



## Message from the Housemaster

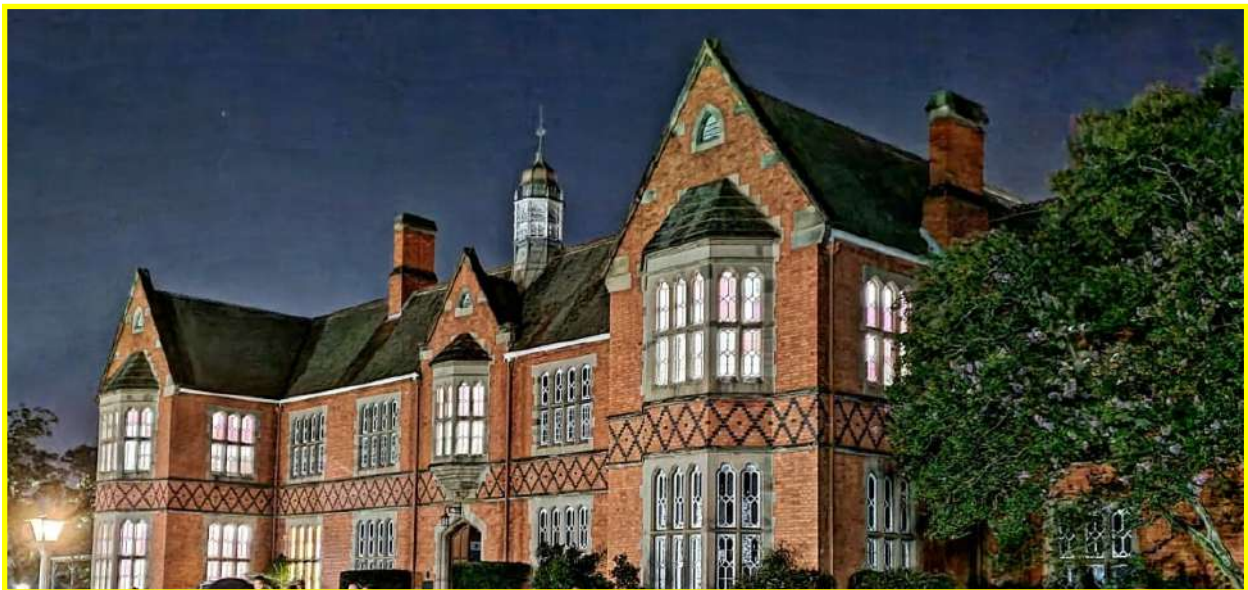


Photo credit: Mr Gerhard Steyn

They say that the tallest trees catch the most wind. This has been no more true than the start of this year at College. We caught a fair amount of negative publicity too, which was invariably accompanied with a picture of our hallowed house. Clark House is not only an iconic building at our beloved school, but also in our city. In fact, our history books tell us that the red bricks that were being used to build Clark House in 1886 had to be moved to the building site of the city hall, as the construction of the city hall was considered a greater priority at the time.

As much as we admire the stunning historical building which we call home, its honour hangs on its residents. As the new housemaster of Clark House, the focus right from the onset has been on the young men who roam its ancient corridors. There is a saying that states, “a parent is only as happy as its unhappiest child.”. While we do not only focus on each boy’s happiness, there is truth to this adage. Each and every boy in Clark House must flourish. We’re not interested in mere survival or simply getting by. We want each boy to live up to his God-given potential. This can only happen in an environment which is conducive to growth. Therefore, it has been a priority to ensure that such an environment is in place in Clark House. This cannot be done merely by creating a set of rules by which the

boys need to abide by. Rules are necessary. But rules without relationship and passion for the house will only become a source of discontent. Rules are far easier to follow if we understand the heart behind them. Meeting in our core groups is one place where relationships can be built between boys and masters. The core group dinners this term were a wonderful success and has been a good starting point to fostering healthy relationships amongst the Clark House brotherhood. Creating an environment that has order and consistency is key to an environment in which boys feel safe and can express themselves. This does at times mean we need to show some tough love. We don't do this for the sake of making life difficult for the boys, but with the bigger picture in mind—for each boy to learn, to grow and to flourish.

