



# Graeme College

*To strive for excellence by developing all to their full potential*



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Friday 26 February 2021

Quote:

"Winning isn't everything...but wanting to win is." - Vince Lombardi

### Message from the Deputy Headmaster

There has already been plenty of discussion around Eddie Jones' recent High Performance Podcast. If you haven't watched it - click on the link below. He briefly alludes to an issue in school sport which is what I would like to comment on in this newsletter. It is just a very interesting topic.

Click here: [Eddie Jones - High Performance Podcast](#)

Eddie Jones is the current England rugby coach, and South Africans will obviously remember his role within the Springbok camp after winning the 2017 Rugby World Cup. Jones was an educator himself, and is probably best 'qualified' to comment on the modern trend in schools. In the podcast, he speaks about a 'fundamental flaw in education' - that being the fact that kids in sport are not being taught (coached) by teachers, but rather by ex-professionals. He goes on to say 'kids need to be taught, and they don't need to be coached at an early age.' But he also mentions his concern around the approach where we are 'trying to turn high school teams into high performance teams.' And hence the controversy and debate within South Africa. When he was asked to explain the difference between teaching and coaching, Jones said the following:

"In teaching - educators always just try to get the best out of people. Get them to fulfill their potential."

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“In coaching - the emphasis is often based on the result.”

Jones spoke about the ‘current currency in coaching, being winning’ and the ‘currency in education, being building the child up.’

It is an amazing statement from one of the most elite/ professional coaches in the world. I think at first glance people might misinterpret his comment and put all ex-professionals in the same box. It is easy to agree with the sentiment from the outset, but it is not about a different ‘qualification’ that separates coaches from teachers. It is about the philosophy within their coaching context. The accountability should not be limited to who is actually doing the teaching or coaching but rather who is actually appointing them. And of course, maybe even more importantly - what is the reason or motive behind the appointment of an ex-professional? Of course, they would also decide on the type of ex-professional appointed. In South Africa we have possibly got this more wrong than most other countries in the world. This is easy to recognise, once you look at the significant salaries paid to ex-professional coaches at schools. There is no doubt that this is a symptom of ridiculous competition between schools. Sadly, that also leads to disrespect and conflict between schools. How can schools start to justify some of these salaries as being educationally sound? Of course, a lot of the funding for these coaches doesn't come from school budgets which then raises even more concerns.

We have moved away from philosophies where schools were focused on their product being the best possible all-round learner. These days that focus has shifted from an internal to an external approach, where the ‘product’ must be better than what another school is producing. We then see schools marketing their achievements in a business style approach to get one above their competitors. The most obvious sphere where we see this within South Africa, is by comparing sports results and achievements. Don't get me wrong, while reading this, most friends will identify that I am the most competitive person on the planet, and wanting to win is of paramount importance. But it is always within the most stubborn educational philosophies. Winning should never be the criteria that schools’ sport should be judged on. Male adults in South Africa often define themselves by the school they attended. And in some cases live vicariously through their own children at the same school. Obviously there is a pride in supporting your alma mater, but this can also be bizarrely out of balance at times. Heads of schools are then held accountable for sports results, and if the results aren't to the satisfaction of old-boy or parent groups there is a problem. That then takes us all the way back to the appointments of ex-professional coaches appointed to school teams and to Jones’ concern. We could keep addressing negative symptoms or consequences of this model, but that would get us trapped in the usual conversations about performance enhancing drugs, ‘poaching’ athletes from schools and the poor culture or behavior of athletes in competitive environments. Of course, parents are also sucked into this model and have completely unrealistic expectations of schools and their sport programmes.

