



MICHAELMAS TERM 2025

From the
Senior Deputy

This Michaelmas Term has been one of reflection, achievement, and community spirit. In this edition of *College Life*, we cover the many events and milestones that took place across the term.

We bid farewell to Mr Stuart West in a memorable exit. Most memorable was the sight of Mr West riding out, sprinkled by his 'pixie dust,' along a path lined by teachers and students. Farewell, sir – we thank you for your immense contribution to St John's. May God go with you. We also celebrated the Class of 2025 as they prepared to leave the College. At the same time, we welcomed new leadership with the introduction of Mr Dale Jackson and announced the School Leadership team for 2026.

Our community continued to excel across academics, culture, and sport. Highlights include Xiaoyuan Li's victory at Tour de Maths, the Debating team and Water Polo squad ringing the Victory Bell to celebrate their achievements, and the remarkable success of Old Johannian Sazi Bongwe, awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. Notably, our St John's College community raised over R8 million in just 36 hours during Giving Day, a testament to the generosity and commitment of our families, staff, and friends.

This term also reinforced our shared responsibility to stand together on important social issues, including gender-based violence, ensuring that our boys grow as compassionate and principled members of society.

I hope this edition of *College Life* offers a meaningful reflection on a term filled with achievement, celebration, and community.

Peter Wright, Deputy Head



Full story on page 3

College Dash

Farewell
Mr Stuart West

The St John's College community gathered in the Memorial Chapel on Friday, 21 November, for a thanksgiving service to celebrate Stuart West's six years as the school's 16th Executive Headmaster. After the service, guests filled Darragh Hall. Peter Wright, Senior Deputy, welcomed them with words from Van Morrison's song: "When you don't need to worry, there'll be days like this."

Family and friends joined the celebration, along with members of Council, fellow heads, and Old Johannians of every vintage. But the warmest welcome was reserved for Stuart and his wife Joyanne, whose partnership has been inseparable from Stuart's leadership.

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Farewell Class of 2025

On Tuesday, 25 November 2025, St John's College watched the Class of 2025 take their final walk outside their exam venue, the Rene England Auditorium. They made their way to The Johannian Club, where they

were welcomed by their parents. It was a moment filled with pride, relief, and excitement for what lies ahead. We've watched you grow from boys in Remove to the young men you are today. You've formed

friendships that will last a lifetime and created memories that will stay with you forever. As you step out into the world, each heading in your own direction, remember that this isn't goodbye — it's see you later. Your blood will always be blue!

One of the highlights of the matrices' last week of school before final exams was their final hymn practice in the Memorial Chapel, dressed in their suits and singing together for the last time as members of St John's College.

[Watch the video here](#)



Farewell to Jane Lane

We bid farewell to Jane Lane, who retires as Headmistress of St John's Pre-Preparatory after 29 years at St John's. Her legacy lives on in the countless boys who carry forward the values of light, life, and love that she so embodied. On Friday, 31 October, family, friends and colleagues gathered in the Pre-Prep Hall to celebrate her remarkable contribution to the school. [Read more...](#)



Mrs Jane Lane and her son Matthew Lane (Hill 2013)

News

Introducing Dale Jackson

This was the first in our series introducing the leadership that would shape St John's College as we move into 2026 and beyond. We began with Dale Jackson, who will join us as the 17th Executive Headmaster next year. He chose St John's not once, but twice, trusting us with his son before we trusted him with our school. From a Chartered Accountant to sports management with the Springboks, to answering a calling that brought him to education and 17 years of transforming young lives. A leader who genuinely believes he can change the world. Discover more about the idealist, the father of four, and the leader who sees St John's as "a school with a soul". [Read more..](#)



[Read more](#)

School Leadership

"These young leaders embody the values of Lux, Vita, Caritas, and we congratulate them on their appointment," said Stuart West, Executive Headmaster. "We wish them a fulfilling year of service as they uphold the spirit of St John's College in all that they do."



The School Prefects who will lead St John's College in the year ahead are: Simon Mussett (Head of School), Lesego Legoete (Second Prefect), Ama Ntsubane (Custos), Lwandile Khupe (Student Affairs), Christopher Chapman (Head of Nash), Connor Cooper (Head of Hill), Matthew Thompson (Head of Clayton), Andrew Turck (Head of Thomson), Gianluca Zambelis (Head of Alston), Oliver Bouilliart (Head of Clarke), Luke Shipway (Head of Hodgson) and Alec Psillos (Head of Flemnig).

JJC Leadership

Sechaba Masithela (UIV Thomson) and Thushaan Naidu (UIV Thomson) have been appointed as councillors for the Johannesburg Junior Council in 2026. The Johannesburg Junior Council, established in 1928, brings together Grade 11 leaders from 40 schools across Johannesburg to serve their community. St John's has a proud history with the JJC, and Sechaba and Thushaan join the many young Johannians before them who distinguished themselves in this organisation. This tradition of service reflects St John's broader ethos of developing young men who lead with purpose and compassion, and make a positive difference in their world.



Xiaoyuan Li Winner at Tour de Maths

The St John's Tour de Maths team finished strongly at the 2025 tournament, with Xiaoyuan Li (UIV Alston) and Zhiru Li (UIV Hill) placing first overall, while Kevin Yang (LIV Clarke) and Saahil Vassan (LIV Nash) secured third place. Xiaoyuan was also named the overall individual winner of the 2025 competition. Across the seven rounds of the tournament, he achieved the best performance of all competing students, becoming the first St John's student to win this award.





Photo: Benjamin Anderson (Remove Nash)

Over R8 Million Raised in 36 Hours

The St John's College Giving Day, held on 29 and 30 October, was an extraordinary success with the original target being to raise R6 million in just 36 hours.

Our incredible community exceeded all expectations, raising over R4 million in direct donations, which was matched by over R4 million from our Matching Donors, bringing the total to over R8 million by the end of the last night.

More than 80 College boys volunteered their time to staff the phones at our Giving Day Headquarters, reaching out to Johannians across the decades and around the globe. Many stepped outside their comfort

zones yet conducted themselves as exemplary ambassadors for St John's, making wonderful impressions on everyone they called.

This year, we introduced a new element of friendly competition between the College Houses. Nash claimed victory with an impressive R1 227 000 raised, followed closely by Alston at R1 160 000, and Hill secured third place with R777 000. Meanwhile, parents and Old Johannians formed Giving Day Teams, adding an extra layer of excitement to the campaign. The St John's Cricket Legacy Team emerged as the clear champions over the two days.

"Our gratitude goes to our volunteers, our Matching Donors, the Advancement Office, the Marketing Office, the IT Department, and The Johannian Club, who all helped make this possible.

Most importantly, we would like to thank our greater community for your incredible generosity. These funds will be allocated towards offering more Bursaries and Scholarships to deserving boys, as well as supporting the sustainability of our St John's College Academy Programme and developing our world-class facilities," said Shelley Roberts, Head of Advancement Office.



Debating Excellence



Photo: Yonga Mabizela (UIV Hodgson)

Our senior debating team brought home the prestigious Gauteng Schools' Debating Championship title after a closely contested final against King Edward VII School. The team, consisting of Tawana Chinoruma (UVI Runge), Boris Daley (UVI Runge), Asher Mugerwa (UVI Runge), Rebone Rantloane (LVI Runge), and reserve Sakhile Nhlapo (UIV Nash), demonstrated exceptional skill and composure under pressure. This victory is particularly significant as it marks

our first Championship win in five years. The victory bell was rung during Amphi on 3 October to mark the achievement.

Following their outstanding performances, Joseph Moultrie (Remove Clayton) and Shivalin Ramanundh (Remove Clayton) were selected to represent Gauteng at the South African National Debating Championships in December, reflecting their dedication and talent.

The College Dash

Sixth Former Boris Daley (UVI Runge) won this year's College Dash, racing around the Deane Yates and Alan Wilcock Vulindela buildings and through the quads to claim first place in one of the College's most anticipated annual events.