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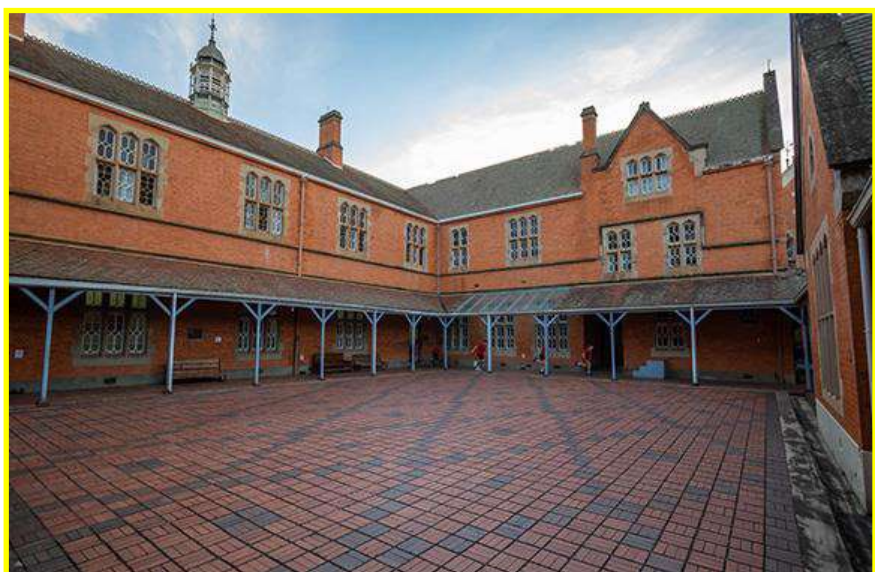
“A few good men”, as the Clark House boys are known, are also very passionate about their old house and school. This was clearly evident at the start of the year when we defended our title at the interhouse obstacle course challenge. Not only did the boys literally put their bodies on the line, but we also now have bragging rights for the rest of the year. We are extremely fortunate too, to have winter sport back in full swing at College. With this comes the traditional Friday night shout, which takes place in the Clark House quad. There is a mystical feel about the Clark House quad at night. The atmosphere during the shout is electric and inevitably leaves you with goosebumps all over your body.

It is indeed an honour being a Clark House boy, and with that honour comes a responsibility to live and behave honourably. We are committed to our vision to *develop young men of virtue and integrity who are passionate about their house, in an environment that fosters order and respectful relationships between boys and masters*. I want to thank you for your support in helping us work towards this vision. It has been a roller coaster of a first term, but we persevered and made it through together and stronger. I am certainly looking forward to the coming months, to get to know your boys better and seeing them excel in all they do.

Yours sincerely

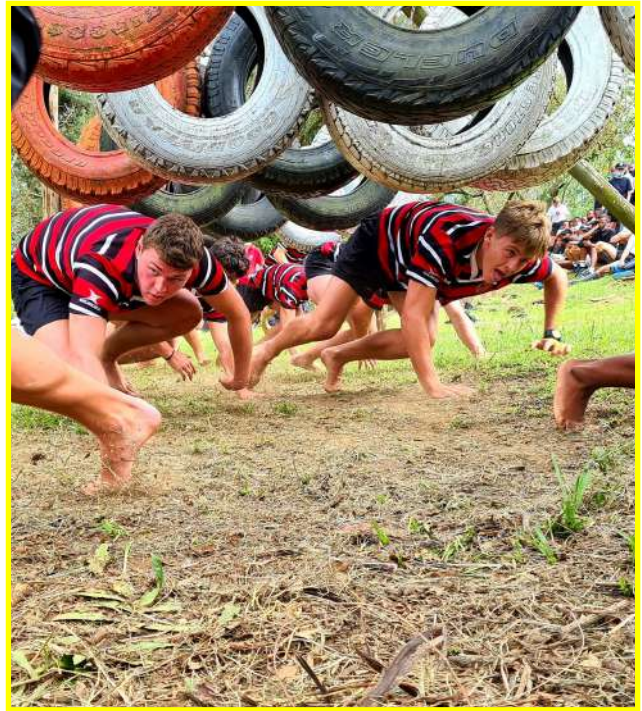


Drikus Hoffman



**The legendary  
Clark House Quad**

# Obstacle Course Action



The team who through blood, sweat and tears brought us victory.

