



Dear Parents and Guardians

END-OF-TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

As we draw the first term to a close, I take time to reflect on what has been a full and highly successful start to the year at Maritzburg College. As Aristotle reminds us, **“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”** This notion of consistent effort and high standards is evident in so many aspects of College life.

I recently asked members of my Executive team to share their highlights from the term, and several themes emerged that speak powerfully to the strength and diversity of our school. Among these was the outstanding performance of the Class of 2025 in the NSC examinations, including the exceptional achievement of the Brunkhorst twins, each earning 10 distinctions. Beyond these extraordinary results at the very top, our boys performed strongly across the board and did Maritzburg College proud. Credit must go to Mrs Finnie and her academic team for preparing our young men so well for their final NSC examinations.

From my own observations, I have been particularly struck by the level of commitment to the academic programme. There have been fewer disruptions during the school day than in the past, allowing for excellent teaching and meaningful learning to take place consistently across the campus. We firmly believe that the more constructive contact time our staff have with our boys, the higher our expectations of them can be.

Our extensive extramural programme continues to provide boys with opportunities to explore and develop their talents across a wide range of disciplines. This term has seen several high-quality cultural performances and activities, as well as notable achievements such as our boys winning the Aqualibrium youth engineering competition, securing a place in the national finals, further to this our choir had a number of excellent performances, our debaters produced strong results, and our boys displayed continued excellence in the speaker’s circle. Our cultural offering was further highlighted by the outstanding production of Spotlight, which showcased the remarkable talent and creativity of our boys alongside the talented girls from Pietermaritzburg Girls’ High.

On the sports field, our cricket and water polo teams performed admirably, while our canoeists achieved a significant milestone by winning the Dusi Canoe Marathon Schools Trophy. Our tennis and squash players have also had a strong term. Our basketball club continues to assert itself as the leading schoolboy programme in the country, with several outstanding performances during the season. One of the highlights of the term must be the winning of the Jenny Orchard Tournament. Summer sport at College is certainly in a healthy space.

Encouragingly, there is also a growing culture among the boys of holding one another accountable for their behaviour. This peer-driven sense of responsibility is critical in shaping the character and ethos of the school. At College, accountability is central to who we are. In a world where headlines are often dominated by examples of dishonesty and a lack of accountability, it is essential that we are counter-cultural in this space.

In the same vein, I was hugely impressed by the turnout at our Dads and Lads evening. As we have always maintained, educating our young men can only be truly effective when there is strong collaboration between families, boys, and the school. Evenings like this enable us to share resources and better equip one another to raise “Good Men”. Next term, we will be running a “Mums and Lads” evening, which I am sure will be equally rewarding.

Within our boarding establishment, this same sense of accountability and care has been clear. Our Boarding Establishment prefects have distinguished themselves through their leadership, holding boys to high standards while simultaneously building meaningful relationships. Their efforts, alongside those of the boarding staff, have

fostered a genuine sense of home within the houses. There has been a deliberate focus on allowing boys to relax, interact across year groups, and enjoy shared spaces, contributing to a positive and connected boarding culture.

The school environment itself reflects a deep sense of pride. The campus is looking exceptional, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our estates staff, as well as the dedicated ladies of Club 1863, for their ongoing work in maintaining and enhancing our grounds. We are blessed to educate our young men on such a well-resourced, beautiful campus, and even more fortunate to have members of our community willing to assist in maintaining our gardens and green spaces. I know the Club 1863 ladies would welcome additional assistance, so if you have the time and energy, please consider getting involved. All parents can make a difference by registering for My School, a free South African fundraising program allowing supporters to raise funds for schools at no cost to themselves. Every time you swipe your card at partner stores, a percentage of your spend is donated by the partner to Maritzburg College. Apply by clicking on the following link <https://collegefoundation.co.za/support-your-school/>. If you have a WRewards card or Woolworths credit card, you can link it to your MySchool profile to avoid carrying multiple cards.

Boys have also been exposed to important extension opportunities beyond the classroom, including a valuable presentation by a local legal advisor on the South African Schools Act, helping them to better understand their rights and responsibilities within the law. It is essential that our boys are equipped to make sound decisions when faced with the complex situations they will inevitably encounter.