The College Dash is based on The Great Court Run at the University of Cambridge, which featured in the Academy Award-winning film Chariots of Fire. In that famous challenge, students race around the Great Court in the time it takes the clock to strike 12.

A version of the Dash existed at St John's years

ago, though in a very different format. Mr Martin Huysamer, Deputy Head of Student Affairs, reintroduced the tradition in the early 2000s, inspired by the Cambridge race and the College's similar quad system. Initially, boys raced through the three main quadrangles of the College building, starting and ending in the iconic David Quad. Despite padding the walls and pillars with mattresses from the boarding houses, the slate surfaces proved dangerously slippery. After some spectacular tumbles, the course moved to its current route.

The race demands

nerves of steel. Each House chooses a representative who, armed with a bike or cricket helmet and whatever padding they can find, tears around the course at full speed, in an act that is a mix of daring and athleticism.

This year saw the 2025 Heads of Houses racing for their respective Houses. Runge chose Boris Daley to represent them, a smart move, as Boris stormed to victory. The trophy was presented by Mr Dion Libera, Senior Housemaster, himself a College Dash winner for Thomson in 1985.



Atterbury Nationals

Jason Shi (UIV Alston), Dylan Price (LV Fleming), Jerry Zheng (LV Hodgson), and Matthew Johnston (LV Thomson) represented St John's College at the Atterbury National Piano Competition from 23 to 26 October.

St John's was the only school in South Africa represented by four pianists, selected from 36 competitors nationwide. Jerry and Jason competed in the U15 category, while Dylan and Matthew participated in the U19 category. Despite being only 14, Dylan competed in the older group as the 2024

U15 winner.

Each competitor performed five works from the 17th to 20th centuries, with the competition livestreamed on Facebook. Jason and Dylan both advanced to the final round of the competition — an exceptional accomplishment, as only three competitors per category achieved this honour.

Jason distinguished himself further by being awarded the Overall Second Prize of the entire competition, as well as the First Prize in the 15-and-under category and the coveted title of Best Baroque Performance.



HSEL CS2 League Win

The College Esports Team has claimed the top spot in the Telkom VS Gaming High School Esports League (HSEL CS2 League) at Comic Con Africa 2025. Captained by William Xiang (UIV Hodgson), the team included Hayden van Dijk (UIV Thomson), Jody Zhou (UIV Hodgson), Ginter Shakantu (UIV Hodgson), and Alexander Burmeister (UIV Fleming).

Since February, the team has competed with focus and commitment, honing their skills in Counter-Strike 2. They beat Waterkloof 2-0 in the quarter-finals to reach the finals, then faced Parklands A

Team in an intense match. With scores of 13-11 and 13-6, they secured both the league and tournament titles.

Their win earned the Esports Club R45 000 in prize money, firmly establishing itself as a force on the high school gaming circuit.

"I am so proud of the team for the discipline they have shown and the effort they have put in to training over the past year," said Mr Matthew Gill, HOD IT. "This victory reflects countless hours spent practising skills, refining their strategies and learning to make quick decisions under pressure."



Victoria K Bennett Music Competition

St John's College students achieved outstanding results at this year's Victoria K. Bennett Music Competition, held at Jeppe High School for Girls on 30 August.

Lebeko Mosunkutu (UV Fleming) and Dylan Price (Remove Fleming) each claimed victory in their respective age categories, while Jayden Li (LIV Clarke) earned a runner-up position in his category.

The demanding competition comprised three rigorous rounds, beginning with 12 participants in Round 1 and narrowing to just two finalists in each age group. Established in 2005, the Victoria K. Bennett Competition has become one of South Africa's most prestigious music competitions, making these achievements all the more noteworthy.



Standing Together Against Gender-Based Violence

The staff of St John's College gathered in solidarity to support the declaration of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide as a National Disaster. In the Memorial Chapel, colleagues stood united in reflection, while down in the valley, the Bridge and Pre-Prep staff formed a circle under the trees, joining the nation in a 15-minute silence.

Trees wrapped in purple and a poster campaign encouraged our community to sign the Women For Change petition.

St John's College is committed to the important

role we play in shaping the next generation of men who stand against gender-based violence.

"Every day in South Africa, at least 15 women are murdered, and 117 women report rape to the police. We must confront a painful truth: most cases of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) are committed not by strangers, but by someone the victim knows — a partner, ex-partner, family member, or close friend. Countless women remain trapped in their own homes, silently enduring abuse behind closed doors. [Read more...](#)



[Read more & watch the video here](#)



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Events

Nine Lessons and Carols

St John's College made its annual pilgrimage to the Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin, historic birthplace of the College, on Sunday 10 November for Nine Lessons and Carols. This beloved tradition marks a significant moment in the College's musical calendar, combining scripture, poetry, reflections, and carols to unfold the profound story of humanity's separation from God and His plan for redemption through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Set against the inspiring backdrop of the Cathedral, with its deep ties to the College's foundation and South Africa's history, the service featured a spectacular musical programme. The Chapel Choir of St John's College, the Brass Ensemble, the String Ensemble, and percussionists delivered an extraordinary performance. Highlights included *Adam Lay Ybounden* by Warlock, *The Crown of Roses* by Tchaikovsky, *O Thou, the Central Orb* by Wood, *Ave Maria* by Arcadelt, *Sir Christémas* by Mathias, *O Magnum Mysterium* by Pinkham,

excerpts from *Vivaldi's Gloria in D*, *Los Reyes* from Ramirez's *Navidad Nuestra*, and *Come, Colours Rise* by McLachlan.

The Chapel Choir was conducted by Mr Cameron Upchurch, Head of Chapel Music, and by Mr Sidumo Nyamezele, Head of African Music. Mr Upchurch also provided organ accompaniment on the cathedral's world-class instrument. The communal singing was inspiring, and the size of the congregation, the largest to date, and which included The Right Revd Dr Steve Moreo, Bishop of Johannesburg and Visitor to St John's College, is testimony to the value that the community places on this event. This was a magnificent showcase of our St John's College Music Department and a wonderful anticipation of the Christmas season.

The evening ended with traditional Christmas fare of sherry, Christmas cake and shortbread, in Darragh Hall.



[Watch the video here](#)

Upper V Speech Day and Valedictory Mass 2025



[Read more](#)

The College hosted its annual Speech Day on Thursday, 9 October 2025 in the Rene England Auditorium. A special occasion marking the end of the academic year and the start of a new chapter for the Class of 2025.

The ceremony began with the Academic procession. The College Brass Ensemble performed *Gaudeamus Igitur*. Mr Peter Wright, Senior Deputy, welcomed parents, staff and the Upper V boys to the proceedings.

Ms Tina Playne, Chair of Council, began her address by speaking about the current times, which include both challenges and possibilities. She mentioned that in South Africa more than 70% of children cannot read for meaning by Grade 4, even though the country spends more than the global average on education. She reminded the St John's community that their position carries privilege and that this privilege comes with responsibility. She encouraged the boys to use their opportunities to make a positive difference in a

country where many do not have the same access.

Mr Stuart West, Executive Head, reflected on his six years at the College through the lens of a simple but profound idea: the walk is the gift.

He shared a story from the Belgian Congo about a missionary teaching the Christmas narrative, who emphasised that the wise men's true offering wasn't the gold, frankincense, and myrrh they carried — it was the journey itself. The miles walked, the perseverance shown, the faith that kept them going.

For the Class of 2025, Mr West offered a challenge rooted in Jesuit tradition: *Vince te ipsum* — conquer yourself. Not conquering others, but mastering yourself. "The greatest battle you will face is not against others, but within yourself — against fear, doubt, arrogance, impatience, and selfishness."

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Later, the Class of 2025 attended their Valedictory Mass. The boys sang their last hymns in the Memorial Chapel under the direction of Mr Sidumo Nyamezele with Mr Cameron Upchurch on the organ, before walking out to Pelican Quad for their final war cry. [Read more...](#)



[Read more](#)



[Read more](#)

Sixth Form Prize Giving and Valedictory Service

The Sixth Form Prize Giving and Valedictory Service took place on 23 September 2025, welcoming parents and staff to celebrate the achievements of our Lower and Upper Sixth students. The occasion reflected the dedication and camaraderie that define the Sixth Form community.

