



27 July 2018

NEWSLETTER NO. 21

Dear Parents

HEADMASTER'S INTRODUCTION

Thank you to all those parents that attended our parent/teacher meetings last week and for your many positive comments about our school. They are uplifting for me and good to hear. Where we face challenges, let us look to address them by working together and through positive dialogue and communication. I am happy to say that this has largely been my experience during my first year here at SACS and I thank you for that.

In chatting to our Matric class last week, Mr Guiney and I emphasised that they literally have a few weeks of class time left before we enter the final straight of trial and year-end examinations. We have high hopes for this class in terms of their academic potential. We encouraged them to finish well and "stay the course" in terms of the fine group of young men that they have been and continue to be. I also emphasised that it is certainly not too late to turn things around if you are not where you want to be in terms of your academics, but positive action must follow now.

Please find attached information regarding advertising in our school magazine, as well as the Matric preliminary examination timetable for this term.



CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY FESTIVAL

Congratulations to our First Hockey Team who won bronze at the Cape Town International Hockey Festival. SACS fielded an U16/U17 team and had some great victories in the course of the week.



SAILING REPRESENTATIVE

Congratulations to Bryan Carstens who has been selected to represent South Africa (in sailing) at the 2018 IODA World Championship Regatta later this year. Bryan is currently ranked in the top five Optimist sailors in the country.

WESTERN PROVINCE SQUASH

William Tweddle was part of the Western Province U19 Squash Team who won gold at the Interprovincial Squash Tournament during the school holidays. William was ranked in the top ten in the Western Province, winning five out of the six matches he played. Congratulations.

SPORT CLIMBING

Jared Rodrigues took part in the National Climbing Championships during the school holidays. He placed second in Lead Climbing and first in Bouldering, making him the number one climber in the U16 South African age group. Jared has been selected for the Youth World Championships, taking place in Russia later this year. Congratulations.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Luke Moir secured the South African National Cross Country Mountain Bike title on a dry, dusty and technical course in Bloemfontein this past weekend. He posted excellent lap times and led the race from the start to finish. Luke now holds the national title in three disciplines of Mountain Biking: Cross Country, Marathon and Eliminator. The next race he will participate in is the Enduro South African Championships in September.

SACS parents, staff and boys were addressed by Sameer Rawjee at a seminar sponsored by Investec. Sameer has an impressive resume, including working at Google, as well as running his own Ed-Tech company. He is now the CEO of O School where he helps companies like Soundcloud and Barclays design their organisations for 'the next workforce' and helps South African high schools prepare their students for the future of work. This was the focus of his interactive and philosophical talk.

Sameer began by asking the audience about what they hoped to gain from the evening. Teachers and parents questions focused on how we can support the young men of SACS, helping them to find the balance between technology and education, as well as learning about how technology can help them to shape their futures. Sameer responded by referencing articles and books he had read in addition to TV shows.

One of the biggest foreseeable changes to the future is the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Robots and machines have the capacity to mimic human intelligence and therefore can carry out mundane repetitive tasks to the same standard (or better) than a human. The one thing that AI cannot replace though is

the interactions we have as humans. Sameer elaborated the notion of intelligence by referring to Sir Ken Robinson's five kinds of intelligence.

We have all heard about emotional and intellectual intelligence and to help us connect with ourselves, each other and the world we live in, we also need to consider physiological, intuitive and spiritual intelligences. Robots cannot acquire the skills we need for our futures, namely empathy, kindness, compassion and love. Once we find the connections between these intelligences, we can start to work out what our lives are all about.

The second part of Sameer's address comprised of questions and answers from the audience. Sameer's advice to school leavers is to embrace the notion that they will each have between eight and twelve careers in their lifetime. There are skills to learn in every career and once school leavers link systems thinking and emotional intelligence with their passion, they will see the 'dots in their life connect.' Learners should be aware that many companies do not know what jobs to create and this opens up opportunities for applicants to shape their own job description during an interview. Files such as data sciences and machine learning will become more and more important, so learners should develop

a knowledge acquisition method that suits them. This could be via Apps such as Blinkist, which allows users to gain key ideas from the world's best non-fiction books in 15 minutes, or by reading a range of trend lists produced by consultancies such as Deloitte and McKinsey or simply accessing books in text and audio formats.

There is a concern about the role learning institutions such as SACS play in preparing future employees and Sameer referred to Elon Musk's notion of viewing knowledge as a tree. We need to understand the fundamental principles, i.e. the trunk and big branches, before we get into the leaves/details or there is nothing for them to hang on to. SACS and other learning institutions will continue to be important in providing these foundations and helping to layer knowledge and skills from outside of the curriculum to develop young people to operate outside of a predictive system.

We thank Sameer for his time and wish him well with his future innovations. We also thank Investec for sponsoring the event and look forward to working with them again in the near future. For more information on this and similar events in the future, please contact Barry van Selm. – article by Dawn Siso

HISTORY SOCIETY COMMITTEE

The 2018/2019 SACS History Society Committee has been elected. Alexander Lomnitz leads the Committee with Michael van Rensburg as his Deputy. Apart from running the day to day activities of the Society, the boys also direct a group of Grade 8s and 9s who are doing great work in the Archives.

Pictured

Back row left to right: Michael van Rensburg (Deputy Chairman), Tane Wahl, Alexander Lomnitz (Chairman), Christopher Breetzke, Robert Baynham and Demetrios Philippou. Front row left to right: Dominic Riley, Thomas Russell and Badr Dramat. Absent: Jamie Baxter, Luke D'Aguiar and Liam Donnelly.



THIS WEEKEND

This weekend our rugby and hockey players compete against and host Paarl Boys' High School. Our First Rugby Team play on Saturday at 12:30pm on Memorial A Field and our First Hockey Team play on Friday at 7:30pm on the SACS Astroturf. I wish all our teams well for the weekend ahead and look forward to watching from the sidelines.



Yours sincerely

B.J. GRANT (HEADMASTER)