



# NATHAN HOUSE Newsletter Term 3 2019

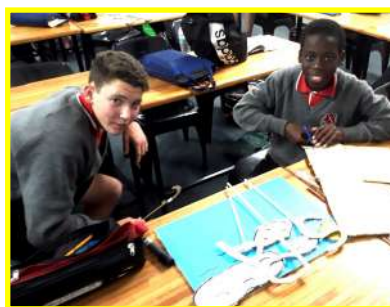
**Sola Virtus Nobilitat** - Virtue alone ennobles

It was a busy term with a lot of excitement. Let's look through some of the highlights before we get into some good reading.

## Tech Project Madness



The boys were hard at work with their Tech projects. It wasn't fun to manage at prep, but the boys seemed to enjoy it!



# Nathan House Mentor Braai



Mentoring is a top priority in the College BE and even more so in Nathan House. The mentor braai was a great way for the mentors to touch base with their respective groups.



## From the Housemaster

My wife and I had the wonderful privilege of celebrating our oldest son's second birthday early in August. While I do not like the label I have often heard of the dreaded "terrible two's". As a parent one cannot say for sure when this phase will present itself in your child or if such a thing actually exists. I would never say my child is terrible, in fact he can be boarder-line angelic at times. There have, however, been a number of behavioural displays of late that could fall into the terrible category. As parents of teenage boys you might look back to the stage my son is currently in with fondness, as your son now potentially finds himself in quite another stage of life. You may now have to endure your son's journey through puberty. This can indeed be a daunting task for a parent since, like me, you never know exactly when and how it will be presented in your child.

I am no expert on the topic, but we all know that teenage boys undergo many physiological changes as they move through puberty. I am sure that if you had to do a mere comparison of your son's physical stature at the start of the year to now, you will notice a big difference. Experts will tell you that the physiological development is not isolated, as it dovetails with another form of development, namely psychological. This makes things interesting to say the least. Not only do young teenage boys need to deal with the physical changes taking place in their bodies, but also the multitude of emotions they experience on a daily basis.

**Knowing that they are developing at a rapid rate is one thing, but quite another to know how to deal with it.** This is where parents, guardians, mentors and teachers have a very important role to play. The thing is that no teenager comes with a manual. It is all good and well to know that they are developing at a rapid rate, but quite another to know how to deal with it. What makes matters even more interesting is that how boys behave in Nathan House and how they behave at home with mom and dad can be vastly different. The College BE is a very different environment to home – you are surrounded by peers 24/7, mom and dad is not around, there are prefects in your house and there is a different set of rules to abide by, just to name a few. As different as these environments are I do think that a similar approach can be used in either one for meaningful engagement.

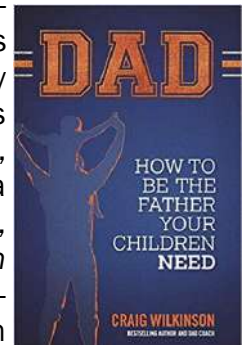
Before anything can be done there needs to be an established relationship of trust. Teenage boys need to know they can trust you. If that relationship is in place it allows for better communication and understanding. I think the understanding bit can be the part we as adults most easily miss, especially if there has always been a good relationship in place. I say this as one cannot necessarily assume that the status quo remains and that your child behaves exactly the same as he always has, as there is a great deal of growth and development the boys are going through. I believe two things need to take place at this stage; the first is doing one's best to understand the boy and the second is for the boy to feel that sufficient effort was made to understand him. It might seem a bit simplistic, but this will ensure that a good level of trust is maintained, even if he disagrees with what you do or how you go about what you do at home. Throughout these tumultuous years, or call it the "terrible teens" if you wish, these young men need us adults to be a constant in their lives. They need a solid point of reference to which they can always return if they are getting it wrong, whatever it might be. Being consistent, fair, loving, encouraging and everything else that is required from the adults in this relationship, does not always seem worth it at the time, but is so necessary for

**Teenage boys need to know that they can trust you.**

healthy relationships and development in the long term.



We recently had Dr Phil Cummings from the Centre of Innovation, Research, Creativity and Leadership in Education (Circle) visit College. He mentioned the enormous importance of character in education. His talk was very insightful and reassuring. It is clear that our focus on character building in the College BE is indeed a mark of successful boy schools across the world. He also made it clear that character development is not only about resilience and making life unnecessarily difficult for our boys, as there is much more to good character than grit alone. Craig Wilkinson, a renowned speaker on fatherhood who also visited College earlier this year, explains this very well in his book *Dad: How to be the father your children need*. He writes on a list of verbs he calls *dadverbs*, which can be found below. These are very simple relational actions, that have a profound effect on our children. His book is a very good read if any dads are interested.



**Dadverbs:**

Being a teacher can be challenging and being a parent even more so, but raising young men to be independent and responsible men of upstanding character is a noble endeavour, if ever there was one. Thank you for what you do as parents and for supporting us as we seek to bring out the best in your boys.

I wish you all a wonderful break and a blessed time with your boys. Believe it or not, there are only eight weeks of Form 2 to go!

Yours sincerely  
Drikus Hoffman

- | See
- | Identify
- | Engage
- | Affirm
- | Love
- | Bless
- | Nurture
- | Protect
- | Provide
- | Teach
- | Discipline
- | Model

## Congratulations

Congratulations to these three young men who have been selected to represent u14 KZN soccer team at the upcoming inter-provincial tournament. Well done lads, we are proud of you!

From left: J Kayembe, O Mkhwanazi, T Caple.