I obviously agree with Eddie Jones’ concern about ex-professionals in school sport but still think many ex-professionals have exemplary philosophies regarding their coaching and the development of the potential of learners in their care. I can think of many examples of superb ex-professionals who have incredible value systems with regards to coaching/ teaching. Maybe some ex-professionals have a better value system than others, and maybe some are even far better than some educators. Which brings me back to the people who are making these appointments and the motive behind the appointment. I am completely in agreement that ex-professionals can indeed make a positive influence in the lives of learners within school teams. But I am equally concerned that most schools have completely misguided intentions when making these appointments, and the criteria they use (in most cases) are what Eddie Jones is actually referring to as being a ‘fundamental flaw’. Sadly, if you somehow managed to get honest answers from all of the ex-professionals working at schools, they would admit that results would be a key criteria in whether they were doing an adequate job or not; and I wonder how they would then correlate that answer with the fact that most of them are working within a contract with regards to length of their tenure at their respective schools. The principles and values of professional sport just do not apply to school sport. And yet, I am sure that some would argue that they should.

And that is exactly why those individuals cannot be involved in school sport. Remind me again - what percentage of school sportsmen/ women go on to play professional sport?

So where do we draw the line with regards to the philosophies and values of individual coaches and teachers? To simply suggest that the line is somewhere between educators and ex-professionals (and linked to a qualification) is never going to suffice. So who do the ex-professionals report to, with regards to the accountability of their philosophy? Or do they only report to somebody about their results? Do our school councils or governing bodies take ownership and responsibility for this? What measure do they have in place to protect school sport from values and philosophies that are far more applicable to professional sport? Regardless of your personal views, Eddie Jones has alluded to a massive issue within school sport which needs to be addressed in South Africa - but by whom?

G van Molendorff  
Deputy Headmaster



## Our Graeme College 2023 "Dream Project"

As Graeme College approaches its 150th birthday in 2023 we look to the past and celebrate numerous milestones of significant success and achievement. However as we look to the future we are determined to continue to inspire our boys toward future greatness. We do not want our boys to rest and rely on past glory, we want them to take a hold of their destinies and become the future leaders and champions we know they can be.

In order to do this we want to offer our boys the best possible facilities to assist them to achieve their dreams. We could think of no better way to do this than to open a multi-purpose indoor sports facility as Graeme College turns 150 in 2023. What better way to celebrate an incredible milestone of an incredible school? And what better way to open the way for another 150 years of growth, achievement and success?

Sport is an unbelievable banner of unity and togetherness at Graeme College. It has enormous power for good, both for the individual and the community. It has the ability to change the way Graeme boys think about themselves and the world that they live in. It can challenge their assumptions about their own ability, about what it means to work hard and the sacrifice required to achieve a standard of excellence.

The indoor sports facility would provide the space for world-class strength and conditioning equipment and training, indoor cricket nets and meeting/coaching rooms.

We are determined not to wait another century before producing our next international fly-half or cricket all-rounder.

This project seeks to celebrate and affirm our past, while embracing – with great passion – our shared future.

2023

Bank: Standard Bank  
Branch: Grahamstown  
Branch code: 050917  
Account name: Graeme College  
Account number: 081996551  
Ref: Name & "Dream2023"

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2021 to start with Honours' Awards

What better way to start the year than to celebrate the Matric results of 2020.

While the COVID-19 pandemic raged across the land and a lot of the school year fell away, the Grade 12s still had to sit their final NSC examinations which ended on 17 December 2020. Because of the delayed start to these examinations, the marking was only completed in January and the results only became available on 23 February.

The whole school celebrates with the class of 2020 as they toast themselves on a 97% pass rate. Having lost so much of last year and having suffered the disappointments of not playing in their final derby matches, not having a Matric Farewell Dance and the other coming-of-age milestones that the Grade 12s traditionally look forward to, the Grade 12s will be remembered for their ability to focus on the silver lining. Owing to the maturity of many and the will to succeed despite the odds against them, many of the matrics matured overnight. They developed good study habits and self-discipline. In short, they grew up and this reflects in the results. The group boasts numerous bachelor passes and subject distinctions. They have made the start of 2021 a positive one.

