



EASTER TERM 2026

From the
Senior Deputy

The Easter term began on a high note with the Community Mass, which once again united the St John's College community in tradition and reflection and the blessing of the new Heads, Mr Dale Jackson and Ms Noluthando Nkuna.

We celebrated outstanding academic achievement, with Siza Gule, Head of School 2025, and his Second Prefect, Menzi Bongwe, accepted to Harvard University through the Early Action Programme. The Class of 2025 also achieved 558 distinctions, averaging 3.7 per student, with 93% of students attaining at least one distinction.

Academic enrichment continued through the ISASA | MIT | St John's College Mathematics and Science Programme, where students explored Quantum Physics with MIT postgraduate researchers.

Our students also excelled beyond the classroom, with strong performances in public-speaking competitions, with Jayden Li earning an ATCL distinction, and Dylan Price winning Silver at a national piano competition. The inaugural PA MusicFest added a new highlight to the cultural calendar.

On the sports field, the College has enjoyed a strong start to the year, with committed performances across swimming, rugby, basketball, hockey, and rowing, reflecting both depth and growing momentum in our sporting programme.

We were also privileged to host Leanne Manas as guest speaker at the 8th Hugh Lewin Human Rights Memorial Lecture.

These moments reflect a community that continues to thrive academically, culturally, and in character. As we move through the term, we look forward to building on this strong foundation and to celebrating further achievements across all areas of College life.

Kind Regards
Peter Wright, Senior Deputy


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2026 Community Mass

Easter Term commenced with the Community Mass, a special beginning to the year at St John's College. It was a time when the entire community, from Pre-Prep to Sixth Form, together with Old Johannians, Council members, staff, and parents, gathered on Burger Field beneath the magnificent northern façade of the school.

On 22 January, the Bishop-elect of Johannesburg, The Revd Canon Dr Sepadi Moruthane, celebrated the Mass and offered a special blessing for Mr Dale Jackson, 17th Executive Headmaster, and Ms Noluthando Nkuna, Pre-Preparatory Headmistress, as they began their leadership at St John's. It was a wonderful way to start the academic year. [Read more...](#)


[Read more](#)

1st Team Captains: Lesego Legoete (Basketball), Jerry Li (Tennis), Nkosana Sibiya (Cricket), Connor Cooper (Hockey) and Mako Mandizha (Rugby).

Five Captains.
One House.

Hill House has become the first house in the College's history to have every captain of the five 1st team sports come from the same house.

Nkosana Sibiya leads the 1st Team Cricket, Lesego Legoete the 1st Team Basketball, Zhirui Li the 1st Team Tennis, Mako Mandizha the 1st Team Rugby, and Connor Cooper the 1st Team Hockey. All five are in Hill House and Connor is Head of Hill. Hill also won the Le Sueur Cup in 2024 and finished runners-up to Clarke in 2025. [Read more...](#)

From St John's to Harvard

We began the new year with outstanding news as Siza Gule, Head of 2025, and his Second Prefect, Menzi Gule, were accepted to Harvard University through the Early Action Programme. This remarkable achievement reflected not only their academic excellence, but also their leadership, character and commitment to making a meaningful impact within and beyond the College. They set an inspiring example for their peers, and we look forward to following their journeys as they take on this exciting next chapter on the global stage.



News

Class of 2025 Delivers Exceptional Results



Class of 2025 delivered an exceptional set of matric results, with all 149 matric students achieving a tertiary pass in the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) examinations, including 146 who secured Bachelor's Degree passes. We celebrated **558 distinctions** across the cohort, averaging **3.7 distinctions per student**. Ninety-three percent of our young men achieved at least one distinction, with one student earning 11 distinctions and three others achieving 10 each.

"We are proud of the Class of 2025, with 138 students earning at least one distinction. This reflects well on both our students and their teachers. At St John's, we do not take the easy path. Our academic framework is rigorous by design, requiring every student to take either Physical or Life Sciences, and often both, alongside Mathematics, Languages, and the Humanities. This breadth matters because we're not just producing high achievers. We're developing independent thinkers with the intellectual stamina and skills to succeed at university and beyond," said Vanessa Govender, Deputy Head: Academics. [Read more...](#)

2025 Sixth Form Results

Sixth Form was proud to announce the 2025 examination results, which reflect not only strong academic performance across the Cambridge International programme but also the character and resilience of a remarkable cohort of young men and women. In a year shaped by sustained pressure and competing commitments, the Class of 2025 demonstrated what it means to approach scholarship with quiet determination and purpose. Their results speak to disciplined preparation and a genuine commitment to growth rather than simply to outcomes. "This group did not chase marks alone," said Paul Emant, Head of Sixth Form. "They pursued understanding. They were intellectually curious. They learnt how to manage challenges, how to support one another, and how to persist when the work became difficult. These results are the natural consequence of that mindset." [Read more...](#)



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Centenary Scholarship Class of 2025



[Read more](#)

**27 Distinctions.
Nine exceptional young men.
One remarkable journey.**

The Class of 2025 Centenary Scholarship cohort exceeded expectations. Since joining the College in 2021, these nine students embraced every opportunity, excelled individually and collectively, and set a benchmark for those who follow.

Siza Gule (Head of School 2025) exemplifies what the Centenary Scholarship makes possible. Finishing his school career with nine distinctions, averaging 94%, including Further Studies Mathematics Extended, Siza earned Honours in Academics, Drama, and Public Speaking, alongside Colours for Debating and Service. His leadership earned him The Long Walk Award at Speech Day, the College's highest honour for a Head of School. Beyond St John's, Siza served on the Johannesburg Junior Council. He will be attending Harvard University this year. [Read more...](#)



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Academy Class of 2025 Results

The Academy Class of 2025 achieved a 100% pass rate, with 90% of students achieving a Bachelor degree pass. The class achieved 22 distinctions and 44 B symbols. Top performers Jenovic Lumu and Ntando Mnyandu each earned three distinctions. Othiniel Baza achieved an impressive 75% in Further Studies Mathematics (IEB).

"These young men from Barnato Park High School and Highlands North Boys High School demonstrated strong commitment and resilience throughout their time in the programme," says Mickey Mashego, Head of the Academy. "What makes this achievement even more meaningful is seeing our partner schools reach new heights, both exceeding 90% Matric pass rates this year, up from 78% and 84% respectively in 2024. We celebrate this success as a community."

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New Students' Induction Service

All new students from Remove to Sixth Form were formally inducted into the College family at the New Students' Induction Service in the Memorial Chapel, joining 128 years of proud Johannians who have walked these halls before them.