We were honoured to welcome Ms Tina Playne (Sixth Form | Clarke 1986), Chair of the Council of St John's College, who addressed the students with words of wisdom as they prepare to take their next steps beyond the College. Her message captured the

essence of the St John's journey, one of integrity and purpose.

This year's service provided a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to Mr Stuart West, Executive Headmaster, Mr Lester Lalla, Preparatory Headmaster, Mrs Jane Lane, Pre-Preparatory Headmistress, Mr Jeremy Naidoo, Chemistry teacher, and Mrs Janet Baylis, Drama teacher, who will be leaving at the end of the year. Each of these remarkable teachers has made a lasting contribution to the life of the Sixth Form, leaving a legacy of mentorship and care. [Read more...](#)

Events

Academy Prize Giving

The St John's College Academy, an after-school enrichment programme that has been transforming lives since 2008, celebrated another year of achievement at its annual Prize Giving and Valedictory Mass.

The Academy programme has become a beacon of educational opportunity on the

St John's campus. As students and families gathered to mark this milestone, the emphasis remained firmly on the Academy's core values and its mission to develop not just academic excellence but also character, leadership, and service.

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Joining the OJA



Photo: Rebhone Rantloane (LVI Runge)

Our Upper V and Upper VI students stepped into their future as they were officially welcomed into the Old Johannian Association at a lunch held at The Johannian Club on Thursday, 18 September 2025. This wasn't just another school event. It marked their transition from students into members of a global network that spans generations.

Executive Headmaster and President of the Old Johannian Association, Mr Stuart West, and Old Johannian Clayton Redford (Hodgson, 2008) addressed the gathering.

Clayton drew from his own journey from St John's to his career in finance. He spoke about the Old Johannian Association as a living community that continues long after school. He emphasised the connections that

link OJs across generations, the opportunities that come from being part of a wider network, and the support of a community that endures.

For well over a century, the Old Johannian Association has been building something significant within the St John's community. It's a network that creates real opportunities: social connections, professional bridges, and a system where OJs support and promote one another around the world.

For these newest members, the journey as Old Johannians has officially begun. They're now part of a worldwide community bound by shared experience and connections that will only strengthen over time.



Photo: Jaden Paxton (UV Fleming)

Bridge and Pre-Prep Survivors

The Class of 2025 took a trip down memory lane, returning to where their journeys began. On Wednesday, 1 October 2025, the first stop was at the St John's Bridge Nursery School, where they sat at their old desks, played in their first playground and added new handprints to the ones they made as young

children. Later, they walked across to the Pre-Prep for the Pre-Prep Survivors cocktail party, a long-standing tradition celebrating boys who started at St John's in the Pre-Prep. This year was especially meaningful for Mrs Jane Lane, as the group began their Pre-Prep year when she started as Headmistress.

Matric and Sixth Form Dances

The Class of 2025 enjoyed two memorable evenings celebrating their time at St John's.

At the end of Trinity Term, our Sixth Form students enjoyed good food and music in the Rene England Auditorium. It was a Wicked-themed evening, with emerald décor, great music, and an atmosphere that kept students dancing throughout the night.

A month later, the celebration continued in Pelican Quad for the Matric Dance for the Upper Vs students. The theme was "An Evening of Jazz", exceeding expectations with the Main Arch red-carpet experience, a three-course dinner, live performances, and a final toast to the Matric Class of 2025.



Secrets and Surprises

St John's College hosted "Secrets and Surprises," an evening showcasing the final work of our Upper V Visual Arts students opened on Tuesday, 14 October. Estelle Potgieter,

Head of Visual Arts, reflects on the exhibition's themes and what the students revealed through their exploration of doors, keys, and the space between knowing and not knowing. [Read more...](#)



[Read more](#)



Events

Habits of the Heart Conference

St John's College hosted Habits of the Heart V in October, a series of events honouring Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu under the theme "Reframing the Legacy. Reclaiming our Future."



Tutu Memorial Mass and Lecture

The Memorial Chapel was filled with a quiet sense of reverence on Thursday, 2 October, as the St John's College community gathered to welcome The Most Reverend Dr Thabo Cecil Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town, to the Tutu

Memorial Mass and Lecture. It was a moment of deep honour and reflection as he stepped to the lectern to deliver a sermon that would remind us of the hope instilled in South Africa by the late Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu. [Read more...](#)

[Read more](#)



Heart to Heart Conversations Over Dinner

The Rene England Auditorium came alive on Tuesday, 7 October, with music, laughter and reflection as guests gathered for a Heart-to-Heart Conversations Over Dinner: an evening dedicated to asking what it truly means to be South African today. Parents, teachers and members of the wider community joined in this honest exploration of Archbishop Desmond Tutu's vision of a "Rainbow Nation" and whether that dream

has been realised or deferred. The first panel, moderated by Tracy-Lee Edwards, Head of Subject: Perspectives, brought together broadcaster Dan Corder, influencer Amahle -Imvelo Jaxa, and Olympian Geraldine Pillay. They unpacked the contradictions of being South African: a people united by pride and possibility, yet often weighed down by frustration and disillusionment. [Read more...](#)

[Read more](#)



Youth Voices Matter

The Tutu Youth Forum, held on 10 and 11 October, brought together students to discuss their role in building a better South Africa as part of Habits of the Heart V, under the theme 'Reframing the Legacy:

Reclaiming our Future'. From citizenship and education to technology and bridging city divides, young voices explored how to create real change. Our students reflect on the experience. [Read more...](#)

[Read more](#)



The Tutu Memorial Walk

The series concluded on Sunday, 12 October, with the **Tutu Memorial Walk**, a 7km route through Johannesburg, with reflection stations highlighting Tutu's speeches and values, ending with a community picnic at the College.

Students, parents and members of our wider community walked through Houghton, Hillbrow, Berea, and Yeoville, reflecting on Archbishop Tutu's teachings on justice, compassion and community.

St John's College partnered with Asteri Primary, Highlands North and Barnato Park schools, as well as Dlala Nje and Malaika Children's Home. The walk reminded us that transformation begins through relationships: listening, sharing and walking alongside others.

Together, these events brought students, families, staff and the wider community together to celebrate Archbishop Tutu's legacy and consider how his values continue to guide South Africa today. [Read more...](#)

[Read more](#)



PA Golf Day

The St John's College Parents' Association Golf Day took place on Tuesday, 23 September 2025, at Houghton Golf Club, bringing together the school community for a day that combined sport, fellowship and purpose.

The event was held in support of the Centenary Scholarship Programme, which provides access to a St John's education for deserving students who might not otherwise have the opportunity.

We extend our thanks to Standard Bank, whose support as headline sponsor made this event possible, as well as our partners, suppliers and prize donors who contributed greatly to the day's success. Each contribution, whether financial or in-kind, helped create an experience

that golfers will remember and want to return to. We especially thank the golfers who filled the course with energy and camaraderie. Your participation was the heart of the day, and your enthusiasm set the tone for what we hope will become an annual tradition.

Behind every successful event are the people who make it happen. To our school leadership, parents and volunteers who gave their time, and the many hands that worked to bring this day together, your efforts were visible in every detail.

Through events like these, the St John's community continues to open doors for students whose potential deserves to be realised. One round at a time, we're making a lasting difference.



Lest We forget

The College community gathered in the Memorial Chapel on Thursday, 6 November, for the annual Remembrance Day Mass, welcoming back Old Johannian families alongside students and staff for this sacred occasion. Simon Mussett (Head of School) laid a wreath as The Last Post echoed through the chapel, followed by a moving musical programme that included the Chapel Choir's rendition of Lux aeterna and Libera me from Fauré's Requiem, featuring a confident baritone solo by Dirk Jacobs (Head of Choir).