## Core groups dinners



*It was very blessed to have all the boys over for a relaxed core group dinner with their core group leaders.*





# Closed Weekend Braai



Nothing like bonding around the braai fire



# Tenpin Bowling Outing



Each Form had a turn to go on a Sunday outing to Planet-X tenpin bowling arena. The boys thoroughly enjoyed it. Here are some of our Form 5 boys on their outing.

# Congratulations



From left to right: P Brits, L Prinsloo, K Goddard, K van den Berg, AJ Knoetze (captain), D Antonides.

Congratulations to these current and old Clark House boys who have been selected to represent the school's 1st XV rugby and XI hockey respectively.



From left to right:  
L Seshemane, O Currie, A Carter, A Styran.

# Looking ahead to Term 2

A couple of important dates to remember for the start of Term 2:

- ◆ **Monday 4 April:** Boarders arrive back by 19:00.
- ◆ **Friday 8 April:** We host PBHS on the first weekend of term. Boys hosting will get a free Friday (no optional required).
- ◆ **Saturday 9 April:** First team match compulsory Attendance.
- ◆ **Thursday 14 April:** Easter Weekend. **All boys to vacate the BE.** May return **Monday 18 April** between 15h00 and 19h00 or **Tuesday 19 April** between 06h00 and 07h00.
- ◆ **Saturday 23 April:** First team match compulsory attendance.

## Thank You!

I hope you have enjoyed this term's newsletter. Thank you very much for your support throughout this term. Have a great rest over the holidays and enjoy the time with your boys. We look forward to having you back in the second term.

God bless you!

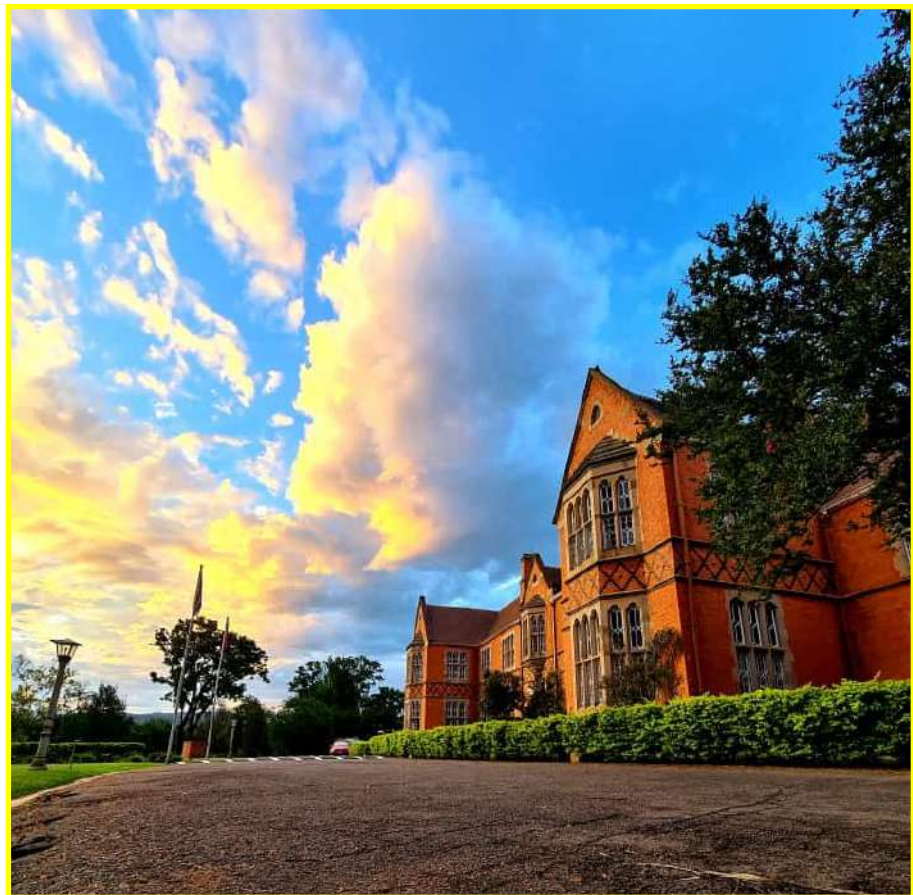


Photo credit: Mr Gerhard Steyn