and determination, these young players are sure to make an even bigger impact in the seasons to come.

Congratulations, girls, on a fantastic season; your effort, enthusiasm, and heart have not gone unnoticed!

U14C Netball
Captain: Milandile Saul
Coach: Ms Kirsty Witteveen

The U14C girls had such a fun season! From funky warm-ups with Mr McGear and practice matches where they gave their all to the York fixture where they dominated and celebrated the small wins!

Some highlights and special mentions go to Xinyu for never taking her eye off the game in Centre Position; Milandile for always having her game face on and being everywhere on the court; Omphile for stretching and reaching for the stars at Goal Keeper; anyone who dominated a bounce-pass in the shooting-D and every single one of you for pitching up and giving your all, even when it meant we only had practice that week and no match to look forward to.

I am very proud of you guys and was honoured to be your coach this season; we all learned from each other and had a ton of fun–what else could be more important in life?

Soccer

Captain: Josè Chandler • Coach: Nicholas Kock

This year, our soccer boys showed admirable determination and spirit despite having limited opportunities to compete in official fixtures.

The highlight of the season was the Victoria Park Soccer Challenge, where our U18 team faced a tough draw in the group stages.

They went up against Kwezilhomso High School (lost 0–2), Fairmont High School (lost 1–4, with Juan Blou scoring a well-deserved goal), and George Royal Football Academy (lost 1–3, with Marco Micheletti finding the back of the net). Despite the challenging results, the team played with courage and unity throughout the tournament. Captain and goalkeeper José Chandler was outstanding between the posts, showing excellent leadership and composure under pressure, while defender Sanda Ngweba impressed with his solid defensive work and commitment on the field.

We also enjoyed a friendly outing against St Andrew's College, where our U14, U15, and Open teams took to the field.

The boys relished the opportunity to play, learn, and have fun.

- **U14**: won 3–1 after an energetic performance.
- **U15**: narrowly lost 3–4, despite leading 2–1 at halftime—an unlucky result after conceding two quick goals late in the match.
- **Open Team**: showed incredible grit and determination, fighting back from 0–3 down to finish 2–3. They came close to equalising in the final minutes of an exciting game.

Although results did not always go our way, the boys displayed resilience, teamwork, and a growing passion for the game. With this spirit, the future of soccer at our school looks bright.

Back Row: *Mr Siyabonga Mvubu, Sango Mashaya, Lisekhona Hote, Lwanda Nkomana, Josè Chandler, Tertius Strydom, Joshua Ongole, Mr Nicholas Kock, Ms Tiffany August*
Front Row: *Hudson Whitehouse, Sanda Ngweba, Elan Scott, Mark Janse van Rensburg, Chuma Kate, Juan Blou, Lubabalo Mpalala*
Absent: *Marco Micheletti, Lusindiso Zondani, Nicolas Torre Fern, Asanda Ndlovu, James Saunders, Ethan Moothoo*

Squash

Coach: Mr Herman Venter

We celebrate a year marked by growth, commitment, and exceptional performances across all levels of the club. From our juniors to our senior players, the energy and passion displayed on the court have made this one of our most memorable seasons yet.

Leading the charge among our junior players was Iminathi Mashelele, who earned the title of Best Junior Player. Iminathi's sharp instincts, powerful rallies, and tactical awareness set him apart from his peers. His maturity and discipline on the court are remarkable for his age, and he has shown that he is not only a rising star but also a future leader in the sport.

In the senior division, Michael Gothard once again proved his dominance, being named Best Senior Player and achieving the Best Win Ratio of the season. Michael's calm demeanour, strategic play, and consistent performance have made him a cornerstone of the team. His mentorship of younger players and his sportsmanship contributed significantly to the club's positive culture.

On the girl's side, Gabrielle Rowe had a standout season, earning both Best Female Player and Most Improved Player. Gabrielle's transformation over the past year was inspiring. Her dedication to training and her ability to adapt her game led to impressive victories and a noticeable rise in confidence and skill.

Looking ahead, Reeva Naidoo showed tremendous promise for next season. Her fearless approach and rapid improvement suggest that she's on the verge of a breakthrough. With continued support and focus, Reeva is expected to make a significant impact in the coming year.

Behind the scenes and on the court, Lucy Dinwiddy was a pillar of strength and organization. Named Most Organized Player and Team Player of the Year, Lucy's reliability, leadership, and unwavering support for her teammates were invaluable. Her contributions often go unnoticed, but they are deeply appreciated by everyone in the club.

Special recognition goes to Camryn and Aimee, who were named Most Hardworking Players. Their constant presence on the court, whether during training or matches, reflects a level of dedication that sets a high standard for others. Their work ethic and determination are truly commendable.

In the second team, Milla Aylesbury quietly built an impressive record, earning the Best Win Ratio in her division. Her consistency and tactical awareness made her a key player, and her performances did not go unnoticed.

As we wrap up the season, it's clear that the club is thriving thanks to the passion and commitment of its players. With a strong foundation and a promising group of emerging talent, the future of squash here looks brighter than ever.

Congratulations to all players for a memorable year, and here's to an even more successful season ahead!

1ST TEAM SQUASH

Back Row: *Mr Herman Venter, Iminathi Mashelele, Gabrielle Rowe, Michael Gothard, Kohan Kok, Jac Duval, Taylor Strombeck, Imogen Lees*
Front Row: *Connor Meara, Reeva Naidoo, Lucy Dinwiddy, Camryn Joubert, Aimee Carstens, Milla Aylesbury*

Boys' & Girls' Tennis

Coaches: Mr Garry Baines and Mrs Karen Opperman

Each player contributed to the team's success, showing skill and resilience in every game.

The 1st Girls' Tennis Team had an outstanding season, playing in the 2nd League and finishing with an overall win. Despite some rain delays that required catch-up matches, the team remained focused and determined throughout. They played a total of four matches and impressively won all four, demonstrating consistency, teamwork, and strong competitive spirit.

A special mention goes to Riley Slack, who captained the girls' tennis teams with confidence and excellent leadership. Her commitment and encouragement both on and off the court helped guide the team to a perfect season. Congratulations to the 1st Tennis Team on a superb performance and a well-deserved league victory!

The 2nd Girls' Tennis Team played in the 3rd League this season. Despite a shortened schedule due to weather disruptions, the team showed great enthusiasm and commitment. Out of the four scheduled fixtures, two had to be cancelled because of rain. The team played two matches, winning one and losing one.

Congratulations to the Woodridge U15 girls' tennis team – Olivia Montagna, Lily Ferrant, Gaby Webb, and Amelie Meara – for their outstanding victory at the Collegiate Spring Festival. In their first official tournament together, the team dominated with a series of impressive wins. They began with a flawless 6-0 victory over Kingswood U15A, followed by a solid 5-1 win against Kingsmead U15A. The girls continued their strong performance with a 6-0 triumph over DSG U15B and a 5-1 win against Victoria Park U15A in the semi-finals. The team finished on a high note, claiming a 6-0 victory in the final against DSG U15A to secure the championship title. This remarkable achievement marks an exciting start for these talented players.

The 1st Boys' Tennis Team played in the 2nd League this season. Despite numerous weather disruptions, the boys enjoyed the season. Out of the four scheduled matches the boys played two fixtures. The boys secured comfortable wins against Kirkwood and D F Malherbe. The final scores were 4-nil respectively.

The 2nd Boys' Tennis team played in the 3rd League this year and again, despite weather conditions managed to play three matches. These matches were played against Grey, Alexander Road and Muir. The match against Grey was a 2-all draw, 3-1 win against Alexander Road and a 1-3 loss against Muir.

Most of the 2nd team are made up of U15 players who will play at first team level next year. Prospects look good for next year and for a few years to come, as most of the players will be in Grade 10 next year. Scott Davidson and Tertius Strydom were the stalwarts of the team.

Unfortunately, due to time constraints and as well as the weather, we were unable to finish all our games to decide our final standing in the league ladder.

To end the season, we travelled as a mixed group of girls and boys up to Makanda to play against Kingswood in a friendly match. The boys went down 7-1 and the girls secured an emphatic 6-2 win. Well done to the girls!

1ST BOYS' TENNIS TEAM

Back Row: *Dewald Strydom; Lawrence Chang, Mick Kirsten, Mr Garry Baines*
Front Row: *Mr Luke Hartley, Joshua Basson*

1ST GIRLS' TENNIS TEAM

Back Row: *Mrs Karen Opperman, Lily-Rose Ferrant, Olivia Montagna*
Front Row: *Nieves Slack, Riley Slack, Mr Luke Hartley*

2ND GIRLS' TENNIS TEAM

Back Row: *Gaby Webb, Jade Kelly, Kumani Sohaba*
Front Row: *Bahle Lwana, Mrs Karen Opperman, Hannah Tinderholm*

Swimming

Head of Sport: Mr Kyle Deasy

Swimming at Woodridge College is steadily gaining momentum, and 2025 proved to be an exciting and rewarding year. What once was a small programme has started to flourish. With new initiatives, record-breaking performances, and a clear vision, swimming at Woodridge is firmly on course to grow.

For several years, Woodridge has worked to build a strong sporting culture across a variety of disciplines. Swimming, however, is a sport that requires long-term planning and consistent effort to see results. This year, we are proud to say that the hard work paid off.

One of the most exciting developments in 2025 was the introduction of our High-Performance swimming programme. This initiative was designed primarily to support our Surf Lifesavers and Water polo players, both of whom rely heavily on swimming fitness and speed. By offering targeted training sessions, advanced conditioning, and specialised coaching, the programme has already become an important part of our sport.

Equally encouraging has been the growth of our Learn to Swim programme. Established to provide pupils with vital water safety and foundational swimming skills, our Learn to Swim lessons are engaging and focus specifically on confidence-building, ensuring that children not only learn how to swim but also develop a love for being in the water.

Looking ahead, we hope to expand even further in 2026 by increasing the number of participants and offering additional sessions. We firmly believe that a strong base at the Learn to Swim level is essential for producing confident and competitive swimmers later in their school careers.

No swimming season at Woodridge would be complete without our annual Interhouse Gala, and this year's event was nothing short of spectacular. The pool deck buzzed with excitement as pupils competed fiercely for house points, records were broken, and the spirit of camaraderie was alive in every cheer from the stands.

We were honoured to welcome Mr Brian Elliot as our Guest of Honour. A name well known in the swimming fraternity, Mr Elliot has dedicated over five decades to the sport, and we thank him sincerely for his ongoing commitment to swimming. His presence at the gala was an inspiration to our young swimmers and added an extra touch of significance to an already memorable event.

Victrix Ludorum Winners

U14: Jenna Thornton and Madison Klinkert
U16: Hannah de Necker
U19: Maria King

Victor Ludorum Winners

U14: Dante' Williams
U16: David-Joshua Markotter and Luca Hamlet
U19: Vaclav Horak

House Points

1st – Kohler House
2nd – Carter House
3rd – Founders House

This year's gala also produced a remarkable number of record-breaking swims:

- Jenna Thornton – U14 Girls 50m Backstroke (breaking the record set by Daniella Harcus in 2022)
- Hannah de Necker – U16 Girls 50m Backstroke (breaking the record set by Jessica Harcus in 2023)
- Kohler House – U19 Boys Medley Relay (breaking the record set by Carter House in 1996)
- Dante' Williams – U14 Boys 100m Breaststroke (breaking the record set by Ben Paine in 1980)
- Dante' Williams – U14 Boys 50m Breaststroke (breaking the record set by Liam Schweitzer in 2021)
- Kohler House – U19 Boys 4x50m Freestyle Relay (breaking the record set by Carter House in 1986)
- Dante' Williams – U14 Boys 200m Breaststroke (breaking the record set by Luke Gomm in 1992)

Mention must go to Dante' Williams whose triple record-breaking performance in the breaststroke events was nothing short of phenomenal. His ability to rewrite long-standing records, some of which had stood for over 40 years, is a testament to his talent, discipline, and bright future in swimming.

