



# Commons House News

**TERM 4 2024**

## HOUSEMASTER'S REPORT – Brent Dodd

As we draw the curtain on another remarkable year at Commons House, it is fitting to reflect on a journey marked by growth, perseverance, and camaraderie. The past year has been a testament to the enduring spirit of our house—a community united by shared goals and driven by unwavering dedication.

Our house has not only faced challenges with resilience but has also grown stronger in the pursuit of collective goals. The competitive spirit of Commons has been reignited, with the boys demonstrating remarkable participation across various fields, from academics and sports to cultural activities. While victories are important, the emphasis this year has been on fostering a culture of inclusion, engagement, and unyielding determination—qualities that define the very essence of Commons.

The leadership of our sixth form has been nothing short of exemplary, setting a standard of participation and teamwork that will undoubtedly inspire the years to come. Their efforts to instil a culture of active engagement have created a sense of belonging and purpose, ensuring that every member of Commons is both valued and heard.

As we celebrate the successes of this year, we also acknowledge the lessons learned. The metaphorical dawn that Thomas Fuller once wrote about feels closer than ever. With the continued strength, unity, and ambition of our house, we are well-positioned to move forward with renewed purpose and collective resolve. We are climbing toward 2025

2024																					
House	Borver Week	Gala	Shooting	Culture House Sing	Debating	Hockey	Rugby	Soccer	Leadership	Chess	Table Tennis	Bball	House plays	Tennis	Athletics	Squash	Virtus	Academics	Gala House Spirit	House Spirit	OVERALL POINTS
Lamond	5	22	12	28	6	14	6	17	17	17	14	11	17	10	20	9	20	14	12	9	280
Calder	12	34	6	34	10	12	10	11	8	10	11	6	14	11	24	7	12	12	8	17	269
Pape	9	12	14	20	10	6	7	6	8	12	17	8	9	17	18	17	34	12	14	14	264
Strachan	17	20	17	20	14	7	14	9	6	11	9	5	8	7	22	14	28	12	11	8	259
Nicholson	6	28	11	16	17	5	12	8	14	14	7	17	11	14	28	6	10	7	10	13	254
Fuller	12	14	8	22	7	17	5	14	6	8	14	14	6	9	34	9	14	8	9	10	240
Commons	9	10	10	24	12	9	9	14	10	5	8	8	12	12	14	10	16	17	6	11	226
Barns	9	18	9	12	10	11	11	11	14	8	10	9	10	6	10	12	24	6	17	7	224
Forder	17	16	7	16	5	8	8	8	11	6	7	10	7	5	16	12	22	5	7	12	205
Snow	5	24	5	10	11	10	17	5	10	10	5	14	5	8	12	5	18	9	13	6	202

## Images and reflections from 2024

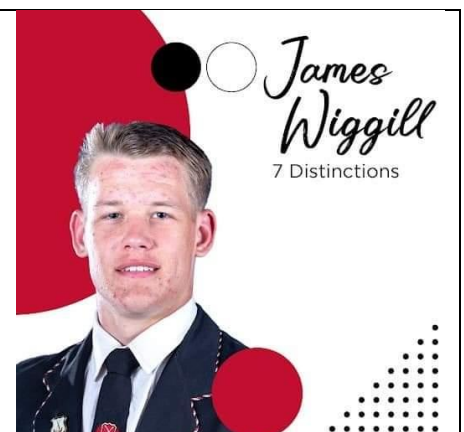
Rite of passage: Noun. A ceremony celebrating a transition in one's life.

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 matrices 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:

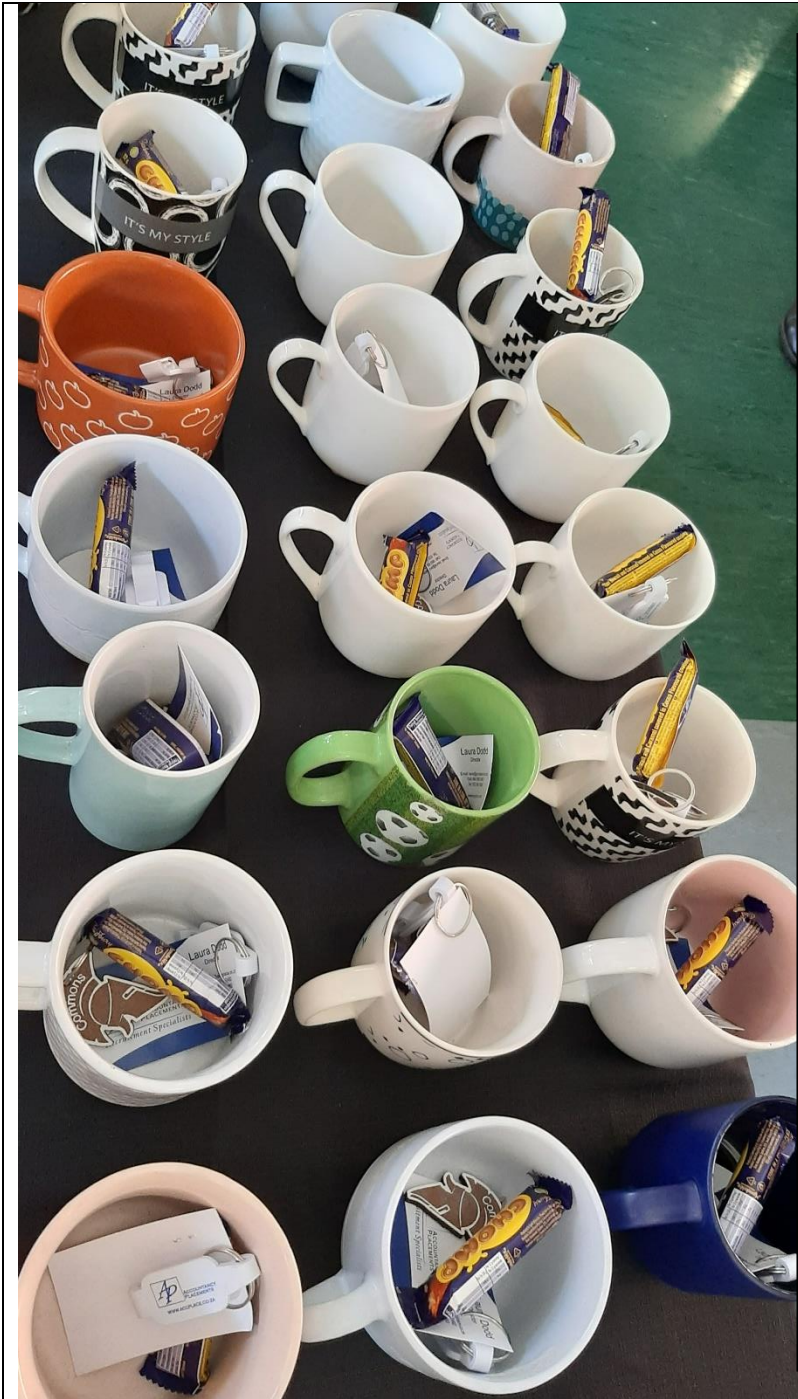
The house, directed by Ms Gademan, chose an anthem over a song per se. The lyrics were adapted from 'Oh Flower of Scotland' to suit the different facets of Maritzburg College. Three verses were sung, and sung, rather than shouted, exceptionally well. The choir representatives set the tone at the outset, 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.



## Matric Leavers Lunch





## The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted  
wear;

Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way, I  
doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost

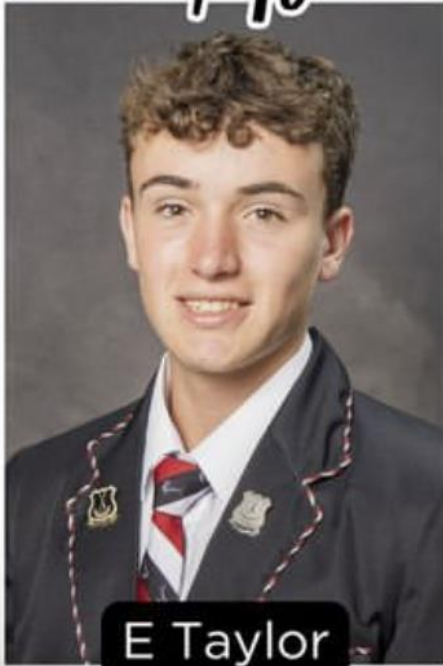
Drink tea on your travels.







# South African Maths Olympiad



E Taylor

## Final Round



O Haasbroek



L Venter



J Culverwell



Y Hoolasi