Executive Headmaster Mr Stuart West delivered a powerful address reflecting on the meaning of Remembrance Day and the enduring legacy of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. [Read more...](#)



[Read more](#)



Events



Market Day

The Pelican Quad was transformed into a bustling marketplace on 22 October as the LIV Perspective students turned weeks of business planning into reality. From midday onwards, coupons changed hands, crowds gathered around stalls, and the air was filled with the thrill of deal-making.

Student companies showcased everything from handmade crafts to digital innovations. Behind every stall was a full business plan, complete with company names and logos,

market research, SWOT analyses, pricing strategies, and financial projections. Our young men even had to submit post-event income statements and balance sheets, bringing real-world accountability to their ventures.

The rules kept things fair and grounded in reality.

Products were capped at R300 per item, with a R10 mock business registration fee. VAT was set at 15%, company tax at 20%, and stall rentals ranged from R10 to R30, depending on size (power access cost an

extra R10). The coupon system gave students hands-on experience managing sales and cash flow while keeping their customers happy.

The best part? All proceeds from taxes, rent and registration fees will go to the St John's College Saturday School, supporting children of support staff and students from the broader community.

The day proved that business can be loud, creative, and community-minded, not just another lesson in a textbook.

The Inaugural Battle of the Bands

St John's College hosted its first-ever Battle of the Bands on Saturday, 20 September 2025, bringing together talented young musicians from schools across Johannesburg for an afternoon and evening of live contemporary music. Held in the Rene England Auditorium, the event provided a platform for emerging artists to showcase their creativity, technical skills and passion for live music, offering the audience the chance to see tomorrow's music legends live on stage today!

The competition included two age group categories, culminating in close results that reflected the exceptional calibre of all performers. "Every band played incredibly well, and the final points were very close. Each of these bands is in the top five of the initial entries, and they deserve all credit for making this event a success," said Mr Jonathan Thorburn, Head of Contemporary Music at St John's College.

[Read more...](#)



[Read more & watch the video here](#)

Matric isiZulu Lunch

The College isiZulu Department hosted its annual Matric isiZulu Lunch on Tuesday, 7 October 2025, for the students in matric who have studied isiZulu from Remove through to their final year.

Our Upper V isiZulu students and their parents gathered in the Common Room for an afternoon of good food and conversation. The menu blended traditional isiZulu cuisine with modern touches. There was also an award ceremony, recognising the students who'd worked hard and come a long way

in their isiZulu studies.

"Each award celebrated not only academic effort but also the pride these young men have taken in learning isiZulu," said Mr Vukani Gwala, isiZulu Teacher. "The lunch reminded us that learning a language is more than mastering words. It's about embracing values, celebrating growth, and honouring the spirit of Ubuntu at the heart of our school community." *Sinifisela impumelelo eqhakazile bafundi!*



Photo: Kamo Thobejane (Custos 2025)



Photo: Yonga Mabizela (UIV Hodgson)



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Events

Siyakhuluma!

Nelson Mandela once said, “Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that generation.” The speakers at the 8th Siyakhuluma Youth Speaking Festival on Wednesday, 24 September, fully embraced Madiba’s words, celebrating both the voices of South African youth and Heritage Day.

Speaking on the topics “South Africa: All the Feels” for the junior section and “South Africa: Paradise Lost, or Paradise Found?” for the seniors, participants shared their concerns and frustrations about our country, but also their hopes and pride. The adjudicators had a hugely difficult task in selecting the winners, and after much debate, announced the following results:

Junior Section:

- 1st place: Yaseem Bhamjee, King Edward VII School
- 2nd place: Natasha Nhlema, Norkem Park High School
- 3rd place: Yolanda Bewana, Centurion College

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Pieter Roos Park on Heritage Day



This Heritage Day, a group of St John’s College students marked the occasion differently, by rolling up their sleeves to help restore one of Johannesburg’s oldest public spaces.

Pieter Roos Park in Parktown, a century-old green space, has fallen into neglect in recent years, with reports raising concerns about its condition, crime and informal occupation. Public spaces like Pieter Roos Park reflect Johannesburg’s diversity and shared city life.

Led by Zach Sundayi (LV Nash), the students spent the holiday clearing litter and engaging with community members. They collected more than 30 bags of rubbish in just a few hours, covering over half the park. Onlookers thanked the students for protecting a space that has long served surrounding neighbourhoods. Plans are already underway to extend the initiative to other parks in the area.

“The boys’ effort is a reminder that we all have a role to play in preserving our city. We cannot allow our public spaces to fall into disrepair while waiting for someone else to act. This is our city, our country, our heritage,” said Mr Mickey Mashego, Head of Community Engagement.

Restoring public spaces is about more than cleanliness; it is about renewing pride in the heart of the city and safeguarding South Africa’s heritage.

Olympiads



isiZulu Olympiad

Top 10 in ATKV Afrikaans Olympiad

Three St John’s College students ranked in the Top 10 nationally in this year’s ATKV Afrikaans Olympiad. Rudolf van der Merwe (LV Clayton) achieved 6th place with an impressive 92%, Luca van Tonder (UIV Clarke) earned 7th place with 91%, and Niel Dohmen (UV Hodgson) secured 10th place with 89%. A total of 58 boys from the College entered the competition, and these outstanding results reflect both their dedication and the excellent support of the Afrikaans department.

English Olympiad

St John’s College students achieved outstanding results in this year’s English Olympiad, with several placing among the Top 100 nationally. Luca van Tonder (UIV Clarke) achieved 53rd place, Melo Shan (UV Fleming) 67th, and Luke Brickhill (UV Thomson) 85th. In addition, four students were awarded Gold Certificates: Menzi Bongwe (Second Prefect 2025), Sebastian Bruinders (UV Clarke), Sean Li (UVI Runge), and Oliver Bouilliant (LV Clarke). Another group received Silver Certificates, including Matthew Bradley (UVI Runge), Cayde Bricknell (UV Clarke), Tawana Chinoruma (UVI Runge), Cameron Elliot (UVI Runge), Rushay Gosai (LV Alston), Siza Gule (Head of School), Michael Jeong (UVI Runge), Tsiamo Mabiletsa (UV Clarke), Victor Mashile (UV Thomson), Botaki Matsoku (UIV Hodgson), Thushaan Naidu (UIV Thomson), Lucy Pretorius (UIV Runge), Owethu Sishuba (UV Hill), Liso Siswana (LV Hill), Kheyani Vallabh (UV Clayton), and Ethan Wilcocks (UV Hill). These results reflect the dedication and excellence of our students and the support of the English department.

isiZulu Olympiad

Our LIV to LV isiZulu students were placed in the Top 10 of the isiZulu Olympiad, a national competition with more than 50 schools competing, achieving an overall average of 92%.

In Lower IV, Lukisa Jnr Shirindi (LIV Nash) achieved 100% across all his Olympiad papers. Lwazi Ngwenya (LIV Hodgson) and Khotsofalo Mokoka (LIV Hodgson) achieved above 85%.

In Upper IV, Zizi Kheswa (UIV Fleming) achieved the highest mark in the grade with 98%. Lwazi Ncube (UIV Hodgson), Nevan Naidoo (UIV Fleming), Reza Mudaly (UIV Clarke), Mhlabi Tabane (UIV Hodgson), and Mhlabi Cotshana (UIV Nash) all achieved 85% and above.

And in Lower V, Tyler Khumalo (LV Clayton) achieved 95%.

National Recognition for Programming Olympiad Achievers

Congratulations to Xiaoyuan Li (UIV Alston), who qualified for Round 3 of the South African Programming Olympiad, placing him in the top 12 in the country. His performance earned him an honourable mention certificate at the prize giving.

Special congratulations also go to Benjamin Anderson (Remove Nash), who not only achieved the tie for second-highest result in the College, but was also the highest-scoring Grade 8 in South Africa.

Among the 22% of students nationally who scored points in Round 2 were Michael Sambaza (LVI Runge), Zhirui Li (UIV Hill), Tom Dewar (UV Hodgson), Ruichen Miao (Remove Thomson), and Rudolf van der Merwe, whose strong performances reflect the high calibre of St John’s programming students.