"As we reflect on a memorable season, it is clear that swimming at Woodridge is entering a new era."

The success of the High-Performance programme, the momentum of the Learn to Swim initiative, and the passion displayed at the Interhouse Gala all point to a thriving swimming culture that will only grow stronger in the years ahead.

Music

A Year in Music: Harmony, Heritage, and High Notes

Mrs Sheree Ferreira

2025 has been a truly remarkable year for our Music Department–a vibrant tapestry of sound, talent, and community that has left an indelible mark on our school calendar.

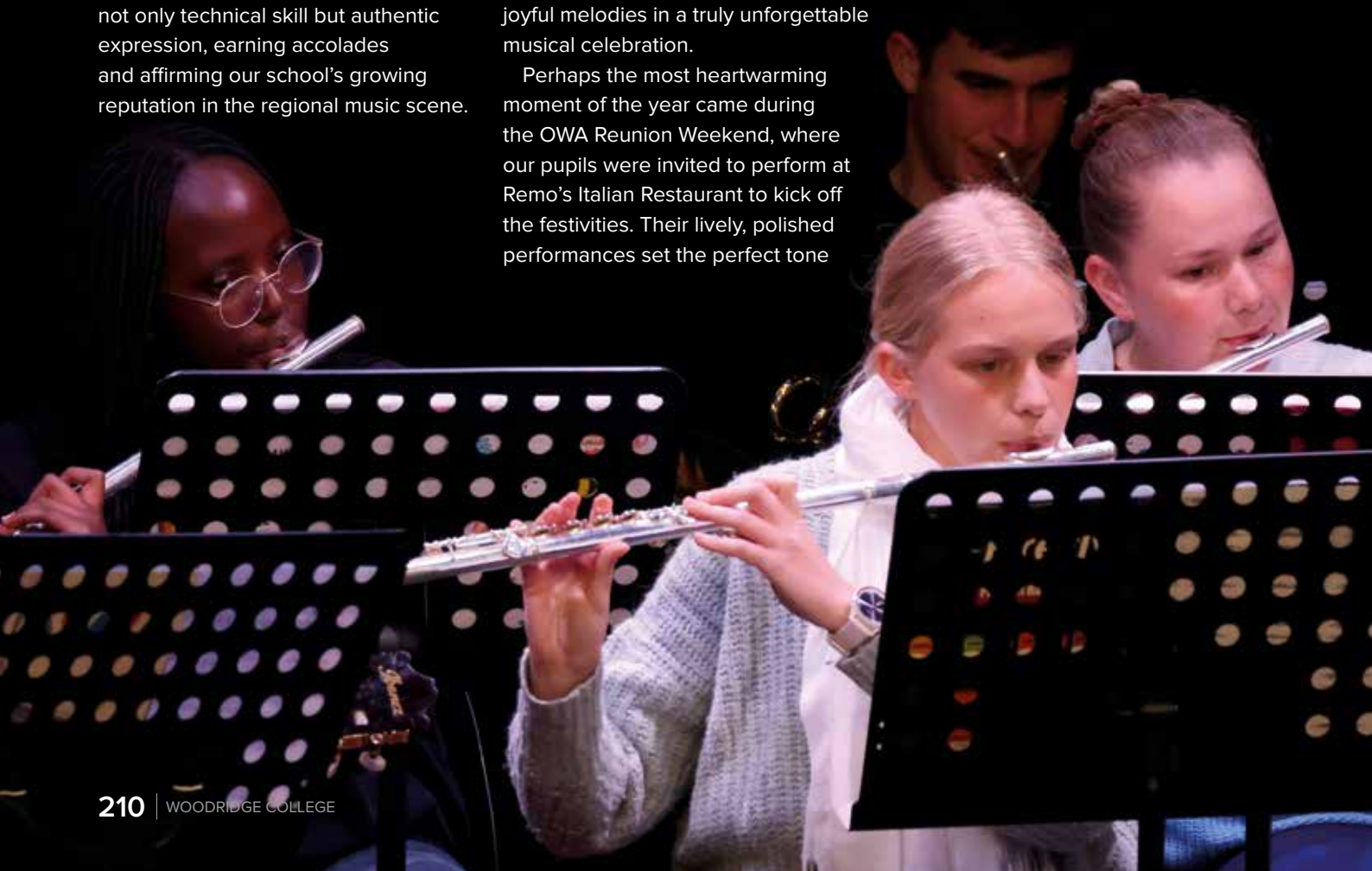
From the intimate and elegant termly Soirées, which continue to showcase the individual artistry of our pupils in a close-knit setting, to the open-air energy of QuadFest, our musical journey has offered something for every listener. This year's QuadFest was a standout event, graced by the electrifying presence of guest artist OWA Ben Peens, whose performance inspired and uplifted pupils and guests alike. Our musicians also shone beyond the school walls. At the SASMT Jazz and Contemporary Eisteddfod, pupils demonstrated not only technical skill but authentic expression, earning accolades and affirming our school's growing reputation in the regional music scene. Similarly, at the Praeludium Festival hosted by Pearson High School, our pupils rose to the occasion, performing with poise and excellence in a highly competitive setting.

Another highlight was the IEB Grade 12 Subject Music Concert, a collaborative celebration of musical achievement among senior music pupils from various schools. The concert provided a fitting stage for our young musicians to perform, reflect on their years of study, and connect with peers across the province. Our choir also took centre stage this year. Under the baton of our very own OWA and esteemed conductor Mr Richard Cock, our choir proudly performed at the "Last Night at the Proms", an event that brought together voices, generations, and joyful melodies in a truly unforgettable musical celebration.

Perhaps the most heartwarming moment of the year came during the OWA Reunion Weekend, where our pupils were invited to perform at Remo's Italian Restaurant to kick off the festivities. Their lively, polished performances set the perfect tone for the weekend, reconnecting alumni and current pupils through the universal language of music.

The year culminated in our traditional Carol Service, a fitting and festive conclusion to a rich year of musical engagement. With carols echoing through the halls, it was a beautiful reminder of the joy, reflection, and unity that music brings – especially at year's end.

"Music can change the world because it can change people."

– BONO –

PERCUSSION
Marshall
Hartke HD50

UNDER ARMOUR

Back Row: *Omphile Magashule, Sinda Sneli, Marcus Jansen van Vuuren, Ndalo Langa, Katlotso Makgamatho, Lumae Van der Berg*
Middle Row: *Nkosisiphile Dunga, Imivuyo Galada, Mihlali Nyila, Luke Burrows, Anovuyo Ndlazi, Kumani Sohaba, Amelie Meara, Mr Lesego Mkhwanazi*
Front Row: *Azasakhe Peter, Zintle Ramokolo, Bukho Resha, Imitha Galada, Zanele Mfuleni, Siyavuya Bangazi*
Absent: *Sihlumile Klaas*

College Choir

Mr Lesego Mkhwanazi

The Woodridge College Choir has enjoyed a year of focused growth, strong commitment, and memorable musical moments.

Rehearsals centred on vocal development, musical confidence, and preparing for key school events and performances, supported by clear communication with parents throughout the year.

A highlight was our collaboration with *Masifunde*, which offered the choir a rich, inspiring shared experience. We also enjoyed a wonderful tour to Cape Town, where pupils performed beautifully, represented Woodridge with pride, and bonded as a team.

As we close 2025, I am proud of every chorister's progress and dedication. I look forward to building on this year's momentum in 2026.

ROCK & JAZZ BAND

Back Row: *Mr Graham Beyer, Konwaba Qeqe, Elan Scott, Daniel Potgieter*
Front Row: *Caitlin Erklank, Siphesihle Mgogoshe, Morgan Flugel, Salizwa Masoka*

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

Back Row: *Milowo Bovungana, Inati Mabusela, Dimitri Alexandris, Nathan Flugel, Ethan Foxcroft, Lawrence Chang*
Middle Row: *Daniella Smith, Mr Evan Perkins, Konwaba Qeqe, Ruby Mwami, Mischa Killian*
Front Row: *Hannah Potgieter, Zi Yan Gao, Nicole Barnard, Ayabulela Madaka, Ava Horner, Rebecca Botha*

STEEL BAND

Back Row: *Mischa Kilian, Peter Kihoro, Rebecca Botha, Gabriella Puttergill, Zara Bonnasse*
Front Row: *Jaycee Diedericks, Jordin Demaar, Kungamsa Sitoto, Mihlali Tatani, Buhle Ngweba, Mr Timon Oosthuizen*

The Inter-House plays were performed on 19 February 2025. Kohler House performed a play called, 'Goldilocks and the Three Outlaws,' which contained not one, but two Goldilocks characters. The bears were replaced by a family of outlaws who had many illegal pastimes.

Founders House presented 'Cinderella and the Midnight Rebellion,' a tale about a rebellious Cinderella who decides to shake up her traditional character and make different life choices.

Carter House performed 'Hansel and Gretel: A Recipe for Revenge,' a spicy tale in which the siblings take matters into their own hands and defeat the wicked witch.

The plays were directed by the senior Dramatic Arts pupils, which afforded them the invaluable experience of hands-on theatre creation. They were also responsible for the sets, costumes and props for their plays. Acclaimed Port Elizabeth theatre doyen, Mrs Robin Williams, was the adjudicator for the competition, and delivered useful feedback to the pupils during the Awards ceremony.

Interhouse Plays

Ms Caren Bestbier

The theme of this year's plays was 'Fractured Fairy Tales.' Each House selected a traditional fairy tale and developed the basic scripts that were provided to them, to create a modern re-telling of the story.

The Awards were as follows:
Best Cameo performance:
The 'Bear Family' – Kohler House: Cwenga Limetyeni, Lwanda Nkomana, Konwaba Qeqe and Zanele Mfuleni.
Best Supporting Actor:
Ahlumile Sowazi – Founders House
Best Supporting Actress:
Mia Mapaling – Kohler House, and Keeleigh Ryan – Carter House
Best Actor:
Cwenga Limetyeni – Kohler House
Best Actress:
Mia Holme – Carter House
Best Director:
Aidan Paine – Founders House
Best Play: Carter House

The Witness: A Tribute to Athol Fugard

Ms Caren Bestbier

Athol Fugard, South African's most celebrated and acclaimed playwright passed away on 8 March 2025. A highly respected and influential anti-apartheid playwright, his work has been performed all over the world. The decision was made to compile a production of various selected scenes from his most famous plays to play tribute to this former Port Elizabeth theatre great.

The production was entitled 'The Witness', because Fugard himself stated: ***"My life's work is to witness as truthfully as I can, the nameless and destitute of this one little corner of the world."*** His work epitomises the qualities of truth, courage and vulnerability.

