



Graeme College

To strive for excellence by developing all to their full potential



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Friday 29 October 2021

“A diverse mix of voices leads to better discussions, decisions, and outcomes for everyone.” — Sundar Pichai

Message from the Deputy Headmaster

One of the most significant things about Graeme College, which separates it from many schools, is something I recognised long before teaching here. When discussing the ‘culture of Graeme College’ it is impossible to not mention how ‘accepting’ or ‘inclusive’ the learners are with each other. There are countless cases of this being evident on a daily basis. Many schools have ‘silos’ of success, dividing learners and staff, based on a number of issues. Often staff perpetuate this ‘silo mentality’ and learners follow their lead. For whatever reason - Graeme College doesn't have these divisions - every learner is celebrated by their peers with zero regard given to their differences. It is such a strange thought - imagine if the country had this philosophy? We often refer to Graeme College being a microcosm for the entire nation - and in many ways, we hope what happens on our campus can possibly influence our community and our country. Sadly, in many cases, people often look to divide - to create tension and friction; how amazing then it is to work in an environment where the opposite is so evident. I am not for a second, suggesting that Graeme College has all the answers, or that we are the perfect school. We are far from it - there is a long way to go still, but we are on the right path. A lot of what we are currently, and where we are headed to, is linked to our positive organizational culture.

Being a boys only school, there is often a heavy emphasis on sport amongst the learners; not much brings together a school like a Winter sport season does. However, if you pop into a talent show, music performance or awards assembly - you see something incredibly special. These learners have a massive respect for each other.

Templeton Drive, Grahamstown ● PO Box 281, Grahamstown, 6140

info@graemecollege.co.za ● www.graemecollege.co.za ● Tel: 046 622 7227 ● Fax: 046 622 7491

It is quite a powerful aspect to the culture of the school. Not only is there genuine acceptance and support of each other - but there is also a massive respect for each other when it comes to talent. The main function of any school is obviously the education of the learners - be that in the boarding house, on the sports field or within the classroom.

This week we heard of the incredible success of Jarah Fluxman (OG & Dux Scholar - 2016). After graduating from the University of the Witwatersrand with a BSc(Hons) in Physics, Jarah has gone on to do his postgraduate studies at Cambridge University. This has been his life-long dream.

He is completing Part III of the Mathematical Tripos (a Master's Course) in Mathematics and Physics which dates back to the 18th Century. He is a member of Christ's College (world renowned for its high academic standards) which historically had as its members the likes of Charles Darwin and John Milton. We posted his story on social media recently, and again, there has been incredible support for him.

We often speak about celebrating each other's success as they are your own, and this has led to the inclusivity on our campus. It is just another example where we see our community celebrate the success of our academics, musicians and sportsmen. Jarah is probably an example of the very pinnacle of our academic success at Graeme; he has gone on to achieve what only a select few are able to do.

He is however, one of many Graemian's who achieve excellence on the academic front, and we are delighted to share in their successes. I am delighted that we are able to do just that next Thursday, as we have a Junior School and Senior School Prize Giving ceremony.

Mr G van Molendorff
Deputy Headmaster



Academics

Grade 12 Examinations

The Grade 12s commenced their final examinations this week, writing English Paper 1 and Business Studies Paper 1. We wish them well as they continue to study and prepare for these very important examinations.

Grade 8 - 11 Examinations

Tuesday 2 November and Wednesday 3 November will be ordinary school days for all boys in the high school. On Thursday we will celebrate our prize winners and only these prize winners will attend school on Thursday. Teaching will commence again on Friday for all high school boys except the Grade 11s who will commence with their examinations. We have a staggered start to the examinations and normal teaching will continue for each grade until such time as they begin exams. All boys need to report to their various stations for screening at 07h30 on the mornings that they write.

PRIZE GIVING - Thursday 4 November 2021:

Junior Prize Giving (G4-7):

Parents and Learners (G4-6 prize winners and all Grade 7s learners) to arrive at 08h15 for 08h30 start. After which learners go home (roughly 10h00). Grade 00 to 3 - normal school day.

Senior School Prize Giving (G8-11):

Parents and Learners (G8-11 prize winners) to arrive at 10h45 for 11h00 start. Only prize winners to attend. No school for learners. Arrive for prize giving only. Learners will leave after the ceremony. Full school uniform must be worn for Prize Giving. There will be a practice on Wednesday morning for all prize winners. Normal Senior School sports practices will take place after the Prize Giving.