Michaelmas Term Awards



Upper V Academic Awards

Upper V

Academic Colours

Atli Chipu (UV Clayton)
Jamil Metz (UV Clarke)
Joss Busa (UV Clayton)
Kheyan Vallabh (UV Hodgson)
Luke Brooks (UV Nash)
Mikhail Sadovnik (UV Hodgson)
Nhlanhla Kheswa (UV Hodgson)
Warona Sotia (UV Hodgson)
Zach Petersen (UV Clayton)

Lower Vs

Academic Honours

Apostoli Apostoleris (LV Hodgson)
Connor van der Walt (LV Hill)
Ethan Beira (LV Thomson)
Oliver Bouilliant (LV Clarke)
Rudolf van der Merwe (LV Clayton)
Mohammed Zaeem Mayet (LV Fleming)

Academic Colours

Aphiwe Ndhlovu (LV Fleming)
Connor Cooper (LV Hill)
Dirk Jacobs (LV Hodgson)
Dyaan Devchand (LV Hill)
Charlie Yin (LV Clarke)
Christopher Roos (LV Nash)
James Redshaw (LV Nash)
Joshua Wilkins (LV Alston)
Hope Ntuli (LV Clayton)
Luzuko Zithulele (LV Hill)
Rohan Bray (LV Clarke)
Stefan Kruger (LV Thomson)
Zach Sundayi (LV Nash)

Debating

Full Colours

Tawana Chinoruma (UVI Runge)

Asher Mugerwa (UVI Runge)
Rebone Rantloane (LVI Runge)

Half Colours

Zizi Kheswa (UIV Fleming)
Botaki Matsoku (UIV Hodgson)
Lelo Mofokeng (UIV Clayton)
Kgosi Molapisi (UIV Hodgson)
Rayan Moodley (LV Clayton)
Lungile Mqoqi (UIV Thomson)
Sakhile Nhlapo (UIV Nash)
Ginter Shakantu (UIV Hodgson)
Krish Vaswani (UIV Fleming)

First Aid

Honours

Luke Summerton (LV Hodgson)
Thabo Mote (UV Alston)
Travis Stewart (LV Fleming)

Colours

Alex Scharneck (UV Hill)
Atli Chipu (UV Clayton)
Azania Taba (UV Clarke)
Joshua Nyakoe (UV Clarke)
Koketso Ngobeni (UV Hodgson)
Noah Xego (UV Nash)
Tsiamo Mabiletsa (UV Clarke)

Half Colours

Femi Nhlapo (UIV Hill)
Lungile Kekana (UIV Hodgson)

Tie

Nuhaa Mahomed (UVI Runge)

Public Relations

Honours

Oliver Bouilliant (Head of Clarke)

Colours

Kearabetwe Nokwane (LV Nash)
Aluwani Gereda (LV Clayton)
Reatile Phiri (LV Hodgson)
Hope Ntuli (LV Clayton)
Hamza Ismail (LV Hodgson)
Joshua Madley (LV Hill)

Half Colours

Boris Daley (UVI Runge)
Stefan Kruger (LV Thomson)

Public Speaking

Honours

Siza Gule (Head of School 2025)

Colours

Kgosi Lesenyeho (UV Hill)
Apostoli Apostoleris (LV Hodgson)

Community Service

Full Colours

Oliver Bouilliant (LV Clarke)

Colours

Apostoli Apostoleris (LV Hodgson)
Matteo Cullinan (LV Nash)

Half Colours

Aphiwe Ndhlovu (LV Fleming)
Caine Tannous (UV Nash)
Daniel Lilleike (LV Clayton)
Hamza Ismail (LV Hodgson)
Michael van Heerden (UV Fleming)
Mgcini Fuyane (UV Hodgson)
Mohammed Zaeem Mayet (LV Fleming)
Peter-Phillip Zigiriadis (LV Hodgson)

Media

Honours

Joss Busa (UV Clayton)
Kamo Thobejane (Custos)
Tom Dewar (UV Hodgson)

Half Colours

Bradley Anderson (UIV Fleming)
Claire Stanley (UVI Runge)
Lesego Makwane (UIV Clayton)
Prem Pillay (UIV Clayton)
Sakhile Zondo (UIV Nash)
Sechaba Masithela (UIV Thomson)

Football

Honours

Lehlohonolo Molwantoa (UV Hodgson)
Gerald van Wyk (Head of Hodgson)

Colours

Fife Diviani (LV Clarke)
Kwena Mouthiseb (LV Hill)
Luzuko Zithulele (LV Hill)
Ama Ntsubane (LV Nash)
Kwandiwe Ngcobo (LV Hodgson)
Hope Ntuli (LV Clayton)
Leruo Molobi (UV Hodgson)
Menzi Mdleko (UV Nash)
Lwandile Khupe (LV Hodgson)
Kuhle Simela (UV Nash)

Team Blazer

Zach Petersen (UV Clayton)
Ben Westaway (UV Thomson)
Tumiso Motshegoa (UIV Hill)
Joshua Madley (LV Hill)

Individual Achievements

SA Olympic Youth Swimming Squad



Michael van Heerden

Michael van Heerden (Head of Fleming 2025) has been selected for the South African National High Performance Olympic Youth Swimming Training Squad.

It is part of Swimming South Africa's national high-performance squad system, implemented to identify, support and develop talented swimmers to prepare them for international competitions such as the 2026 Commonwealth Games and the 2028 Olympics.

Michael explained that the selection was based on the times he has swum at the SA Senior and Junior National Championships. "I will now participate in national training camps in preparation for upcoming national and international competitions, subject to always achieving the relevant qualifying times for each of the respective competitions," he said. He started swimming competitively when he was 10 years old and has been competing at national level through the age groups, and now at senior level.

While swimming remains his primary focus, Michael's aquatic talents extend to water polo as well, a sport he has played since he was 10 years old. "I have always been passionate about aquatics and have enjoyed both swimming competitively and playing water polo. Water polo has been an integral part of my school sport journey," he said. "I also played water polo at provincial level through the years as part of the Gauteng Schools water polo team and have participated at a national level at the SA Inter-Provincial Championships.

"It was not always easy to juggle both competitive swimming and water polo, but with the support of my coaches, I have somehow managed to do it. After taking the first term off from water polo to focus on swimming this year, I came back in the third term to go on tour with my team one last time to participate in the SACS Water Polo Tournament, where we won gold. It was a great way to end my school water polo career alongside teammates who have become friends over the years. That has been part of the strong brotherhood and the friendships I have made at St John's."

Michael will be going to New York next year to train with former US captain, world champion and Olympic medallist Tom Wilkins, while studying at Fordham University, where Tom is the head coach.

"My dream is to represent South Africa at the Olympic Games one day. I am young enough to try to qualify for both the 2028 and 2032 Olympic Games. Those are big dreams that will demand serious commitment," he said.

"I am often reminded of the words of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia, who said: 'If your dreams do not scare you, they are not big enough.'"

US Scholarship and Pro-Am Spot

Jayden Hoskins (UV Hill) will be rounding off his matric year with a trip to Sun City, where he will be playing in the Pro-Am tournament that precedes the Nedbank Golf Challenge hosted by Gary Player in December.

"I'm one of four local young amateurs who have been chosen to play," he explained. "Each fourball will have one of the tournament pros and several prominent businessmen in it. I'm really looking forward to playing with one of the top golfers in the world."

It won't be his first taste of professional golf. He played in one of the Big Easy tour events earlier this year and made the cut. "I was the only amateur to do that, and I finished 26th in the end, out of 86 entrants."

He got another 26th-place

finish at the World Junior Championships, where he represented South Africa back in June. There he placed 26th out of 156 juniors from around the world.

All of those were highlights, Jayden says, but the really big one was winning the Dainfern College Championship, and leading St John's to victory in the team event, the first golf trophy that the College has won in a long time.

"My five years at St John's have been really special. I have loved living in Hill House and hanging out with so many great people. We have become true brothers," he said. "And now it's ending. I have mixed feelings. I'm sad to be leaving this place, but I'm excited about my next chapter."