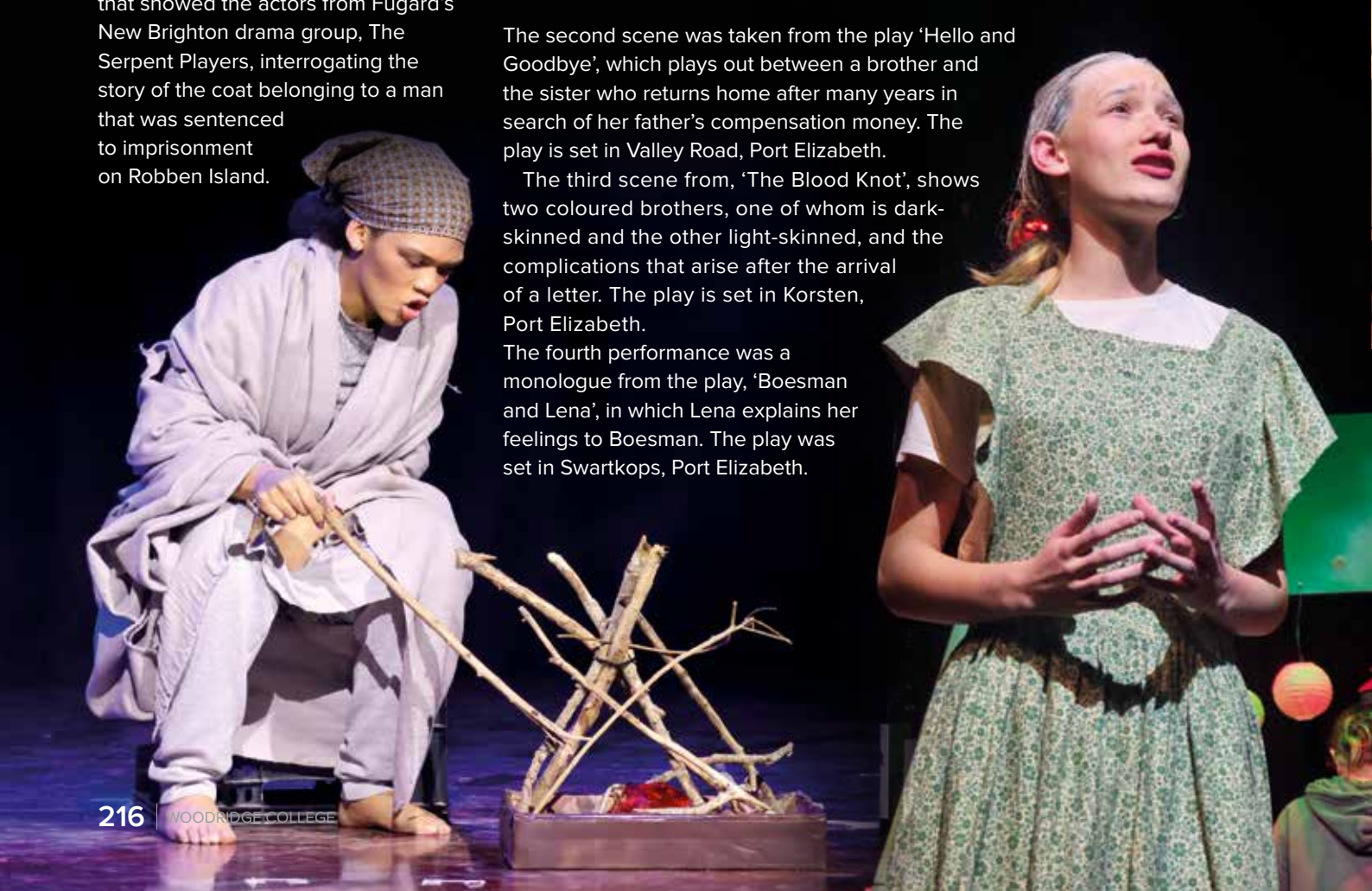
The first scene performed was 'The Coat', a piece of improvised theatre that showed the actors from Fugard's New Brighton drama group, The Serpent Players, interrogating the story of the coat belonging to a man that was sentenced to imprisonment on Robben Island.

Back: *Konwaba Qeqe, Sike Mavakala, Nic Ras, Chuma Kate, Mia Holme, Aidan Paine*
Front: *Zintle Ramokolo, Zanele Mfuleni, Gabi Puttergill, Mia Mapaling*

The second scene was taken from the play 'Hello and Goodbye', which plays out between a brother and the sister who returns home after many years in search of her father's compensation money. The play is set in Valley Road, Port Elizabeth.

The third scene from, 'The Blood Knot', shows two coloured brothers, one of whom is dark-skinned and the other light-skinned, and the complications that arise after the arrival of a letter. The play is set in Korsten, Port Elizabeth.

The fourth performance was a monologue from the play, 'Boesman and Lena', in which Lena explains her feelings to Boesman. The play was set in Swartkops, Port Elizabeth.



The final performance was an extract from ‘The Road to Mecca’, set in Nieu-Bethesda, and based on the story of Helen Martins, the creator of The Owl House.

The production played to small, appreciative audiences, who were given the chance to experience a small sampling of the work of this extraordinary playwright. The play was compiled and directed by Caren Bestbier, and incidental music was compiled by Evan Perkins.

Interact

Ms Elsa Ross

"One person can make a difference, and everyone should try."

2025 has been an incredible year of making a difference—so many smiles, so many happy memories—all thanks to each member of our Woodridge family.

Our termly civvies days have been a highlight:

Flip Flop Day 2025 was a fundraising initiative by the *CHOC Childhood Cancer Foundation South Africa*, held on Friday, 14 February. Supporters wore flip-flops and purchased stickers to raise awareness and funds for children with cancer. The money raised helps CHOC provide vital support such as accommodation, transport, and psychosocial services to families facing childhood cancer. Woodridge proudly placed 3rd **nationally** in the schools' competition. Our prize money of **R5,000** was also donated to CHOC in the Eastern Cape.

Slipper Day for *Reach for a Dream* followed a nationwide drive to support terminally ill children in realising their dreams. What better reason to wear our warm, cosy slippers than for a good cause?

On our **Funky Socks Day** in September, we supported two charities. By purchasing a Smile sticker, we contributed to the *Smile Foundation*, which helps children with cleft lips and palates receive life-changing surgeries. At the same time, our sock-wearing efforts raised funds for the *Ready, Set... Read* pop-up library project in the Northern Areas.

In January, we donated stationery to 60 children at Yellowwoods Farm School. Sadly, they do not qualify for government supplies due to not having birth certificates.

In March, *Rotary St Francis* sponsored four Grade 11 learners to attend the RYLA Leadership Camp at DSG's venue outside Makhanda. One learner shared:

"I learnt so much about myself and how to build certain skills. My communication, teamwork, and conflict resolution improved. I made amazing new connections with peers from different schools. I hope to develop the community we have at school to make it a better place for us as students."

Tharros runs a holiday club in Hankey informal settlement every school holiday for a week. We had the privilege of giving up a day in our holiday to play, sing, dance, and do arts and crafts with 60 young children. We were humbled by their gratitude and joy.

"It made us realise that we have so much to be grateful for."

— Imitha, Sihle, Siya

Mandela Day brings 67 minutes to give back to your community. We chose to help Eunice from *You Nice Soup Kitchen* in Thornhill informal settlement. Vegetable seedlings were purchased using funds raised from sweet sales. The area was weeded and prepared with help from Woodridge students and local children. We received beautiful photographs of the vegetable harvest in October. Another group of art students painted a mural on the Thornhill Primary School wall—much to the delight of the learners!

During **Outdoor Education Day**, we invited *CANSA Port Elizabeth* to join our vibrant day filled with spirit and energy. We raised **R7,000** as learners, parents, and siblings sprayed their hair in bright colours. A "Spin the Wheel" added extra fun with prizes to be won.

September also brought the **Cupcakes for Hope** sale, a nationwide initiative supporting families who cannot afford the care their children need. Funds assist with transport, nappies, food, and more. In true Woodridge spirit, our learners baked and donated over **270 delicious cupcakes**, raising a whopping **R4,114**. The grade 11 girls especially did very well and Jordan Puttergill set it all up, using the Cupcake for Hope resources.

Each year, we donate around 100 **Christmas Love Boxes** filled with treats, toiletries, and stationery. This year was no different—we donated to children at *Zaaimanshoek School* in the Baviaans.

"What seems insignificant when you have it, is important when you need it. When you practise gratefulness, there is a sense of respect toward others."
— Maya Angelo

INTERACT COMMITTEE

Back Row: *Ms Elsa Ross, Franki Dace, Imaan Mohamed, Siyavuya Bangazi, Imitha Galada, Lucy Dinwiddy*
Front Row: *Ndapewe Aluteni, Ava Pledger, Sihle Zenzile, Sienna Peens, Reeva Naidoo, Morgan Ackerman*

INTERACT CLUB

Back Row: *Similiziwe Swayena, Jeanelle Mndolwa, Lumae Van Der Berg, Bahle Lwana, Rebecca Tinderholm,*
Middle Row: *Ms Elsa Ross, Hannah Tinderholm, Imaan Mohamed, Ndapewa Aluteni, Nina Stiemie, Lucy Dinwiddy, Ava Pledger, Imitha Galada, Sihle Zenzile, Sienna Peens*
Front Row: *Franki Dace, Reeva Naidoo, Guinevere Birch, Siyavuya Bangazi, Mia Holme, Morgan Ackerman*

President's award

Not all learning happens in the classroom, and our students have shown that true growth comes from pushing personal limits, embracing new challenges, and giving back to the community.

The President's Award is the world's leading youth achievement award, and this year Woodridge College is proud to celebrate six students who completed their journeys with distinction.

Three students earned their Bronze Awards since September 2024, Sienna Peens, Ryan Steenkamp, Caelan Birch. They successfully completing the four core sections of skill, service, recreation or sport, and the adventurous journey. Meera von Berg achieved the Silver Award, taking her commitment and personal challenge to the next level, demonstrating focus, resilience, and leadership.

The Gold Award was achieved by Dané Strydom and Nicole Barnard, who not only completed all four core sections but also excelled in the additional Residential Project.

Their perseverance, teamwork, and dedication reflect the highest ideals of the Award and set a benchmark for future participants.

We congratulate all our Award participants for representing Woodridge College with excellence and commitment. We anticipate that our other Gold participants will complete their Award in the months to come and will celebrate their achievements in the new year.

Back Row: *Sienna Peens, Nicole Barnard, Ryan Steenkamp, Dané Strydom, Mia Holme*
Front Row: *Daniel Darlow, Guinevere Birch, Reeva Naidoo, Siân Dearmer, Ms Desreé Neville (Award Leader)*

25 Oct 2023	30 Jun 2025	Woodridge College	Eastern Cape	Completed	**Gold**	Female	Barnard, Nicci
01 Jan 2023	20 Jun 2025	Woodridge College	Eastern Cape	Completed	**Gold**	Female	Strydom, Dané
14 Jan 2022	20 May 2025	Woodridge College	Eastern Cape	Completed	**Bronze**	Female	Peens, Sienna
01 Jan 2022	20 May 2025	Woodridge College	Eastern Cape	Completed	**Bronze**	Male	Steenkamp, Ryan Andre
14 Jan 2022	19 May 2025	Woodridge College	Eastern Cape	Completed	**Bronze**	Female	Birch, Guinevere Caelan

Round Square

Mr Anthony de Villiers

Round Square International Conference 2025

The Round Square International Conference held in Dubai was successfully hosted by three prominent schools: GEMS Modern Academy, The Indian High School, and The Millennium School. The conference embraced the inspiring theme “Beyond the Dunes,” highlighting exploration, growth, and engagement beyond boundaries.

The event commenced with a vibrant opening ceremony that set an enthusiastic tone for the days ahead. Following this, delegates enjoyed a memorable cruise on a traditional Dhow around the iconic Dubai Marina Harbour. This unique experience showcased the glittering architecture of Dubai’s skyline, blending modernity with cultural heritage.

Over the next three days, the conference focused on three core themes: Adventure, Environmentalism, and Service. Each day began with phenomenal guest speakers who delivered inspiring talks, setting the stage for dynamic and interactive baraza discussions among the international students. These sessions encouraged open dialogue, critical thinking, and shared learning.

The Day of Adventure was hosted in the dramatic folds of the Hajar Mountains, specifically at Wadi Al Shees. Delegates from Woodridge found the physical challenges very manageable, but the true value lay in their positive engagement with fellow international students. This interaction fostered the building of strong friendships and a spirit of camaraderie across diverse cultures.

The Environmental Day began with the Climate Fresk workshop, which challenged all participants to understand and discuss the complex web of climate change. Delegates engaged in various sustainability activities, including preparing natural pesticides and planting seeds of the Ghaf tree, the resilient national tree of the UAE. These activities deepened the students’ awareness of environmental stewardship and sustainability practices.

