



SACS High School Prospectus



*Promoting excellence within
an all-round education*



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Brief History

SACS is the oldest high school in South Africa, founded in September 1829. It is arguably the most magnificent setting at the foot of Table Mountain and Devils peak.

The concept of the **South African College** was first formed in 1791 when the Dutch Commissioner-General, Jacob Abraham Uitenhage de Mist, asked for funding to be set aside to improve schooling in the Cape. After the British took over control of the Cape Colony its first governor, Lord Charles Henry Somerset PC, gave permission for the funds reserved by de Mist to be used to establish the South African College in 1814.

It was decided in 1874 that the younger students should be separated from their older counterparts. The South African College was separated into the *College* which became the University of Cape Town and the *College School*.

The College School moved to its own building on Orange Street, separate from the College, in 1896. For the next few decades, the school grew and the building became too small for the number of students attending.

In 1959 the school moved to its current home in the Montebello Estate in Newlands,¹ former home of the mining magnate Sir Max Michaelis, after a decade-long negotiation with the Cape Administration.

SACS High School Mission Statement

“The South African College High School seeks to promote excellence within an all-round education, to prepare boys to play a constructive role as compassionate, thinking individuals in society”.

The school prides itself on the balanced education it provides, the world-class facilities on offer, the fact that SACS men strive for excellence in all spheres of school life and that it places a strong emphasis on high moral values.

SACS School Moto – “Spectemur Agendo” - (Let us be judged by our actions)

Facts and figures:

English is medium of teaching, learning and communication.

School hours: Monday 8:10am – 3pm,

Tues - Thurs 7:50am – 3pm

Fri – 7:50am – 12:50pm

Number of pupils: 800

Number of staff: 55

School Fees: R31 800 (2015)

Boarding Fees: R33 100

Academic Facilities

Air conditioned and networked Library and SACS Archive

Air conditioned IT Centre housing 40 machines and dual projectors. A second wireless Internet venue.

Air conditioned Lecture Theatre with seating for 170 students.

Various Science laboratories'

Cultural Facilities

Air conditioned Band Room for rehearsals and sound recording

Lecture Theatre doubles as a smaller “amphitheatre”



Academics

The National Curriculum and Assessment Policy (CAPS) is followed in all subjects, except for ‘AS’ – and ‘A’-level Cambridge subjects. The qualifying certificate at the end of Grade 12 is the National Senior Certificate (NSC)

General Education and Training (GET):

Grades 8 and 9 do all compulsory subjects, plus a choice of Isixhosa, French, Visual Arts and Music

Further Education and Training (FET)

Grades 10, 11 and 12 complete the following compulsory subjects: English (Home Language), Afrikaans (1st Additional Language) or Isixhosa (1st Additional Language), Mathematics or Maths Literacy and Life Orientation

Choice Subjects to make up seven subjects: Physical Science, Life Science, Music, French (1st Additional), Geography, History, Visual Arts, Economics, Accounting, Information Technology.



Cambridge 'AS' and 'A' Levels.

In addition to the normal FET Curriculum, senior SACS students may choose to take A-level Cambridge subjects in English, Mathematics, Biology or Chemistry. The students will commence these in their Grade 10 year and complete in May of their Grade 12 Year.

Cultural

Four full-time music teachers and nine part-time staff provide opportunities for most instruments to be studied. Music is offered as a Matric subject or as an extra-curricular course. Lessons are held during school hours and students are required to play two practical exams per annum. All levels of playing are nurtured with the emphasis being on solo performing opportunities, ensemble playing and playing in one of the many bands at SACS. Entering Royal Schools, Trinity College and Unisa external exams is encouraged and many students play the Grade 8 final exams during their years at SACS. Pupils are also encouraged to enter for various Eisteddfods, as well as for the three music competitions hosted by SACS.

The highlight on the musical calendar is the annual Concerto Festival, where auditioned soloists perform with a full professional symphony orchestra. Being the highest achievement for a SACS musician, SACS is proud to be able to promote this level of talent and to be able to fill a concert programme of this standard with SACS soloists.

SUBJECT MUSIC

From Grade 8 boys are offered all the opportunities available to music students. Although the Subject Music syllabus begins in Grade 10, music is offered as a specialized component in the Arts and Culture course in Grades 8 and 9. This includes instrumental tuition (two practical lessons per week), gaining general musical knowledge in class and participating in any of the bands, ensembles or choirs.

Requirement: Boys need to have attained Grade 1 or 2 practical level to be considered for music in Grade 8.

