

SEPTEMBER 2026

BEYOND THE GATES

DEAR COLLEGE COMMUNITY,

My vision for Maritzburg College is a clear and ambitious one: to be recognised as a school of excellence in all that we do; a beacon of what education in South Africa should look like; and a place where every boy, regardless of where he comes from, can find a home.

At the heart of this vision is something far more important than rankings, facilities or reputation.

It is our determination to produce young men of the finest quality:

Boys who understand what real respect means and who are respectful; boys who understand the importance of integrity and who are honest; boys who consistently give of their best and demonstrate resilience; boys who can think critically, analyse problems and find solutions; and, importantly, boys who are empathetic and understand the impact their actions have on others.

“MY VISION FOR COLLEGE IS CLEAR AND AMBITIOUS”

These may seem like lofty ambitions, but they are exactly the ambitions we should have for our boys.

Much of what we need to achieve this is already in place. Built over 163 years, Maritzburg College has developed a strong academic programme, robust systems of pupil support and monitoring, outstanding sporting and cultural opportunities, and a campus that continues to evolve to meet the needs of a modern school.



INVESTMENT IN FACILITIES TO FILL THE NEEDS FOR COLLEGE

We are investing significantly in our facilities. New and upgraded classrooms will create better opportunities for teaching and learning, including team teaching, a tiered 50-seater science lecture theatre and modern practical laboratory, as well as further classrooms equipped with contemporary furniture and technology.

We are also looking to transform the Olivier Cultural Centre into a West End-style theatre that will provide a world-class cultural facility and enable us to welcome productions and members of the wider community onto our beautiful campus.

Further to this, we are nearing completion of the design of a new indoor cricket centre and high-performance gym.





A CAMPUS THAT EVOLVES TO MEET THE PUBLIC’S NEEDS

These developments reflect our commitment to providing our boys with the very best opportunities to develop academically, culturally, physically and personally.

However, ultimately, excellence is not built from bricks and mortar. It is built through people, culture and behaviour.

And this is where I believe our shared responsibility as a College community becomes so important.

We regularly talk about the standards to which we encourage our boys to aspire. We want them to work hard, be punctual, show respect for others, take responsibility for their actions, honour their commitments and always strive to give of their best. We hope to see them act with integrity and develop an understanding that their choices have consequences. These are qualities that most of us would wish for all young people, it is important to remember that young people learn as much from what they see as from what they are told.



MESSAGE FOR THE WIDER COMMUNITY

The School and wider community have a profound impact on our boys. As a College community, we all play a part in this process, our actions help shape the character and values of the boys in our care.

There is another important aspect to this conversation, boys benefit from clear and consistent boundaries. This is not about being unnecessarily restrictive or punitive.

Rather, young people often thrive when expectations are clearly communicated and consistently applied. Clear boundaries provide a sense of security, help boys understand responsibility and accountability, and create opportunities for them to make good decisions, learn from their mistakes and grow in independence.

As a school, we have a responsibility to be clear about our expectations and consistent in applying them. There is little value in a school setting a standard if that standard is undermined elsewhere.

Equally, there is little value in parents expecting the school to develop qualities that are not reinforced at home.

BEHAVIOUR AND STANDARDS

Our boys need to hear a consistent message from the adults who guide them. This does not mean that we will always get everything right. It does mean that we should be prepared to hold ourselves to the same standards that we ask of our boys and to have the courage to address areas where we can do better.

I would therefore encourage every member of the College community to ask a simple question:

Am I modelling the kind of behaviour and standards that I want to see in our boys?

If the answer is yes, thank you. If there are areas where we could all do a little better, then let us commit to doing so. Excellence is rarely the result of one great act; it is the cumulative effect of getting the small things right, consistently, every day. My commitment is to ensure that Maritzburg College remains a beacon of excellence in education a school that develops young men who are capable, confident, compassionate and accountable; young men who understand that privilege brings responsibility and that character matters.

MR ALAN REDFERN

With this I say, the school cannot do this alone - we must create an environment in which exceptional standards are normal. The vision is ambitious, but ambition is the starting point of progress.

Together, I believe we can ensure that Maritzburg College continues to thrive, continues to lead and continues to be a school of which our boys, our parents, Old Collegians and the entire community can be immensely proud.



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