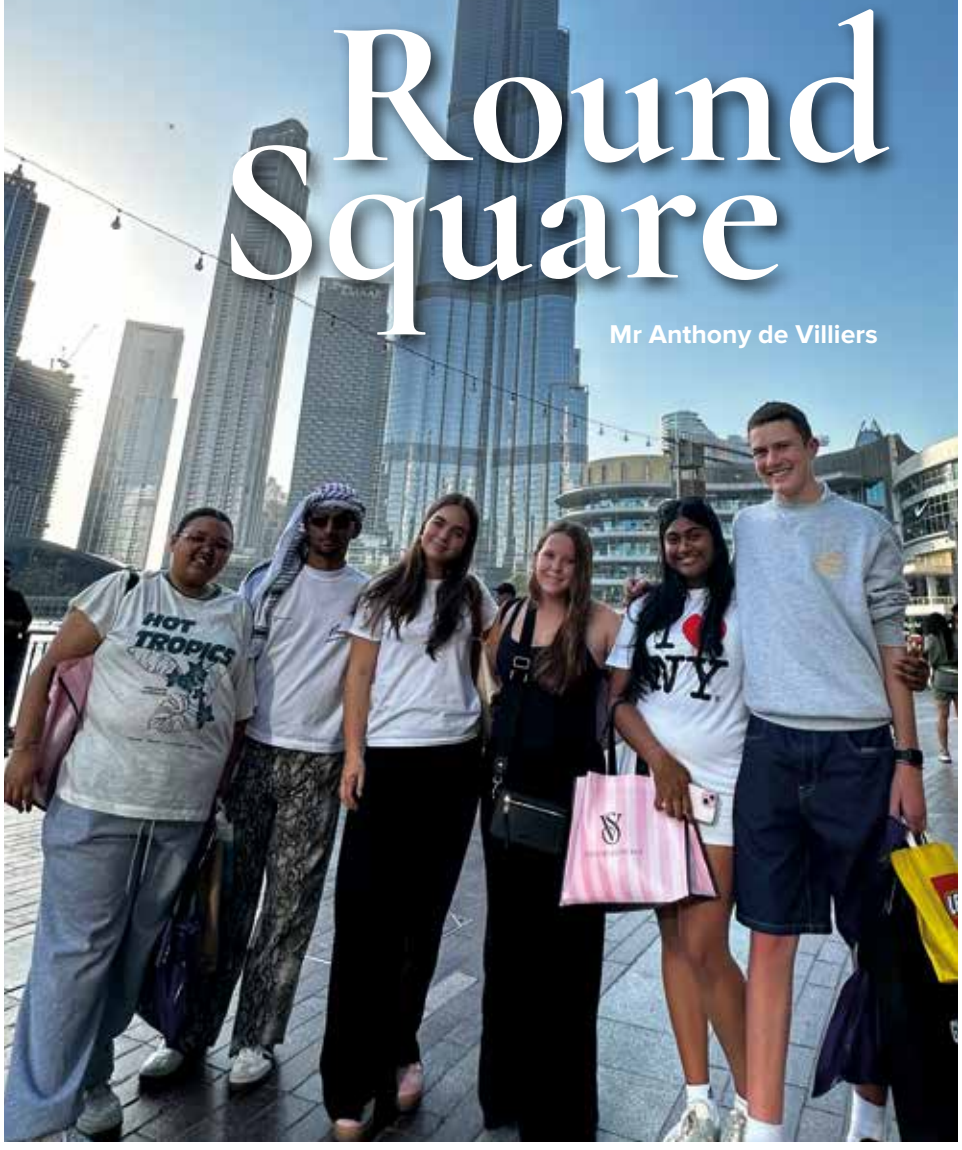
During the Service Day, students took part in community-building activities and worked with differently abled students, providing a rewarding and joyful experience for all involved. The Woodridge pupils emerged as fantastic ambassadors of our school, earning high regard from many delegates and staff. They grew significantly as individuals, their increased confidence helping them forge life-long friendships.

This spectacular conference was combined with lots of fun and meaningful experiences, creating memories that will be cherished for many years. It provided a rich platform for students to challenge themselves, deepen their understanding of global issues, and strengthen international bonds, truly embodying the spirit of “Beyond the Dunes.”

Comments from the delegates:

Reece Tassan

If I could describe my trip in one word, it would be life-altering. Meeting new people and making new friends pushed me completely out of my comfort zone, something I never thought I’d enjoy, but going to Dubai changed everything for me. It made me realize that no one cares who you are or what you’re doing; the only person judging you is yourself. Before I left, I promised that I’d throw myself into this adventure whole-heartedly, and not just do the bare minimum, and for once, I did. That trip taught me to let go of fear and just live in the moment. I came back with a new sense of confidence, a wider view of the world, and a reminder that sometimes, the best things happen when you stop overthinking and just say yes.



Reeva Naidoo
The Dubai Conference was a very memorable experience that I'm truly grateful for. I left with lasting friends and fun memories, every day was filled with engaging events and kind, friendly people. It was an amazing trip that I'll never forget.

Sachin Pillay
Attending the Round Square Conference in Dubai taught me the importance of embracing different perspectives and working together toward shared goals. I learned how open-mindedness, cultural understanding, and collaboration can make a real difference in building a more compassionate and connected world.

Keira-Lee Armoed
Round Square has truly allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and grow in ways I never expected. It has given me the opportunity to connect with people from all around the world, forming relationships that have taught me the value of diversity and global understanding. Through these experiences, I have learnt about different cultures, perspectives, and ways of life, which has broadened not only my knowledge but also my appreciation for the world around me. Overall, Round Square has had such a positive impact on me, shaping the way I see myself and the world.

Caelan Birch
My experience at the Dubai Round Square Conference was something I will cherish forever. The host schools went above and beyond, offering a wide variety of activities that allowed us to experience and appreciate the rich culture of Dubai. One of the best parts was meeting new people from around the world and being able to form long-lasting friendships. From the fun and engaging workshops to the cultural excursions, every moment was fun, meaningful, and unforgettable. It was truly an amazing opportunity I'll always remember and treasure.

Jaime Schweitzer
This Round Square International Conference was an unforgettable experience, learning about the different aspects that Round Square stands for each day. One of my highlights was our service day, where we spent the day helping people with special needs. It changed my perspective about them and how they struggle with everyday tasks that we take for granted.

International Exchanges to Australia
Daniel Potgieter – *The Armidale School, Australia.*
My Australian exchange with TAS, although it was cut short, was an unforgettable trip that I am glad to have gone on. From the day I landed in Sydney, I was given a different Ozzie

experience by my cousins whom I hadn't seen in years. I was given an opportunity to explore the city on my own and got to see everything that makes it special. I was particularly impressed by the infrastructure and safety which is lacking in Africa and many other countries.

I then met up with Sam and his parents, who took me to other attractions like the Centerpoint Tower. We spent the night on the 74th floor of the Meriton Hotel, giving us a great view of the city. The next morning was the 14 km City2Surf run, where around 200 TAS students were participating along with 80 000 others. The rain began to bucket down just before the start, and I'll never forget how cold we all felt afterwards as we were waiting for the bus to Armidale.

TAS is an amazing school, similar to Woodridge in how much there is on offer. After the first day of finding my feet, I proceeded to get sicker than I can ever remember being. I spent the next two days in their med centre, until Sam also got sick and his mom came and took us to their farm in Gunnedah. We spent the next few days recovering, but by then we felt good enough to go on a farm tour and find some kangaroos.

The next week I got to actually settle into the new school, which didn't take too long. I did just enough of the work to not get in trouble, as I was supposed to still be on holiday. On the weekend I got to play in their end-of-season 7's tournament, where I showed just how unfit I was. The last weekend I was there, Sam had a bunch of friends around to his farm, and we spent it exploring and messing around on the farm, which was super fun.

Overall, it was a great experience, and I wish I could go back and finish my time.

Annie Cornish – *Scotch Oakburn College Tasmania Australia*

In July and August, I had the opportunity to go on a school exchange trip to Tasmania, and honestly, it was one of the best adventures I've ever had. I got to see what school life is like there — as it turns out, uniforms and early mornings exist everywhere! I met lots of new people, learned a bunch of new things, and even managed not to get completely lost at the airport.

Outside of school, I had the chance to explore many parts of Tasmania. I visited Hobart, which was full of history, as well as the East Coast with its beautiful beaches. One of the highlights of the trip was going to Cradle Mountain, where the scenery was breathtaking, even if it was freezing enough to make my fingers go numb. I was also lucky enough to travel to Brisbane to see some of my family, which made the trip even more special.

Looking back, there are small things I might have done differently, but overall, the experience was unforgettable. I became more confident, learned to be independent, and learnt that Tasmanian wildlife is braver than I expected. My time in Tasmania was exciting, rewarding, and something I'll always look back on with happiness.

Outdoor Education & Adventure

Mr Billy Teeton, Director of Outdoor Education

Vision and Purpose: Our Why
We believe that real growth happens when pupils are placed in situations that require effort, cooperation, and perseverance. Mountains, rivers, forests, and open skies become classrooms where character is formed. Our programme is guided by the Round Square Discoveries: self-awareness, responsibility, resilience, teamwork, communication, and a sense of adventure. Every camp and expedition asks a simple but profound question, who are you becoming?

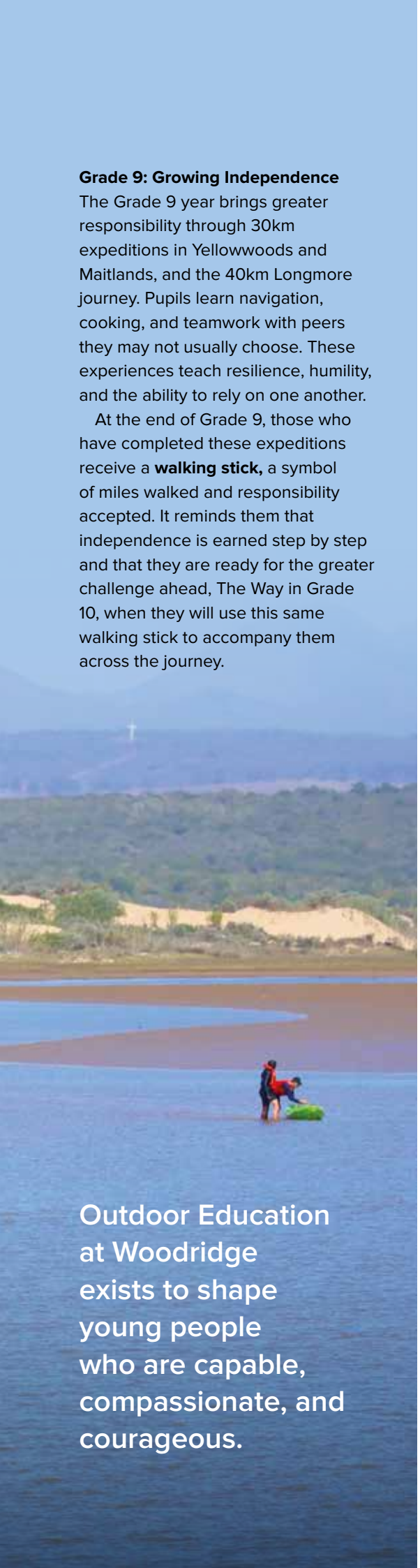
Faith at the Centre of the Journey
As a Christian school, Outdoor Education is about shaping hearts as much as developing skills. Adventurer Bear Grylls reminds young people to live with courage, integrity, and to follow Christ. In the wilderness our pupils are invited to discover not only what they can do, but who God is calling them to be, leaders marked by kindness, truth, and service. Our adventures are therefore not only physical journeys, but spiritual and personal ones as well.