The 5th Form camp was, once again, a defining experience. Faced with demanding challenges, our boys demonstrated resilience, perseverance, and a willingness to support one another, qualities that lie at the heart of a College education. It is an important step in preparing them for life beyond Maritzburg College.

We remain immensely fortunate to enjoy the unwavering support of our Old Boys' Association. This term, we hosted a highly successful function for Old Collegians and their families whose sons will be joining us in 2027. The sense of pride, connection, and brotherhood on display was truly inspiring, and we look forward to welcoming many of these families back into the College community as parents and pupils.

Having now completed three full terms at the school, I continue to be struck by the sheer energy of College, the breadth of its offering, the commitment and professionalism of our staff, and the quality of the young men entrusted to our care.

The upcoming holiday period will be a busy one for many of our boys and staff, with various tours, festivals, and commitments. I wish all those travelling every success and safe journeys. For those who can rest, I trust it will be a well-earned and restorative break.

It has indeed been another successful term for the Red, Black, and White.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back next term, refreshed and ready for what promises to be another demanding and rewarding period.

IMPORTANT DATES – TERM 2

Here is a summary of the important dates for the 2nd term, which is from **Wednesday 8 April to Friday 26 June**.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Tuesday 7 April | Boarders return [15:00 to 19:00] |
| Wednesday 8 April | Start of the 2 nd term |
| Thursday 9 April | 5 th Form Academic Information Evening [compulsory for 5 th Form boys] |
| Saturday 11 April | Winter sport fixtures vs Glenwood [A] |
| Monday 13 April | 3 rd Form Parents' Evening |
| Saturday 18 April | Inter-school exchange vs PBHS [H] |
| Monday 20 April | 2 nd Form Parents' Evening |
| Friday 24 April | BE Closes at 08:00 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Friday 24 April to Monday 27 April | Sport Free Weekend/Freedom Day |
| Monday 27 April | BE Opens at 15:00 |
| Friday 1 May | Worker's Day/College Market Day |
| Saturday 2 May | Winter sport fixtures vs St Charles [H] compulsory attendance |
| Saturday 2 May | Grade 6 Boarder sleep over |
| Friday 8 May | Moms & Lads Evening |
| Saturday 9 May | Winter sport fixtures vs DHS [H] |
| Saturday 16 May | Winter sport fixtures vs Northwood [A] |
| Monday 18 May to Wednesday 20 May | School Production: The Glass Menagerie |
| Wednesday 20 May | College Career Focus [compulsory for 3 rd and 5 th Forms] |
| Friday 22 May – Sunday 24 May | Sport Free Weekend |
| Saturday 30 May | Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association Reunion Weekend |
| | Winter sport fixtures vs Hilton – compulsory attendance |
| Monday 1 June | Mid-year examinations start [4 th - 5 th & 6 th Forms] |
| Saturday 6 June | Winter sport fixtures vs Kearsney [A] |
| Monday 8 June | Mid-year examinations start [2 nd & 3 rd Forms] |
| Saturday 13 June | Winter sport fixtures vs Michaelhouse [A] |
| Monday 15 June & Tuesday 16 June | Special School Holiday & Youth Day |
| Wednesday 24 June | Mid-year examinations end [All Forms] |
| Friday 26 June | 2 nd term ends |

PARENTS' EVENINGS

In term 2, parents' evenings are to be held in the Alan Paton Memorial Hall from 17:30 to 19:30 on designated days and are designed for parents to have short discussions about their sons' academic progress with their teachers. Should a longer discussion be necessary, parents are asked to make an appointment to see the relevant teacher at another time. Please come prepared with your son's term 1 report, so that you know who his teachers are.

- ♦ **2nd Form – Monday 20 April**
- ♦ **3rd Form – Monday 13 April**

MID-YEAR EXAMINATIONS [Monday 1 June [4th, 5th & 6th Forms] Monday 8 June [2nd & 3rd Forms] to Wednesday 24 June]:

Term 2 is an exam term and is therefore crucial academically. The exam timetable has been published on our platforms. Boys are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour in the classroom and their work ethic during this important term, and to seek support if needed. Parents are reminded that any absence from formal assessment tasks, including examinations, requires the submission of a **hard copy** medical certificate to the Pupil Office within 24 hours of the missed examination. Parents, please note that a booking for a learner or drivers' licence are not valid justifications for your son to miss formal assessments or examinations.

