



## **NATHAN HOUSE** **Newsletter** **Term 4 2019**

**Sola Virtus Nobilitat** - Virtue alone ennobles

### **Form 2 class of 2019**

Just like that and the year is over. It seems just the other day when the boys arrived as Borvers, in their number one's without a tie on, wide eyed, anxious and excited. Little did they know that they would soon find themselves at the end of the form 2 road and in one piece too. Together these boys had one of the greatest adventures of their lives, filled with many obstacles, as well as many wonderful memories. It was a pleasure getting to know every single boy and bearing witness to each one's growth and development this year. We are very proud of how far they've come and what they have accomplished. We had the privilege of celebrating the end of the year together at our final formal dinner this past week. Much of this newsletter covers the events of that evening. I trust that you will find it an enjoyable read.

### **Final Formal Dinner**



# Final message from the Housemaster

This year has been an amazing adventure, and like any adventure it had its highs and its lows. Thankfully the highs outnumber the lows. I always feel burdened to leave the soon departing boys of Nathan's with a meaningful message. This year was no different. I thought that there were many great lessons to be learnt from our very own victorious Springboks, and our great captain Siyamthanda Kolisi in particular. Below is an excerpt from my speech presented at the final formal dinner:



We can talk all night about how we trampled the red rose of England underfoot and it would be entertaining too. But instead I thought I'd focus on one aspect that stood out for me within the entire team and was so clearly evident in our great captain, Siya Kolisi. So I thought I'd let us have a quick look at his post-match interview when we won the world cup final before I continue.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1poS3rOkM>

So if I had to put into one word what I thought set us apart from every other team at the world cup, it would be *humility*. Yes, you heard right, humility. You might think to yourself, "How do you get to that conclusion sir? How could a team who physically dominated everyone be considered humble? What about powerful, committed, courageous or supremely fit?" Yes, we were all those things, but there are many other teams who were too. Allow me to elaborate.

When we listen to Siya's response the first thing he says is that he's grateful. A humble person is a grateful person. Not just when all is going well or when you win. Siya knows something about being grateful. He came from seriously difficult living circumstances as a young man, but the mere fact that he made the most of every opportunity that came his way is a sign of being grateful. Being grateful is not just about saying thank you, it's got far more to do with your attitude toward life. How grateful were you for the opportunity afforded to you by your parents to be a boarder at College? The best way you could have thanked them was by giving your all at every available opportunity this year. It's also not a bad idea to thank them by putting it in writing. Perhaps you weren't the most grateful person this year, but that's fine, we all have things to work on. Why not start now by displaying your gratitude in word and in deed.

The next point that stands out to me is Siya's honesty. It's not your typical, bland post-match jargon with the captain saying something like, "credit to the opposition, they were so good tonight. We had good go-forward ball but they made it tough for us in the tight-loose, we just gave 110%". No, he said things as they are, such as having many problems in our country, that the players come from diverse backgrounds and if we pull together we can achieve something special. Humble people don't shy away from the truth. The truth is not always nice or comfortable, but only the people who are willing to face and deal with the truth can be entirely honest with themselves and toward others. To be fair, if you choose to be an honest man you're not choosing the easy life, you're choosing the hard life. But we choose to do this not because it is easy, but because it is hard. And putting in the hard yards pays off, as the Bokke showed the entire world. How honest have you been towards yourself this year? Have you been true to yourself or have you been trying to be someone that you're not? As a teenager this was one of the most difficult things for me, to be content with who I am and being willing to work on being better. Form 3 is arguably the time that is most testing to be an honest man, both to yourself and to others. But you can do it if you truly value this trait.

