

A year to remember



As we bid farewell to another transformative year in the life of Clark House, we take this opportunity to reflect on the moments—both triumphant and challenging—that have shaped our community over the past twelve months. The year 2024 has been a continuation of growth, learning, and shared experiences for the young men under our care, and I am honoured to have shared this journey with them in my second year as Housemaster.

Building on the foundation of last year, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude and fulfilment. This second chapter of my journey as Housemaster has been one of deepening connections, honing leadership, and fostering an environment where every boy can thrive. The experiences, challenges, and successes of 2024 have solidified my belief in the power of a strong, united community.

This year has been a testament to the resilience and dedication of our boys and the broader Clark House family. Witnessing their growth—not only in academics but also as individuals finding their own paths—continues to inspire and humble me. The camaraderie among the boys has grown even stronger, reflecting the bonds that truly make a house a home, even in the face of life's inevitable trials.

The collaborative spirit among students, staff, and parents has remained a cornerstone of our success. Together, we have worked to address challenges, celebrate achievements, and foster a positive atmosphere that supports every boy's development. Each milestone—whether academic success, personal growth, or community engagement—echoes the shared dedication to excellence that defines Clark House.

Our commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment has remained steadfast. Through various initiatives, such as mentorship programs, community-building activities, and open communication, we have cultivated a strong sense of belonging among our boys. Surveys once again confirm that the majority of our boarders feel at home, value the relationships they've built, and appreciate the support offered by staff and peers.

Discipline has continued to be a foundation of our success. By maintaining consistent expectations and fostering relationships of trust, we've seen a further decrease in disciplinary issues. The collaboration between the masters and prefects has been pivotal, guided by the principle that discipline anchored in relationships builds respect, not rebellion.

Mutual respect has flourished within the house. Through role modelling and intentional education, the boys of Clark House have demonstrated tremendous growth in this area. Conflicts have decreased, and a spirit of collaboration and shared learning has taken root, strengthening our community.

Gratitude has also remained central to our ethos. We have encouraged the boys to recognize and express thanks for the opportunities they've been given, fostering deeper connections with parents, staff, and the broader community. This year, our community service initiatives have further instilled a sense of social responsibility, encouraging the boys to appreciate their privileges while giving back meaningfully.

The boys' academic achievements have been another highlight of 2024. Improved grades, increased classroom engagement, and their collective dedication to learning have been sources of pride for all of us. These successes reflect the supportive and stimulating environment we've worked hard to cultivate within the boarding house.

Infrastructure has also seen enhancements this year, with the completion of the state-of-the-art prep room and upgrades to recreational spaces. These improvements have elevated the boarding experience, ensuring that Clark House remains a space where our boys can excel both academically and socially.

