OCTOBER 2026

# BEYOND THE GATES



## DEAR COLLEGE COMMUNITY,

For generations of families, the word Brotherhood defines the unique spirit that sets Maritzburg College apart. It captures the deep sense of identity, shared purpose, and belonging that distinguishes our learners and shapes them into young men of character.

Maritzburg College stands as a premier institute of educational excellence, balancing a rigorous academic environment with a rich cultural, pastoral, and sporting programme that remains the envy of many.

Today's young men are growing up in an era vastly different from the world of previous generations. In a fast-paced digital age marked by the challenges of instant gratification, constant access to information, and pressure on critical decision-making, the school environment plays a vital role.

At College, we intentionality focus on reinforcing a steadfast framework of core values, and high expectations to help our learners navigate these modern complexities with integrity and resilience.



## CULTIVATING CHARACTER IN A CHANGING WORLD

Having spent my high-schooling years at College and now having the privilege of being a staff member for the past 12 years, I have witnessed first-hand the incredible opportunities this institution provides.

It serves as both a solid foundation and a springboard, equipping learners with the essential tools required to make a meaningful impact in what can be at times, tough and complicated world.

Our dedicated staff who work in all areas to make College exceptional are also to be credited for the vital role that they play in this excellence.






## RESILIENCE AND CRITICAL THINKING...

We recognise that life is not always easy. Therefore, fostering independence, resilience, and critical thinking is paramount to give our young men a distinct head start.

Throughout its rich history, heritage, and vision for the future, Maritzburg College has remained firmly anchored by its core values. However, these values only hold true meaning when they are actively taught, internalised, and lived out daily. While not every learner will become the next Springbok, Protea, or business tycoon, every boy must know that he truly belongs to something greater than himself and if he work hard – he can surprise himself.

By working hard, embracing the opportunities on offer, and fully immersing themselves in this brotherhood, our learners can achieve their personal goals. This success is driven not only by *what* they learn inside and outside the classroom, but by how that learning takes place through shared experiences.



# INSPIRING MANY OCs & FAMILIES WITH DEEP COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

This year, we had the privilege of welcoming four young men whose parents reached out to give them a true taste of an institution that meant so much to them during their own school days. Among them was ***Alessandro Giordano***, whose remarkable roots at College span five generations, with his great-grandfather, grandfathers, uncles, and cousins all having walked these paths. Travelling 9,000 kilometres from Germany, **Alessandro** joined our campus community between February and October this year. After sending their son across the globe to fully immerse himself in the College experience, his parents shared the following reflections:

*Moving to Germany, I never imagined this would be possible. Having our son, a fifth-generation legacy, walk the halls of Maritzburg College and play rugby on those fields was a lifelong dream—following in the footsteps of his great and grandfathers, uncles, and cousins. Putting him on that plane was heart-wrenching, but he was welcomed with open arms by the boys, teachers, boarding masters, and parents alike. It turned out to be so much more than we ever anticipated—reaching far beyond rugby and the traditional College values to offer a truly transformative life experience.* **[See more at 'More from the parents' section]**

## More from the parents & Alessandro...

*Over the past seven months, he has grown immeasurably and returned home a proud College boy, living and breathing the brotherhood. I would recommend this unique journey to anyone and everyone: give your boys the chance to live the Red, Black, and White.* **[These were the continued views of the parents.]**

**Alessandro** then wrote the following:

*Coming from Germany to South Africa and to College I was feeling nervous about a lot of things. I was scared that the boys were not going treat me equally to themselves and that the time would be too tough for me and I wouldn't cope. But from the first training session and the first supper the boys welcomed me and showed me their kind generous and respectful ways.*

*But it wasn't just about the boys. The teacher's, managers and coaches, the parents also helped and guided me to strive and get the very best out of me. They made me strive for excellence. Being accepted into that brotherhood and into the great school College is. I really felt blessed and I realised what an amazing place College is. I would highly recommend College to anyone who wants to grow and achieve something in life.*

## From UK to College




**Noah Smith** whose father **Cullen** matriculated in 1998 and who played hooker in the 1st XV in the same year, joined us from the UK for 4 weeks in July. His family had the following to say about Noah's experience:

*Our heartfelt thanks to the Maritzburg College community for welcoming and hosting our son for 4 weeks. As an Old Boy living abroad, I had long thought that the opportunity to share the College experience with him might never be possible, so seeing him embrace school life, experience the brotherhood and take part in the proud traditions of College has meant more to us than words can adequately express.*

*From full boarding and academics to pulling on the Red, Black and White to face old foes, these are memories that he—and we—will treasure for years to come. He has returned home a more confident and well-rounded young man, carrying with him a genuine sense of what it means to be a College boy.*