With their families present to share in this significant milestone, the boys placed their hands on their blazer badges and accepted Executive Headmaster, Mr Dale Jackson's charge, pledging to uphold the College's values of *Lux Vita Caritas* and to strive to be the best version of themselves over the next five years.

As they began their journey at the College, these young men carried the eagle on their blazers with pride, ready to be rightly trained in body, mind and character. They were welcomed into the brotherhood as proud Johannians.

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2026 Academy Induction Service

On Tuesday, 28 January, new families were officially welcomed to The Academy Programme at the induction service in the Memorial Chapel.

Grade 6 students from our partner schools, Asteri Primary School and Yeoville Boys' Primary School, joined our Prep Academy, while the Grade 10 cohort from Barnato High School and Highlands North Boys High School joined our College Academy.

The new boys proceeded into the chapel where the School Chaplain, the Revd Fr Thapelo Masemola, led the opening prayer. The congregation sang *Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer* as the opening hymn, followed by a reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (43:1-7). The scripture encouraged the boys to trust in God's guidance and embrace the journey ahead with confidence.

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Tour de Maths



Thor Tipping (UIV Clarke) and Kevin Yang (UIV Alston) were part of the team that achieved a second-place finish in the second leg of the 2026 Tour de Maths earlier this year.

Kevin also contributed to the team's third-place finish in the first leg, hosted at St John's College in February, with almost 400 students from schools around Johannesburg taking part.

Quantum Physics with MIT

One hundred and twenty students from across Southern Africa attended the ISASA | MIT | St John's College Mathematics and Science Programme from 5 to 9 January, exploring quantum physics with MIT postgraduate researchers.

The seminar, which has been hosted at St John's College since 2019, is a collaboration between ISASA

and postgraduate students from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the United States. Its purpose is to expose high-performing high school students to university-level science and raise awareness of current developments in global scientific research.

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Public Speakers Excel



The College Public Speaking teams across various age groups delivered impressive results in their recent competitions. A well-deserved B+ was awarded to the Upper V Impromptu Public Speaking team for their confident performance at Northcliff High School on 12 March. Despite having only 30 minutes to prepare, Apostoli Apostoleris (UV Hodgson), Rayan Moodley (UV Clayton), Ezra Mazhande (UV Hill), and Lesego Legoete (Second Prefect) delivered well-considered speeches that impressed the judges.

The UIV Impromptu Speaking team, Noah Rana (UIV Clayton), Maita Mazhande (UIV Nash), Daniel du Toit (UIV Thomson), and Lwazi Ngwenya (UIV Hodgson), achieved an A+ at the Speech and Drama College of South Africa High Schools

Public Speaking Festival, hosted at St Andrew's School for Girls on 2 March.

A second UIV Public Speaking team, Sergio da Silva (UIV Nash), Leo Bruinders (UIV Clarke), Areez Akoodie (UIV Clayton), and Khotsofalo Makoka (UIV Alston), also earned an A+ at the festival. They were praised for their maturity, empathy and unapologetic stance in tackling relevant issues. Amaan Mohamed (LV Hodgson) was commended for his excellence as MC.

Nevan Naidoo (LV Fleming), Sechaba Masithela (LV Thomson), and Sam Gomes (UV Clayton) each earned an A+ in the initial round of the Trophy Team Competition on 17 February, presented by the Speech and Drama Teachers of South Africa.

Events

Jayden Li Earns ATCL Distinction

Jayden Li (UIV Clarke) achieved a distinction in his ATCL diploma, with an impressive score of 86/100. “He delivered a memorable cello recital marked by excellent fluency, technical assurance and a deeply expressive musical voice,” said Ms Isabella Roux, Head of Strings. “From the very first notes, he captivated listeners with a warm

and refined tone, navigating a diverse repertoire with thoughtful phrasing and musical conviction. His performance particularly shone in the more dramatic moments, where secure passagework and strong emotional expression were evident.”



Human Rights Debating Tournament

Three senior teams and one junior team represented the College at the Parktown High School for Girls Human Rights Debating Tournament from 21 to 22 March, with all four teams progressing to the quarter-finals. One senior team advanced to the semi-finals, while the junior team reached the final, finishing as runners-up to KES.

Several students were ranked among the Top 10 speakers. In the Junior Division, Siva Ramanundh (LIV Clayton) placed 3rd, Joseph Moultrie (LIV Clayton) 4th, and Jaden Feshete (LIV Fleming) 7th. In the Senior Division, Finn Li (UVI Runge) placed 8th.

This performance reflects both depth and competitiveness across age groups.

isiZulu Oral Competition Success

Lwazi Ngwenya (UIV Hodgson), Lulibo Mjajubana (UIV Hodgson) and Nevan Naidoo (LIV Fleming) represented the College at the isiZulu Oral Competition hosted by St David's Marist on 27 March, competing in both poetry and speech categories.