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

College offers a wide range of academic enrichment, free of charge for pupils who need it. If a boy is having trouble, he first needs to speak to his subject teacher, who will help where possible. Thereafter, should he need more regular intervention, he should attend the academic enrichment programme for a particular subject. These sessions are offered after school and details of the programme are available on Ed-admin and the College app. In addition, pupils are encouraged to make full use of the resources on their class TEAMS. Early intervention to address problem areas is encouraged, and preference should be given to the in-house offering from the school, which is given by experienced and knowledgeable staff, over the sourcing of external tutors.

2025 NSC RESULTS SUMMARY

- ♦ Pass Rate: 99.6%
- ♦ Bachelor Pass Rate: 86%

- ♦ Tertiary Access: 96% of learners qualified for entry into tertiary studies
- ♦ Total Subject Distinctions: 342
- ♦ Top Performers: Daniel and Michael Brunkhorst (10 distinctions each)
- ♦ 9 learners achieved 8, 7, and 6 distinctions
- ♦ 70% of the class achieved a C aggregate or above

COLLEGE CAREERS FOCUS 2026 - DIRECTING THE UNIQUE POTENTIAL OF OUR BOYS

The school's annual Career Focus Expo is to be held on **Wednesday 20 May**, in the Alan Paton Memorial Hall. We have identified several individuals whom we believe would make a valuable contribution to our expo and who are in careers that would interest our boys. These people cover a wide range of careers, from the traditional to the more unusual. We would be delighted if you and your sons would join us at this event. There will be **compulsory attendance** for all **3rd and 5th Form** pupils, but all boys from 3rd to 6th Form are welcome to attend.

PERFORMING ARTS

The Performance Arts Team at Maritzburg College strives to create a variety of platforms for our boys to showcase their talent. Furthermore, College aims to provide a holistic education for the boys by providing theatre going opportunities within the school. With this in mind, the first show for 2026, SPOTLIGHT, was a collaborative initiative with Pietermaritzburg Girls' High. SPOTLIGHT was curated to celebrate learners who have a passion for singing and dance – those learners who do not always enjoy traditional theatre productions.

The Glass Menagerie

As we head into the second half of the year, Maritzburg College will be producing Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*. This timeless memory play follows Amanda Wingfield, her son Tom and daughter Laura as they navigate fragile dreams, family pressure and the quiet ache of unspoken desires. Be part of an exclusive, curated evening that invites conversation and reflection. *The Glass Menagerie* runs from 18th May – 21st May 2026 in the Olivier Cultural Centre. Booking details to follow in Term 2.

WINTER SPORT: PARENTS' CODE OF CONDUCT

We especially ask that all spectators observe the school's **Code of Conduct for Sports Matches** below – all College boys and staff, and all supporters, are expected to play/watch their matches in a spirit of camaraderie and good sportsmanship.

Please DO:

- Encourage the players to play by the rules.
- Encourage and applaud good play from both teams.
- Support the umpires and referees in every respect.
- Stay off the field of play at all times.
- Assist the players (off the field) with positive coaching.

Please DO NOT:

- Promote cheating or bending of the rules.
- Reprimand players for mistakes.
- Publicly question the referee's decisions.
- Promote 'winning at all costs'.
- Abuse referees / players / fellow spectators.

No alcohol will be allowed onto the school grounds, and supporters seeking fortified refreshments are encouraged to sample the offerings of the Maritzburg Bowling Club nearby.

COMMITMENT

Maritzburg College prides itself on the support of all of our boys at certain major sporting fixtures. There is a strong sense of pride in one's school that is gained from supporting these events. To this end, there are a few compulsory attendance sporting fixtures throughout the year. These are noted in the term calendar, communicated well in advance and all boys are expected to attend. Should your son not attend for a valid reason (wedding, funeral, scheduled medical procedure etc.), he should be excused ahead of time and evidence supporting the excuse should be provided to his housemaster. Similarly, should an unforeseen emergency occur (death, motor vehicle accident,

hospitalisation etc.), please provide the details and supporting documents. Failing these being provided, boys will be punished for failing to attend and will need to attend **two Friday afternoon detentions**.