**Humble people  
do not shy away  
from the truth.**

The next point that is evident from the interview is excellence. Humble people are prone to be excellent at what they do because of a keen self-awareness. Siya mentioned the 6-2 split on the bench and our physical dominance. The Springboks aren't perfect by a long shot, but they knew where their strengths

lay and they refined it to such an extent that our pack has become the most feared in the world. Humble people don't have to stand back and let people walk all over them. An interesting stat is that our forward pack was outweighed in the Wales and England game by at least 20kg's, but they were so excellent in their technique and conditioning that no other pack stood a chance. Every single one of you has a God-given talent or ability that is above average. Maybe you haven't discovered it yet, but you do have it. Having it is not good enough though, you need to use it. Not using it would be like getting a gift for your birthday and not opening it. Explore your gifting; look for opportunities to improve it and let the world be awed by God's gift on your life. That is what is so wonderful about the College of today and the College of many years ago, the diversity in opportunity to express yourself – make use of it. Self-awareness is critical in being excellent at what you do.

The final point I want to explore from the interview is the acknowledgment of and service to others. As the saying goes, *no man is an island*. Humble people have no problem with acknowledging others and giving credit where it is due. Why is that the case? Because humble people understand that they didn't achieve what they did on their own and they don't have a poor self-esteem, therefore not feeling the need to put people down to feel better about themselves. People often say that these so-called superstars have the right to be arrogant because of their achievements, but I would argue that nobody has that right. There is no such thing as a self-made man. Ultimately we respect the high achievers who don't blow their own trumpet, but try to deflect their glory to others. Siya was also clear about who they were playing for – not for themselves but for all South Africans. We all have people in our lives who have helped us along the way, whether we like to think so or not. Take the time to acknowledge their positive influence in your life and the part they've played in your success. If we have a successful year in Nathan House it's not because of me, it's because everyone played their part in making it a success. I therefore want to take this opportunity to thank you for helping Nathan House experience a good year. From Mr Luman and Mr Marwick, to the boarder masters, the prefects and you boys, thank you for all the time and effort you've put in, whether directly or indirectly, to make Nathan House a better place. What has transpired this year would not have been possible without you all and you all played a very important part. As you move on from Nathan House, be careful that you don't simply do things for personal gain, but also to serve others, because the greatest people are the greatest servants.

There are undoubtedly many other points that could be explored about humility and the Springbok team, such as never complaining about one's circumstances, never blaming someone else for your misfortune, and so forth. Time won't allow us to explore everything now. All I will say is that there were no complaints from the Springboks about the ref who had a nightmare officiating our loss against the All Blacks. Interestingly he became the ref who officiated our victories in the semi-final and the final. The Springboks and management honoured the ref and in sowing honour they reaped the rewards later – excellent officiating.

In conclusion I'd like to leave you with this Proverb which is found in the book of Proverbs 3:34:

“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

I will gladly acknowledge that if there is any good that has come from my role as housemaster this year it is entirely by God's grace. Any bad that may have come can be put down to my own fallibility, stubbornness and pride. I hope that I have in some way encouraged you to be a humble young man as you now close this chapter in your lives and embark on the new one.

All the best gentlemen!

# Head of House Address

Tonight we gather here to celebrate the year of 2019, a year of many ups and downs . Some a year to remember and others not so much. Arriving on the 4th of January as newly elected prefects we couldn't have been more excited to get our year off to a great start, and I'm sure many of you felt the same way.

Your first memory must be the first night, well it certainly was ours back in second form when two unlucky lads namely Van Aardt and Ngwenya decided that sitting would be the best option when we were all squished together in the common room . The words of the prefect Courtney Halle echoed from the front , "Who's that at the back". The next few minutes involved getting these two lads to the front and the front row experiencing some spit flying around. You boys will always remember us lecturing you about the College brotherhood, maybe not what we said but at that point you felt like you belonged.



The next day uShaka was graced with the presence of a hundred 13-year-old boys. The squad thought the girls would be flocking to them but luck wasn't coming their way while Marias read his book and Mkhize remained lost. This is where the unity we want you to have all started.