## Farewell Smiley

Mr Mduyana, known as Smiley to most, is sadly leaving Nathan House, after 4 and a half years of sterling service to the College BE. Smiley epitomised the genuine College boarder master who always went beyond the call of duty to be a mentor to the boys and a very reliable boarder master. An old boy and former Nathan House prefect himself, Mr Mduyana clearly had a passion for mentoring young men during their first year in the BE. His ability to connect with the boys and bring out the best in them came very naturally to him. One always knew he was on duty as you would hear his bel-  
lowing laughter travel from the master study through the corridors of Nathan House. Not only is College losing a great boarder master, but also a very good sports coach. We hope to one day have you back educating College boys, but for now we wish you every success with your new venture! Farewell Smiley!



## Good News from Boarding Conference

I was privileged to have attended the annual Boarding Schools of South Africa (BSSA) conference last year. Mr Guy Pearson, headmaster of Bishops in Cape Town and former rector of Michaelhouse, was one of the main speakers and presented on the current climate of boarding in South Africa. Through his many years of involvement in boarding he discussed the advantages and disadvantages of boarding. I was pleased to see how short the list of disadvantages was and even more pleased to see the long list of advantages. Although these lists are not exhaustive they offer a good idea of both. This is not to say that some of these advantages cannot take place in the home environment. However, if you were in doubt, on the right is a list of boarding advantages that will put you at ease:

**Boarding promotes self-reliance, independence and responsibility**

## Advantages of Boarding

- ◆ Camaraderie and Friendship
- ◆ Promotes self-reliance, independence and responsibility
- ◆ Fosters resilience
- ◆ Greater participation in co-curricular program
- ◆ Better utilisation of time for parents (avoid daily traffic to school and back)
- ◆ Less TV/smart phone time
- ◆ Opportunities for leadership
- ◆ Academic support from staff and peers
- ◆ Opportunities to try something different at school
- ◆ Sense of belonging
- ◆ Learn to respect space (own and others')
- ◆ Respect and understand different cultures
- ◆ Appreciate home and parents more
- ◆ Time with family is quality
- ◆ Better prepared for life after school/university
- ◆ Stronger relationships between staff and boys.

# Nathan House Prefects 2019

We have been very fortunate to have had a dedicated group of prefects this year. They are now entering the final chapter of their time at College. Gents, we thank you for your service to the school and in particular Nathan House! We wish you every success in the upcoming Final exams!



## Advice from the prefects



"The year for us has almost come to an end and what a journey it's been. The ups and downs defined the 2019 Nathan house, but definitely more ups than downs. It's been a privilege to be head of this house and to have an influence on the 2019 second form group. There are some true gentlemen coming through this house – I'm very excited to watch the future of our Nathan's boys unfold. Stay kind, our world and our county is full of hate and unhappiness so a smile a day from each person to another is just the start of a chain to better our world.

Never stop working, hard work beats talent!" **Dean Dyer**

"It's been a long and interesting year in Nathan house and I've enjoyed every single moment. I don't think we could have gotten luckier with the group of boys that came into Nathan House this year. The first 3 weeks were hard but it bonded every single 2nd former together. From the shouting and screaming to the laughs and jokes. I will always treasure my memories made as a Nathan house prefect and it will always be remembered as my favourite year at college. To my Nathan house boys, good luck. I know it seems as if you have lots of time but you don't. Make the most of every opportunity and most importantly have fun... make your College career a memorable one!" **Karl Huizinga**



"Time flies", a very cliché phrase, it sounds like an absolute myth until you realise that time actually does fly. I'd never thought that my college career would come to an end. You guys must work hard and enjoy your time at College because after second form it's downhill from here. I want you to look back at your College careers and say 'I did everything I could possibly do', and not look back the way I am now with plenty of regret. Live your lives to the fullest. Remember a couple of things, never let your schooling get in the way of your education. A mistake repeated is a decision. And lastly, time flies, trust me it's not a



"I want to wish you all good luck. Please don't waste the time you spend within the gates of College because when it's time to leave you can't go back. Keep your heads up and do everything you possibly can to enjoy the place you will call home for the next 4 years. Create a bond with the boys now and it will never break. Make memories and keep the College flag flying like the boarders always have." **Scott Little**



"Enjoy every minute of everything you do at College. Make a concerted effort to be kind; you never know what someone is going through. Speak to new people and make new friends. Be confident. Always back yourself in everything you do. Say what you feel and argue your point, don't let your opinion be left out without you having your fair say. Never give up. You are way stronger mentally and physically than you think. You can always push yourself harder and strive to be better. What is the point of doing things half-heartedly. If you're going to do something and spend time doing it, you might as well do it as best you can and put all your effort into it. Complacency and laziness will never help you or get you anywhere." **Travis van Aardt**

# New Head of House Board



We are very grateful for the kind donation from the le Roux family, who have made it possible for the new “Head of House” board to be displayed in the Nathan House’s foyer. Mr le Roux, currently the assistant coach for the 1st XV, was Nathan House’s first official head of house in 2014. And it must be said that a very high standard was set by him. Thank you for your generosity Mr le Roux!

# Looking ahead to Term 4

The big focus for next term is EXAMS! After the mid-year exams the boys know what is expected of them and what their routine is like. They need to be ready for one big final academic push to finish strong. There are a number of things to look out for in the fourth term:

**Monday 30 September:** Boarders return by 19h00.

**Friday 25 October:** Parents' AGM at 14h00. An extra optional is given to boys whose parents attend.

**Monday 28 October:** Year-end EXAMS begin.

**Monday 18 November:** Year-end EXAMS end.

**Tuesday 19 November:** Final Nathan House formal dinner.

**Friday 22 November:** Prize-giving at 10h00.

Term 4 ends at conclusion of prize-giving at approximately 12h00.

## Thank You!

We look forward to having you back in the fourth term!

God bless you!

