



# Commons House News

TERM 1 2024

## HOUSEMASTER'S REPORT – Brent Dodd

These are exciting times, to be taking over the reins of Housemaster in Commons House. It is both daunting and humbling to be standing in the shoes of the inimitable likes of Mr Trodd, a man who shelved over a decade of victories while at the helm. I am fortunate to celebrate his confidence and guidance as we continue to carve into the future. A special thanks to Mrs Debbie Gademan for her support in this transition. We are extremely lucky to have exceptional mentors in our house, guiding the character education of the boys. **A successful house does rely heavily on validation** and the quantitative results found in competition. Commons has battled to gather momentum in this regard; hence currently house morale may be at an ebb. There may be the chanting of Thomas Fuller's 1650 incantation about it being darkest before the dawn - a reflection from his travelogue to the holy land, but we already have enduring faith, and stamina and determination and the will to win, so if I may say, we forsake the need for reminding of recipes for success. **We see it and know it and are in pursuit of it.** We humbly learn from those who have come before us and emulate their positive traits and endeavor to replicate their thorough procedures. Under the fine leadership of our sixth form year, **we are set to instill a culture of participation that shall leave an enduring identity.** A goal is set to ensure that each and every individual participates fully in their given field. It is algorithmic in its methodology, as busy and involved humans are happy humans and therefore successful humans. As a school, we undertake to ensure a solid foundation of inclusion and involvement. I intend on ensuring that everyone participates and contributes **for want of regretting opportunities not taken while attending this fine institution.** Paradoxically there is nothing common about a common goal of active engagement, as it is the humble individual that binds the band that perpetuates brotherhood. **Commons House being synonymous with an individual doing their absolute best, is to become common knowledge.** We see the others in their houses, rabbits running ahead in a year's race. To firmly phrase the ideas of Winston Churchill, **it is not yet the dawn, it is not yet the end of the night, it is not even the beginning of the end of the night, but it is perhaps the end of the beginning.** Hares beware.

## FORM 2 CAMP

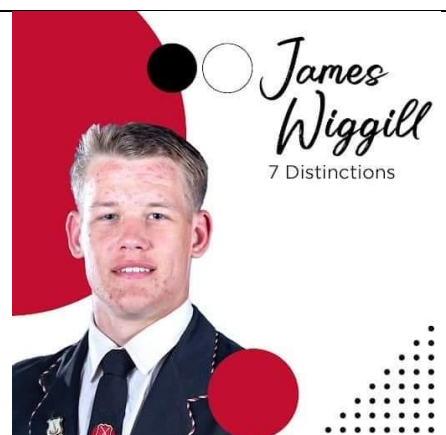
Rite of passage: Noun. A ceremony celebrating a transition in one's life.

The second form were welcomed to College with an exciting camp at Tala Valley. It began with a sunny stroll down to the tent at the bottom of the valley... a trip the bus could not make due to recent rains. The boys enjoyed some food and friendly competition. Commons boys really stepped up to the challenge from the outset, coming third in the tug-of-war. The precious sleep before the dreaded early morning wake-up call was interrupted by a spectacular thunderstorm. It is rumoured that some items such as mattresses, takkies and small boys were floating away in tents. Stories to become legend. Fortunately a move to the dining hall saw the boys get in an extra hour's sleep before the gruelling rite of passage began. Every boy pushed themselves to do things they did not believe they could. True leadership shone it's light on the way ahead. A brotherhood of belief and faith. Championing adversity makes the juice worth the squeeze. The slide at the end proved most entertaining - watching our leaders descend exponentially under the weight of gravity!



## ACADEMICS

Commons is proud to have James Wiggill as one of the top performing matrics of 2023. James was a regular attendee at the good report tea coming in the top 10 throughout his school career. His hard work earned him an impressive 7 distinctions. We wish him well with his future.





## Tie ceremony:

Handing over of the 2<sup>nd</sup> form tie by each matric leader officially marks the end of borver week. 2<sup>nd</sup> formers are welcomed as new College boys. They stood looking out over the house as the boys cheered them on.



## VIRTUS CHALLENGE:



The Virtus Challenge proved to be a popular team building exercise again. The boys started with a gruelling 5km run with a well-deserved splash at the end. As always, the pool dash and obstacle courses were favourites, but the tug of war remained the big competition stirrer amongst the boys.





## ATHLETICS DAY:

Athletics day was a hot sunny day with plenty of action. The boys gave everything on the track and in the field, while the spectators crowded further and further up the stands seeking shade.



## INTERHOUSE GALA:

By unfortunate contrast to athletics day, the interhouse gala took place on a cool cloudy day. The boys gave their best even though we had no top swimmers in the house. The house leaders really rose to the occasion making sure all teams were ready and boys stepped up to swim strokes they were not familiar with. The house can be proud of the commitment they showed.





## HOUSE SINGING:

The house, directed by Mrs Gademan, chose an anthem over a song per se. The lyrics were adapted from 'Oh Flower of Scotland' to suit the different facets of Maritzburg College. Three verses were sung, and sung, rather than shouted, exceptionally well. The choir representatives set the tone at the outset, followed by the house in gusto. The anthem proved to be remarkably successful over other pop song selections and as the adjudicators pointed out 'was a true and accurate pursuit of the intentions of the competition.' Based on a culmination of third place in group singing, second in the band and then fifth in the individual performance, the house placed third overall. This was an exciting place to end the term.

Pro aris et focus.