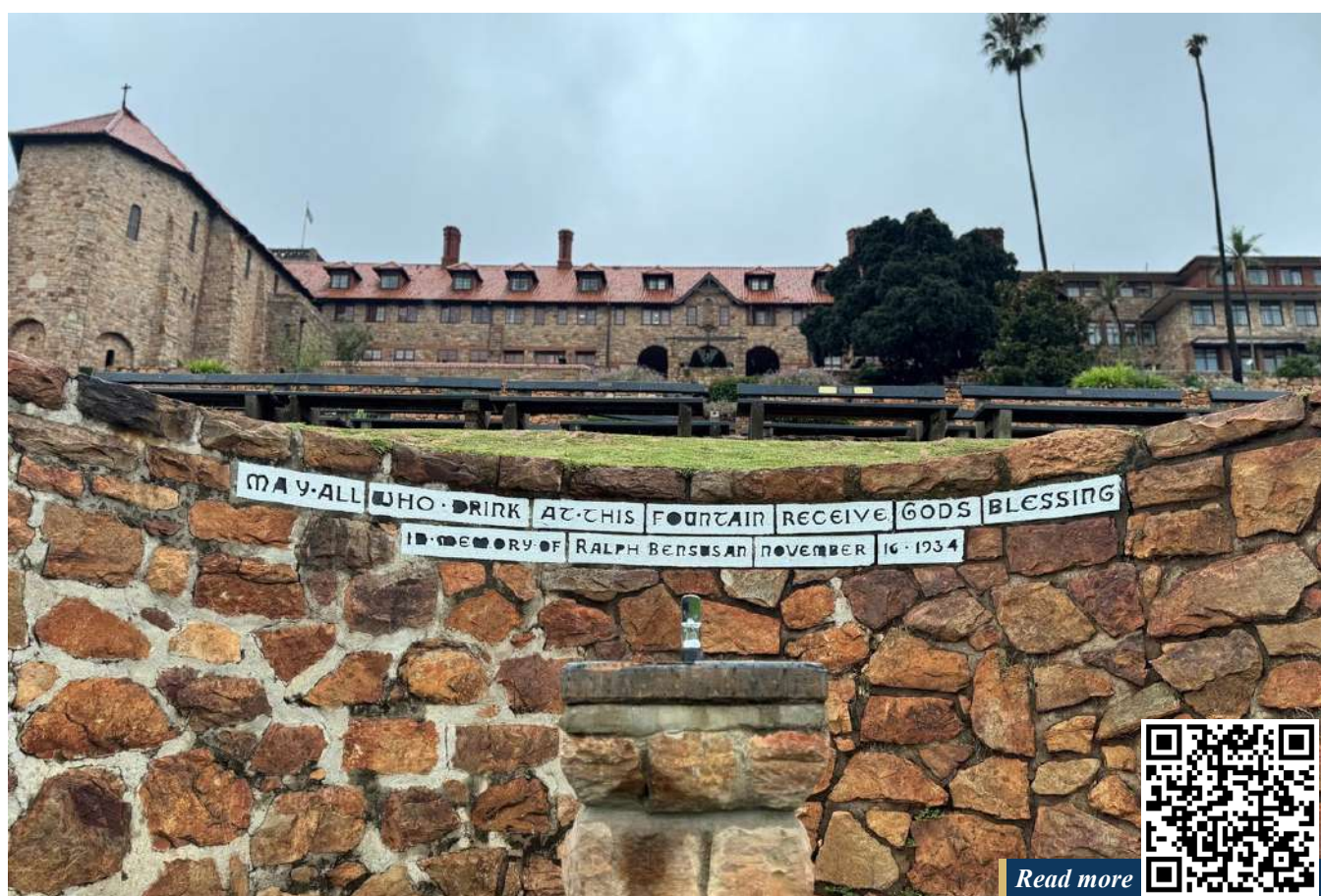
All three students achieved second place in their respective categories, with Lwazi recognised for poetry, and Lulibo and Nevan for speeches.



Still Waters: The Story of the Bensusan Fountain

On the edge of Burger Field, just under the Owen Nkumane Terrace, there is a small cleft carved out of the hillside, and in the middle of this stands an old, stone fountain. Until recently, the fountain was dry and faint markings were etched into the stone wall around it. Sometimes boys would try to drink from the fountain and to decipher the etchings – both to no avail. This forgotten corner of

the school lies, paradoxically, at the centre, or the heart of the school: where our First Team Rugby plays; the site of the annual Easter Rugby Festival; the placement of the whole-school photo which was taken in our 125th year celebrations. Yet, the reason for this cleft in the hillside, this etching and this fountain were lost to history for decades. [Read more...](#)



[Read more](#)

Events



Dylan Price Wins Silver at Henni Joubert National Piano Competition

Dylan Price (LIV Fleming) won Overall 2nd Prize and a Silver Medal at the 16th Hennie Joubert National Piano Competition, held at the Stellenbosch Konservatorium's Endler Hall from 23 to 28 March. Established in 1984, this prestigious biennial competition welcomes pianists up to the age of 18.

Dylan was also awarded the prize for Best Performance of a Baroque

work, further highlighting his musical artistry and versatility.

"We at St John's are immensely proud of him and extend our congratulations on this result, wishing him every success in his future musical endeavours," said Dr Grethe Nöthling, Head of Piano.

The Inaugural PA MusicFest

Burger Field came alive as families and friends of St John's College gathered on 7 March for the inaugural St John's College Parents' Association Family MusicFest, brought to you by Standard Bank Private.

The school community, alongside families from neighbouring schools and the wider public, enjoyed exactly the kind of day the school had hoped for, filled with music and a genuine sense of community, while raising funds for the St John's Centenary Scholarship Programme, a contribution that will have an impact long after the music stops.

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8th Hugh Lewin Memorial Human Rights Lecture

On 21 March, Human Rights Day, we were honoured to welcome Leanne Manas as the guest speaker at the 8th Hugh Lewin Memorial Human Rights Lecture. One of South Africa's most trusted and respected broadcasters, she has

anchored the SABC's flagship morning programme, *Morning Live*, since 2004, becoming a familiar and steady presence in the lives of millions of South Africans through moments of national celebration and national grief alike. Beyond the studio, she serves

as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and was awarded the French National Order of Merit for her contribution to journalism and her humanitarian work across the continent. [Read more...](#)



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Events



Photo: Ross Wiedemann (LV Nash)

Supper and Song

Supper and Song, a traditional College Easter-Term event, was held on the evening of 21 March. Guests were welcomed by three College marimba bands led by Head of Percussion Mr Motshwane Pege, followed by a brass fanfare introducing the choir, led by Mr Cameron Upchurch, Head of Chapel Music, and Mr Sidumo Nyamezele, Head of African Music.

The choir of over 150 singers performed works by Bruckner and Haydn, along with a traditional medley arranged by Mr

Nyamezele. The String Ensemble, conducted by Ms Isabella Roux, Head of Strings, featured violin soloists Eric Han and Misizwe Khumalo, as well as an arrangement of *La Mer*.

The Wind Band, conducted by Dr Allan Thompson and Mr Alexander Urban, delivered a dynamic programme including Ravel's Bolero, with soloists William Boland and Aiden Boesch, followed by performances from the Saxophone and Brass Ensembles. The Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Mr Hendri

Liebenberg, Director of Music, performed *The Moldau* and music from *World of Warcraft*.

The evening concluded with an energetic Big Band performance featuring jazz favourites, ending with an encore to enthusiastic audience acclaim. Supper and Song once again showcased the exceptional talent of College musicians.



Read more

Original Theatre Project

2 nights | 7 shows | New student voices!

We took an entirely new approach to the Major Production this year as we brought a total of seven original works to the stage with OTP - Original Theatre Project.

From the end of 2025 students submitted their proposals and then scripts for OTP and these were reworked over the course of the holidays. Seven plays were selected to take part in the festival: *Lesley* written and directed by Tobi Gbadebo; *Echo Chamber* written and directed by Rorisang Modiselle;

Room 27 written by Lwandle Phakati and directed by Gianluca Zambelis; *Red* an adaptation of the fable *Red Shoes* directed by Thushaan Naidu; *The King of R'lyeh* written by Daniel Lilleike and directed by Daniel Lilleike and Sisanda Johnson; *Praise!* written and directed by Ezra Mazhande, Thiyilelo Mabandla and Lehakoe Matlala; and *May the Best Man Win* written and directed by Rebhone Rantloane and Lila van Reenen.

