



Sola Virtus Nobilitat

Non alio modo

NATHAN HOUSE TERM 4



Where it all began. They have come so far. Well done boys!

From the Housemaster

As we draw the year to a close, it is with immense pride and gratitude that we reflect on the journey undertaken by the boys of Nathan House during 2025. The growth, resilience, and camaraderie displayed by the young men in our care have been a true testament to their character and the values we uphold at Maritzburg College.

Acknowledgements

A sincere word of thanks is extended to the Nathan House boarder masters for their unwavering dedication, patience, and care in supporting and mentoring our boys throughout the year. Special appreciation must be given to Mr Paul Gonlag, our Deputy Housemaster, for his consistent efforts and invaluable support, and to Mr Emerson, whose steady and inspiring leadership has shaped the culture and direction of Nathan House this year.

We also express our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Lawson and the kitchen staff, whose tireless service ensures that the boys are not only well-fed but also celebrated on their birthdays—with cakes that are always generously iced, just as they should be.

Term 1 Reflections

This initial stretch was filled with challenges, triumphs, and steep learning curves, all of which the boys navigated with admirable commitment. We also extend our thanks to the Nathan House prefects, whose leadership and support were particularly valued during difficult or transitional moments.

The term was not without its unique boarding experiences—from minor skirmishes and the rapid spread of a gastro bug to the more emotional aspects of adolescent adjustment. These moments, though testing, provided vital lessons in tolerance, teamwork, and mutual respect. Through these shared experiences, our boys began to develop a deeper understanding of honour, and perhaps more importantly, the often unspoken value of humility.

Boarding life, in all its intensity, teaches us that true strength lies not in bravado, but in self-awareness, kindness, and the ability to put others before ourselves. We continue to encourage our boys to strive for honour as the highest form of respect, and to carry these values forward with them throughout their College careers.

As was shared with them this term:

“You want to prove something? Prove that you can rise above the noise. Be the guy who stands up, not just for himself, but for the kind of house we all actually want to be part of. Be the guy who pulls others in, not the one who pushes them out. A little kindness, a little inclusion, could be the thing that keeps someone going. That’s what real brotherhood is. That’s what makes this place stronger. Look out for each other. Always.”

Term 2 Highlights

The second term brought with it a short mid-term break, which, while welcomed by many, slightly disrupted the academic, sporting, and cultural rhythm of the house. It took a brief period for the boys to regain their momentum; however, true to form, they adapted swiftly.

A major highlight of the term was the fiercely contested rugby fixture against St. Charles College, held during their 150th Reunion Weekend. This match was nothing short of epic—tense, emotional, and defined by sheer determination. In one of the tightest finishes in recent memory, Nathan House boys played with heart and grit to secure a last-minute victory. It was a proud moment and a clear demonstration of their fighting spirit.

Preparations for Maritzburg College's own Reunion Weekend included blazer display practices, which became a weekly feature. The boys embraced this tradition with enthusiasm, balancing the ceremonial duties with their

academic responsibilities, which they managed commendably.

By the time the well-earned free weekend arrived, spirits were high—even if energy was low. It offered a much-needed opportunity for rest and recovery.

Reunion Day culminated in yet another memorable rugby clash, this time against our longstanding rivals from Kearsney College. The match, filled with bone-crunching tackles and explosive backline runs, lived up to expectations. The boys represented Nathan House with pride and passion in front of a proud home crowd.

Term 3 Overview

The third term proved to be a particularly busy and challenging period for Nathan House. The shift between sports seasons created a period of transition and downtime, which in turn led to a noticeable increase in restlessness. There were a few disciplinary incidents—including minor scuffles, instances of dishonesty, and covert attempts to bypass the house's phone usage policy.

However, with clear boundaries and reinforcement of the broader Boarding Establishment (BE) guidelines, along with Nathan House's specific expectations, the message remains clear: responsible and respectful conduct is non-negotiable. We remain confident that these values are taking root, even if the process is ongoing.

The acting prefects stepped into their leadership roles with commendable enthusiasm. While some youthful exuberance was expected, they have shown promising maturity and are steadily settling into their responsibilities.

Academically, several boys showed marked improvement following the mid-year examinations, making a concerted effort to recover and refocus. We look forward to seeing the fruits of their labour in the final term.

House Progress & Challenges

One notable improvement during Term 3 was the boys' collective effort around hygiene and cleanliness. Laundry routines became more consistent—at last, with twice-weekly wash cycles—resulting in a more pleasant living environment for all.

A historical walk through Maritzburg provided a valuable opportunity for the boys to connect with the school's heritage and gain a deeper appreciation for the legacy of Maritzburg College, the oldest boys' school in KwaZulu-Natal.

With growth, however, came growing pains. As confidence increased, so did a degree of complacency. Some boys left valuable equipment and devices unattended, took chances with the rules, and required formal conversations around responsibility. Thankfully, these moments often acted as much-needed wake-up calls. We are hopeful that the lessons learned will lead to stronger finishes in the term ahead.

Achievements & Recognition

We are exceptionally proud of the Nathan House boys who represented provincial and national teams across a range of disciplines. Their achievements reflect not only talent but also the determination and discipline encouraged within the BE.

It is also worth noting that the top academic performer of the grade continues to emerge from the Boarding Establishment, a testament to the support systems and work ethic fostered within Nathan House.

As our boys of Nathans prepare to transition into their senior houses in 2026, we reflect on the year with pride. The bonds forged, the values instilled, and the lessons learned will remain with them as they continue their College journey. Nathan House remains a place where honor is pursued, humility is fostered, and brotherhood is lived.

