



## MARITZBURG COLLEGE

15 January 2026

Dear Parents, Staff, Old Collegians, and Members of the Maritzburg College Community

### COMMUNICATION REGARDING BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT INCIDENT IN JANUARY 2025

As we begin a new academic year and welcome many new boys and families to our community, we wish to provide clarity and to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, and the wellbeing of every boy entrusted to our care. This communication serves as a follow-up regarding the incident that occurred in our boarding establishment a year ago.

We have been informed that the television programme *eNCA Checkpoint* intends to air a segment on Sunday 19 January, focusing on bullying in schools, which will reference the incident at Maritzburg College. While we respect the media's role in raising awareness of important issues, we are mindful of the potential for sensationalism and the impact this may have on our boys and the broader College community. At all times, we remain conscious of our responsibility to educate, care for, and protect every boy in our charge.

Please be assured that the January 2025 incident was thoroughly investigated and addressed promptly and decisively by senior management, in full accordance with our Code of Conduct and established protocols. The pupil involved was sanctioned severely; this sanction included both punitive and restorative measures aimed at accountability and rehabilitation. The School Governing Body (SGB) fully supports the actions taken and is satisfied that the school acted in good faith and with integrity throughout the process. The incident was referred to the Department of Education (DoE), which, upon review, concluded that the matter had been appropriately handled by the school and therefore took no further action. In addition, external criminal proceedings (initiated by the parent of the boy involved) were concluded late last year, resulting in a diversion from criminal prosecution.

Maritzburg College's position remains unequivocal: bullying in any form, including cyberbullying of our boys, is unacceptable and stands in direct opposition to the values we uphold. We do not condone such behaviour in any manner whatsoever.

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We appeal to all members of our community to respect the privacy and dignity of our boys (and former learners) and to refrain from sharing non-factual opinions or hearsay on social media platforms. Let us continue to work together to foster a culture of kindness, empathy, and mutual respect, as we shape young men of character who will lead with compassion and integrity.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. Our focus remains firmly on the pastoral care and holistic development of every boy at Maritzburg College.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'WA Smith', with a stylized loop and a small mark at the end.

**Mr WA Smith**

**Chairman - Governing Body**