[Read more...](#)

GROBS

GROBS has been part of the St John's College calendar for nearly seven decades, a variety show of musical items, comedy sketches, and performances that are hard to describe to anyone who wasn't there.

This year's edition took its usual spot on the eve of half term, 18 February, in Big School. The evening was full of song and dance with scintillating choreographed dance pieces, tender musical moments and stand-out performances.

Our French exchange students from Stanislas College in Paris joined on stage, introducing an international flair to the evening. New staff members were initiated into the GROBS tradition,

with their rendition of the Jackson 5s "ABC", including our very own Jackson - Mr Dale Jackson, Executive Headmaster.

The moments that GROBS regulars look forward to each year were not forgotten. The Rugby Ballet and the Prefect Play were hilarious, delivered in fine style and received with rapturous appreciation.

The three MCs, Hamza Ismail (UV Hodgson), Stef Kruger (UV Thomson) and Sam Slettevold (UV Clarke) held the evening together brilliantly with their comic antics, and showered the audience with roses.



Photo: Lelo Mofokeng (LV Clayton)

Events

2025 Remove to Lower V Prize-Giving

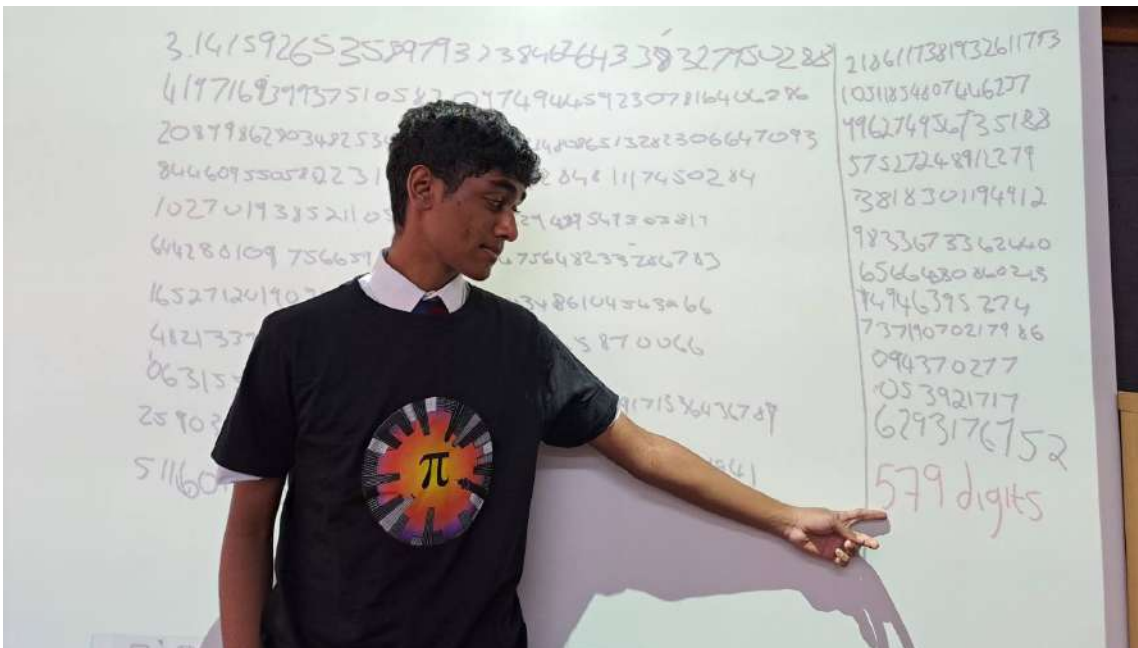
Our College staff and students gathered in the Rene England Auditorium on Friday, 30 January, to recognise the achievements of Remove to Lower IV Students of the Year 2025 at the Academic Prize-Giving ceremony.

Mr Dale Jackson, the 17th Executive Headmaster, congratulated the students in his first Academic Prize-Giving address. He commended the boys for setting a standard not only for themselves, but also for their peers. He reminded them that learning is not a destination, but a journey, and challenged them to continue striving for intellectual honesty and curiosity as they carry these values into the next stage of their academic lives.

“Whether you are an academic prize-winner or not, remember that academic excellence is not about comparison with others. It’s about personal growth; it is about developing habits of thought and character that will serve you well long after you leave the College walls,” said Mr Jackson. [Read more...](#)



[Read more](#)



PI Day

Who knew irrational numbers could look and taste this good? Our College students and staff gathered for another legendary Pi Day on 13 April, celebrating with doughnuts and “all things round”.

The limited-edition Pi Day T-shirts were a massive hit this year. The design featured a circular Johannesburg skyline with a setting sun. And earning one of those shirts wasn’t easy, as students had to prove their memory skills in our annual recitation challenge.

We saw some staggering numbers this year, ranging from Rudolf van der Merwe (UV Clayton) with 259 digits and Christiaan Lochner (Remove Clayton) with a whopping 320. Chirag Naidoo (LV Thomson) took the top honours this year with an incredible 579 digits from memory.

The Removes brought their own creative flair to Pelican Quad, using the circular skyline concept to create artwork where building heights represented the digits of Pi.

A big congratulations goes to Mason Huang (Remove Hill) and Aashish Daya (Remove Thomson) for placing first and second in that creative challenge.

St John’s and the JJC

St John’s College hosted the induction ceremony of the Executive Committee and Councillors of the Johannesburg Junior Council for 2026. This annual event rotates among the Mayor’s schools and recognises outgoing councillors while welcoming the incoming group.

Representatives from St John’s College who served on the council in 2025 were Oliver Bouilliant (Head of Clarke) and Litha Tuku (UVI Runge). Newly elected councillors, including Sechaba Masithela (LV Thomson) and Thushaan Naidu (LV Thomson), were officially inducted during the ceremony held on 11 March.

Sechaba Masithela (LV Thomson) from St John’s College and Maia Rahl from Waterstone College were declared Co-Junior Mayors for 2026. The outgoing Co-Junior Mayors, together with a Council Mentor, invested the new Co-Mayors with robes and chains of office.

Speaking on his appointment, Sechaba said, “It is a privilege to serve during the Johannesburg Junior Council’s 100th year. As a member of the Sports and Recreation Committee, I look forward to connecting with communities through service and sport, and promoting unity and engagement across Johannesburg.”