He has won a "full ride" scholarship at Point University in

Georgia, USA, where he will be studying sports psychology and playing golf. Only one athlete per season receives this scholarship, and he was chosen for his academic and sporting achievements from hundreds of applicants.

"I am looking forward to the experience and to playing college golf, amateur golf at a very high level, for a few years before thinking about turning professional. And studying and getting a qualification as a backup," he said.

Jayden's parents, both avid golfers, introduced him to the game at a very young age. "They have been super supportive, in a positive way. They have played a big part in my success."

SANESA Nationals

Isobel Buchan (UVI Runge) has been awarded provincial colours for Equestrian and Showjumping by the South African National Equestrian Schools Association (SANESA).

She made it through district qualifiers during the first half of the year, with district finals held in early August. There, Isobel was selected for both the Equitation and Showjumping A teams. At Nationals in early October, she came away with a 2nd

place finish.

Isobel has been riding since she was three years old. She competed in junior school before switching her focus to training horses. This was her first, and last, inter-schools competition in high school.

She competed on Ashanti, a family-owned horse who was rescued and given to them as 'unrideable'. Isobel and her sisters trained Ashanti themselves.

Olympic Skeet Champion

Max Baxter (Remove Alston) has competed in many UK shooting competitions this year and was recently crowned the South African Olympic Skeet Champion, defeating the adult field. Olympic Games Skeet is one of the most demanding shooting disciplines and, as such, usually

attracts smaller, elite entries. This victory provided excellent preparation for his October mid-term break, when he attempted a world record as the first 13-year-old to shoot a straight 100 in English Skeet. His result was 87/100.

Sports

Basketball

It has been a busy term for St John's basketball teams, and they have performed admirably. The 1st team won the Plate competition at the St Peter's Festival. They beat St David's in the final, the competition for teams finishing in positions 5 to 8. They lost just one game in the event, 17-16 to Parktown, which, in a format that didn't allow for cross-pool playoffs, meant they had to settle for the Plate competition, finishing 5th out of 32 teams. Both the U14A and U14B teams participated in the Saheti tournament, finishing 4th and 11th respectively.

At the Kearsney Stayers tournament the 1st team came within a whisker of winning the title. They went down by a single point to the hosts, losing in the final seconds of the second period of overtime.

Both teams playing the Inanda Hoops tournament at St David's were eliminated in the semifinals – credible performances in very strong fields. The U15s lost to St Stithians in their semifinal and then beat Saheti in the 3rd place playoff game to win the bronze medal. The 1st lost to KES in the semifinal and then lost the 4th place playoff game to Michael Mount.

On 11 October, the 1st team recorded a 59-41 win. The U15A, U14A, and U14B teams travelled to KwaZulu-Natal to compete at the Northwood U15 and Michaelhouse U14 festivals. The U15s and U14As went unbeaten, while the U14Bs won three of eight games.

The Basketball section won the fixture against St Stithians, 7 games to 6, including victories in the 1st and U14A contests.



Photo: Theo Garrun



Photo: Theo Garrun

Football

The St John's 1st football team made two tournament finals, and won one, this year.

They made it into the final of the St David's Marist Inanda Challenge Cup tournament in August where the lost 1-0 to the hosts in a thriller. They beat St Stithians in an exciting quarterfinal that went down to a penalty shootout and then caused a bit of an upset by knocking the fancied Jeppe out in the semifinal stage, to advance to the final of this tournament for the first time.

Earlier, St John's won the football tournament that forms part of the St Peter's Sport and Cultural Festival. They beat Parktown Boys' High in the final, in a penalty shootout, after beating St Benedict's, also on penalties, in the

semifinal. Their only loss on the weekend was a 1-0 defeat to Stanford Lake – which left them second in their pool and up against the fancied Norkem Park in the quarterfinals. A 1-0 victory there set up the dramatic final stages of the event.

In a fixture against St Alban's College in Pretoria, the 1st team, U16As, and U15As drew, while the U14As lost 2-1. Overall, St John's won two, lost three, and drew three of eight games.

The College played a fixture against Springs Boys' High, winning seven, drawing two, and losing one out of 10 games. While the 1st team played St Peter's, the rest of the school played Pretoria Boys High, winning two, drawing three, and losing five.

Cricket

The season began on Saturday, 11 October, with a fixture against St Alban's. The 1st XI game was not played due to provincial trials, but several junior matches took place. Justin Fairley (U15B, LIV Clayton) scored 106 not out.

The U15As competed at the Pretoria Boys High Festival, winning two and drawing one of four games, while the U14As attended the Hilton U14 Festival, losing two, drawing one, and tying one. David Ireland (1st XI) took 5/24 against Paarl Boys' High and Adam Heron scored 102 runs at Hilton.

The 1st team started this half of the season with a very successful tour to Sri Lanka. They won six of the eight matches played, and captain Alec Loveland (UV Nash) made a century in one of them, but the real value of the tour lay in the exposure to a very different culture, and in adapting to playing surfaces that the players had never experienced before.

They came back to the Fasken Two Day festival, where they drew both games, followed by the Michaelmas Festival where they won two and lost two games.

From 20 to 26 October, the 1st XI played five matches in 10 days, including a Central Gauteng

Lions semifinal of the SA T20, where they lost to Jeppe defending a total of 78 runs. In the derby against St Stithians, Darshik Lutchman (LV Alston) scored 109 in a losing effort for the 1st XI, and Aiden Greenstein made 164 not out for the 2nd XI, chasing 401 runs to win by two wickets.

The 1st XI defeated St David's. Captain Nkosana Sibiyi (LV Hill) scored 102 not out, supported by Darshik Lutchman's 61 runs, and Ethan Robinson (LV Thomson) took 3/58 with the ball.

Eight St John's cricketers earned selection for Central Gauteng Lions squads competing in interprovincial tournaments during the December holidays.

Outgoing 1st XI captain Alec Loveland (UV Nash) has been called up to the U19B side, while incoming captain Nkosana Sibiyi (LV Hill) will be going to the Khaya Majola Week in the CSA Invitation team.

The other representatives are: U17 Regional: Darshik Lutchman (LV Alston), Ethan Robinson (LV Thomson) and Joshua Nyamaropa (UIV Fleming); U16 Regional: Joshua Hall (UIV Nash) and Tapiwa Chikwava (UIV Clayton); and U15 Regional: Bryn Gilmour (LIV Thomson).



Photo: Theo Garrun

Sports

Rowing



The St John's rowing section made a good start to the second part of their season by winning 14 medals – four gold, four silver and six bronze – at the Standard Bank St John's College Junior Regatta in October.

They then went on to take 2nd place in the boys team competition at the Gauteng Schools Rowing Championships early in November – the same position they achieved at the SA Schools Championships in March. St John's had 17 boats making finals on the day, and won 12 medals in all, including two golds. The gold medalists were:

Under-16A Coxed Four - Nikhilan Vandeyar (cox), Samuthi Kikaya, Knosinathi Moyo, Jack Patricios and Aiden Jacobs; and 1st Coxed Four - Menzi Sokhela (cox), Finn Backes, Matteo Cullinan, Gregory Hood and James Veitch.

At the Mile Regatta at the Vaal River

on 11 October, the 1st quad reached the final, finishing 2nd behind KES, while other boats were eliminated in the semifinals, except the 3rd eight, which lost in the quarterfinals.

Junior rowers competed at the St Dunstan's Regatta at Roodeplaat on 25 October in preparation for the Gauteng Championships (31 October – 2 November), where the College finished 2nd in the team competition, winning 12 medals, including two golds.

On an individual level, Matthew Keus (UIV Clayton) was selected for the South African team that competed at the African Championships at Roodeplaat (1–2 November), that was held concurrently with the Gauteng Championships. He was in the Men's Quad that won the silver medal behind Egypt.

Chess

The Chess team played in the Cultural Festival, which ran alongside the sporting activities, winning all six rounds over the two days to take the title comfortably. Vian Ziegenhagen (LIV Clarke) won the prize for the top board two-player with six wins out of six.