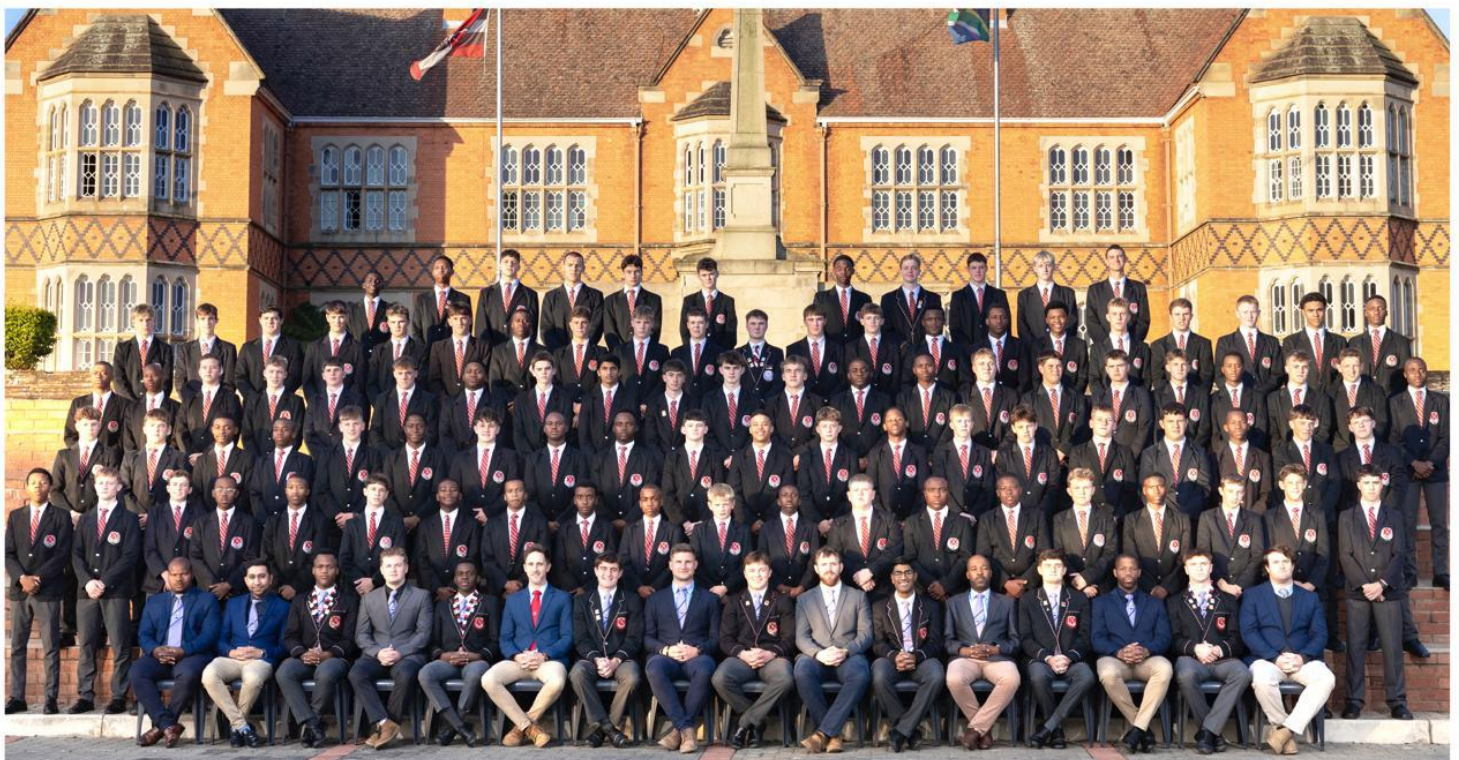
As we celebrate the progress made, we also extend heartfelt gratitude to all our stakeholders—parents, estate, fellow housemasters, and boardermasters—for their unwavering support. Your trust and commitment have been pivotal in creating an environment where every boy feels valued, supported, and empowered to achieve his best.

As I reflect on the year, I am grateful for the lessons learned, the relationships strengthened, and the growth we have collectively achieved. Despite the challenges we've faced, I am proud to say that, as a community, we have achieved far more than we have fallen short. The highs of academic success, a thriving community, and a culture of wellness far outweigh the lows, providing a strong foundation for the years to come.

Looking ahead to 2025, my commitment remains steadfast: to nurture an environment where every boy in Clark House can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Together, we will continue to build on the successes of this year, further strengthening the legacy of Clark House.

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season and I look forward to another year of shared growth, achievements, and memories.

- Kelvin Elder
Housemaster, Clark House



Clark House Core Group: Building Bonds Beyond Boarding

Clark House is more than just a boarding house; it's a place where camaraderie and connection thrive—a home away from home. At the centre of this vibrant community are the core group sessions, a cherished tradition that brings boys together to connect, reflect, and grow.

Led by the boarding master, these sessions create a safe and welcoming space for open and honest conversations. The combination of a relaxed atmosphere, warm drinks, and tasty treats fosters a sense of comfort and trust, making it easier for boys to share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences without fear of judgment. While casual banter and laughter often set the tone, these sessions also explore deeper and more meaningful topics. Through thought-provoking questions, the boarding master encourages critical thinking and open dialogue. These discussions not only hone essential life skills such as empathy, respect, and effective communication but also allow the boys to better understand themselves and each other.

Looking ahead to the coming year, we're excited to see this tradition continue to flourish. With new discussion topics on the horizon, the core group sessions promise to inspire fresh perspectives and stronger bonds. As always, the goal remains the same: to nurture a supportive environment where boys can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, while strengthening the unique sense of community that defines Clark House.