Thushaan was appointed Chairperson of the Arts and Culture Committee, where he will co-ordinate events that celebrate the arts and the city’s diverse cultures.

“While our roles have only just begun and no events have yet been finalised, our committees are already hard at work, developing ideas and moving steadily towards implementation. We look forward to a year of growth, impact, and meaningful contribution,” said Sechaba.



Photo: Yonga Mabizela (LV Hodgson)

Community Service

Gui-Nam Chen (UV Fleming)

Makwande Makhathini (UV Hill)
Tshegofatso Monobe (LV Alston)

Lelo Mofokeng (LV Clayton)
Thami Kambule (LV Hill)
Yonga Mabizela (LV Hodgson)

Jayden Li (LVI Runge)
Jason Shi (LVI Runge)
Misizwe Khumalo (UV Alston)

Dirk Jacobs (UV Hodgson)
Kian Patel (LV Clarke)
Preston Seethal (LV Hill)
Vuyo Remba (UV Alston)
Zhirui Li (LV Hill)

Vikehslyn Govender (LV Hill)

Abeku Hinson (LV Nash)
Ama Ntsubane (UV Nash)
Atang Masote (LV Nash)
Greg Hood (LV Hodgson)

Jonathan Makaba (UIV Hodgson)
Yash Singh (UIV Hodgson)

Jayden Li (LVI Runge)
Lehakoe Matlala (UV Nash)
Lila van Reenen (UVI Runge)
Lwandle Phakathi (UV Hodgson)
Rebone Rantloane (UVI Runge)
Rorisang Modiselle (LVI Runge)
Tyler Khumalo (UV Clayton)

Gianluca Zambelis (UV Alston)
Sakhile Nhlapo (LV Nash)
Sisa Ncube (LV Clayton)
Thushaan Naidu (LV Thomson)
Thyilelo Mabandla (UV Hill)
Tirivashe Pasipanodya (LV Nash)
Tumiso Motshegoa (LV Hill)

Daniel du Toit (UIV Thomson)
Lwazi Ngwenya (UIV Hodgson)
Noah Rana (UIV Clayton)
Alasdair Wadley (UIV Clarke)
Allan Njanfang Patu (LV Nash)
Ewan Oates (LV Thomson)
Sam Slettevoll (UV Clarke)
Ama Ntsubane (UV Nash)
Lwazi Khupe (UV Hodgson)
Ezra Mazhande (UV Hill)
Sam Gomes (UV Clayton)
Tobi Gbadebo (UVI Runge)
Lileko Chinyanta (UVI Runge)

Femi Nhlapo (LV Hill)
Lungile Kekana (LV Hodgson)
Nevan Naidoo (LV Fleming)
Yonga Mabizela (LV Hodgson)

Frances Newman (UVI Runge)

Beth Curtis (UVI Runge)
Costa Makwaza (LV Hodgson)
Haseeb Malik (LV Clarke)
Nicholas Miller (LV Clayton)
Phumi Ndhlovu (UVI Runge)
Simba Katemauswa (LV Hill)

Apostoli Apostoleris (UV Hodgson)
Lehakoe Matlala (UV Nash)

Nevan Naidoo (LV Fleming)
Rayan Moodley (UV Clayton)
Sahurin Naidu (UV Thomson)
Sakhile Nhlapo (LV Nash)
Thyilelo Mbandla (UV Hill)

Botaki Matsoku (LV Hodgson)
Ginter Shakantu (LV Hodgson)
Hope Ntuli (UV Clayton)
Reza Mudaly (LV Clarke)
Sechaba Masithela (LV Thomson)
Siya Dlomo (LV Clarke)
Zizi Kheswa (LV Fleming)

Amaan Mohamed (LV Hodgson)
Areez Akoodie (UIV Clayton)
Adam Trethewey (LIV Thomson)
Ezra Mazhande (UV Hill)
Khotsofalo Mokoka (UIV Hodgson)
Krish Vaswani (LV Fleming)
Lwazi Ngwenya (UIV Hodgson)
Noah Rana (UIV Clayton)
Sabelo Moyo (LIV Hodgson)
Siva Ramanundh (LIV Clayton)
Thusaan Naidu (LV Thomson)

Khotsofalo Mokoka (UIV Hodgson)

Christopher Roos (UIV Nash)
Nikhilan Vandeyar (UIV Clarke)

Lwazi Khupe (UV Hodgson)

Ama Ntsubane (Custos)
Aniel Nuttall-Mbembe (UV Thomson)
Lesego Legoete (Second Prefect)

Ahlumile Mbundu (UV Fleming)
Daniel Ouma (LV Hodgson)

Hope Ntuli (UV Clayton)
Paul Dumbu (UV Clayton)
Zach Ismail (LV Alston)

Edward Jones (LV Clayton)
Vian Ziegenhagen (UV Clarke)

Jonty Kingwill (LV Fleming)
Kenzo Mapulala (UIV Hill)
Sebastian Daley (UIV Clayton)

Ethan Robinson (UV Thomson)
Nkosana Sibiyi (UV Hill)

Connor van der Walt (UV Hill)
Darshik Lutchman (UV Alston)
David Ireland (UV Thomson)
Herman Basson (LV Hill)
Joshua Hall (LV Nash)
Tapiwa Chikwava (LV Clayton)

Bryn Gilmour (UIV Thomson)
Juan de Villiers (LV Alston)

Michael Stubbs (UV Alston)
Scott Bray (UV Clarke)

Matthew Tresling (LV Thomson)

Jason Joseph (LV Clarke)

Bradley Anderson (LV Fleming)
Bradley Stead (UV Alston)
Finn Backes (LV Thomson)
Gregory Hood (LV Hodgson)
James Redshaw (UV Nash)
Matthew Herman (LV Clayton)
Matthew Keus (LV Clayton)
Menzi Sokhela (UV Thomson)
Matteo Cullinan (UV Nash)
William Miller (LV Clayton)

James Veitch (LV Fleming)
Matteo Di Lembo (LV Clayton)

Simon Mussett (UV Nash)

Christopher Chapman (UV Nash)
 Jake Taylor (LV Clayton)
 Kevin van Vught (LV Alston)
 Nicholas Vogelzang (LV Thomson)

Edward Jones (LV Clayton)
Ethan Bennett (LV Nash)
Fedor Sadovnik (LV Hodgson)
George Cloete-Hopkins (LV Hill)
Matt Thompson (UV Clayton)
Rupert Schonborn (LV Clarke)

Adam Peer (LV Clayton)
Faizaan Ghooor (LV Thomson)

Azeem Peer (UIV Clayton)
Michael Apostoleris (UIV Hodgson)
Zhirui Li (LV Hill)

Fedor Sadovnik (LV Hodgson)
Fu-Nam Chen (UV Fleming)
Oskar Stahljans (UV Nash)

George Cloete-Hopkins (LV Hill)
Muhammad Bodiya (UIV Hill)
Noel Lewis (LV Thomson)

Basketball

Our basketball teams ended the season on a strong note, highlighted by a successful final fixture against Jeppe High School for Boys on 28 March.