Rites of Passage Grade 8: Belonging
At the start of the year, Grade 12 prefects hike each Grade 8 class down to Van Stadens bush camp to sleep under the stars. A swim in Slip Slide, wors rolls around the fire, stories, and the night sounds of the valley create a joyful introduction into the Woodridge family. By morning they hike back to school for breakfast and lessons, carrying with them a new sense of belonging and confidence.

Following this first rite of passage in the valley, the Grade 8s take part in the traditional **Blazer Ceremony**, a moment that formally welcomes them into the life of the college. The ceremony begins with the ringing of the school bell to signify a new chapter, after which each Grade 8 processes into the hall, one at a time. Standing together at the front and facing the school community, they listen to a short address from the headmaster about belonging, responsibility, and the journey ahead. The pupils are then invited to put on their blazers in front of the assembled school, and they are warmly applauded and welcomed as full members of the Woodridge family.

Grade 9: Growing Independence
The Grade 9 year brings greater responsibility through 30km expeditions in Yellowwoods and Maitlands, and the 40km Longmore journey. Pupils learn navigation, cooking, and teamwork with peers they may not usually choose. These experiences teach resilience, humility, and the ability to rely on one another.

At the end of Grade 9, those who have completed these expeditions receive a **walking stick,** a symbol of miles walked and responsibility accepted. It reminds them that independence is earned step by step and that they are ready for the greater challenge ahead, The Way in Grade 10, when they will use this same walking stick to accompany them across the journey.



Outdoor Education at Woodridge exists to shape young people who are capable, compassionate, and courageous.

Grade 10: The Woodridge Way
The Way 21 Day Wilderness Adventure covers 385km through the Baviaanskloof UNESCO World Heritage Site by hiking, cycling, and kayaking. It is not only about physical effort, but about community, teamwork, learning new skills, and reflection in beautiful places in nature. Pupils return with a deeper understanding of leadership, community, service, and faith.

The Seniors' Tie, Compass of Direction
On completion, pupils receive **the seniors' tie bearing a compass**, pointing to faith, integrity, responsibility, and community. As they navigated real landscapes, they are now called to navigate life with purpose.

Scaffolded Structure: Grades 8 to 12
The Outdoor Education journey is carefully scaffolded:

- Grade 8 focuses on foundations and introduction to the President's Bronze Award.
- Grade 9 develops formal expedition skills and continued work on the Award.
- Grade 10 explores the origins of life and prepares for The Woodridge Way.
- Grade 11 centres on self-actualisation, raft building, kloofing, and leadership in training.
- Grade 12 emphasises stewardship and preparation for life after matric.

Grade 8 Skills Rotation
Weekly sessions in activities such as cooking, kayaking, cycling, orienteering, climbing, archery, challenge course, and trust exercises provide a vital foundation for new pupils and introduce them to the breadth of Outdoor Education.

President's Bronze Award: A Call to Parents

The President's Award, aligned with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, is one of the most powerful tools we have for developing balanced, capable young people. Through service, skills, physical recreation, and an adventurous journey, pupils learn to set goals, manage their time, and commit to something beyond immediate comfort. These are not school tasks to be completed for marks, but **habits for life**, resilience, reliability, and the ability to finish what they start. All our Grade 8 and 9 pupils are enrolled, and dedicated lessons every second week are set aside to guide them.

The Award truly succeeds when parents walk alongside us, showing interest, asking questions, and encouraging their children to record progress and take the next step. A Bronze certificate by the end of Grade 9 is more than a piece of paper; it is evidence that a young person can serve others, care for their own wellbeing, grow a talent, and persevere through challenge. We urge parents to see the Award as an investment in character that will shape how their children approach matric, university, and adult life.

Preparing for The Way and Voluntary Clubs

Training for The Way includes cycling, mechanics, water safety, and team cooking evenings that teach cooperation and planning. Voluntary clubs enriched the extra mural programme throughout 2025. The paddling club operated on the Van Stadens and Gamtoos rivers, rock climbing was led by Tal Leshem, archery by Liz Herselman, the surfing club by Mr Rathbone and Ms Broadway, and the fishing club by Mr Opperman.

Outdoor Education Captains 2025: Nicky Barnard and Josh Dech
Nicky and Josh led with humility and service. It was wonderful to see them achieve excellent matric results after giving so many hours to others, proof that servant leadership and academic excellence can walk together.

Leadership, Grade 11
Grade 11 pupils are regarded as leaders in training, learning to serve and support rather than yet carry full responsibility. Their year included the Self Actualisation Camp with TLT, where they explored personal leadership styles and the values required to lead others with integrity. Highlights included Bruintjieskraal raft building and the Kudu Kaya slot canyon and kloofing adventure, experiences that shape practical and courageous young leaders.

The responsibility of preparing and leading Outdoor Education Day rests with the Grade 12 cohort, who model to the Grade 11s what mature leadership looks like in action.

Outdoor Education Day 2025
Shared with the Old Woodridgean reunion, the day enjoyed perfect weather, vendors, and vibrant competition culminating in the iconic 14ft Wall.

The event showcased the skills, spirit, and camaraderie built through years of Outdoor Education, and the competition was won by Kohler House.

Zaaimanshoek Primary School Camp
In May we hosted the Zaaimanshoek Grade 7s, fetching them from the Baviaanskloof in our bus. Grateful thanks go to Van Stadens Resort for sponsored campsites and a staff chalet, Daryl Rowe and the NSRI for harbour tours, water safety and CPR instruction, Raggy Charters for a discounted harbour trip, NMU for tours of their high performance centre, science and art departments, Mr van Heerden for fish and chips at Harbour Café, Mr Kock for a drone programming session, and Headmistress Mrs Annamie Schoeman for navigating the necessary permissions. This partnership remains one of the most meaningful outreach initiatives of the year.

Tribute to Ray Holmes
2025 brought the heartbreaking loss of Ray Holmes, Outdoor Education's greatest supporter. Ray believed in our vision before many others did and was instrumental in establishing our Outdoor Education Headquarters, OEHQ. He constantly sought ways to improve the delivery of adventure to our pupils and gave generously of his time, wisdom, and energy. OEHQ stands as a living legacy of his belief in young people, and we honour him with deep gratitude.

Thanks to the Preparatory School
Our programme rests on the foundation laid by the Prep. We thank Daniel Boreham, Head of Prep Outdoor Education, and Mr Cliff Reed, incoming Prep Headmaster, for their ongoing support. We also pay tribute to outgoing headmaster, Mr Von Berg, whose early recce with Mr Teeton, of the Great Try, punctures on the pipeline, paddling the Gamtoos, and walking the beach, launched a flagship event that continues to inspire.

Community Gratitude
The estate team remains the backbone of our outdoor programme, Vusi Ntimane, Romeo October, Peter Bailey, Arnold Aylward, Arnold Abrahams, and Jo Meyer. We thank Lynette Stephens and her kitchen staff for countless early meals and packed rations, and our Grade Heads for moving mountains in busy timetables so pupils can get out there.

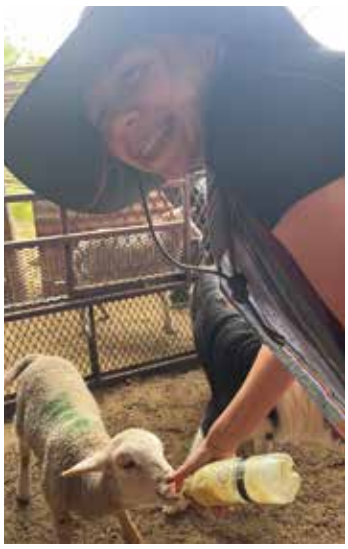
The Outdoor Education Department deserves special recognition, Aisha Muaka, OE Administrator, Liz Herselman for archery, Tal Leshem for rock climbing, and Bongani Mangwane, Wesley Henrico, and Courtney Watson for their dedication to the extramural programme.

Special thanks go to Mr Conrad Seymour for expanding the challenge course and for serving as an ever reliable medic on expeditions, especially The Way, to Rob Smith for his lifesaving support and genuine interest in the growth of our young people, to Bertus de Waal of Yellowwoods Farm for access to an extraordinary playground, and to all neighbouring farmers, Longmore Forest, Clive Ingram, the Puttergills, and Crossways for allowing access to land, mountains, and ocean. We are also grateful to the Ferry Hotel for years of boat storage while we seek a new home and funding for a shelter.

The Woodridge Way, A Journey of Community and Service
Service formed a powerful thread in 2025. All teams contributed to the refurbishment of the kitchen at Zaaimanshoek Primary School, scraping, painting, building, fixing, and cementing as they passed through the community. The objective was reached through the combined effort of many hands and tired bodies who chose to give rather than receive. A special mention must be made of logistics crew member, Thomas Pullan, who led this project with commitment, ensuring that the work was completed to a standard the community could be proud of.

The Way is only possible because of the remarkable people who step forward each year. Many staff members give up personal time and the comfort of home to walk alongside our pupils as facilitators and logistics crew. They endure hardship with cheerful hearts because they believe in what this journey does in the lives of young people. We are equally indebted to volunteers who are not members of staff, skilled outdoor people who generously offer their expertise and care. Though the list is too long to name individually, every kilometre of The Way carries the fingerprints of these dedicated men and women.

Looking Forward: Our aim remains simple, to graduate young people who are kind, capable, and unafraid of hard things, rooted in a living Christian faith. The mountains will keep teaching, and we will keep walking with our pupils, encouraging them, as Bear Grylls urges, to live bravely and to follow Christ with their whole lives.



Surf Lifesaving Club

Mr Robert Smith

COMMUNITY SERVICE
Woodridge SLC members have continued the Club tradition of voluntary community service, providing safe bathing for the general public at Seal Point, Cape St Francis. Despite small numbers, members performed 720 man-hours of voluntary duty on this most popular but dangerous beach.

Despite the lack of any facilities, the Club continued to perform duties out of a school bus. However, there is an improvement going forward as national lifesaving sponsors have donated a Duty Trailer to Lifesaving East Cape for use by Woodridge SLC. This vehicle will be a great base for our Duty Squads.

Woodridge SLC wish to thank our matric's viz. Jessica Harcus, Liam Schweitzer, Luke Burrows, Chloe Bateman, Kaia Forsyth-Tencredi, Alexander Moolman, Rachel Stone, Joshua Dech and Lenny Collins for their selfless and valuable contribution over many years.

MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITMENT
Membership remains a dire issue. As stated previously, the change to the water polo programme has seen voluntary lifeguard numbers plummet. Duty Squads are now down to as few as 4 members per squad.

TRAINING AND PREPARATION
Examination preparation remains a challenge.

While the Club has members of both genders and from ages 14 to 18, the School sports programme is obviously arranged to accommodate gender and age specific teams which makes arranging Club preparation difficult indeed.

The same applies to competition training and our top athletes continue to make use of professional coaches outside of the School.

COMPETITION
Despite all challenges, Club members really stood up to be counted in both the pool and in the surf.

No less than 7 members represented Lifesaving East Cape this past season.

We are extremely proud of our national representatives with Jessica Harcus been chosen for both the SA Presidents Team and the SA National Team in 2025.

Liam Schweitzer, Gian Moolman and Daniella Harcus also represented South Africa in international competition, and with Vaclav Horak competing for the Czech Republic Team (again), Woodridge SLC had no less than 5 members competing at international level. Unprecedented and truly amazing! Well Done!

2025 WESTERN PROVINCE LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS CAPE TOWN
Jess and Dani Harcus competed for Wdg SLC at Western Province Surf Lifesaving Champs

Dani competed in the u17 and Open Ladies age groups and Jess competed in the u19 and Open Ladies age groups.