- Results:**
At St Peter's Sports and Cultural Festival
St John's 4.5 Clapham 1.5
St John's 5 Woodlands College 1
St John's 3 Crawford International Sandton 3
St John's 6 Beaulieu College 0
St John's 6 Kings Linbro Park 2

The 2nd Chess team came third behind Helpmekaar and Hoërskool Linden at the Helpmekaar Golden League Blitz Tournament in October. The team played nine matches, winning six and losing three.



Squash

The squash boys followed up on winning the Gauteng Top Schools Squash Tournament, for the first time in seven years, in June by finishing unbeaten at the Wynberg Boys' High Stayers Festival in Cape Town in October. They beat Kearsney College, York High School, Grey High School, Hoërskool Outeniqua and a Disa Invitation team.



Golf

Golf league matches were played against St Benedict's on 6 October. The 2nd team won, and the 5th team lost.

Swimming

A combined A and B team event was held at St Benedict's on 8 October. The St John's A team finished 4th, 10 points behind St Stithians.

Tennis

Tennis league matches began on Friday, 10 October. The U18 A team beat St Benedict's 5-4, the U18 B team lost 4-5, and the U18 C team lost 1-8. Alexandre Lyle (Remove Fleming) and Michael Apostoleris (LIV Hodgson) competed in the Best 2 Singles Tournament at St Benedict's. Alexandre (#1) finished 3rd, and Michael (#2) finished 4th.

Water Polo

The 1st team made it into the finals of two national tournaments this term, winning one and losing the other. They lost 10-8 to Hilton College in the final of the season-opening Clifton College tournament in Durban in September and then, a week later, they beat St David's 11-10 in the SACS tournament. It was their sixth SACS title – equalling the record for the most wins in the event's history.

The U15As were beaten 13–6 by Rondebosch in the final of the Ian Melliar tournament at Wynberg Boys' High.

Pre-season festivals took place at several venues from 5-7 September. The 1st team went unbeaten at a four-a-side beach festival

at St Alban's. The U15As and U14As won all their games at KES and Jeppe festivals.

The 1st Water Polo team also beat Affies and St Stithians Boys' at home. The U15As won a tournament at St Alban's. Leo Bruinders (LIV Clarke) was named best defender, and Christopher O'Brien (LIV Fleming) best goalkeeper.

On Saturday, 1 November, the 1st Team played the Joburg season decider against St David's. St John's went ahead in the final minute, only for St David's to equalise with seconds remaining. In celebration of their season, Siza Gule (Head of School 2025) rang the Victory Bell during Amphi on 24 October.



Photo: Theo Garrun

Summer Sports Capping



First Team Basketball

Basketball

The First Team Basketball Squad for the upcoming summer sports season has been announced. Congratulations to Co-Captains Lesego Legoete (Second Prefect) and Ama Ntsubane (Custos), Vice-Captain Aniel Nuttall-Mbembe (LV Thomson), and squad members Sechaba Masithela (UIV Thomson), Allan Njanfang Patu (UIV Nash), Daniel Ouma (UIV Hodgson), Tirivashe Pasipanodya (UIV Nash), Lwandile Khupe (LV Hodgson), Hope Ntuli (LV Clayton), Zacharia Ismail (UIV Alston), Paul Dumbu (LV Clayton), Ahlumile-Amakhosi Mbundu (LV Fleming), and Prem Pillay (UIV Clayton).

Cricket

Nkosana Sibiya (LV Hill) will lead the team as Captain, supported by Joshua Hall (UIV Nash) as Vice-Captain and team members Darshik Lutchman (LV Alston), Ethan Robinson (LV Thomson), David Ireland (LV Thomson), Lwazi Khupe (LV Hodgson), Connor van der Walt (LV Hill), Michael Stubbs (LV Alston), Aadhavan Kallan (LV Thomson), Herman Basson (UIV Hill), Tapiwa Chikwava (UV Clayton), and Juan de Villiers (UIV Alston).

Golf

The Golf First Team Squad was announced. Captain Scott Bray (LV Clarke), Vice-Captain Michael Stubbs (LV Alston), Jason Joseph (UIV Clarke), and Matthew Tresling (LIV Thomson).

Rowing

Menzi Sokhela (LV Thomson) was announced as Captain of the Rowing First Team, James Redshaw (LV Nash) as Vice-Captain, Boatman Matteo Cullinan (LV Nash), and crew members Bradley Stead (LV Alston), Finn Backes (UIV Thomson), Greg Hood (UIV Hodgson), James Veitch (UIV Fleming), Matteo di Lembo (UIV Clayton), Matthew Herman (UIV Clayton), and Matthew Keus (UIV Clayton).

Tennis

Co-Captains Faizaan Ghoor (UIV Thomson) and Zhirui Li (UIV Hill) will lead Adam Peer (UIV Clayton), Alexandre Lyle (Remove Fleming), Azeem Peer (LIV Clayton), Michael Apostoleris (LIV Hodgson), Ahmad Mahomedy (Remove Alston), Herman Basson (UIV Hill), Adam Heron (Remove Clarke), Kevin van Vught (UIV Alston), Nicholas Hu (Remove Hodgson), and Sebastian Bouche (LIV Thomson).

Water Polo

Simon Mussett (Head of School) and Christopher Chapman (Head of Nash) were announced as Co-Captains of the Water Polo First Team. Teammates are Oskar Stahljans (LV Nash), Luke Shipway (Head of Hodgson), Fu-Nam Chen (LV Fleming), Apostoli Apostoleris (LV Hodgson), Fedor Sadovnik (UIV Hodgson), Samuel Gomes (LV Clayton), Rupert Schonborn (UIV Clarke), Ethan Bennett (UIV Nash), George Cloete-Hopkins (UIV Hill), Muhammad Bodiat (LIV Hill), Noel Lewis (UIV Thomson), Gui-Nam Chen (LV Fleming), and Peter-Phillip Zigiriadis (LV Hodgson).

25 St John's players were selected across all age groups for Central Gauteng Schools teams competing in the interprovincial championships this December. The strong representation reflects our continued excellence in Water Polo.

This includes four representatives in the U19A squad, which will compete for the South African Schools Championship. First Team coach Mr Jon-Marc de Carvalho will head up the entire U19 group, while Luka Rajak will coach the U16 division.

U19A Chris Chapman (Head of Nash 2026), Fu-Nam Chen (LV Fleming), Simon Mussett (Head of School 2026), and Nicholas Searle (UV Hill) and Mr Jon-Marc de Carvalho as Head Coach.

U19B Gui-Nam Chen (LV Fleming), Samuel Gomes (LV Clayton), Luke Shipway (LV Hodgson), Oskar Stahljan (LV Nash).

U16A Muhammad Bodiat (LIV Hill), Fedor Sadovnik (UIV Hodgson), Rupert Schonborn (UIV Clarke).

U16B Ethan Bennett (UV Nash), George Cloete-Hopkins (UIV Hill) (Squad Reserve) and Mr Luka Rajak as Head Coach.

U15A Timothy Barbeau (LIV Hill), Leo Bruinders (LIV Clarke), Amaza Faber (LIV Fleming), James Simpson (LIV Hill) and Douglas Youngleson (LIV Alston).

U15B Tai Hanslo (LIV Hill), Jack Naylor (LIV Clarke), Christopher O'Brien (LIV Fleming), Regan Ross (LIV Clarke) and Jonah Teeling-Smith (LIV Nash).

U14A Ezio de Gouveia (Remove Thomson), Culolenkosi Faber (Remove Fleming), Ryan Mackay (Remove Thomson), Luke Naylor (Remove Clarke) (Squad Reserve) and Mr Aidan Quinn, Assistant Coach.



Farewells

The College bade farewell to valued members of staff who have made a lasting impact on our community. We wish them all the very best in the next chapters.