Subject Music in Grades 10 – 12: Intensive musical training is provided in all spheres with unique performing and academic opportunities. The entrance requirement is Grade 3 level, practically and theoretically. Each subject music student receives two individual practical lessons and four subject music lessons which include general music knowledge, music theory and aural training. In Grade 10 boys have the option and are encouraged to write the external Grade 5 Theory exam. (For advanced pupils, it is an option to do the Grade 6 Theory exam in Grade 11 or 12.) Music being a practical art calls for the requirement that all music students partake in at least one of the bands or choirs. Included in the curriculum are composing opportunities using music technology and working with current computer software. Individual lessons are held during school hours and students are required to play two practical exams per annum.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR MUSIC

Tuition is available extra-murally in all grades, space permitting. Lessons are held during school hours and students are required to play two practical exams per annum. Learners are expected to be part of the band or choir programme and are encouraged to enter Royal Schools, Trinity College and Unisa external exams. If SACS does not have a teacher of a particular instrument, we will recommend or source one.

PERFORMING OPPORTUNITIES AND GENERAL

It is a primary goal that musicians have exceptional performing opportunities at SACS. These include an annual Concerto Festival where SACS boys are featured as soloists and are accompanied by a full professional symphony orchestra. Concert opportunities include those at the residence of the British Consulate, the Cape Town Convention Centre, the Waterfront, the Baxter Theatre, St. George's Cathedral, Kirstenbosch and at the Standard Bank National Youth Jazz Festival, in Grahamstown.

Numerous internal SACS concerts, Lunch Hour concerts, Jazz in the Garden, Walter Swanson and Christopher Brown Concerts give all music students unique performing opportunities.. For the popular Jazz in the Garden concert in March, all of the SACS bands, the SACS Big Band, the Concert Band, the Marimba Band and the SACS Jazz Vocal Ensemble perform in a relaxed outdoor concert.

An annual collaborative concert which takes place in the City Hall, with Rustenburg Girls High School and Rondebosch Boys High School, features a major choral work performed by a massed choir and the three schools' orchestras. Many musical streams merge together in a very special evening for all three schools.

SACS launched a National Music Competition this year and students are able to experience the high standards of a music competition, where a "recital" programme has to be well-prepared and presented at the highest level. With prize money of over R21 000, the competition is open to anyone playing any instruments. The competition is for 11 years to 20 years age-categories with two preliminary rounds and a final round, for which two finalists are chosen in each category. Four adjudicators select and judge the finalists. By hosting a national classical music competition, SACS intends to nurture the musical development of young people and to enhance our commitment to promoting music at SACS. It is our privilege to introduce this opportunity to young people who have shown commitment to their musical studies.

Cultural Facilities

- Band Room for rehearsal and recording using latest software, technology and equipment
- Various music rooms for individual lesson
- School Hall for annual productions, including lighting and sound room.

Sport

SACS sees the merits of playing team sports; hence it is compulsory to take part in a winter and Summer Sport at School. You are required to select one of the following sports in summer and winter before being able to select another sport.

Summer

- Athletics
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Rowing
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Waterpolo



Winter

- Cross Country
- Hockey
- Rugby

Once one of the above sports is chosen, if it permits, you may take part in the following:

Sailing, Squash, Golf, Shooting, Surfing, Bodyboarding, Chess

Sports Facilities

- 380m² Gym facility with 3 squat racks, 4 bench press, free weights section, various weights machines, 9 'Concept2' Rowing Ergo's, 3 Spinning Bicycles, many pull-up bars, 3 boxing bags and a 25m² wrestling mat.
- Main Cricket Oval with both Pavilion and players' pavilion
- Two other cricket fields, one of which doubles with an Athletics Track. Outside the track is a long jump pit, two shot put/discus facilities.
- An Olympic size Rim flow Waterpolo pool with floodlights
- A 25m Heated Waterpolo and Swimming pool which is also floodlit
- An Astroturf Hockey Field
- Two Basketball Courts
- Two Squash Courts
- Five Tennis Courts



Leadership

The School has a Prefect Body which is elected each year comprising of between 12 and 14 Matric pupils. Each Prefect governs a portfolio whereby he will have five Grade 12 boys on his committee, thus incorporating more leaders. SACS also has a Representative Council comprising a boys from each grade.



The Leadership Portfolio is run by 4 teachers and present Leadership Seminars to Grade 9, 10 and 11 pupils throughout the year.

Rosedale Hostel has joined the “Presidents Award” and the Grade 11 boarders volunteer to follow the Silver Award.