First term you learnt your first life skill, tolerance. You learnt you have to tolerate people . First term was also for the matrices to show you what they've got alongside us prefects. This did help you guys to understand your place and I commend you on the way you adjusted to the College life, you took the right step in the right direction.

Rugby season: the whole school focused on you to be passionate and eager. You 90 odd gents ticked almost all the boxes available. The respect you've shown to the masters and prefects for the majority has been outstanding but the respect you show to each other is dissolving and it costs 0 cents to show respect to someone. You will spend another 4 years with the boys in this hall maybe different houses but the same boarding form. Someone who judges will never understand and someone who understands will never judge. But this is one negative in a year that has been great .

There are two things I want to leave you with. One, do not stop working, you've been given the opportunity so start building something with it. Nzimande in 6th form is from the townships where gangs like actual gangs can influence his way of life, but this year he made the Craven Week side and was one of the most influential players in our first side. Hlope was a regular A team player and now plays SA schools in just grade 11. Ayliffe played u/14 D in second form and this year played Sasha and ran on for first team on a regular basis. A quote that struck me , "hard work doesn't have to be witnessed , Time exposes everything." Don't just work so people can see you working, work so you and your families can be proud of what you've achieved.

The second thing is to create memories, like your friend Schuil said when he was leaving that he enjoyed the night runs. That's something that he will never forget and keeps him close to you . So go watch Kadir and his men run onto Goldstones or Lang and his men onto leaches . Go watch Quin score a 100 or Armstrong get 50 caps for first team or McIlarth become dux in 2023 . Memories will last a lifetime like Kweyama and Anderson screaming in A dorm or Aranky inviting Sithole to experience the beach life or Mkhwanazi score a free kick like Ronaldo.

To conclude I would like to thank the masters for their support, to the 2019 prefects we've come closer together this year and couldn't have asked for a better year with you chaps. To Muggleton and the 2020 prefects we hope we've left you with something to learn from, all the best for next year and enjoy it as much as possible. Finally to you boys, thank you for a great year, I've learnt a lot about myself and will always remember you guys . We hope we've made an impact on you, goodluck for the future and see you in 2023.

*Dean Dyer*



# Awards

## Inhliziyo Cup (inspired by MMM) – Landiswa Seshemane

The *Inhliziyo Cup* get its name from the Zulu word for “heart, spirit or sentiment”. It is awarded to the Nathan House boy who over the course of 2019, in the eyes of the boys and the staff, has shown the most “College spirit”, in a school year that is for many boys a tough one. Perhaps he himself has had to overcome difficulties, perhaps he has helped other boys when they have struggled – but it goes to the boy who has shown the kind of spirit and “gees” that this boarding school is all about. It goes to a boy who has tried his best, worn the red-black-white of College with pride, helped others, and at all times had a positive impact on Nathan House. This award goes to **Landiswa Seshemane**.



## Curtis Huysamen True Grit Award – Ndabenhle Mkhize



*Curtis Huysamen, an OC and past staff member, is a perfect example of an individual who has displayed true grit and total perseverance. Aged 7, Curtis was diagnosed with cancer; a disease he overcame only to be inflicted again at age 22. His life came to a very abrupt hiatus which required some major life-changes and a transplant in order to save his life. Though he bore the weight of the world on his shoulders during this time, he more than took these events in his stride; refusing to be defeated by the challenges he had to face.*

The award is ,therefore, presented to a young man for his perseverance in overcoming the difficulties he has faced in Nathan house this year, and NEVER giving up. The TRUE GRIT and perseverance you have exhibited is something that reminds us all how we should deal with the challenges that face us.  
award goes to

**Ndabenhle Mkhize.**

## Sportsman of the year – Joseph Kayembe

This award goes to a young man who has achieved admirably this year. He has represented his province in soccer. He is also a provincial sprinter with a personal best time of 10.6s in the 100m. As a leader he was the vice-captain of the u14A soccer team. His team mates say that he plays to make the team look good and not himself. This year the award goes to **Joseph Kayembe**.