In that fixture, St John's recorded wins across most age groups, including the 1st team victory of 37–32, alongside other results such as the 3rd team (18–15), 4th team (23–20), 5th team (33–17), 6th team (18–17), U16A (44–24), U15A (44–16), and U14A (42–22).

Earlier in the season, the 1st team won 14 of 21 matches played and reached the semi-finals of the St John's College Basketball Tournament, where they lost to Northwood before falling to King Edward VII School in the 3rd-place playoff.

At the Jeppe U14 Festival, held over the weekend of 21–22 March, the U14A side impressed with six wins from seven matches, including victories over Jeppe (15–12), St Stithians (19–16), Pretoria (15–10), Jeppe U14B (20–8), and St Peter's (18–7), with only one narrow loss to St David's (11–10).

Across additional fixtures against St Benedict's, St John's and their opponents were closely matched over 24 games played, with St John's winning 12–11 (and one draw). Key results included U16A winning 17–16, U15A 23–22, and U14A 36–14 on the St John's side.

The U16A squad also gained valuable experience at the Pretoria Boys High School 125th Anniversary Festival and progressed to the semi-finals of their tournament before finishing fourth overall. They followed this with a strong 31–15 win over King Edward VII on 17 February.

Overall, the season reflected strong growth, competitive depth across all age groups, and continued momentum for St John's basketball.



Michael Mount and Saheti Crowned Champions

When the final buzzer sounded on Sunday afternoon at St John's College, the noise from a packed crowd said it all. Four days, more than 200 games, more than 760 players from across the country and beyond, and it came down to this. Michael Mount Waldorf School had beaten the defending champions, SAHETI School had claimed the U15 title, and Maritzburg College had written their name into history as the first-ever winners of the newly introduced U19B section.

The U19A final was what everyone

had been waiting for. Northwood School came in as defending champions, and they showed early why, taking the lead and looking composed at the end of the first quarter. But Michael Mount Waldorf had other ideas. They got on a run in the second quarter, took the lead, and didn't let go. Final score: 68–55. Shalako Mda was the heart of it all, finishing as tournament MVP and top scorer with 88 points across the four days. Coach Igor Lunneman was named Coach of the Tournament.

[Read more...](#)



[Read more](#)

Chess

The College chess team enjoyed a strong and competitive season, showing consistency in league fixtures and valuable growth through knockout competitions.

The season began in excellent form with three consecutive victories. The team defeated Parktown Boys A away in the opening league fixture, followed by a win against King Edward School B and another against Jeppe B.

Momentum continued into the knockout stages, where the team secured a quarter-final victory over Queens A before progressing to the semi-final. In a tightly contested semi-final against KES A at a

neutral venue, the team was narrowly defeated. The season concluded with a challenging fixture against Helpmekaar A, where the team was unable to secure a result.

Across the season, the team won four of six matches. While individual match scores were not consistently recorded, the overall results reflect a strong winning record and a competitive performance across both league and knockout formats. The team can be proud of a season built on discipline, focus and resilience, laying a solid foundation for future success.



Cricket

Cricket finished the season strong, with the 1st XI closing on a high note with a two-wicket win over Jeppe after chasing 209 (210/8) on 28 March. Captain Nkosana Sibiya (UV Hill) led from the front with 47 and 2/32, supported by Darshik Lutchman (UV Alston) reaching 36 and Bryn Gilmour (UIV Thomson) 35*.

In the half-season, the 1st XI played 18 matches, winning 11, losing five, with two abandoned due to rain.

The U14A side competed at the Steyn City School Festival, recording one win, two losses, and one no result. Key batting performances included Aiden Wolmarans (Remove Thomson), 123 runs, Tatenda Mari (Remove Hodgson), 116, and Jack Locke (Remove Clayton), 99, across matches. Notable highlights included a narrow

one-run loss to Michaelhouse and a five-wicket defeat to St David's.

At the Independent Schools Cricket Festivals, the 1st XI won two of four matches, including a standout seven-wicket victory over Kearsney (213/3 chasing 210), where Sibiya scored 106*. The U15A side also won two of three completed matches, highlighted by a dominant 292-run total against Kingswood, with Tatenda Mari scoring 100 and Aiden Wolmarans 71.

Overall, the season featured strong individual milestones, including centuries from Sibiya and emerging talent Wolmarans, alongside consistent bowling performances from Ethan Robinson (UV Thomson) and Suhail Mohideen (LIV Alston).

Sports

Golf

Ethan Needham (Remove Clarke) won the individual contest at the Dainfern College National Schools Golf Championship on 8 March, becoming the youngest golfer ever to do so, winning by five shots.

St John's finished second in the team competition, just five shots off the lead. Despite windy weather and tough course conditions, the boys played exceptionally well and can be proud of their performance.



Hockey

Hockey had a demanding run of fixtures between 11 March and 5 April, producing a mixed set of results across league and festival play.

The team opened with a 4–0 win away to Cornwall Hill College on 11 March, followed by a 1–1 draw against St Alban's College on 14 March. They then suffered a 0–4 defeat to King Edward VII School on 21 March.

At the Nomads Festival from 28 to 30 March, St John's recorded a 2–1 win over Maritzburg College and a 1–1 draw with Wynberg Boys' High School,

but lost to Hilton College (3–6), Kearsney College (0–1), and Grey High School (0–3).

At the King Edward VII School Easter Festival on 2 to 5 April, they drew 0–0 with St Charles College, narrowly lost 2–3 to Westville Boys' High School, and finished the campaign with a strong 3–1 win over St Andrew's College on 5 April.

Overall, the team showed resilience in a challenging fixture schedule with key wins against Cornwall Hill, Maritzburg College, and St Andrew's.



Rowing

Rowing ended the season on a high at the South African Schools Championships held on 8 March at Roodeplaat, finishing 3rd overall in the boys' point standings behind St Benedict's and King Edward VII.

There were several standout performances across age groups, with silver medals for the U16 Coxless Four, the 1st Coxless Four, and the 1st Eight.

