



SHEPSTONE HOUSE

27th November, 2019 Newsletter, Term 2

Dear Shepstone House Parents

I was on duty on one of the weekdays and as I watched all the boys doing prep in the APH, I couldn't help but marvel at the different culture, races and characters that we have in this house. All these boys have come under one banner that is Maritzburg College and more specifically Shepstone house and its beautiful to see them all integrate. However, I have also realised that it can become easy to forget that each boy has his own individual story, his own unique quality and his own flavour that he brings to the house- how wonderful would it be if every single boy realised that there is beauty to his uniqueness and as such should show it unashamed and unreservedly so. How to get boys to do this, I believe is tough and I certainly don't have the answer or the solution but this is a challenge I'm happy to take on. These are just my rumblings based on what I saw on this night but in a perfect world is what I would love and aspire to achieve in my tenure as the head of Shepstone House.

Shepstone house is home, and at home, you celebrate, you are happy and you are also sad and sometimes reprimanded and punished, but one will always run back home at every turn you get. So despite the number of times I have felt boys have let me and the house down and I have punished them, I have also been comforted by the fact that they still smile and are cheerful and for the most part are happy to be 'home'. Now our home is still to be improved and changes are still to come, our year of inception has shed light on things that need to be fixed and things that are appreciated by boys. Myself and Mr Thembela who will be the new deputy in Shepstone House will be sitting down at length to discuss and bring in these practical changes, blessed with a very dynamic staff compliment, our hopes of making the house even better are more than justified. On this note I also make a plea to you the parents to not be afraid of voicing your suggestions and criticism as it's through the eyes of those outside that sometimes we see the failings inwardly, an unbiased opinion is always appreciated. Furthermore, if there is an area of the house you would want to improve or get involved in, please do.

I have in the past newsletters celebrated individual boys who have done well, something that is important and something I will continue to do. When a boy aggrieves he is quickly nailed and punished, so it is important that we celebrate boys that do excel. As we close the year, I want to just celebrate the house, yes we are the infant in the BE as we have just closed our first year of being fully operational. But this house has produced in it, top academics, good sportsmen, great voices, performers, prefects but most importantly it has produced good human beings. I walk around the house and all around are boys cordially living together, teasing each other, friendly jibes thrown around and a house were a happy young man can call home. So as much as the accolades are great and will be celebrated, we should also celebrate the human aspect that is being fostered in the

house, as after everything else has been stripped away, that is what remains and without doubt that is what is important.

I would like to personally thank a friend and colleague Mr Kyle, who served as my assistant this year. Having taken over from him at the helm of the house, his support, advice and wisdom have been invaluable to me. The whole house wishes him the best as he takes over the reins of the BE, in my few informal chats with him, there is a lot to be excited about his tenure as the head of the BE. In the same vein the house also bids goodbye to Mr Sinclair as he takes a bit of step backwards by moving to Clark House as the assistant housemaster (we all make our mistakes in life), on a serious note I wish him well and enjoyable stay for him and his ever-growing family.

Finally, I would love to extend my gratitude to you the parents. The ones who drop off your boy at the school and entrust that myself and the staff will take good care of your special beings. This trust always humbles me and our job is made much easier as more often than not, you present to us a well-mannered, put together and respectful young man. Your work in conjunction with ours does not go unnoticed as this makes our role much easier. I appreciate the odd email, phone call and messages of support that I got throughout the year, if working with a motivated and ambitious young man seems not rewarding enough, an appreciative parent always seems to seal the deal. I thank you and I look forward to working with you again next year, to my 5th form parents especially, thank you, the pioneer parents of the house, it is sad to see the 23 boys move to Elliot house, they go with nothing but well-wishes from all of us in Shepstone House.

I wish you an enjoyable holiday, it is without doubt that this a break most people look forward to, enjoy Christmas and hope 2020 will bring nothing but success to you and your families.

Meet our new Shepstone House Leaders ...

14 Questions with Mr Ngcebo Thembela

1) What excites you the most about your new role in Shepstone House?

The opportunity to shape the organisational culture of Shepstone house and also the culture of the resident/boy" of Shepstone house.

2) What should we expect to see in the house with your involvement?

A more structured B.E - Programme for the boys. (both for weekly and termly boarders).

3) What is special about Shepstone House?

It is a smaller, more intimate house (with highly specialised housemasters...what do I mean: WE HAVE THE FIRST TEAM CRICKET COACH, FORMER 1ST TEAM RUGBY COACH, DIRECTORS OF CRICKET AND MUSICS AND PERFORMING ARTS, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE MCOBA etc.)

4) One word to describe Shepstone house?

All-rounder.

5) After a long day in class, what makes you excited for a long night of BE duty?

Engaging(mentoring) with the boys both senior and junior.

6) If you had to turn any activity into an Olympic sport, what would you have a good chance of winning a medal for?

Entrepreneurship Development.

7) Name one song you can sing from start to end?

When I Say I Do: Chante Moore and Kenny Lattimore.

8) How different was your life one year ago?

I was a bachelor, and now I am engaged to be married.

9) What could you give a 40-minute presentation with absolutely no preparation?

The effect of Governments Fiscal and Monetary Policy on any economy's Business Cycle. 😊

10) What is the most impressive thing you know how to do?

Draw up business plans for any business sector. (or just juggling three apples at the same time 😊)

11) What can you not get right no matter how many times you try?

Consistency in exercising. 😊

12) What is the title of the current chapter in your life?

Chapter 10: Consolidation.

13) What is the most surprising self-realization you have had?

My ability to teach FOR understanding.

14) What chance encounter changed your life forever?

Resigning from my corporate job in Gauteng. (led me to studying my PGCE and working in the educational space).

15 Questions with Thabo Mbatha

1) What should we expect to see in the house with you in charge?

You can expect to see a major change in the discipline and general behaviour of the Shepstone House boys.

2) What excites you the most about your new role in Shepstone House?

I'm excited to create something new and long lasting in the school.

3) Why did you choose Shepstone house as a 2nd former back then?

I chose it because I saw an opportunity to be part of something new and special.

4) Why should a 2nd former choose Shepstone house now?

Because in an old school like ours, it is a great opportunity for them to forge their own paths.

5) One word to describe Shepstone house?

Growth.

6) if you had a flag, what would be on it?

An emblem of a man with roots instead of legs to symbolize potential, growth and prosperity.

7) Name one song you can sing from start to end?

Life has a way: Anthony Hamilton.

8) What do you wish you knew more about?

Information technology, I feel it is necessary to have such knowledge and skills in this modern day and age.

9) If Thabo is struggling to sleep, what will he most likely do with his time?

Probably listen to music. It helps to gather my thoughts.

10) What is your claim to fame?

I think it is the way I give my best in everything I do and how I treat those around me.

11) What is the best single day on your calendar?

Christmas, for me Christmas time is spent with family and extended family from all over the world coming together to celebrate.

12) If you were a dictator on a small island, what crazy dictator stuff would you do?

I would prohibit the consumption of alcohol completely.

13) What city would you most likely live in?

Cape Town.

14) What chance encounter changed your life forever?

I met a College Old boy on a farm during the June holidays, who then after speaking for a while offered to help fund my rugby tour to the UK.

15) Finally, what is Thabo going to be doing these holidays?

The majority of the holidays will be spent at home with my family and I will also visit my grandparents.



Shepstone House 2019 In Pictures