# Awards

## Raymond Fuller Memorial Trophy – Liam Armstrong

The Raymond Fuller Memorial Trophy is awarded to the Nathan House boarder who, in the space of eleven months, has already shown the values of truth, courage, kindness and manliness that past headmaster Mr R.E. “Bones” Fuller so famously referred to in his final address to the school in 1965. The values outlined in the “Fuller Quote” provide the very foundation of our beloved school and need to be cultivated in each College boy. We are very pleased tonight to be able to honour a Nathan House boy who has displayed these prized character traits. This award goes to **Liam Armstrong**.



## Dux of Nathan House – Matthew van Rooyen

This award was hotly contested amongst a number of boys in Nathan House this year, as there are many strong academics. This year the award goes to a young man who has consistently performed at a very high academic standard throughout the year by means of perseverance, determination and academic flair. At the end of this year he ended 5th in the grade and top in Nathan House academically which is a remarkable achievement. This year the Dux of Nathan House is **Matthew van Rooyen**.





# Farewells

## Prefects

Thank you gentlemen for your unwavering service to the school and Nathan's in particular. You did a wonderful job in being firm, but fair as you set out to do at the start of your tenure. You played a very important role in moulding the Borvers into proper second formers. Dean, you did a great job in leading your team and embodying what we all want to see in every College boy. You can all be proud of your efforts this year in a house of boys that probably requires more energy to be a prefect and mentor. We wish you and your team every success as you close this chapter on College. May the Lord bless you and keep you, may His face shine upon you and give you peace.



### Mr Dylan Coombes

We only had the pleasure of having you at College for one and a half years, but they were certainly well spent. It was clear from the start that you were a boarder in your time, albeit one from Parktown Boys'. Your experience and insights definitely made a positive impact in your role as boarder master. I always knew when you were on duty because the house was remarkably quiet. Your passion for the development of young men and your attention to detail is an asset to any school. You will be missed, but we wish you and your family well on your adventures down under!

### Mr Buntu Mdutyana

Smiley, thank you once again for your 5 years of invaluable service offered to the College BE, especially Nathan House. Going from being a prefect in Nathan's in 2014 to being a master in 2015 is not easy, but you did it with aplomb. Your passion for the boys was clearly evident in your authoritative yet relational manner. Your dealings with the boys took place with a maturity beyond your years. I know there were many current and past Nathan House boys who were sad to see you leave. Thank you for the example that you set to them. We know that you will make a success of your time in the steel industry, but you are always welcome to visit my friend.



# Nathan House Poem

Echoes in these walls,  
Generations roam these halls,  
Of boys come and gona,  
Leaving names left along.

Ones home to call their own,  
Once broken now sewn,  
Leaving past in the past,  
For memories to last.

Pain was endured,  
But we ensured,  
Of friends we meet,  
The bond we make ,  
This will never break.

A house divided will never soar,  
But unite the good,  
And all the bad will fall,  
Few resist,  
But we persist.

Our final team testing,  
Now we are resting,  
Of exams we wrote,  
Each learned from a note.

The time has come,  
Second form done,  
The holiday is near,  
For the next form to appear.

*Riley Kleinhans*





# Thank You

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you thank you thank you, for all your support this year. We weren't kidding at the start of the year when we said it was going to be an adventure which it certainly was. But, you were generally very supportive of us and what we try to achieve in Nathan House. I know it isn't easy as a parent when your son is going through a tough time and having a wobbly over the phone and you are far away from him. Thank you for supporting and encouraging your sons through the difficult times, it really helped us a lot too. We are very proud of your sons and how far they've come and I am sure you are too.

Before we look forward to the new year, we look forward to a time of rest and relaxation with our families and friends over the festive season. May you have a wonderfully blessed time with your boys, family and friends. We wish God's richest blessings on you all. Till we meet again.

*Cheers to a great year!*