The U16 Coxless Four of Alasdair Wadley, Aidan Jacobs, Levi Want, and Jonathan House finished 2nd. The U16 Eight (Nikhilan Vandeyar (cox), Samuthi Kikaya, Henry Wang, Alasdair Wadley, Aidan Jacobs, Jack Patricios, Zhicheng Liu, Levi Want and Jonathan House) placed 3rd.

In the U15 events, Duncan Webb secured a notable result in the sculls, finishing 4th, with a bronze. The U15 Octuple (Saahil Shah-Naidoo (cox), Duncan Webb, Xavier Cullinan, Mikaeel Thokan, Sebastian Stravino, Thapelo McNamee, Thomas Vaughan and Ryan van Kerckhoven) finished 3rd,

while the U15 Quad (Kahn Potgieter (cox), Duncan Webb, Thapelo McNamee, Thomas Vaughan and Ryan van Kerckhoven) also took 3rd.

In the Opens, the 1st Coxless Four of James Redshaw, Matthew Keus, Bradley Stead, and Matthew Herman finished 2nd. The 1st Coxed Four (Menzi Sokhela (cox), Finn Backes, Gregory Hood, William Miller, Matteo Cullinan) placed 3rd. The 1st Eight (Bradley Anderson (cox), Finn Backes, James Redshaw, Gregory Hood, Matteo Cullinan, William Miller, Matthew Keus, Bradley Stead, Matthew Herman) secured 2nd place, while the 2nd Eight (Menzi Sokhela (cox), Cade Cloete, Vuyisie Remba, Areez Akoodie, Matthew Burger, Sandile Gwamanda, Michael Tindall, Matteo Di Lembo, James Veitch) finished 3rd.

Overall, it was a strong national performance, with St John's showing depth, consistency, and multiple podium finishes across all age groups.



Sports

Rugby

The 1st XV and 2nd XV rugby teams enjoyed a competitive run of fixtures between 11 March and 4 April, showing resilience across a demanding schedule.

The 1st XI recorded four wins from six matches. They opened with victories over King David High School Linksfeld (29–7) and St Alban's College (20–14), before a 12–36 loss to King Edward VII School.

The team bounced back with a 19–14 win over Parktown Boys' High School.

The 2nd XI won two of their four matches. They began with an emphatic 45–5 victory over King David High School Linksfeld, followed by a narrow 10–7 win against St Alban's College.

Despite a challenging 3–34 loss to King Edward VII School (U18C) and a 10–17 defeat to Parktown Boys' High School, the team showed strong early form and competitiveness throughout.

Overall, both teams demonstrated determination and growth, with positive results and valuable experience gained across all fixtures.



Swimming

Swimming A and B Teams competed in a series of league fixtures between 28 January and 25 February. The A Team opened their season at home on 28 January in a meet won by St David's (501 points), with St John's finishing second on 409, ahead of St Stithians (369) and Parktown (275). On 4 February, at King Edward VII School, the team placed 5th overall with 192 points in a tightly contested gala led by St David's (314). Further fixtures on 18 and 25 February saw strong national competition, with St John's finishing 7th on both occasions, scoring 186 points at the St Benedict's IED meet and 130 points at the St Benedict's Invitational, where Pretoria Boys and St David's took top honours.

The B Team also showed encouraging depth across their fixtures. After a cancellation on 28 January due to lightning, they placed 3rd on 4 February with 118 points behind St David's and KES. On 11 February at home, the team finished 4th with 234 points in a strong field led by St David's (435) and St Benedict's (416).



Hill House Claims Victory at 119th Inter-House Swimming Gala

The 119th annual Inter-House swimming gala was held before school at the Indoor Aquatics Centre. Despite the early hour, the boys were energised and noisy in their Houses, and there were some excellent performances in the pool. Hill was the overall winner, 32 points ahead of Clayton. There was just one point separating third-placed Thomson and fourth-placed Clarke. The House Spirit Award went to Hodgson.

Final standings: Hill 382, Clayton 350, Thomson 348, Clarke 347, Hodgson 286, Fleming 277, Nash 267, Alston 248 and Runge 68.

Individual awards: Junior Individual U14

Medal – Alex Weber (Remove, Hill), Best U15 Swimmer – Ryan Mackay (LIV, Thomson), Junior Individual U16 Medal – Leqian Li (UIV, Clarke), Best U17 Swimmer – Nicholas Vogelzang (LV, Thomson) and Open Individual Medal – Simon Mussett (Head of School).

Four school records were also broken on the day. Leqian Li (Clarke) set new times in the U16 100m Breaststroke (1:08.40) and 50m Breaststroke (33.0 seconds); Clarke House's U16 4 x 50m Medley Relay team broke the old record in a time of 2:12.03, and Nicholas Vogelzang set a new U17 50m Breaststroke record (31.90 seconds).



Sports

Squash

The First squash team played in a tournament at St Andrew's, where they won four and lost one game.

First Team member, Ponatshego Molefe (LIV Clayton), delivered an outstanding performance at the SA Open North Section held in Pretoria from 27 to 29 March, claiming the title in his division. He now progresses to compete against the top players from the South Section, recently held in Cape Town. The top four players from each section will contest the U15 National Championship title in June. We wish Ponatshego every success as he continues his impressive run.



Water Polo

Our water polo teams ended their season with the 1sts playing at the King Edward VII School Tournament, the U15s at Parktown Boys' High's Indigo tournament, and the U14s at the Ken Short Festival at Jeppe High School for Boys.

Results-wise, the U14s did best of the three. They won six, drew two, and lost one of the nine games they played at the Ken Short Festival. They lost to Bishop's by a single goal in their opening encounter – a game they could easily have won – and drew with SACS and St David's. Those sides all went unbeaten and were regarded as the best teams on view. Our U14s were right up there with them.

The U15s won two and lost three games at the Indigo tournament and finished in 15th place.

The first team went down 5-6 to Hilton in their opening game at the KES tournament, and when they lost by the same margin to Rondebosch later on, they were relegated to the Plate section (positions 9 to 16). They won all their games there and won the Plate.

It was nonetheless a successful season for our 1sts. They won 14 and lost seven of their 21 matches and made it into the final of the Pretoria Boys High tournament. They were also the winners of the first KES Night Series competition.



Staff News

SA Rowing

Rowing South Africa appointed Mr Liam Fortuin as Head Coach of the National U16 Development Squad.

The U16 Development Squad plays a foundational role within the national pathway, supporting long-term athlete development, strengthening provincial alignment, and preparing young athletes for progression into the U19 programme and broader national structures. Mr Fortuin will make a significant contribution to the future of the sport.