The greatest celebration, of course, has to be for the four young Graemians who obtained Grade 12 averages of over 80%. Nicane September (6 distinctions), Manusizwe Jourdan (5 distinctions), Somila Ntsunguzi (4 distinctions) and Tinashe Gomo (4 distinctions) have to be the talk of the school at present. As a result of these results, each of these young men will take their place on the Honours' Board - the highest award that the school can bestow. Each one of these young men showed the courage, determination and spirit that exemplifies the men of Graeme College.

After a year filled with unpleasant memories, these four young men have made it possible for the year groups going forward to remember that success is obtained through hard work. They remind us that there are still things worth striving for. They make dreaming possible once again. They deserve every good thing that comes their way, and, while the formal ceremony cannot happen now, we wish these young men all the best in their chosen fields. Their plans are as follows:

Nicane September will be reading Mechanical Engineering at Stellenbosch University. He boasts the highest overall marks and will long be remembered for his work ethic and determination to achieve his goals.

Manusizwe Jourdan intends on reading for a Bachelor of Science degree at Rhodes University. At this stage his intended majors are Computer Science and Geography. Manu will be remembered by his teachers for his astuteness and his ability to read situations. One could not hope for a finer young man in any team.

Somila Ntsunguzi will be reading Mechanical Engineering at the University of Cape Town. Somila is a quiet and well-spoken young man. He will be remembered for his compassion and problem-solving abilities. He was also blessed with great insight and humility.

Tinashe Gomo will be reading Mechanical Engineering at the University of Pretoria. Tinashe decided at the beginning of Grade 12 that perhaps it would be nice to work towards an award. He will be remembered for the way he matured and grew as the year progressed. As a key leader in Grant House (Graeme College's boarding house), he has made sure that those younger than him have a good role model and something to aspire to.

The results of the whole Matric class of 2020 have given us something to celebrate. They have proved to the community that the school's motto of Virtute et Opera holds true. If 2021 has more successes like these, it could be a very good year.



# Honours' Awards



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# Junior Induction and RCL from last week



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# Junior School

The Junior School has started displaying u13A photographs for squash, tennis, rugby and cricket. We currently have photos from 2009 - 2020. If any old boys are in possession of photos from earlier years please can you help us out. You can either donate the photo to us for posterity or we can make a colour photocopy and return the photo to you. Our thanks to Mrs vd Meulen jnr and Mr Fischer for getting this project started.



A big thank you to Mr Xonxa for organising our stunning new 'Champions Board' for Gr 4 - 7 boys. All tasks will see a list of 'Champions' going up per grade, as well as 'Champions' for best effort. Come on boys, let's see how many times you can get your name up there in 2021!



# Internet payments- please note

Please use your sons name and surname as the reference. Unfortunately, we are unable to credit your account if there is no reference to your son. We receive far too many references as "Graeme College, GJG, School Fees, etc".

Kindly remember, there are 650 learners in the school and without the correct reference, it's impossible to allocate the fees to the correct account!

A big thank you to those who understand the financial implications of the current lockdown restrictions and who continue to pay their school fees monthly.

## Traffic control

For easy movement of traffic, please adhere to the following:

- 1) Only Foundation Phase boys (Grade 1, 2 & 3) may be dropped or collected from the front of the school. This must take place at the "circle" and not in front of the main entrance to the school building.
- 2) Between the times of 07h15 and 07h45, please use the main school gate as an entry ONLY and please exit the campus via the Grant House (boarding establishment) gate i.e. one way.
- 3) Boys in Grades 4 to 12 must be dropped off and collected at the Graemian Centre car park or at the Selborne or swimming pool gates i.e. at the back of the school.

Please adhere to a speed limit of 20km/hour on the school roads and be a responsible road user.

