

Elliott House Newsletter



Term 1 - 2023



Dear Elliott House parents and guardians,

I am happy to have the opportunity to place the Elliott House adventure of term 1, in a summarised letter.

Since the welcoming tea at the start of this year, the boarding family has taken on a new existence. We welcomed three new boarder masters to the fold. Mr Smorfitt, Mr Sanders and Mr Ntenezi, all newly appointed to Elliott House adding considerable value to the House and our boarders' lives. I have certainly enjoyed applying my mind and having a specific approach to Elliott House, making good use of the energy in the house to achieve certain goals.

Our Elliott House boarders have grown into self-sufficient young men. The independence bestowed upon them have been embraced. A new way of living in the College BE was experienced. Three houses have come together and successfully gelled as one body, moving forward towards a common goal. It is certainly noticed that the boarder parents have been reinforcing the importance of this year while the boarders themselves slowly grew more accustomed to the idea of living their last experiences while wearing the red, black and white. I would like to thank the boarder parents for their support and for forming a vital part of this team. A new identity was formed, one of combined values and a sense of pride under a new name. New friendships were forged in a very short timeframe. I am pleased to acknowledge existing friendships have been strengthened. The boys have grown into grizzled bearded young men since second form, but their hearts still bound together in brotherhood.

Room designation had a strategic meaning in the house while we made use of the three floors of Elliott House. A bag room on every floor was a new development, allowing the more bulky sports bags to be placed out the way and in a designated collection point when needed. The layout of our house includes twenty three rooms per floor/level in which each boarder finds his own privacy within his own room. A balance to the Elliott House ecosystem also allowed for opportunities to socialize and relationship building. Each boarder is equipped in time and facility to embrace the opportunities given to achieve their academic as well as sporting goals. The daily schedule was specifically designed to provide the free time within the structure. Free time that must be used in a more responsible manner as the year continues. The second term will see the change in urgency to achieve academic goals. A study and exam timetable will be provided to guide the boys through a very busy period in their year. The idea of having "an own room" boosted personal independence and allowed for the formation of own identities. Even though the boys live in separate rooms, it did not stop their willingness to meet up and share their daily banter. Having a house full of boys completes the Elliott House family. The structure in which the boys find themselves clearly guides them towards their responsibilities as well as their free time filled with extra mural activities. Below are some of the snippets our boarders experienced in their first term of 2023.



THE ELLIOTT HOUSE TEAM

A sincere thank you goes out to the Elliott House team who had valuable input to situations within the house. Some great fatherly advice was given at times to guide our boys through one or two rough times. The team aspires to continue their support and provide strategic guidance through what is going to be a very busy term. Term 2 will no doubt have new challenges to wade through, yet I have every bit of confidence in the qualities found within the team to step up to the plate and make it all work. What a fantastic bunch of guys!



MR COUTTES



MR KYLE



MR NTENEZI



MR SANDERS



MR SPARROW



MR SMORFITT



MR KRITZINGER

The adventure begins – the team takes shape.

The morning's obstacle course challenge and soccer day on Barns Field:

Our annual gauntlet, known as the obstacle course challenge, brings grazes and grass burn, roasties and most importantly, the initial bond within the house. The sense of competition hung in the air while the boys were rearing to kick up some dust and show their true grit. The course tested the physical abilities of our young men as they competed against all other boarding houses. Their limits were estimated, arguments set aside, and before long it was game on! A unified Elliott House team fronted up, filling the air with dust, only allowing ankles and the odd knee to peer from it. The boys left behind them the skin on their knees and the odd breath taken as they skipped through each obstacle. Elliott House boys were fresh out the starting blocks and keenly displayed their intention to win.

Below, the fresh morning air and untouched obstacle course before the RUSH.



A true sign of how THE TEAM gets together to make it all work.

After the dust settled: The young men seen in the picture below, displayed true grit, perseverance and unity.



The Elliott House Soccer teams added their value to the day. Showing off their skills with the round ball. It was a great start to the year.



The Old boys addressing our boarders early in the term.

We consider ourselves very fortunate as a school to have deeply rooted and caring Old Boys. Our fortune saw us being addressed by a group of Old Boys whose passion for their Alma Mata clearly rubbed off on every boarder in the Allan Paton Hall.

There is no doubt that the brotherhood established among every boarder resonates with that which was mentioned by our proud old boys. A worthwhile talk in keeping the old flame alive, to keep the eye on the prize and to keep College's good name as colourful as the red, black and white is.



The Elliott House Milk Men



A tradition which was started in 2022 saw the re-designation of our beloved milk men. A position voted for and assigning the task of collecting milk from the kitchen every Wednesday night, to satisfy the dairy cravings within the house. We thank Mrs Lawson and her team for making sure that these cravings are addressed. A delivery of milk to the Keith Guise-Brown Dining Hall had to find its way to the place of milk drinking men. For the second time a "Milk Man" was appointed to each floor within the house. A HUGE honour and important role. A service uncompromised. Milk men serve their house on every floor, and held the responsibility in high esteem. Our milk men, the prize position within the ecosystem of the house stand tall with their chests out, proudly delivering the finest of milk. As voted for of course, Hayden Anderson (bottom floor), Elbie Mouton (Middle floor) and Chris Adam (top floor). Without these young and courageous men, there would be much frustration to deal with in the house.