*We are deeply grateful to everyone who made this exceptional opportunity possible and who helped him feel so welcome throughout his stay.*

***Noah*** himself slotted straight in and shared his experience:

*"Spending time at College was one of the most exciting and memorable experiences of my life. As a visiting student from the UK, I was welcomed into life in the boarding house very quickly. The sense of brotherhood stood out as every boy knew each other and the welcoming spirit quickly made it feel like home. Rugby was the main highlight: training and playing alongside boys who loved the game taught me a huge amount, and the passion from coaches and boys on the touchline was unlike anything I'd experienced before.*

*Being hosted by another school was fantastic too. I'd never experienced being welcomed into a stranger's home so quickly, and it was special sharing a meal with a new friend before playing against them the next day. Another standout was watching the 1st team and joining in on the school chants, as well as throwing your basher up when College scored. Along the way I made friends I know will last a lifetime, and I came to appreciate the incredible cultural diversity of South Africa, from the languages and traditions to the different ways of seeing the world. It was also deeply special to follow in my dad's footsteps as the son of an Old Boy, and I felt immense pride wearing the school's colours and being part of a tradition he cherishes so much. When I sadly returned home, I did so knowing, I had experienced something very few have had the opportunity to know this is something special that I've had the chance to do".*






# Talented sportsman Hawkins, sent over his 2 eagles to college

**Matt Hawkins** matriculated from College in 2000. A talented sportsman himself, having represented the 1st XV, national school Water polo team, as well as both playing and coaching the USA sevens team, Matt sent both his sons, **Kingston** and **Landon** for 5 weeks during the winter season.

*"Maritzburg College will always hold a special place in my heart. It was undoubtedly one of the most influential experiences of my life, helping shape the father, husband and friend I am today. The rich history and traditions that echo through the corridors of College are brought to life through the immense pride we share in our school, our sport and the privilege of wearing the red, black and white. It is a place where lifelong friendships are forged, character is built, and young men learn what it means to be part of something greater than themselves.*

*For years, I shared those stories and experiences with my sons, but there is only so much you can convey through words. When the opportunity arose for them to experience College firsthand, to walk those same corridors, embrace the traditions and become part of that brotherhood, it meant more to me than I could have imagined. It has added another dimension to our relationship, deepened our appreciation for the bonds we share, and given us something that will connect us for the rest of our lives. Once a College boy, always a College boy."*

# Message from the Hawkins boys

*"My time at Maritzburg College was one of the best experiences of my life. I truly enjoyed the traditions, history, and passion students have for their school. I have never seen anything like the game days at Maritzburg College that brought the whole school together to either compete or cheer on their classmates. This experience is something I will cherish for the rest of my life and has truly changed me as a person,"* said **Kingston**.

**Landon** also refelected on his time being at College. *"My experience at Maritzburg College as an American playing rugby was a unique opportunity that helped me grow as both a player and a person. Being in a different country allowed me to experience a new culture, meet people from different backgrounds, and see how important rugby is in South Africa. Playing rugby at Maritzburg College challenged me to improve my skills, adapt to a different style of play, and work with teammates who had different experiences from mine. Although being away from home and adjusting to a new environment could be challenging, the experience taught me the importance of teamwork, discipline, and stepping outside my comfort zone. Overall, my time at Maritzburg College helped me become a better rugby player and a better person. It gave me memories and lessons that I will carry with me forever".*



# A Lifelong Journey: 5 Years for Life

In closing, it is profoundly moving to see Old Boys from all corners of the globe feel a deep-seated desire to gift their sons the same opportunity they had to live, learn, and breathe the brotherhood that shaped their own lives.

Witnessing these international students leave our campus enriched, inspired, and thoroughly fulfilled by their experience, confirms that the College spirit remains a powerful global force. If their current reflections are any indication, we look forward to welcoming them back to our shores in the years to come.

For parents currently navigating the educational landscape and making a decision of where your son will spend his foundational high schooling years, we invite you to connect with us. Come and discover why Maritzburg College is the ideal fit for his journey. The testimonials shared here represent just a small window into life on campus; each of the 1250 boys who call College home every day is walking a unique path and actively shaping his own future.

## MR RYAN KYLE



"5 Years for Life" is far more than a slogan, it is a profound commitment to bonds, patriotism, and lifelong friendships that endure long after the final school bell rings. We are immensely proud of this institution, and we stand resolute in our mission to shape the lives of the young men who will lead our country and the world in the future.

Pro Aris et Focus



# BEYOND THE GATES