



South African College High School

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NEWSLETTER NO. 1

Dear Parents

It is wonderful to be able to extend a warm welcome back to school, to our SACS community. It has been by and large an extremely positive and happy week and a plethora of good news flooded in as members of our community shared their holiday achievements.

Top of the pile are the outstanding Matric results of our class of 2017. A 100% pass rate and a very impressive 96.3% Bachelor (university entrance) pass bear testament to a group who put their shoulders to the wheel and backed up the hard work and belief their teachers and families had invested in them. Well done class of 2017. Further details appear later in this newsletter.

I have been tremendously impressed by the attitude of our 2018 Matric class in the short time that they have been back. The Matric class plays a huge role in determining the mood and tone of the school for the year and I am sure this will be a rewarding and successful one for them. Likewise, our new Grade 8 class have fitted in well and I hope they will enjoy a fulfilling and rewarding 5 year journey at SACS.

The pages that follow speak to a wonderful diversity of achievement by our SACS men, from sporting and cultural to A-Level examination achievements and a host of others. There are also some critical challenges we face, with the most pressing being our ongoing water crisis. Please take the time to read and support us in this regard.

We look forward to an action-packed SACS weekend which I look forward to sharing with many of you.

WATER CRISIS

We all know that the water crisis in our City has reached a critical juncture and that Day Zero on 21 April could well occur. Our hostels have been very proactive in both saving and storing water and we shall be transferring additional tanks to our school building this weekend. Our School Governing Body (SGB) and management are acutely aware of the crisis and will look to manage it in compliance with all regulations and with the best interests of our city and school in mind.

In the interim, I appeal to everyone who is part of our SACS community to be conscious of saving every drop of water that we can, both at home and at school.

SOCIAL MEDIA TALK

Emma Sadleir, South Africa's leading expert on social media law, will be addressing the boys on Thursday morning next week regarding social media. She will also address parents on the same day in the evening at 6:30pm (Hofmeyr Hall). We encourage and welcome all parents to attend this talk.

THIS WEEKEND

I wish our sportsmen well for their fixtures this weekend. The First Cricket Team and U15A Cricket Team compete against Durbanville Cricket Club on Saturday (H) at 9:30am, and our oarsmen compete in the Elgin Regatta on Saturday.

ATHLETICS HEATS

Please find attached the bell and school times for next week.

PAARL ATHLETICS MEETING

The annual Paarl Boys' High School Invitation Athletics Meeting takes place on Friday 26 January 2018 at their Brugstraat Sporting Complex in Paarl (turn right down Brugstraat at the garage, off Main Road, Paarl).

The School arranges transport for our athletes and supporters, the cost being R50.00 (the major portion is subsidized by the school). Last year approximately 500 boys travelled out to support the team and all enjoyed the tremendous 'spirit' and atmosphere. The boys travel out in uniform but do not take boaters (not to be brought to School on that Friday). School bags are to be dropped off at home or with a friend.

Busses depart from the parking area at the Aqua Centre at 3:00pm. The busses return to the same area at approximately 11:40pm. Blazers and other valuables must not be left lying around at Paarl.

In order to reserve their places on a bus, boys must pay their R50 to any of the School Prefects as soon as possible. For any queries, please contact Mr Andre van Wyk, Head of Athletics (vanwykj@saccollege.org.za).

On the night, Grade 8 parents should park and collect their sons at the Aqua Centre, while other parents are requested to park and meet their sons up at the School, so as to avoid congestion at the Aqua Centre.

David Sutton (Grade 12) is Captain of the Athletics Committee for 2018 and Nicholas de Nobrega Vice-Captain.

MATRIC RESULTS

Congratulations to the matric class of 2017 on an outstanding set of results. A year ago we set them a challenge to achieve the highest Bachelors endorsement ever (a quality pass enabling them to study at university). They responded to the challenge but unfortunately missed the 2008 record of 97.4% by a narrow 1.1%!

No. Wrote	162
No. Passed	162 100%
No. Bachelors	156 96.3%
Subject Distinctions	357
Grade Average	72.3%
No. A-Averages	32

In addition, 34 boys received 5 or more subject distinctions. Adam Begg is our Dux Scholar (first in Matric). He received an average of 92.6% and distinctions for all his nine subjects!

I extend sincere congratulations to all staff, all Matrics of 2017, as well as to their parents.