## Events



**Graeme College Golf Day**  
**5 March 2021**  
**Format: Betterball Stableford**  
**11h30 Shotgun Start**  
**R400 per Player or R1600 per Fourball**  
Includes Halfway House and Snacks!  
Book your own cart through the Club.  
**FIRST 24 FOURBALLS WILL BE ENTERED!**  
**Great Prizes!**

We still have space for a few more teams. Please support us by entering your team today. It's sure to be a lot of fun! Please contact Mr van der Meulen for any queries.

**SETTLER CITY**



**TOYOTA**  
GRAHAMSTOWN

**Entries to Nico van der Meulen**  
**0731450015 or n.vandermeulen@graemecollege.co.za**

**PAYMENT MUST BE MADE BEFORE ENTERING**

**Payment to Graeme College**  
**Standard Bank - code: 050917 Acc. No.: 081996551**  
**Reference: Golf and Surname**

## Cricket Results - Graeme Premier League

The Senior section has seen the giants take a commanding lead on the log with three consecutive wins. They won a tight match against the Royals on Saturday and then beat the Warriors on Tuesday, after limiting the opposition to 41.

The Spartans, who are the defending champions, have struggled this year and have lost all three of their games so far. The Royals scored this year's highest score against the Spartans, getting back on track after their loss to the Giants. The Warriors also look good and are keeping the leaders under a bit of pressure.

### Junior School Cricket

Saturday 27 February:

- U11A vs U13B at 08h30 on Junor B
- U13A vs U14A at 08h30 on Junor A

Monday 1 March:

- U11's practice at 14:30 - 15:30
- U13's practice at 15:45 - 17:00

### Senior Tennis:

Results: The 1st and u/15 teams played SAC on Monday 22 February.

The 1st team won 3-2 (matches)

The u/15 A lost 1-4 (matches)

Wednesday 24 February :

A group of 6 players played a match against PJ Olivier and Graeme won 2-1 (matches)





# Pre-Primary

This Friday's theme at the Pre-primary is "book character day". Dress up as your favorite book character and bring the book along with you to school. The staff seemed to enjoy it as much as the young Graemians did.