- **u17 LADIES RUN SWIM RUN**
  DANIELLA HARCUS – 2025 CHAMPION
- **u17 LADIES SURF SWIM**
  DANIELLA HARCUS – 2025 CHAMPION
- **u19 LADIES RUN SWIM RUN**
  JESSICA HARCUS – 3rd
- **OPEN LADIES RUN SWIM RUN**
  DANIELLA HARCUS – 2nd
  JESSICA HARCUS – 4th
- **u19 LADIES SINGLE SKI**
  JESSICA HARCUS – 6th
- **OPEN LADIES SURF SWIM**
  JESSICA HARCUS – 2nd
  DANIELLA HARCUS – 8th
- **u19 LADIES SURF SWIM**
  JESSICA HARCUS – 2nd
- **u17 LADIES MALIBU BOARD**
  DANIELLA HARCUS – 3rd
- **u17 LADIES IRONMAN**
  DANIELLA HARCUS – 2nd
- **u19 LADIES IRONMAN**
  JESSICA HARCUS – 3rd
- **OPEN LADIES IRONMAN**
  JESSICA HARCUS – 3rd

2025 EAST CAPE SURF LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS
JEFFREYS BAY | NEWTON PARK

POOL RESULTS WOODRIDGE SLC – 2025 EC CHAMPIONS

TEAM RESULTS
4x50m Men's Obstacle Relay – 1st
Woodridge A 3rd Woodridge B
4x50m Mixed Obstacle Relay – 1st
Woodridge A 2nd Woodridge B

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS
- **JESSICA HARCUS**
  3rd – 100M Manikin Tow with Fins
- **DANIELLA HARCUS**
  3rd – 200m Obstacle Race
- **VACLAV HORAK**
  2nd – 100M Manikin Tow with Fins
  1st – 50m Manikin Carry
  1st – 100m Rescue Medley
  1st – 100m Manikin Carry
- **GIAN MOOLMAN**
  2nd – 200m Obstacle Race
  1st – 100m Manikin Tow with Fins
- **ALEXANDER MOOLMAN**
  3rd – 200m Obstacle Race
- **LIAM SCHWEITZER**
  3rd – 100m Manikin Carry
  3rd – 100m Rescue Medley
  3rd – 50m Manikin Carry
  2nd – 100m Manikin with Fins

SURF RESULTS
WOODRIDGE SLC - 2nd OVERALL
INDIVIDUAL RESULTS
- **JESSICA HARCUS**
  2025 EAST CAPE u19 SURF SWIM CHAMPION
  2025 EAST CAPE u19 MALIBU BOARD CHAMPION
  2025 EAST CAPE u19 SINGLE SKI CHAMPION
  2025 EAST CAPE u19 IRONMAN CHAMPION
- **DANIELLA HARCUS**
  2025 EAST CAPE u17 SINGLE SKI CHAMPION
  2025 EAST CAPE u17 RUN SWIM RUN CHAMPION
- **VACLAV HORAK**
  2025 EAST CAPE u17 SURF SWIM CHAMPION

TEAM RESULTS
- **2025 EAST CAPE u19 DOUBLE SKI CHAMPIONS**
  D HARCUS, J HARCUS
- **2025 EAST CAPE u19 BOARD RELAY CHAMPIONS**
  M KING, D HARCUS, J HARCUS
- **2025 EAST CAPE u19 SKI RELAY CHAMPIONS**
  M KING, D HARCUS, J HARCUS
- **2025 EAST CAPE u19 TUBE RESCUE CHAMPIONS**
  M KING, D HARCUS, J HARCUS, L OWEN
- **2025 EAST CAPE u19 TAPLIN RELAY CHAMPIONS**
  M KING, D HARCUS, J HARCUS, L OWEN

INDIVIDUAL PODIUM RESULTS

- **DANIEL MAY**
  2nd u19 FLAGS
  2nd u19 BEACH SPRINT
- **LIAM SCHWEITZER**
  2nd U19 SKI
  2nd u19 IRONMAN
  3rd u19 RUN SWIM RUN
- **JESSICA HARCUS**
  3rd u19 RUN SWIM RUN
  2nd u19 MALIBU BOARD
- **KAIA FORSYTH**
  3rd u19 BEACH RUN
- **GIAN MOOLMAN**
  3rd u17 SWIM
  3rd u17 BOARD
- **VACLAV HORAK**
  2rd u17 RUN SWIM RUN
  3rd u17 IRONMAN
- **MARIA KING**
  2rd u17 SWIM
  2rd u17 SKI
  2rd u17 BOARD
- **DANIELLA HARCUS**
  3rd u17 IRONMAN
  3rd u17 SWIM
- **DANIEL LOKOTSCH**
  2nd u15 SWIM
  3rd u15 BOARD
  3rd u15 RUN SWIM RUN
- **LEAH OWEN**
  3rd u15 RUN SWIM RUN
- **HANNAH POTGIETER**
  3rd u15 BEACH RUN

INDIVIDUAL MEDAL COUNT

- **JESSICA HARCUS u19**
  9 GOLD
  3 SILVER
  1 BRONZE
- **DANIELLA HARCUS u17**
  7 GOLD
  2 SILVER
  4 BRONZE
- **MARIA KING u17**
  4 GOLD
  3 SILVER
- **VACLAV HORAK**
  1 GOLD
  6 SILVER
  2 BRONZE

TEAM PODIUM RESULTS

- **2nd u19 MEN's SKI RELAY**
  G MOOLMAN, V HORAK, L SCHWEITZER
- **2nd u19 MEN's TUBE RESCUE**
  G MOOLMAN, V HORAK, L SCHWEITZER, D MAY
- **2nd u19 MEN's BOARD RESCUE**
  G MOOLMAN, V HORAK
- **2nd u19 MEN's TAPLIN RELAY**
  G MOOLMAN, V HORAK, L SCHWEITZER, D MAY
- **2nd u19 MEN's BOARD RELAY**
  G MOOLMAN, V HORAK, L SCHWEITZER
- **2nd u19 LADIES BOARD RESCUE**
  J HARCUS, D HARCUS
- **3rd u19 MEN's BEACH RELAY**
  D MAY, V HORAK, L SCHWEITZER, D POTGIETER

2025 SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SURF LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS
KINGS BEACH | NEWTON PARK

A Wdg SLC Team of 20 members competed over 6 days in April and May at the 2025 SOUTH AFRICAN LIFESAVING POOL and SURF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Unfortunately the Club's Surf Results are not as hoped because no less than 11 of our Team were unable to compete on the final day DUE TO A CLASH WITH THE College Matric Dance.

POOL RESULTS
JESSICA HARCUS
2025 u19 LADIES SA CHAMPION – Manikin Tow with Fins

VACLAV HORAK
2025 SA u17 VICTOR LUDORUM
2025 u17 MEN'S SA CHAMPION – 100m Manikin Tow with Fins
2025 u17 MEN'S SA CHAMPION – 100m Manikin Tow
2025 u17 MEN'S SA CHAMPION – 200m Obstacle Race

2025 u19 LADIES SA CHAMPIONS – 4X25m Obstacle Relay
WOODRIDGE SLC A TEAM
DANI HARCUS, MARIA KING, JAIMIE SCHWEITZER, NICOLA HERBST

2025 u19 MEN'S SA CHAMPIONS –
4 x 25m Obstacle Relay
WOODRIDGE SLC A TEAM
ZANDER MOOLMAN, LIAM SCHWEITZER,
VASA HORAK, GIAN MOOLMAN

2025 u19 MEN'S SA CHAMPIONS –
4 x 25m Manikin Carry
WOODRIDGE SLC A TEAM
ZANDER MOOLMAN, LIAM SCHWEITZER,
VASA HORAK, GIAN MOOLMAN

2025 u19 MEN'S SA CHAMPIONS –
4 x 50m Medley Rescue
WOODRIDGE SLC A TEAM
ZANDER MOOLMAN, LIAM SCHWEITZER,
VASA HORAK, GIAN MOOLMAN

SA SILVER MEDALS
- **Gian Moolman** – 100m Manikin Tow and 200m Obstacle Race
- **Jessica Harcus** – 100m Rescue Medley
- **Liam Schweitzer** and Alexander Moolman – Line Throw Rescue

SA BRONZE MEDALS
- **Jessica Harcus** – u19 200m Obstacle Race
- **Dani Harcus** – u17 200m Obstacle Race
- **Alexander Moolman** – u19 200m Obstacle Race and 100m Manikin Tow

SURF RESULTS
- **DANIELLA HARCUS**
  2025 u17 LADIES SA IRONMAN CHAMPION
- **DANIELLA HARCUS**
  2025 u17 LADIES SA CHAMPION – Run Swim Run
- **SA BRONZE MEDAL**
  Dani Harcus – u17 Ladies Surf Swim

2025 SA INTERPROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
POOL AND SURF | JOHANNESBURG AND DURBAN
WOODRIDGE SLC MEMBERS
REPRESENTING EAST CAPE LIFESAVING

MARIA KING
2nd – Line Throw Team
3rd – 4x50m Obstacle Relay
3rd – 4x50m Mixed Medley Relay

DANIELLA HARCUS
3rd – 4x50m Mixed Medley Relay
3rd – 4x50m Obstacle Relay

JESSICA HARCUS
3rd – 100m Rescue Medley
2nd – 100m Manikin Carry with Fins
2nd – 50m Manikin Carry

VACLAV HORAK
3rd – 100m Manikin Carry with Fins
3rd – 200m Obstacle Race
2nd – Line Throw Team
2nd – 100m Rescue Medley
SOUTH AFRICAN IPT CHAMPIONS – 4x50m Pool Lifesaver Relay
SOUTH AFRICAN IPT CHAMPIONS – 4x50m Obstacle Relay

GIAN MOOLMAN
2nd – Line Throw Team
2nd – 100m Manikin Carry with Fins
2nd – 200m Obstacle Race
2nd – 100m Manikin Tow with Fins
SOUTH AFRICAN IPT CHAMPIONS – 4x50m Obstacle Relay
SOUTH AFRICAN IPT CHAMPIONS – 4x50m Pool Lifesaver Relay
SOUTH AFRICAN IPT CHAMPION – 200m Super Lifesaver

ALEXANDER MOOLMAN
SOUTH AFRICAN IPT CHAMPIONS – 4x50m Pool Lifesaver Relay
SOUTH AFRICAN IPT CHAMPIONS – 4x50m Obstacle Relay

SA CHAMPS

Back Row: *Oliver Stutterheim, Daniel Potgieter, Daniel May, David-John Markotter, Daniel Lokotsch, Cade Klinkert*
Middle Row: *Mr Wayne Rathbone, Maria King, Michael Michau, Hannah Potgieter, Leah Owen, Chloe Middleton*
Front Row: *Jaime Schweitzer, Daniella Harcus, Jessica Harcus, Liam Schweitzer, Vaclav Horak, Joshua Dech*
Absent: *Gian Moolman, Alexander Moolman*

SURF LIFESAVING CLUB

Back Row: *Chloe Bateman, Vaclav Horak, Daniel May, Lennard Collins, Joshua Dech, David-John Markotter, Daniel Lokotsch, Cade Klinkert*
Middle Row: *Miss Emma Broadway, Daniel Potgieter, Oliver Stutterheim, Kaia Forsyth-Tancredi, Maria King, Michael Michau, Hannah Potgieter, Connor du Preez, Leah Owen, Chloe Middleton, Mr Wayne Rathbone*
Front Row: *Jaime Schweitzer, Daniella Harcus, Jessica Harcus, Liam Schweitzer, Luke Burrows, Rachel Stone*
Absent: *Gian Moolman, Alexander Moolman*

2025 COMMONWEALTH GAMES LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS UNITED KINGDOM

Results for WOODRIDGE SURF LIFESAVING CLUB members representing SOUTH AFRICA at the 2025 CWG. All 3 Woodridge SLC members are pupils at Woodridge College. All 3 reside and train in St Francis Bay. The SA Presidents Team is the SA National Junior Team.