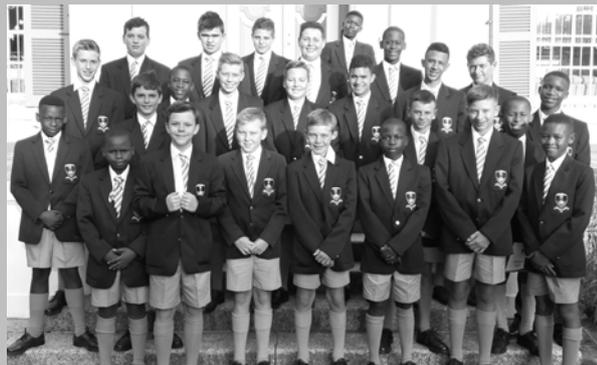
CRICKET NEWS

The SACS First XI Cricket team participated in the Cape Town Cricket Festival from 8 to 12 January 2018, winning all their matches. The team were led by Captain Hayden Byrne and Vice-Captain Lloyd Wingrove. Daniel Smith scored an amazing 442 runs, scoring three centuries and two fifties. During this time he was dismissed only once. Another highlight was Ethan Burger taking 7 catches, not as a wicketkeeper, in one innings. We are waiting to hear if this is a record in schools cricket. Congratulations to coaches and players on an outstanding week of team performances. A reminder that the Grade 8 cricket trials take place on Saturday from 9am to 11am on De Villiers field.



MICHAELIS NEW BOARDERS

We welcomed our new Grade 8 hostel boarders earlier this week to Michaelis House Hostel.



STAFFING

We welcome Mr Werner Botha (Afrikaans Department), Mrs Lara Kruger and Mr Shaun Garbers (Mathematics Department) as permanent members of staff. They have already made a positive impact and I trust that their tenure at SACS will be a long and happy one.



ROWING NEWS

It has been a very successful holiday season for the SACS Rowing Club. The SACS 1st Eight placed 6th in the country at the South African Schools Boat Race, held in Port Alfred in December. The boys raced hard, and finished as the top Western Cape School. Well done to our 1st Eight for this fantastic result.

Our rowers, including 21 new U14s, attended a four day Summer Camp at Misverstand Dam just before the new term began. The aim was to build fundamental skills for the new junior oarsmen, as well as for the U15s, U16s and our Opens to get back into training with vigour and determination for the second half of the season. Despite the extremely hot weather, the boys had an excellent time, growing together as a team. The coaches worked tirelessly to get the best out of the crews. With the Elgin Regatta coming up this weekend, we hope their hard work pays off! A big thank you to all our rowing parents for their ever present support.

GRADE 8 CAMP

Our new Grade 8's arrived at school on Monday morning and after some admin tasks they boarded buses for the camp at Buffalo Drift near Goude.

On arrival they were greeted by the instructors and put into eight teams. They then had to erect their tents. The rest of the day the teams did ice breaking tasks to get to know each other and the afternoon was ended with a welcome swim in the river. That night they went for a hike and saw the wild game on the farm.

On Tuesday they did the obstacle course and then had a swim in the river. The teams then did six different activities ranging from paintball and archery to canoeing and shelter building.

The goal of the camp was for boys from different junior schools to get to know each other and to make new friends; they also learnt how important teamwork is in completing any task.

Although the boys were all out of their comfort zones, they adapted very well. There was a great team spirit.



SACS REPRESENTATIVES

Jonah Anderson (Grade 10) has been selected to represent the Western Province at U19 Tennis. Congratulations to Jonah and we wish him well for the season (pictured right).



Zach Baskir (Grade 11) played chess for the Western Province U18A team at the 2017 South African Championships in Johannesburg during the school holidays. Western Province placed second overall and Zach won six of his seven matches (pictured right).

Motor Sport South Africa awarded Sebastian Boyd (Grade 10) full Protea Colours in December. He has been invited to Test with F4 during the 2018 season. Congratulations to Sebastian (pictured left).



Gerainn Everson (Grade 12) gave an exceptional public solo piano performance at the Cape Town Male Choir Concert in December. Feedback to the school spoke about Gerainn being a wonderful ambassador for the SACS Music Department. Congratulations Gerainn.



Alexander Baker (Grade 11) has been selected to represent South Africa at the Junior African Fencing Championships in Nigeria, later this year. Alexander will represent South Africa in the U17 Foil category. Congratulations (pictured left).

A-LEVEL RESULTS

While most of our AS and A-Level students write their examinations in May/June of each year, Cambridge Assessment International Examinations also allow for examinations to be written in October/November. In the past October/November session, we had two candidates writing their final A-Level examinations, both studied independently and did extremely well.

Tristan Davis (Grade 12) achieved a B grade in Mathematics and Julian Weimann (Grade 12) achieved an A grade in Biology. Both students showed persistence and determination to work at this internationally recognized high standard. Well done.



SAILING

During the School Holidays Cullen Keytel (Grade 11) attended a High Flyers Clinic in Malta for three weeks of training by a previous Olympian. He trained with the Polish Olympic Squad and German, and British National Team members at High Performance Levels. In a mini regatta that took place against the Polish Squad and other teams, he achieved all first places. We congratulate Cullen on these achievements.

NATIONAL YOUTH SAILING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The National Youth Sailing Championships took place at Midmar Dam in Kwazulu-Natal during the school holiday. Matt Ashwell (Grade 9) placed second in the Optimist Class, Hamilton Slater (Grade 9) fourth in the Dabchick Class and Cullen Keytel fourth in the Laser Class.

Yours sincerely

B.J. GRANT
HEADMASTER