We look forward to seeing these young men carry forward the legacy of Nathan House—stronger, wiser, and ready for what lies ahead.

Mr R Barbour

Housemaster: Nathan House



SNAP SHOTS OF TERM 4.....



Fun and games with Mr Myburgh's core group



TOP LEFT FRAME: The new captain of the ship for next year, A Lembethe, head of house 2026

TOP RIGHT: Mr Myburgh's core group looking at the lighter side of life.

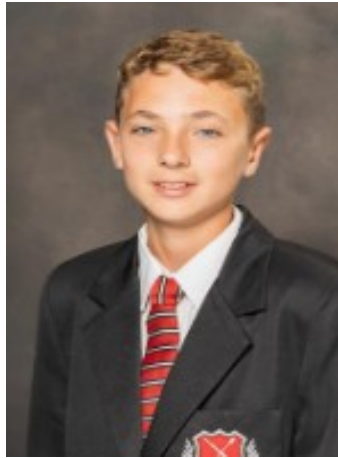
MIDDLE: : Late prep crash courses..

BOTTOM : The old guard, the prefects from 2025, as they embark on their final exams, and the next chapter of their lives.

FAIRWELL DINNER awards



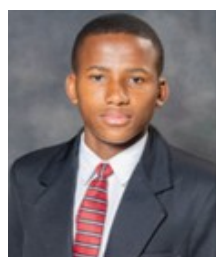
Dux of Nathan house: D Moyo



Above and Beyond :J Howells

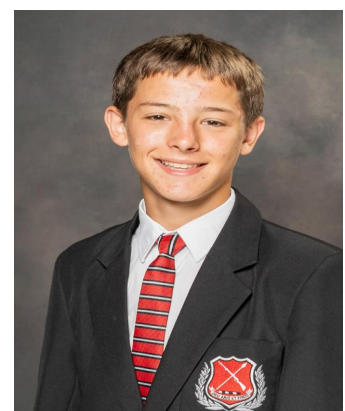


The True Grit Award: I Potgieter



Shared Sportsman of the year J Kanyinda and Z Fakude

The Inhliziyo
Award:
W Badenhorst



A new era

The new mnumzane of Nathans 2026

Nathans is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Paul Gonlag as the new Housemaster of Nathan House, effective from January 2026.

Mr Gonlag brings extensive experience and a deep commitment to education and pastoral care. With 17 years of teaching experience in the primary school sector, and having been a valued member of the Maritzburg College staff and Boarding Establishment for the past three years, he has played an integral role in the life of the school and Nathan House, serving as the Deputy Housemaster.

Throughout his time at College, Mr Gonlag has earned the respect of colleagues, parents, and boys alike through his calm leadership, supportive nature, and his ability to connect meaningfully with students. His experience, understanding of school life, and balanced approach make him exceptionally well suited to lead Nathan House with compassion, structure, and enthusiasm. His approachable manner and steady leadership make him the perfect fit for this important role.

We congratulate Mr Paul Gonlag on his appointment and wish him every success as he takes up this new chapter in leading Nathan House and welcoming our new boarders to Maritzburg College in 2026.



MARITZBURG COLLEGE

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KZN Inland U14A Indoor Hockey Selection



C Emerson T Fakude M Layden B Zitumane



B Lusso L Mduba S Mthiyane A Mukono



Other sportsmen 'in' the house....

Some quotes from our boys after their year in Nathans, and some wisdom to those that follow..

“When you in this house, there is a bunch of emotions, but the best is that feeling of BROTHERHOOD.”

“Arrived with No Friends but left with BROTHERS.”

“When you in this house, there is a bunch of emotions, but the best is that feeling of BROTHERHOOD.”

“It is okay to cry and miss your family because it shows what you truly love and care for.”

“A fun and eventful time with friends who may be there with you for life.”

“As you wear the uniform for the first time, you are no longer a primary school boy, you are a college boy and you will have a place here.”

Below: Our dear cleaner who was rested due to a knee injury. The prefects put something together for her .



PARTING THOUGHTS...

Nathan House has been a passion project for me. After eight years of service, and three of those in charge, in this 115-year-old home, it has become much more than just a place of work—it's been a space of growth, learning, and deep connection for both my family and I.

When I first considered applying for the role of Housemaster, the thought that ran through my mind was simple: "If not me, then who?" I genuinely asked myself whether I'd feel at peace handing the house over to someone else—and at the time, I wasn't sure I would. Looking back now, I realize that thinking was more than a little arrogant. The truth is, there are many capable, passionate, and committed young educators who could take on this role—and Nathan House needs someone who is not just capable, but who brings with them patience, perspective, prayer, and perhaps even a bit of progressive thinking – and you couldn't ask for anyone better than Mr Paul Gonlag, to know him is to love him.

It's been an incredible privilege to witness the growth of the young men in this house, and to get to know their families along the way. The role is all-consuming, and while every boarding house has its challenges, Nathan's is truly unique.

Over the past few weeks, as I've been asked about my decision to step away from this role, I've often used a sporting analogy (as many old boys do). I was a sprinter in school, and for the past three years, I've been running at a sprinter's pace. But the role has slowly and inevitably started to feel more like a marathon—and as any sprinter will tell you, that's not quite our race. So, it's time to bow out, with grace and gratitude, and pass the baton to the next runner who is ready to take the race forward.

Though I'm stepping back from this position, I hope to continue serving the boarding establishment in a meaningful way. As a family, we are trusting the Lord for where we are needed next in this the oldest boys school in Natal.

Thank you for the memories, the support, and the privilege of being part of this journey, made even more special to have shared this last year with your families.

God bless, and warm regards
Ron Barbour