HOSTING FOR PRETORIA BOYS HIGH EXCHANGE 17 TO 19 APRIL

Our sincere thanks to those families who have already offered to host the Helpmekaar rugby boys. We now look ahead to hosting Pretoria Boys High School for our upcoming Winter sports and cultural exchange. This is a significant College weekend, with participation across a wide range of sporting and cultural activities. As is our long standing tradition, the success of the exchange relies on the willingness of our parent community to host visiting boys. Boys will be hosting their opposite numbers within the same teams or activities, ensuring alignment of schedules and a more meaningful exchange experience. We also remind parents that this generosity is reciprocated when our boys travel to Pretoria later in the year. These exchanges remain a vital part of the Maritzburg College experience, fostering friendships, broadening horizons and building the spirit of our community. We encourage all families who are able to please consider hosting.

DEVICES

The positive effects of removing smart phones for 2nd, 3rd and 4th Formers have been clearly seen during this first term. Some of the positive spin offs that we are seeing include better engagement between boys and their peers during tea break and after school as well as in the BE; better participation by our boys in co-curricular activities; stronger relationships are being formed between our boys; less distraction between classes and during class time; less anxiety and compulsion to keep checking phones and messages as well as fewer discipline incidents involving cell phones and social media.

Each of these has had and will have a far-reaching positive impact on our boys. Although we are already seeing the fruits of these, we know that the long-term benefits are immeasurable.

TERM 1 INTER-HOUSE COMPETITION

It has been a hard-fought term from an inter-house competition perspective. The following events have taken place this term:

- athletics
- Swimming gala

The standings are as follows:

| 2026 | | | | |
|------------------|------|-----------|--------------|----------------|
| House | Gala | Athletics | House Spirit | OVERALL POINTS |
| <i>Barns</i> | 28 | 34 | 14 | 76 |
| <i>Lamond</i> | 24 | 20 | 17 | 61 |
| <i>Nicholson</i> | 22 | 22 | 13 | 57 |
| <i>Forder</i> | 34 | 10 | 11 | 55 |
| <i>Strachan</i> | 20 | 24 | 6 | 50 |
| <i>Fuller</i> | 14 | 28 | 7 | 49 |
| <i>Pape</i> | 18 | 18 | 9 | 45 |
| <i>Calder</i> | 16 | 14 | 9 | 39 |
| <i>Commons</i> | 10 | 16 | 12 | 38 |
| <i>Snow</i> | 12 | 12 | 11 | 35 |

At the end of term 1, on Thursday this week, we will be having our annual Inter-house Singing Competition, which is always hotly contested. The results of this competition will be added to the current standings at the end of this term. Congratulations to Barns House, who is currently clearly in the lead.

EASTER EGG DRIVE

This term, we ran an Easter Egg Drive to collect Easter eggs for children who are less fortunate than our own. We thank all our parents for the wonderful way in which they supported the drive.

We have as of today collected 50 boxes of marshmallow eggs via donations and R 30 000 via the Karri app. The two charities, **Angels Care Centre** and **Bonginkosi in Sweetwaters**, will each receive half of the collection and are extremely grateful to the College community for their contributions to their ongoing work.

We would like to thank all our parents for the overwhelming support of this initiative, especially via the donations on the Karri app. We know that all contributions will make a difference in many young children's lives.

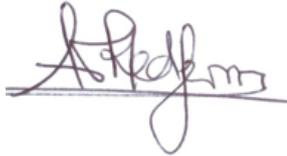
SCHOOL FEES

A reminder that Maritzburg College is a fee-paying school and we continue to respectfully appeal to all parents to pay your sons' school fees, to enable us to continue to supply an uncompromised level of education to our boys. Please continue to make the school a priority.

CONTACT DETAILS

We are continually updating the parents' database, and we urge all parents to ensure that, should their contact details change, the school be notified as soon as possible. Changes can be emailed to info@mcollege.co.za.

Yours sincerely



AM REDFERN
HEADMASTER

27 March 2026