GOVERNING BODY A.G.M. AND SGB 2022 BUDGET MEETING

Reminder to all parents to attend the Governing Body AGM and Governing Body 2022 Budget meeting in the Templeton Hall at 17h30 on Tuesday 09 November 2021.



Left: Congratulations to Andrew Muir on receiving the Grade 7 Leadership Award for 2021. The boy who receives the award is selected by his Grade 7 peers and the Junior School staff. Staff and boys had to consider the following when voting: "consistent, hard-working, fair, brave, role-model, true Graemian, honest, reliable". It is a testament to the year-group that so many boys were genuine contenders for this award. Boys and staff also had the opportunity to see Monitors at work over the whole year, so their performance could be no 'flash in the pan'! Well done to Andrew and the rest of the year-group for a fantastic year of growth and service.



Personality of the week:

Our music personality of the week is Ben Shaw (Grade 2). Not only is he our youngest pianist here at Graeme, but he also currently holds 2nd place in the race towards winning the “Practice Points” prize and the end of the year. He has made exemplary progress in piano. Ben took up piano lessons with Mrs Niesing in Term 2 and completed a method book with 30 short pieces in this time. In addition to learning and practising his pieces, Ben enjoys learning about improvisation and the use of chords in composing a short piece. Ben is a mindful and diligent piano student — who asks for longer lessons every week! Although nervous about it at first, He performed two of his pieces for his class this week. He played with confidence and received a roaring applause from the class. Apart from piano lessons, Ben is always eager to participate in all activities during music class and enjoys sharing news and ideas about music. Thank you for being such a good example to your peers!.

New practice points earned this week:

- Ben Shaw 2
- Junaid Douglas 2
- Yolani Jimmy 2
- Morgan Prevec 3

Pictured below: the Grade R boys participating in a movement class within their music class this week and thoroughly enjoying it.



Music is the greatest communication in the world. Even if people don't understand the language that you're singing in, they still know good music when they hear it.

Lou Rawls

Quote of the week

Chosen by Ms Coetzer

0.00

4.52



Music



Mr Florence assisted the music department with the senior choir earlier this year. However, when pandemic regulations once again restricted choir rehearsals, we decided to ask Mr Florence for his assistance with specialised voice training for our subject music pupils who take voice as their main instrument. Mr Florence is a singer and part-time lecturer at Rhodes University where he teaches Classical Voice. His knowledge and experience is proving to be a great asset appreciated by our staff and students alike.

Over the past few months, Mr Florence and our voice students focussed on the all-important techniques for breath support and tone control. Our voice students are making the most of this opportunity. They eagerly attend the 'master classes' on Thursdays after school and practise diligently during the week. Once again our students are experiencing that with consistent effort comes consistent progress. It is such a pleasure to see the students' joy and sense of achievement. They are becoming more confident with performances which bodes well for our upcoming practical examinations.

Pictured: Grade 11 voice students during voice lessons with Mr Florence.



Grade 4s

The Grade 4 boys participated in a life skills lesson, where they listened to a speech given by a local snake handler, Dr Chad Keates. The boys were taught about the dangers of snakes and also safety tips of the snakes that live around the area of Grahamstown as well as the importance of frogs and snakes and the role that they play in our environment. Dr Keates, spoke on behalf of the Wetland Ecology Lab (WEL) and SAIAB. He is currently a researcher at Rhodes University, doing molecular systematics and ecology on African herpetofauna.



Grade 11s

"Water pollution is a global ,but nevertheless , a local issue. Think about the next generation. Get involved and help!" This week the Grade 11 boys enjoyed a visit by distinguished local biotechnologist, Ms Thandiswa Nqowana, who is currently doing her PhD. Her work revolves around the topic of water quality. She has been instrumental in coordinating a successful programme in the public schooling system in Makhanda using Hydrogen Sulphide water testing kits. Ms Nqowana took time out of her busy research and community engagement schedule, to speak to the Grade 11 boys about water quality. The grade 11's engaged positively with Ms Nqowana on the topic and had several questions. One particular grade 11 found Ms Nqowana extremely informative about water and the dangers it comes with and he commented "What stood out to me the most was her plan to provide a cheap accessible way to identify and try to clean contaminated water." Steven Pittaway is the Head of the Environmental Portfolio, and he did a fitting thank you to Ms Nqowana.