JESSICA HARCUS – SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENTS TEAM

Individual events

2025 COMMONWEALTH GAMES CHAMPION – 100m Manikin Carry
2025 COMMONWEALTH GAMES CHAMPION – 50m Manikin Carry

Team events

2025 CWG CHAMPIONS – TEAM SA – 4x25m Manikin Carry

LIAM SCHWEITZER – SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENTS TEAM

Team events

2025 COMMONWEALTH GAMES CHAMPIONS – TEAM SA – Line Throw
2025 COMMONWEALTH GAMES CHAMPIONS – TEAM SA – 4x50m Manikin Carry
2025 CWG SILVER MEDAL – TEAM SA – 4x50m Medley Relay

GIAN MOOLMAN – SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENTS TEAM

Team events

2025 COMMONWEALTH GAMES CHAMPIONS – TEAM SA – Line Throw
2025 COMMONWEALTH GAMES CHAMPIONS – TEAM SA – 4x50m Manikin Carry
2025 COMMONWEALTH GAMES CHAMPIONS – TEAM SA – new SA Record – 4x50m Obstacle Relay
2025 CWG SILVER MEDAL – TEAM SA – 4x50m Medley Relay

2025 SA LIFESAVING AWARDS VACLAV (VASA) HORAK

Vasa has been really busy this winter season. Here follows a summary of his recent lifesaving achievements.

At the LIFESAVING SOUTH AFRICA Annual Awards evening held in Durban in July, Vasa was awarded the LSA SENIOR MEN'S COMPETITOR OF THE YEAR!

And for the second time, Vasa was selected to represent his home country The Czech Republic as a member of the 2025 National Junior Lifesaving Team to compete at the 2025 EUROPEAN LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS in Poland.
The Pool events were held in Szczecin and the Surf was in the coastal city of Miedzydroje.
No less than 16 of Europe's top lifesaving countries competed at this event. As Vasa is not a South African, he is unfortunately unable to represent the RSA.

In both the pool and the surf, Vasa's contribution to the CR Team was most impressive, on this International stage.

2025 INTERNATIONAL SURF RESCUE CHALLENGE (ISRC) MOUNT MAUNGANUI BEACH NEW ZEALAND | NOVEMBER

Woodridge SLC were thrilled when JESSICA HARCUS was selected to represent the SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL TEAM at this prestigious event. And Jess will compete in New Zealand in November, despite this been a bit of a clash with her final matric examinations!

Woodridge SLC also congratulate DANIELLA HARCUS on her selection to the SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENTS TEAM at this event in November.
GOOD LUCK JESS and DANI!!!

2026 WORLD LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS | GQEBERHA

Woodridge SLC members have attended World Champs in previous years as both Club and National representatives, including the very successful 2024 Champs in Australia. 2026 will be an amazing opportunity for the Woodridge SLC to attend a World Championship right on our own doorstep! Watch this space!

Tuli Tour 2025

During the August Holidays we began a new tradition at Woodridge, embarking on an Outdoor Education Tour to the Tuli Block in Botswana. This area offers a truly wild experience with unfenced camps, breath-taking landscapes and the elemental experiences that come about as a result of being so close to nature. Ms Broadway and Mr Watson accompanied a group of sixteen pupils on what was to become a very memorable experience.

The following chose to be a part of this memorable experience:

Emma-Kate Vincent, Lily Beneka, Emma Brugman, Ryan Steenkamp, Pieter Strydom, Hannah Potgieter, Caitlyn Erlank, Morgan Flugel, Ida Breitfield, Rebecca Stottelaar, Sasha Stottelaar, Gabi Puttergill, Kaia Forsyth, Tamsin de Villiers, Chloe Bateman and Oliver Puttergill.

We spent time at three different camps which were each impressive in their own right. Mohave was the first port of call: a camp that is situated on a dry riverbed, with a deck that overlooks a smaller waterhole. This piece of water attracted a number of different animals during our stay, including herds of elephants, impala, warthogs, and a plethora of birds. What is really special is that the deck is a mere few meters from the water's edge, and so if we were quiet, the animals would come very close to our unfenced vantage point.

The second camp was Eagle's View – an open platform that looks onto the side of Eagle's Rock. It is positioned so that the well-worn game path down to the river is in full view, and we enjoyed watching the animals as they made their way through the arid landscape. At night, the pupils slept under the stars, marvelling at a Milky Way that was unblemished by pollution.

Our final stop was at the more luxurious Serolo Camp, which is along the Limpopo River flood basin. This stretch of water is dominated by gigantic trees, and the ever-flowing river is an attraction for many of the animals, especially the larger raptors, elephants and lions.

We were blessed when it came to sightings, seeing lion on most of the drives, and the groups being spoilt with some fleeting leopard sightings. We were often able to get very close to them using the open game vehicles. One of the real privileges of staying at Tuli Wilderness is the proximity to the game, which often wanders through the camps. We are also able to get up close to the wildlife as often the vehicles are not confined to the network of roads on the reserve.

We are blessed to have places like this on our doorstep and the tour will definitely be a highlight in the schooling memories for the group that attended. Tuli is an amazing part of Southern Africa, and the ancient trees that tell its story inspired the following poem, attributed to the Ana Tree that line the Limpopo Riverbank in the area:

Ana Tree
by Courtney Watson

The patience of a tree
Growing in seasons
With each twist of bark
And stretching limb
Like a living map:
A history of a world
That is wrapped up
By her own leaves.

The curl of an elephant trunk
That bendbreaks a branch
Into the artistry
Of a new path,
Making her a river
That is channeled
By the animals
She feeds.

She bears the crusts
Of muddy wallows
Rubbed like paint
Under her fingernails of bark
Coloured like the Limpopo:
Holding with them
The smiling scratch
Of warthog generations.

Her fingerprint patterns
Of aged wrinkles
Tell the history
Of drought and flood,
When she drops
Pods and leaves
To sustain
Impala and baboon.

Fish Eagles throw their
Calls up, up to the sun
From the arms of her canopy
While Fishing Owls
Hide their golden feathers
Like a secret
In the dark shadows
Of her fingers.

The claw marks
Of dappled leopards
Are scratched into her trunk
As the memories of meals
That are dragged
Into the cover
Of her strongest branches:
Food for a feline legacy.

The colours of birds
Find nests and refuge
And family
Among the nests
That she cups in her hands
Or are holed up
In the softer places
Of her skin.

She is a mother
To wild sons and daughters
With feathers and fur and claws.
That suckle from her branches.
She speaks wisdom
Into the wind
With a patience
That grows in seasons.

The trip also inspired another "tree poem" about a fig tree that leans off the edge of Eagle's Rock:

The Legends are True
by Courtney Watson

There are myths about candles
Whose flames flicker forever:
An eternal prayer of light.
Like a pilgrim
I visit one of these miracles
That has anchored its roots
In a koppie at the place
That my spirit calls home.
Its molten wax
Is the colour of whispered sunshine
And it has dripped over the rock
For what must be centuries.
The candle's trunk is a fig tree
That twists large elliptical leaves to the sky
And its body feels snug
Under my palm
Like the warmth from a flame
Of burnt sunlight
That smoulders in the tree's heart,
Spiralling beneath ringlets of bark.
It started as a grain-of-sand-seed
Accidentally dropped by a bird
On an unknown trajectory overhead.
The seed was forgotten
In a tiny fissure
That gathered water
(Rain between the darkness)
Whose hands, like a miracle,
Coaxed from it a shoot,
A stem, a life.
The flame was lit and the tree began to grow
Splitting rock with the power
Of its molten roots
And burning an eternal candle flame
In the birth of its canopy
Under which I now sit
Feeling it's warmth on my shoulders.

The experience left a long-lasting mark on those that attended, and some of the pupils offered the following words to define their adventure at Tuli:

I am so grateful for the opportunity I got to spend time in the Tuli Block in Botswana. From the game drives to the walks, my Tuli trip is something I will never forget. The nights under the stars, animal sightings, stories told and memories shared are things I keep to my heart. Surrounded by amazing people in such an amazing place I've never felt more at peace. Thank you for the amazing food, memories and experience.
Rebecca Stottelaar

Tuli was an experience that I don't think I'll ever forget. Deciding to sacrifice my very precious 'study' holiday time was a tough decision, but it ended up being the perfect break from everything. Just being out in the bush with friends, away from civilisation, with no signal (probably one of the best parts) was so refreshing. The meals and the atmosphere at each camp was amazing. I remember sleeping under the stars for the first night and just taking it all in. Just sitting around the fire and listening to all sorts of stories and walking to our huts after dinner and finding a giraffe right at our door. Digging for water in the dry Motloutse river and actually finding water beneath the surface and all of us having a taste. This trip is what I look back on when I'm stuck stressing about school. I was lucky enough to go with such a fun group and I think it made all the difference in the experience. Thank you, Mr. Watson, for allowing us the opportunity to go on this adventure. I will forever cherish these memories.
Tamsin de Villiers

I'm from Germany – and back home, the wildest animals I usually see are deer, wild boars, foxes and maybe a hare if I'm lucky. So, when I got the chance to go on an expedition to Botswana, I knew this was going to be something completely different!

One of the most unforgettable moments was seeing a whole family of lions lying right in front of us in a dried riverbed. They weren't scared at all – we could just sit and watch them cuddling and playing with each other.

Another highlight was swimming in a little pool at our camp, while watching a herd of elephants with their calves drinking at the waterhole. I honestly couldn't believe that was real life.

The evenings were just as special. We sat around the fire, talking, laughing, and playing endless rounds of UNO Flip. It might sound silly compared to lions and elephants – but for me, those moments were just as magical because trips like this are not only about where you are, but also about the friendships you make while on tour.

One night we slept outside under the stars at a camp called Eagle's Rock Star Deck. It was freezing cold, but the sky was so clear that you could see the Milky Way shining above us with incredible clarity. That's something I'll never forget.

On our last evening, the camp staff surprised us with dinner under the stars at the end of our final game drive. There we were, in the middle of nowhere, sharing good food, stories, and laughter around the fire.

This trip taught me so much – not only because of wildlife, but also because I got to enjoy the little things, like conversations, sunsets, and simply looking up at the stars.

I'm really grateful I got to be part of it.
Ida Breitfeld

A MESSAGE FROM... OWA CHAIRMAN, GRANT PUTTERGILL

Hello!

Where did the year go!

This was another very successful year, filled with Cricket matches, a Golf day, Reunion weekend, Premier 500 draws, and more....all in true Woodridge spirit, of course! As you browse through this newsletter, you will find more on the shenanigans that went down at these events.

Another event that stood out for me this year was when we tried something new for our annual 6-A-Side cricket day, and auctioned one schoolboy player to each team. This was by far one of our best ideas yet!

Not only was it fun, but it also gave us the opportunity to get to know these young players (and soon-to-be Old Boys) on a new, better, and exciting level.

Then there was the Induction of the class of 2025! This was, in particular, an extra special evening as my own son, Oliver, and Natasha's daughter, Nicole, got inducted as Old Woodridgeans, together with the Deputy Head, Mr Botha's daughter, Becky.

What an absolute honour to stand proudly and watch our children become part of our story.

With that, I say a huge thank you to all our committee members for all their hard work and dedication. With such a great team, I look forward to what 2026 will bring!

See you at Reunion on 17 & 18 July 2026!

Fideliter!

Grant Puttergill
Chairman, Old Woodridgean Association

OLD WOODRIDGEAN ASSOCIATION

A TRIBUTE TO A TRUE WOODRIDGE GENTLEMAN

RAY HOLMES
1957 - 2025

It is with deep sorrow and heartfelt admiration that we pay tribute to Ray Holmes, a cherished member of the Woodridge community, a passionate alumnus and a dedicated Estates Manager whose impact will be felt for generations to come.