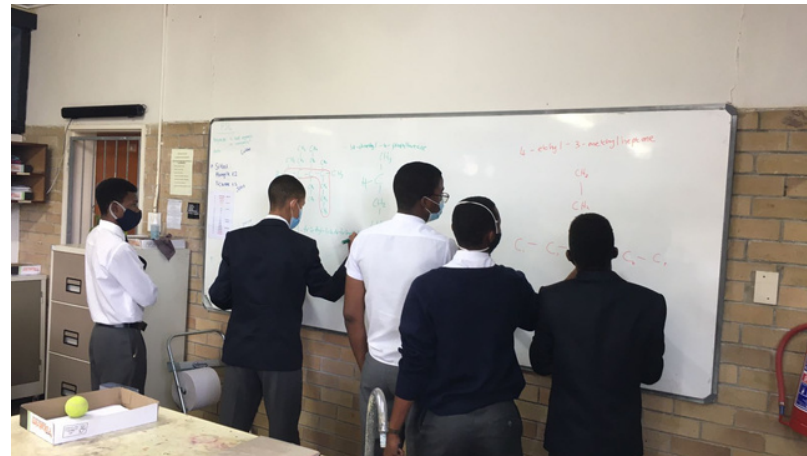
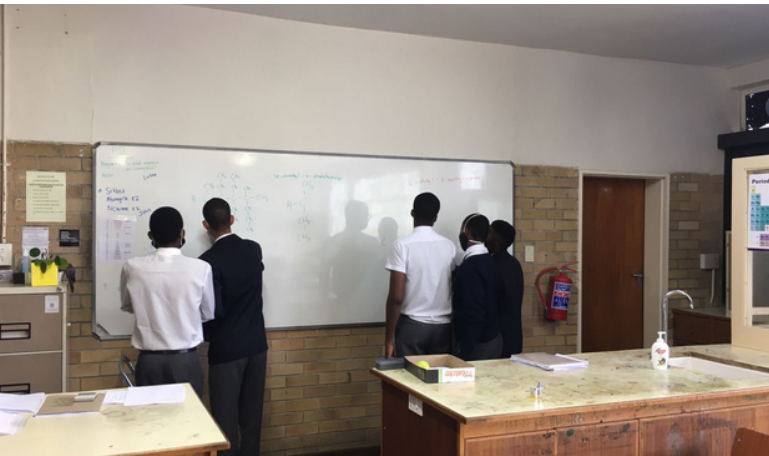
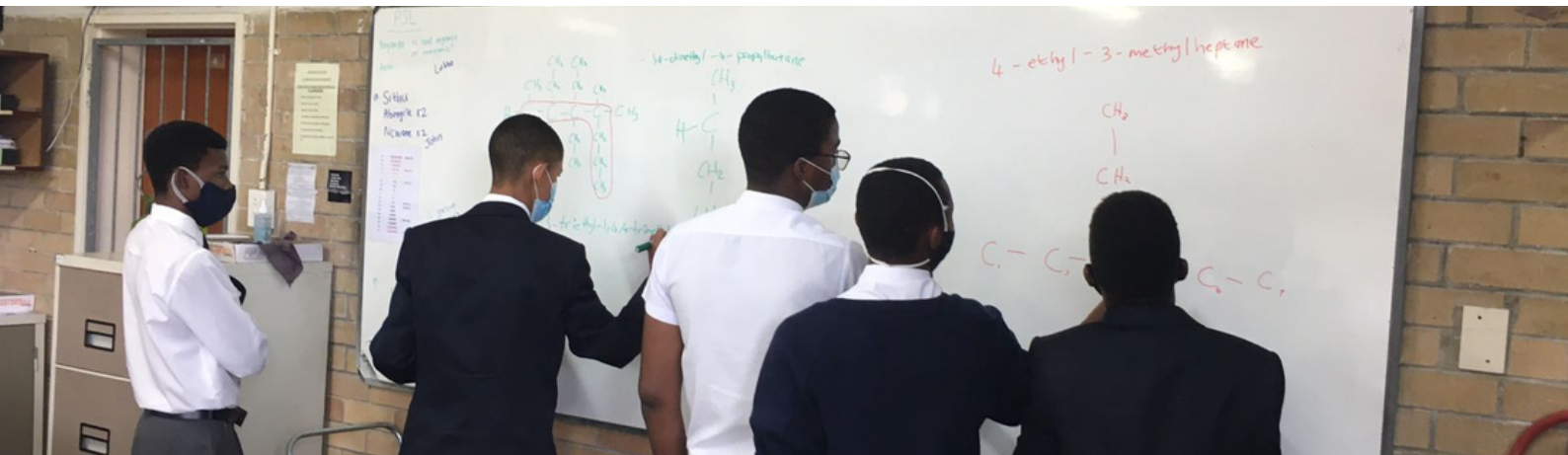
## Grade 10s

Grade 10 life science students using a microscope after learning about cells. They thoroughly enjoyed their science lesson.



## Grade 12s

Teamwork in action - the Grade 12s enjoyed learning about organic chemistry through working together in a team this week.





# Graeme College cares

Please help Graeme College to support our local community with the following drives/events.

## DONATION DRIVE

GRAEME COLLEGE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We need your help to keep our sisters at school everyday of the month.

We are looking for you to donate female sanitary products such as:

- + Pads
- + Tampons
- + feminine sanitary products.

Your donations will be highly appreciated.  
For more information contact:

[d.pearson@graemecollege.co.za](mailto:d.pearson@graemecollege.co.za)

All donations (At Graeme & Pick n Pay) will be collected on the 15th of March.