- Stuart West, Executive Headmaster (six years)
- Brandon Louw, HOD: Geograph (26 years)
- Petra Zimolong, HOD German (16 years)
- Jeremy Naidoo, Physical Sciences Teacher (12 years)
- Marthie Kruger, Latin Teacher (eight years)
- Elise Lemmer, Music Teacher (six years)
- Janet Baylis, Drama Teacher (five years)
- Jarred Marsh, Head of Strength and Conditioning (three years)
- Gilbert de Villiers, Clayton Housemaster | MIC-Hockey (two years)
- Thuli Mkhize, Administration (one year)
- Norman Neshena, French Teacher (one year)

Coaches Level Up

Our coaching staff continue to set the standard, with two of our coaches enhancing their already impressive qualifications and are eager to share their knowledge with their fellow coaches and the sportsmen at St John's.

Head of cricket, Bongani Ntini, has earned his Coaching Education Level 4 certificate from Gary Kirsten Cricket, adding to his Cricket SA Level 3 qualification, while strength and conditioning coach, Sihle Ndlovu, recently completed two World Rugby courses in a row – the Level 2 Strength and Conditioning qualification, and the Strength and Conditioning Educator accreditation.

Director of Sport, Alan Lion-Cachet, congratulated the pair and emphasised that they join a list of St John's coaches and teachers who hold highly regarded qualifications in the sports they lead. "Our policy is to put well-qualified men and women in charge of our boys, and I am grateful that these gentlemen have been willing to give up the time and make the effort it requires," he said.

Mr Ntini said he chose the Gary Kirsten qualification because of its practicality. "It's less about management and administration and more about skills and match situations," he said. "There is plenty there that I think we can implement in our programme."

Mr Ndlovu explained that the S&C Level 2 course he completed is focused on rugby-specifics. "World Rugby has done a lot of research into the physical requirements of rugby," he said. "It was intense, but what I learnt will certainly make our players better equipped to play the game."

The S&C Educator accreditation means he can now run Level 1 courses and, of course, he is better equipped to help the team coaches run their physical training sessions more effectively.

Speaking of our already highly qualified coaches, Rugby Head Coach, Katleho Lynch, who holds an SA Rugby Level 3 certificate, entered unfamiliar territory in October as head coach at SA Rugby's U16 girls EPD camp. Before attending, he stated: "I've never worked with girls before, and I am looking forward to the challenge. You learn from every situation, and I'm sure there will be new things that I can bring back to St John's from there."



Left to right: Sihle Ndlovu, Katleho Lynch and Bongani Ntini

Obituary: Harold "Dickie" Bird



Harold "Dickie" Bird, one of cricket's most respected umpires, passed away at his home in Yorkshire on 22 September 2025. Known for his humour and eccentric character, he was awarded an MBE in 1986 and an OBE in 2012 for his contributions to cricket and charity.

A little-known fact is that Mr. Bird coached at St John's College between 1973 and 1976.

Mr. Bird began his career as a batsman, playing for Yorkshire and Leicester in the 1950s and early 1960s, but a persistent knee injury forced him to retire at 31. He then became a celebrated umpire, officiating in 66 Test matches and 69 One-Day Internationals, including three World Cup Finals.

[Read more...](#)

Old Johannian News

Fullerton Selected for SA Hockey High-Performance Squad

Cameron Fullerton (Clayton 2019) took a big step forward in a hockey journey that hasn't always been smooth when he was included in the Senior Men's High-Performance squad.

He played in his first senior IPT for Southern Gauteng this year, after being overlooked in previous years, and must have done enough to catch the national selectors' eyes.

"I've somehow missed out on the selection of squads and teams quite often," he said. "I made the Southern U18B team in my Grade 11 year but was not in the A team the next year, initially, although I was a late replacement, and went on to make the SA U18B team."

He went on to play at Wits University, where his career was interrupted by COVID-19, before playing for the Southern Gauteng U21 side, which won their IPT in 2022. However, he never made the national U21 squad.

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Sazi Bongwe Awarded Rhodes Scholarship

Sazi Bongwe (Head of School 2021) has been awarded the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University, one of 10 Southern African students selected for 2026.

Sazi matriculated from St John's College in 2021 with nine distinctions and an average of 95.9%, before going on to study at Harvard University.

He will begin his studies at the University of Oxford in October 2026, where he intends to pursue an MSt in Comparative Literature and Critical Translation or a Master of Fine Arts.



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Jordan North Heading to Oxford



Jordan North (Runge 2020) is also off to Oxvord next year, where he will be reading and MSc in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics. Jordan completed an honours degree in Applied Maths jointly under the Maths and Physics department at UCT in 2024, graduating with the second highest academic average.

When asked why he decided to apply to Oxford, his response was simple. “Oxford is the oldest University in the Englishspeaking world. It has been a centre of bleeding edge research for hundreds of years and continues to be today. I wanted to be trained by the foremost physicists in the world. It was therefore the clear choice to aspire to.”

He plans to pursue a career in Financial Services and return to South Africa with his international experience. Asked about his time at Sixth Form, his answer was simple: “My only regret is that I did not get to St John’s sooner.”

Voices of Home Tour



Internationally acclaimed South African cellist, composer and vocalist, Abel Selaocoe (Nash 2009), is coming home this December for Voices of Home, a national tour with the Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra.

Abel’s journey began in Sebokeng, where he first picked up the cello through the African Cultural Organisation of South Africa (ACOSA) in Soweto, learning under Michael Masote, father of renowned conductor and Old Johannian Kutlwano Masote (Clayton 1991). At 13, a full scholarship to St John’s College changed everything, opening up a world of new

possibilities. Here he flourished under Dr Ben Oosthuizen, the College’s former Director of Music, who retired in 2023 after 37 years at the helm.

Today, Abel mesmerises audiences around the globe, weaving together classical technique with African rhythms and improvisation in a way that’s uniquely his own. This month, he performs his Four Spirits Cello Concerto with the legendary Marin Alsop and master percussionist Bernhard Schimpelsberger in Johannesburg on 10 and 11 December, Durban on 13 December, and Cape Town on 16 December.

Five Old Johannians in SA20 Action



When the 2025 edition of the Betway SA20 tournament begins on December 26, 2025, Devon Conway (Nash 2009) will be in action for Durban Super Giants against MI Cape Town in the opening game.

Devon is one of five St John’s College Alumni who will be playing in this year’s T20 Franchise competition. The others are the King Brothers, Jordan (JP) (Clayton 2021) and Christopher (CJ) (Clayton 2022); Connor Esterhuizen (Clayton 2019); and Keagan Lion-Cachet (Fleming 2020).

Conway is the senior player among the group, and the one who has accomplished most. He played for the Lions and the Dolphins in South Africa before

emigrating to New Zealand in 2017. He made his Test debut for New Zealand in 2021 and has now played 29 Tests, 40 ODIs and 62 T20 Internationals. He played for the Joburg Super Kings in the 2024 SA20 series and was bought by Durban Super Giants in this year’s player auction.

The King brothers will play for the same team this year – Sunrisers Eastern Cape. It is the second year in the competition for both. Last year Christopher (CJ) was in Durban Super Giants, while Jordan (JP) played for the Joburg Super Kings. They play their domestic cricket for the Warriors where they are both listed as all-rounders, with CJ shining with the ball, mainly, and JP with the bat.

Connor Esterhuizen was with MI Cape Town in the 2024 SA20 competition, and he has now moved to the Pretoria Capitals. He is a top-order batsman who has made plenty of runs for the Lions in domestic cricket and was chosen for the SA A team that played against India A in 2023.

Keagan Lion-Cachet has been something of a late-bloomer who missed out on senior cricket at St John’s because of the Covid years. He has thrived since being called up for the Titans in domestic cricket and was drafted into the Pretoria Capitals for the 2024 SA20, where he played five games for them. He was bought by the Paarl Royals for this year’s competition.

Surgeons for Little Lives Turns 10

Prof Jerome Loveland (Nash 1990) and recipient of the Golden Eagle Award in 2023, celebrates 10 years of Surgeons for Little Lives, chatting to The Good Things Guy. Prof Loveland launched his charity in May 2015 to ensure that critically ill children and their families receive the kind of care that reflects the exceptional skill of their surgeons.

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