Ray was more than a colleague; he was a pillar of Woodridge life. His deep love for the school was evident in everything he did, from the meticulous care he gave to the estate grounds, to the pride he took in ensuring that the school remained a safe, beautiful, and functional place for all who call it home.

As an Old Woodridgean, Ray carried the ethos of the school with him in every interaction, embodying integrity, dedication, and humility. Those of us who had the privilege of working alongside Ray remember him with warmth and respect. He led by example, calm under pressure, practical in approach, and always approachable. His team held him in the highest regard, not just because of his skill and experience, but because of the genuine kindness and good humour he brought to every day.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with Rina and the family. May they find comfort in knowing just how much Ray meant to all of us at Woodridge. His legacy will live on, not only in the bricks and paths he helped maintain but in the spirit of Woodridge, a place he loved, served, and called home.

Ray, you are deeply missed but never forgotten.

Welcome to the OWA Peter!

OWA Chairman, Grant Pttergill, and Peter Bailey

In 2025, we had the privilege to induct Peter Bailey as an Honorary Old Woodridgean!

Peter started working at Woodridge in January 1974 as a 19-year-old.

He is the son of the late William "Willie" Bailey, who brought his whole family down from Grahamstown in the 1960's to help with the building of the College.

The Baileys have been an integral and faithful part of the Woodridge family since, with Baileyville being named after them.

Oom Piet, now 70 yrs old, is still the kindest, most patient person who treats everyone with the utmost respect. He always has a plan and never shies away from teaching his many skills to those around him, with the energy of a 30-year-old. It has been an honour and a privilege to have him as part of this close-knit family called Woodridge!

Fabulous FOUNDATION

Dear Woodridge community,

I wanted to take a moment to share a heartfelt update from the Woodridge Foundation and to thank you — our alumni — for the enduring role you play in the life of our school.

This past year has been one of quiet but important progress. We have focused on building strong, sustainable bursary pathways, welcoming new bursary recipients (including our first UK-based Fideliter Trust bursary), and strengthening the ways our community can meaningfully engage with and support Woodridge, now and into the future.

We are also in the process of developing a very special initiative which will be launched in the New Year. This project is being thoughtfully designed as a living legacy on campus, offering everyone the opportunity to honour their time at Woodridge, mark milestones, and give back to Woodridge in a way that grows and endures over time.

As we look ahead to 2026, our hopes are simple but powerful: to grow our bursary programme, deepen alumni involvement locally and abroad, progress important legacy and infrastructure projects, and continue nurturing a school where every child can belong and thrive.

Our call to action is an open invitation:
Whether through supporting a bursary, adopting or planting a tree, mentoring a learner, or simply staying connected, there is a place for everyone to be part of this journey.

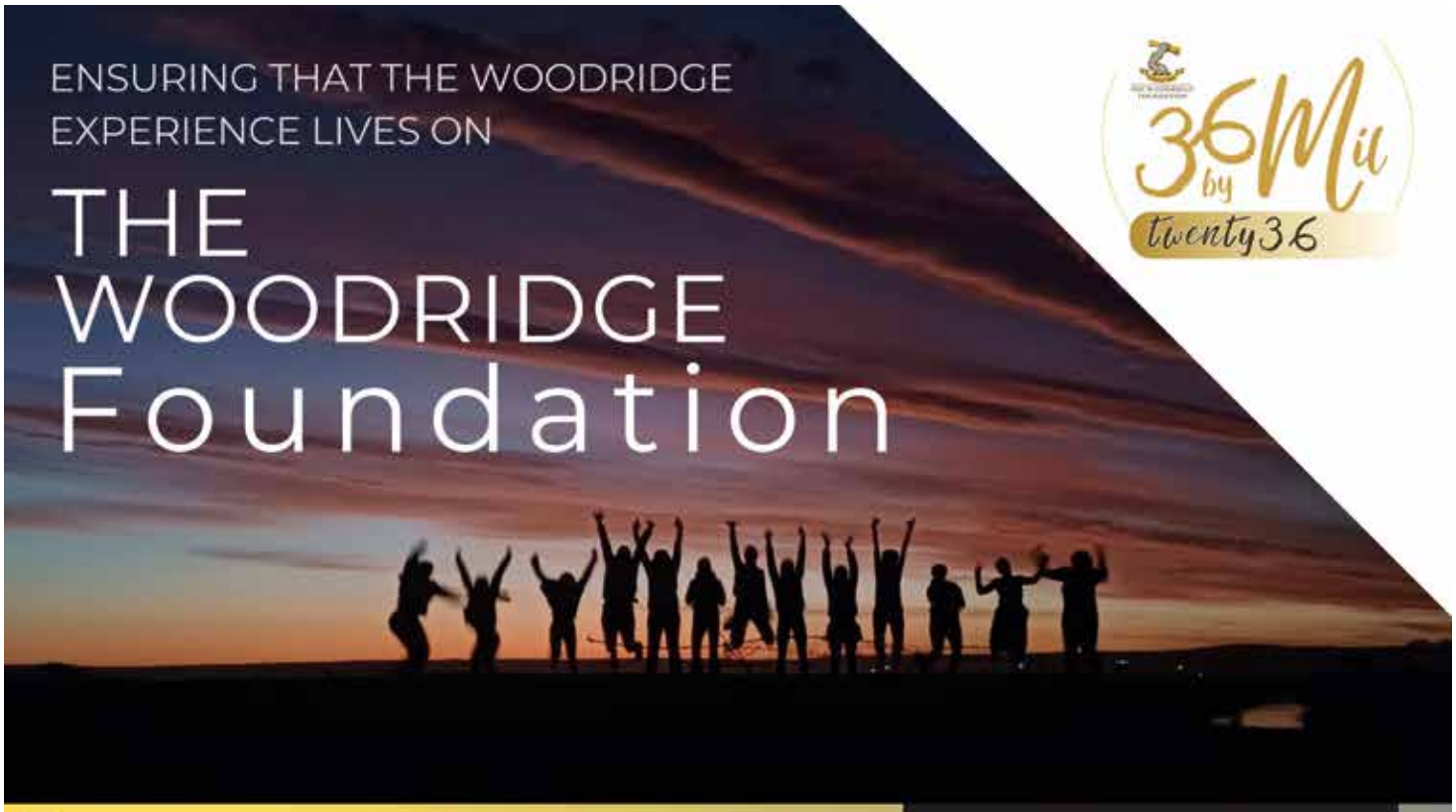
Woodridge is more than a school; it is a community that lives on through its people. Thank you for carrying its spirit forward and for helping us build something meaningful for generations still to come.

With thanks and best wishes,
Trenwyth Pledger
Chairperson: Woodridge Foundation

THE WOODRIDGE FOUNDATION

ENSURING THAT THE WOODRIDGE EXPERIENCE LIVES ON

THE WOODRIDGE Foundation



The primary objective of the Foundation is to generate, receive & manage funds that will enable continued excellence of enhanced educational opportunities (through the provision of bursaries or similar funding), by supporting the school's infrastructure, academic, technological & outreach needs.

- excerpt from MOI

Pilgrim's Progress!

Remember the Fideliter Trust in the UK?

Well, now the Foundation has headed to the USA...

We reported last year on the registration of the Fideliter Trust in the UK – a registered charity in England and Wales that has its own board of trustees, operates independently, and abides by UK Charity Law, offering tax benefits for UK taxpayers.

This year, we were able to formalise an agreement with the Rhodes University Trust USA, which will allow our Woodridge family and friends in the USA to support Woodridge while taking advantage of the tax benefits available to USA taxpayers by using their 501(c)(3) trust in America.

If you are a resident in the United States and would like more information, please contact the Foundation Office at Woodridge (foundation@woodridge.co.za).

The Foundation is authorised to issue Section 18A where the donation meets the applicable criteria.

Governance

The Foundation, registered as a non-profit organization (NPC) in terms of the Companies Act, is a separate legal entity from the School and has Woodridge College and Preparatory School as its sole beneficiary.

It also has Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) status and as such is authorized to issue Section 18 A tax certificates to qualifying donors.

This Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors, which consists of independent alumni and ex officio representatives of the Woodridge Trust and the Old Woodridgean Association.

Woodridge Support Staff

ADMIN

Dave Emslie	**Business Manager**
Nick Kilfoil	**Finance Manager**
Trevor Hawkins	**Accountant**
Melanie Pietersen	**Creditors & Debtors**
Ranel Taljaard	**Debtors Administrator**
Ant de Villiers	**Round Square**
Lynne Niemann	**Marketing & Communications**
Melanie Darlow	**Admissions & Events Officer**
Eiona Rathbone	**Foundation Administrator**
Natasha Reid	**OWA Secretary and Treasurer**
Ray Holmes	**Operations Mananager**
Cheryl Mclean	**HR Manager**
Annemarie Botes	**Clothing Shop Manager**
Connie Warney	**Clothing Shop Assistant**
Gretta Malgas	**Clothing Shop Assistant**
Hannes Geyer	**Pavilion Co-ordinator**
Gillian Scholtz	**Sanatorium Sister**
Gisela Baard	**Sanatorium Sister**
Pieter Nel	**IT Manager**
Mike Miggels	**IT Technician**
Chantél Minnie	**Psychologist**
Bonisa Malusi	**IT Assistant**

ESTATE

Jo Meyer	**Operations & Logistics, Travel Co-ordinator**
Arnold Aylward	**Operations & Estate Supervisor**

Arnold Abrahams	Aubrey Petrus
Billy Hartzenburg	Sherwin Fortein
Hugh-Reece Williams	Lester Fortuin
Loyiso Mooi	Luyanda Nobongwana
Simbonile Mongesi	Mziwenkosi April
Noki Solani	Paul Bailey
Peter Bailey	Reneldo October
Romeo October	Tommy Felix
Vuyo Plaatjie	Ayanda Gqamana
Donovan Kilian	Jodian Harris
Melumzi Maneli	Luyanda Sobici
Pedro Fortuin	Phakamisa Manyela
Sandile Damani	Sivenathi Matyumza
Tamboer Jonhathan	Tandisile Kosani
Venne Bhobo	Vusi Ntimane
Wayne Goliath	Adrian Bailey

EQUESTRIAN

Eleni Pullen	**WEC Manager**
Elize Nel	**WEC Assistant**
Thomas Pullen	**WEC Assistant**
Siyabulela Zondani	**Groom/Driver**
Athenkosi Hlebani	**Groom**
Wilson Tsosane	**Groom**
Christiaan Peterson	**Groom**

CATERING AND TUCK SHOP

Lynette Steffens	**Functions & Catering Manager**
Nadia Fillis	**Catering Manager**
Junell Bailey	**Assistant Catering Manager**

Agnes Puwe	Amamkele Mali
Amanda Kramer	Chaldien Witbooi
Clarishia Bailey	Hillonique de Bruin
Jenine Haas	Lunar Qum
Lena Moyi	Mandisa Mofi
Masixole Nobongwana	Nomatehmba Bevile
Monwabisi Sobici	Pamela Nogqala
Sheleen Afrika	Caren Abrahams
Jillian Vaaltyn	Roshaan Kilian
Vanessa Bailey	Rowan Collins
Anentle Moyake	Siyamkhanda Mavikela
Siphosomzi Kulu	Heydene Swart

HOUSEKEEPING

Louise Aylward	**Housekeeping Manager**
Ulivia Fortuin	**Assistant Manager**

Annelise Tamboer	Ashenda Bailey
Belinda Mfama	Bongiwe Kosani
Cynthia Tamboer	Esmeralda Pieters
Esmeralda Saterdag	Gloria Soya
Lenique Adams	Nontsikelelo Matshebelele
Phumeza Maqina	Ramona Zondani
Rose Swart	Rozaan October
Shaun Saterdag	Ursula Williams
Merisha Jansen	Luna Plaatjie
Virginia Nabo	Natasha Swartz
Mxolisi Antonie	

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