## GLOW IN THE DARK Virtual FUN RUN/WALK 2 AND 5KM ROUTES



In aid of  
The Grahamstown SPCA

Virtual event dates: 13 - 27 March 2021

Participation fees:

Adults R25 🐾 Children ul2 R15 🐾 Dogs R10 🐾

Email [glowingmay@gmail.com](mailto:glowingmay@gmail.com) Whatsapp: 076 878 0137

## COMPETITION FOR

Most glowing Families, individuals and pets

The brighter the better!

Enter via contact details above



Visit SPCA Grahamstown's Facebook page for more info!

## Eco-Brick Project



2021 - the year to look after our environment

2020 was a challenging year to say the least, but the Grant House boys managed to make 160 eco bricks. Well done gentlemen! The project is headed up by Ms Liz Manning from Grant House and Asive Mpaku, the portfolio head of Environmental Management and Campus.

This year the hostel boys are challenging day boys to also make eco bricks.

What you will need to make an eco brick  
1. 2 liter plastic cooldrink bottle with a lid  
2. A stick or dowel rod at least 45 cm long to press the plastic into the bottle  
3. Any plastic bags, cling wrap, chip packets, cling wrap, foil cereal packets (eg Future life packets)

Your eco brick must be packed tightly, the firmer the better. It must weigh at least 500g.

Lets see what you can do in 2021, Leopards and Leopard Cubs - the challenge is on!

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## Grade 7 'Big Walk' - Friday 12 March

The Grade 7s of 2021 will be reigniting a Graeme College tradition of the 1970s when they take to Mountain Drive on the 12th of March. Back in the days when Graemians were made of sterner stuff, the boys had to walk from the school to Port Alfred to raise funds to buy busses for the school. Mr Riddin has vivid memories of undertaking the 60km epic as a 13 year old, while Mr van der Meulen snr remembers the pie and milk the boys would get at Halfway House.

The Grade 7s will be embarking on their 'Big Walk' fundraiser on Friday 12 March, with possibly a wiser distance of 20km being their challenge. The boys are being sponsored per kilometre walked. They will be taking on the scenic route from Graeme College, through town, up and along Mountain Drive, back past the SPCA, through town and back to the school. The funds that they raise will be going towards upgrading the Junor Fields complex. Parents and guardians have been invited to join the boys for what should be a fantastic day out. All Covid protocols will be observed during the course of the day, including social distancing and sanitising of hands at water tables (every 4 - 5km). The Grade 7s have also invited Grade 6 boys to join them for the day, in return for a contribution to their fundraising efforts. The walk will begin at 8am and boys should start getting back to school around midday. There will be boerewors rolls and cooldrinks for sale on Somerset Field - come down and welcome the boys arriving back at school. Parents that would like to get involved on the day managing a water table or the braai at the finishing area can contact Ms Lois Marechal. Parents that would like to assist and walk with the boys can get hold of Mr Swift at the school.

## Google Calendar

Please click on the link below to be directed to the school Google Calendar. The link helps you subscribe to the school calendar which you can add to your phone, tablet or computer. Just click on the 'plus sign' at the bottom right hand corner of the calendar.

<http://www.graemecollege.co.za/calendar.html>

## Library

The library will be open at first break only, every day. If you would like your son to study in the library in the afternoons, you need to write a letter to the school ( Mrs Strutt) to get permission. Thank you for your cooperation.



# Grant House Hostel

The junior hostel boys had an informative talk on snakes this week. Chad Keates, a Zoology PhD candidate (more specifically molecular systematics on African snakes) at Rhodes University, had the boys thoroughly intrigued throughout the talk. The boys also enjoyed the opportunity of handling the snakes too.





# Pool Project

The project to install shade structures at the pool was started in 2017 by Ms. White. It was a long term goal to eventually have the entire grandstand under shade. To reach this goal Ms. White organized two swim-a-thon events. The Graemian family eagerly participated and supported the venture. It is with gratitude that we thank the Cape Town Old Boys who raised a substantial amount of money to complete the project. Thank you to every Graemian, Old Graemian and parent who participated in the success of this project. We surely can do great things with our Graemian family.



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