Farewell

We bade farewell to Mr Nicholas von Buddenbrock, Physical Sciences teacher, at the end of Easter Term. He had been with us since 2024.

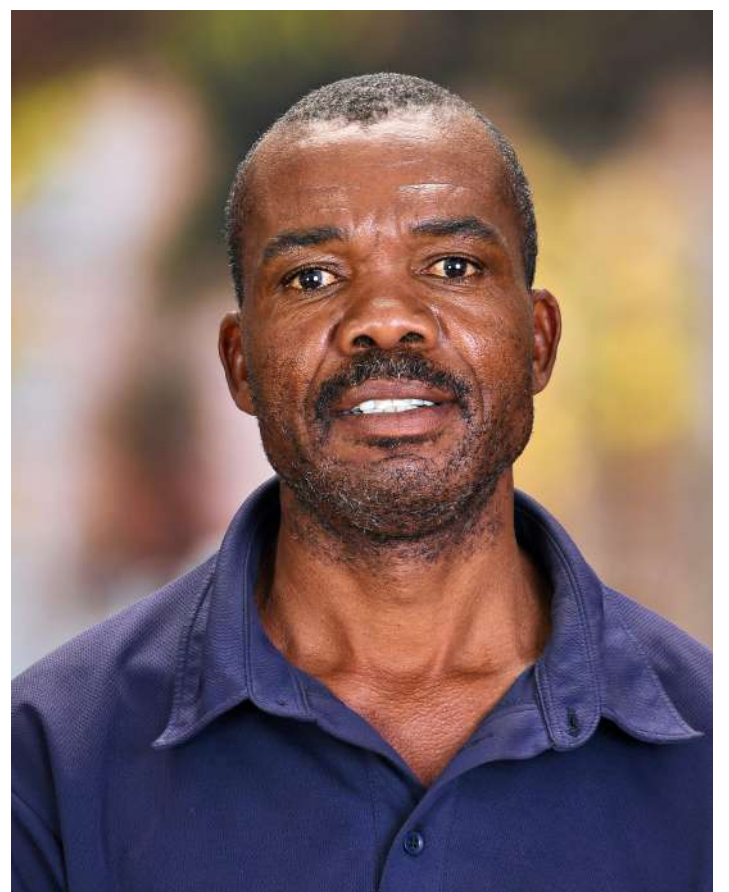


In Memoriam: Michael Ntjana

The College mourned the passing of Mr Michael Ntjana, a valued member of the Servest grounds staff team since 2018. He passed away on 11 March.

Mr Ntjana is remembered as a dedicated and kind colleague, known for his calm nature, warm spirit and ever-present smile. He was a committed team player who contributed meaningfully to the life of the College, even while facing personal health challenges.

The flag on the Bell Tower was flown at half-mast in his honour.



An Evening with Dale Jackson

Old Johannians recently gathered at the start of Easter Term for *An Evening with Dale Jackson* to welcome him as our 17th Executive Headmaster. It was a great opportunity for the community to get to know Mr Jackson and hear his thoughts on where St John’s is headed. Beyond the formal introductions, the night was really about reconnecting, giving OJs a chance to catch up with each other and the College leadership.

The heart of the evening was a Q&A session with Mr Jackson, hosted by Mr Brett Tucker (Clayton 1997). He covered everything from academics and sport to faith and community, with Mr Jackson offering clear and insightful perspectives on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for St John’s. [Read more...](#)



Connor Esterhuizen makes Proteas debut

Connor Esterhuizen (Clayton 2019) has become the ninth Old Johannian to represent South Africa in cricket, making a massive impact in the T20 International series recently concluded in New Zealand. The opening match at Bay Oval featured a rare meeting of two Old Johannians on the international stage, with Devon Conway (Nash 2009) in the line-up for the Black Caps. While the series began as a milestone for his debut, it ended as a breakout tour for Connor. He was named both Man of the Match in the series decider and Man of the Series, having anchored the Proteas’ middle order throughout the tour. His clinical 75 off 33 balls in the final match at Hagley Oval was instrumental in securing South Africa’s 3-2 series victory.

One of five new caps in a youthful Proteas side, Connor’s selection followed exceptional form for the DP World Lions and in the Betway SA20. His path to the national side can be traced back to Mitchell Field, where he first played in a primary school festival before enrolling at the College. Once a student, he thrived from the outset, earning selection for the Central Gauteng Lions U15A and U17A provincial teams. Connor remains grateful to the mentors who guided him during his time at St John’s. “Justin Sammons put so much time into my game and me as a person,” he says. “He was the one who spotted me, and actually the reason I went to St John’s.” [Read more...](#)



In Memoriam

Ross Chembe Tomlinson

2 February 2006 – 16 February 2026



[Read more](#)

Ross Tomlinson (Runge 2025) passed away in Cape Town on 16 February. Ross joined St John's Sixth Form in January 2024 after completing his IGCSE Levels at Chengelo Secondary School in Zambia, bringing with him a warmth and quiet confidence that quickly made him known to all of us. He carried himself with an ease that reflected both independence and humility. He was a young man comfortable in who he was, yet always open to others.

There was, in Ross, a genuine passion for life. He embraced his time at school not simply

as a series of obligations, but as opportunities to grow and live life to its fullest. He loved the outdoors and was most at home in movement: on the sports field, in open spaces, in the shared exhilaration of competition and camaraderie. Sport was not only something he played or watched; it was something he felt deeply. In boarding, there would often be shouts of despair or joy echoing down the corridors during football matches, moments of shared tension and celebration that drew others in. [Read more...](#)

Ian von Memerty

4 July 1964 – 23 February 2026



[Read more](#)

It is with great sadness that St John's College paid tribute to Ian von Memerty, one of the most gifted and memorable personalities to have come through our doors. Born in Zimbabwe, Ian previously attended Prince Edward School in Harare, where his talents were already evident. He had accompanied school hymns on the piano at morning assembly and taken the lead role in the school's annual Gilbert & Sullivan production, performing in *Patience*. He joined St John's Sixth Form in 1981 and, in just two years, made an impression his

classmates have never forgotten. His house, Clarke, swept the acting prizes during his time in the Sixth Form. In 1982, he was awarded the School Prize for Choir, as well as the award for Best Team Work in the Interhouse Plays, for Clarke's production of *Here We Are*, which placed second in the competition. He was also among the first recipients of the newly established Cultural Tie, awarded for his contributions to Drama and Music. [Read more...](#)