



A Letter from
The Deputy Headmaster: Boarding

29 March 2023

Dear Boarder Community

We have come to the end of term one and it feels like just the other day we got started with 2023! Much has happened over the past few months, and it has been a busy start to the year. The holiday has come at the right time.

Speaking to the 2nd formers at their braai the other night, I reminded them of how they felt on their first day, and all the unknowns that were waiting for them. They have settled in well and have been a cheerful bunch who have familiarised themselves with all the nuances of being a College boy. They have grown in confidence, and I complimented them on the way they have gone about their duties and for their good behaviour.

I have included a few pictures below, which are favourites of mine from this year. They show the passion and love that College boys have for their school. The boarders on top of the Kent pavilion, cheering on their 1st XI cricket team during their close finish with Hilton College. And pictures of the boys during the 'Friday Night Shout' as they link up on the Clark House quad and do some war cries the night before a Winter fixture. College boys are passionate! College boys love their school!



Our teenagers have many challenges which they encounter daily. We are responsible for guiding them along this tricky path, by praising them when it is needed and bringing correction when they step out of line and choose the wrong path. We must never underestimate the role our actions play in shaping these boys' behaviour. They are watching us all the time and looking for people to model the right behaviour to them.

We have a wonderful team of Housemasters and boarder masters, not to mention our San sisters, who go the extra mile to look after each boarder. It is important that we speak, and speak often, and if there is something your boy is struggling with, that we know so that we can help as best we can. The Boarding environment is not always easy, it is not always plain sailing. But the years a boy spends in the Boarding Establishment are meant to be fun and exciting, where he learns good lessons and makes strong friendships which will carry him through school, but more importantly through the rest of his life. Teenagers need us to make decisions, which sometimes they don't like or agree with, to protect them for their future.

One of the challenges we faced this year was looking over the traditions and privileges that the boys have grown accustomed to. We wanted to make sure that there is nothing going on in our school and its Boarding Establishment that is not honourable and edifying. The boys struggled to come to terms with this. As we engaged with them and discussed these things with them, it certainly brought the perspective to them and they started to see that we had theirs, and their school's, best interests at heart. Times have changed since their dads were at the school, and some ways of doing things need to be adjusted with time. But the core of what makes a College boy love his school and the virtues that ensure he is a gentleman and a young man of integrity, must continue long after we have left.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or your son's Housemaster when you feel the need arises, about anything you seem big or small about your son's life.

It is with much sadness that we bid farewell to a long serving staff member, Mr Murray-John Smit. MJ, as he is affectionately known, has been a teacher at the school for 10 years but his involvement stretches back 14 years as an intern and coach. He has been hugely involved in the Boarding Establishment and been the Housemaster of Nathan House last year and for term one of this year. Murray-John, and his beautiful family, will be sorely missed as they start a new journey in Kokstad and he starts a new career. It was MJ's birthday just the other day, and the boys of Nathan House gave him a wonderful rendition of "happy birthday". Maybe it was the cake waiting for them to enjoy that got them so fired up!



We also bid farewell to Mr Mkhwanazi who is moving to another school. Mr Swelihle has been the Deputy Housemaster of Nathan House for the past year. His energy and passion for the boys has been contagious and we hope that he has success in the next part of his career.

Mr Ron Barbour will be taking over as the Nathan House Housemaster at the start of term 2. He will be ably assisted by Mr Paul Gonlag as his Deputy Housemaster. We are excited for the important roles which they will play in helping the boys of Nathan House continue to grow into the young gentlemen we can be proud of.

Mr Wynand Greyling also starts a new position of leadership in the Boarding Establishment, as Deputy Housemaster of Clark House. Mr Claude Pitout, is leaving during the second term and Mr Greyling will be taking his place in Clark House. Mr Pitout has been a fine example to the boys in Clark House this year and we wish him well with his future.

We received wonderful feedback after the boarder ball from the owners of where the event was held. They were praiseworthy of the matric boys and their impeccable manners. I sent a letter to the 6th Form parents and we spoke to the boys about conducting themselves in a way that brings positive publicity to the school. It is safe to say the 6th Form boarders did this with aplomb. Something that so often distinguishes us from other schools is the way our boys conduct themselves in public and present themselves with manners. Well done boys!

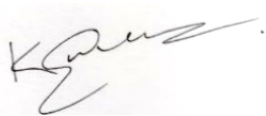
The second term is always a busy term. There are two free weekends during the term, and we do expect the boys to leave the Boarding Establishment during these weekends. Please have a good look at the term calendar and plan accordingly. I have highlighted some important dates and details below.

- **Boarders Arrive Back:** Tuesday 11th of April, by 19:00.
- **PBHS Exchange (away):** Friday 22nd – Saturday 23rd of April. Boys travel up to Pretoria and are hosted by PBHS families on the Friday night. We travel back and arrive back at approximately 23:00 on the Saturday night.
- **Free Weekend:** Wednesday 26th of April until Monday the 1st of May. The BE will be closed for this long weekend. Boys may go home after school on the Wednesday and return on the Monday afternoon, or the Tuesday morning.
- **Reunion Day:** Saturday the 13th of May and we play against Westville. The Friday night is a closed night in the BE, where all boarders have to stay in.
- **Free Weekend:** 18th – 21st of May. We are hosting a Primary School's Rugby Festival over this weekend.
- **Boarder's Mother's & Son's Tea:** We are hosting our second Mother's and Son's Function on Friday the 26th of May. More details to follow.
- **Exams Begin:** 29th of May.
- **Hosting Comrades Runners:** Saturday 10 June. This is from 15:00 in the afternoon until early the next morning. We need as many boys as possible to leave the BE for this weekend. They have been granted a free optional.
- **Term 2 ENDS:** Friday 23rd of June.

All boys will receive two Optionals for term 2. For the weekends of the 9th of June and the 16th of June, the boys will receive free Optionals due to the exams.

We wish all the boys who are going on sports tours all the best. I am heading down to Grey High School in Gqeberha and then on to JHB for the St Stithians Festival with the 1st XI Hockey team. It is a short holiday, but I hope that you enjoy some family time over the Easter weekend. I hope you get to spend some quality time with your boys and enjoy having them home for the next week. When we arrive back for the start of term two, there will be a buzz and excitement about the winter sports program which continues. Then, after a few weeks, focus will need to turn to the all-important mid-year exams. Thank you for your support thus far.

God bless,



KYLE EMERSON

DEPUTY HEADMASTER: BOARDING