Mr Wynand Greyling (Deputy Housemaster: Clark House)



A CLARK HOUSE CHRISTMAS



At Clark House, we started a Christmas tradition that brings the whole Clark House family together in festive cheer! Every November, the 3rd formers take on the special task of decorating the house and setting up the Christmas tree, while the other forms watch on excitedly. This tradition instantly transforms the atmosphere from exam stress to holiday joy. It's a time of pride, laughter, and togetherness that fills the house with warmth, reminding us all of the true spirit of Christmas. Another year of making memories and spreading Christmas cheer in Clark House! 🎄🌟 #ClarkHouseChristmas #Tradition #FestiveSpirit



Heavenly Father,

As we gather in this season of joy, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, whose birth brought light to a world in darkness. May His presence in our hearts fill our lives with hope, peace, and love.

We are grateful for the blessings of family, friendship, and community that surround us during this festive time. Help us to cherish these moments, remembering that the true spirit of Christmas lies not in what we receive but, in the love, and kindness we share.

Lord, we pray for those who are far from home, those who are lonely, and those who are facing struggles this season. May they feel Your comforting presence and the warmth of Your love through the hands and hearts of others.

Guide us to be instruments of Your peace in a world that often longs for harmony. Let us carry the light of Christmas into every day, spreading goodwill and compassion wherever we go.

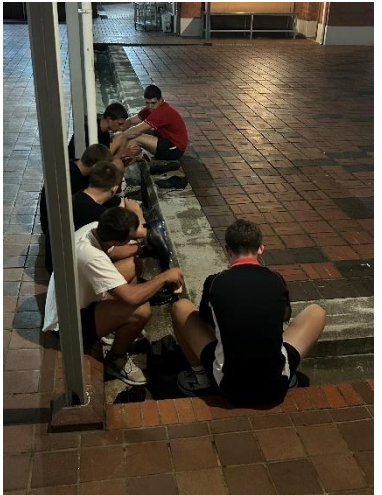
As we celebrate the birth of the Savior, may we also remember the humble manger and the message it carries—that greatness is found in humility, and the greatest gift we can offer is the gift of ourselves in service to others.

Bless this Christmas with laughter, love, and faith, and may Your grace shine brightly in all that we do.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



MEMORY LANE....



A Big Word of THANK YOU!



Behind every successful man is a strong and supportive family, and I am incredibly blessed to have mine by my side. Your unwavering love, patience, and understanding have been the foundation of everything I strive for. In my role, which often demands so much of my time and energy, your encouragement and belief in me have kept me grounded and motivated. Whether it's the small sacrifices you make daily or the big moments where you rally behind me, I am deeply thankful. You are my source of strength, my greatest cheerleaders, and the reason I continue to push forward. I couldn't do this without you.

Mr. Kyle Emerson, your unwavering dedication to the boarding establishment and your steadfast support have been truly remarkable. The BE has reached its strongest point yet, and this is a direct result of your invested interest, tireless efforts, and passion for its success. To the Emerson family, thank you for the sacrifices you've made and the encouragement you've provided behind the scenes. Your commitment and belief in the vision of the BE have been invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for all you've done to create such a thriving community.



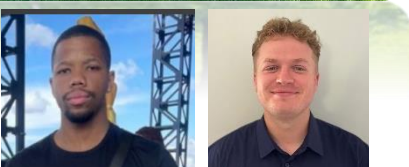
Thank you, Jerry, for the incredible love and care you bring to your role. Your dedication to always going above and beyond, coupled with the immense pride you take in your work, is truly inspiring and deeply appreciated. The positive impact you have on those around you is immeasurable, and your unwavering commitment ensures everything you touch is done with excellence and heart. Your efforts make a real difference, and we are genuinely grateful for the passion and integrity you bring every single day.

Thank you, Heather Lawson, and the Granny Mac's catering team for your incredible dedication to attending to the needs of our boys. Your hard work in ensuring they are always well-fed and nourished is deeply appreciated and plays a vital role in their well-being and success



To our incredible Boarder Master Team, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering effort, commitment, and sacrifice throughout the past year. Your dedication has not only ensured the smooth running of the house but has also added immense value, taking our boarding experience to new heights.

Your mentorship has gone above and beyond, impacting the lives of every boarder in meaningful ways. The example you set and the guidance you provide create a space where character, discipline, and camaraderie thrive.



LOOKING AHEAD AT 2025

14 Jan – Boarders Return

15 Jan – Start of term 1

18/19 Jan – Closed weekend

31 Jan – New parents welcoming function

8/9 Feb – Midmar Mile

21/23 Feb – Free weekend

3 March – Winter sport change over

8 March – Winter sport trials

21 March – BE House braai (Boarders to remain in, no Optionals to be taken.)

28 March – Term 1 ends