Braai time for the Elliott House boarders

The South African pallet being satisfied with a good old braai!! Our Elliott House boarders have adopted the pool area as their start of year braai spot. A hot summer's day complimented with a swim in the College pool was thoroughly enjoyed by the College boarders. It brought about time for reflection and solidified bonds which will carry them into their first term as matric boarders. Some much needed down time away from the house and the academic pressure experienced.



Representative Council for Learners - RCL

The Elliott House boys voted their RCL members. These members attended meetings and were given the opportunity to give feedback to the house on matters raised by boys. They served as a valuable communication point on important matters concerning traditions and privileges during the term. Their information distribution as well as negotiating skills were put to the test. The matter of dress wear, as well as what it means to be a College boy was discussed. A complete College experience awaited them. Feedback is crucial to the boys and we have our House Captain and RCL member, Sean Meter, RCL members – Bryce Emberton and Ilunga Kayembe to thank for their contribution in Term 1.



Bryce Emberton



Sean Meter



Ilunga Kayembe

Goal setting

Goal setting in Elliott House is a very important task. Goal setting brings about the importance of goals and addresses the planning towards achieving set goals. Each Core Group within the House is led by a Core Group leader who guides the boarder towards setting realistic goals. Each boarder has his own goals. They might include sporting, academic or goals set in the cultural sphere. The Grade 12 year at College is most definitely seen as a busy, and more so, a year in which considerable growth takes place. The academic importance is shared among all and determines future enrolment opportunities at various tertiary institutions. Goal setting brings about the expectation boarders place on themselves to reach their set academic goals. Term one's goals set the attitudes and values needed to build upon. The results achieved will be a measure of the efforts applied and compared with goals set. The realistic efforts needed will be realised as a new goal form will provide much needed guidance towards achieving term two's goals. Some of the boys may describe the workload somewhat overwhelming and eating into their free time, yet it is functionally the best introduction to pressures experienced at tertiary levels. We look forward to our boarders climbing to new heights during term two. We wish the boys every success as they wade through the "deep waters", laden with driftwood to hang on to.



Getting rid of the pent up energy...

Within the Elliott House ecosystem, there is time for play. The free time experienced may be used in any socially accepted way. Many of the boys find it a great time to kick up their feet before knuckling down during a prep session. Every once in a while the housemaster breaths down their necks, so to speak, and



challenges them to a Frisbee league game played on Barns field. The pent up energy or frustrations of the week is dealt with by expelling these frustrations on the Ultimate Frisbee pitch. Barns or as seen above, the Pape's Astro, has become the home to our social Frisbee games. This game has found its way into the heart of our young men who dearly appreciate a run around after the flying disc. The game completely grounds all other sporting skills and provides the opportunity for new skills to be established. Every boarder is on an



equal playing field while making use of team work and communication skills. The boarder's competitive nature draws toward mastering yet another game. So much fun was had this term. Every Wednesday after supper and before prep, the boys would get together on Barns to keenly take part. All the worries of the world melted away during a 30 – 45 min high intensity game. During this time the entire house cuts loose, and form teams representing either their floor within the house or randomly selected teams. I must admit, as their housemaster, I did not expect the raw talent in the game of ultimate Frisbee to be on display the way it was. With much enjoyment during competitive banter on the field, boys have shaped the game and made it their own. A special mention needs to go out to the middle floor participants, Sean Meter led his team well. The bottom floor boys, are posing a serious challenge to the middle floor players. Some great memories built by the Elliott House boys who attended over this weekend. True brotherhood reinforced.



Computers in the common room

One of my goals for Elliott House as Housemaster was to provide an information base on which the boys could depend when doing research for projects, as well as attending to homework tasks. The ability to access the internet for much needed information on digital platforms assisted the boys greatly. The plan was to supply computers to the common room area where physical access to the use of these devices was possible. The need was evident, as boys without computing devices now had an area they could go to in satisfying the need for digital information. The digital divide narrowed.

E-library - online books available

The computers in the resource centre also provide access to the online library, which College has. The E-library has books as well as audio books for the boys to access and read/listen to. I have been working with the school library to ensure all login details and procedures with the necessary instruction on the use of the E-library is in place to support our young men.

I would like to thank the library for their support, as well as the maintenance and IT staff for making this goal a reality for the boys. We are almost set to take on Term 2 and to charge down the academic goals set by every Elliott House boy.

The boys hard at work during prep.



The boys had the opportunity to once again enjoy the House braai. Some banter around the warmth of the lit coals were appreciated. The academic pressures were off and time to relax with brother were the only thing that mattered this fine evening. The evening started off with some wise words from the housemaster, Mr Bosch. Some reflective views were presented and a talk about 'The Flee in the glass jar' brought some perspective to hidden talents, needed attitudes and self-belief for that which lies ahead.

The Flee in the glass jar - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmhoSj3wkDM>

In summary, the braai was a huge success as Head of House, Sean Meter presented a few words of his own with his brothers. Some wise words were spoken and much needed encouragement was given from Sean. Boys enjoyed a braai pack full of meat and stood around the braai fires catching up with one another.





I am going to close off by adding the following, not of my own words:

"Gratitude turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity...it makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow."