Sports

- Squash

Squash results from Tuesday 26 October

GC U11A vs DSG U13A - GC lost 6-9

GC U11B vs DSG U15A - GC lost 10-5

GC U13C vs GC U11A - GCU13C won 10-5

GC U11B vs DSG U13A - GC lost 10-5

GC U13C vs DSG U11A - GC won 11-4

GC U13B vs DSG U15B - GC won 15-0

GC U13B vs KC U13 - GC won 14-1

GC U13A vs KC U13 - GC won 12-3

GC U13A vs DSG U15B - GC won 15-0

- Tennis

Well done to Rhys Wiblin and Andrew Muir for winning the U13 tennis doubles championship; Kits McConnachie and Chris Zimmerman were runners-up.



Well done to Rhys Wiblin for winning the U13 singles tennis championship. Kits McConnachie was runner-up.



Sports

- Tennis

Picture 1: U11 singles tennis final. Connor Holder and Tyler Bower. U11 singles tennis champion, Connor Holder.

Picture 2: U11 doubles tennis champions - Connor Holder and James Muir.

Picture 3: 11 doubles tennis final- Connor Holder, James Muir, Gino O'Brien and Tyler Bower.



- Senior Tennis

School Championships Results: (u/15 Doubles):

Winners: Ryan Stobbs & Joey Matsoso.

Runners-up: Cameron Doyle & Alizwa Jack.



Sports

- Waterpolo

Our senior and junior water polo players were in action at SAC on Saturday. They had fixtures against Woodridge 1sts, SAC 2nds and 3rds, Woodridge u14A and SAC u14B. Although the boys lost all of their games they had a lot of fun, scored some goals and improved their individual games.



Sports

• Junior Cricket

The junior school showed more sublime form this weekend, with the u13A getting two wins over Selborne Primary. On Friday afternoon, the two sides faced off in arguably the most exciting format of the game, 20 overs. Graeme won the toss and decided to bat first. The opening batsmen started off exceptionally well scoring well over a run a ball. Enrique Strydom and Rhys Wiblin had an 87 run opening partnership which set the platform for the rest of the innings, before Strydom was bowled for 29 Wiblin did not let this halt his momentum as he scored a well-deserved 70 runs off 60 balls to lead his side to 151 for 5. The Selborne batsmen found it very difficult to stay ahead of the run rate due to some exceptional bowling from Graeme. The spinners led the charge as they took 7 wickets between them. Rhys Wiblin (2/20) and Enrique Strydom (2/28), were well supported by Zuko Pontshi (2/6) and Keagan Jattiem (1/30), as they restricted Selborne to 106 for 8 in their 20 overs. Graeme won by 45 runs.

Saturday brought about a new set of challenges for both sides, as the cold windy weather crept in. Selborne won the toss and decided to bat first. They found it difficult to score runs against an exceptional Graeme College bowling unit. Andrew Muir was superb as he only conceded 3 runs in his opening spell of 4 overs. Erin Stevens, along with Rhys Wiblin, sustained this pressure as 7 wickets fell during their spells. Stevens ended the day with remarkable figures of 3/7 in 7.2 overs and Wiblin 2/20 in his 8 overs. The Graeme side applied constant pressure with good fielding, which led to two run outs. Selborne struggled to score runs and were 86 all out. The Graeme batsmen batted with intent as they quickly chased down the score in 14 overs. Rhys Wiblin continuing his run of form as he scored 41 not out. Graeme College won by 8 wickets.

The u11A side was just as outstanding with their incredible performances against Sunridge. James Muir scored 105 not out, and Connor Holder another half century.

13a vs Selborne T20 (Friday)

Graeme made 151/5 in 20 overs

Rhys Wiblin 70

Selborne 106/8 in 20 overs

Zuko Pontshi 2/6

Rhys Wiblin 2/20

Enrique Strydom 2/28

Graeme won by 45 runs

Graeme u11A vs Sunridge u11A

Graeme 277/3 in 40 overs

James Muir 105 not out

Connor Holder 83 not out

Sunridge 134 all out

Connor Holder 2/9

Ashton Burger 2/12

Graeme won by 143 runs

U13a vs Selborne (Saturday)

Selborne 86 all out.

Erin Stevens 3/7 in 7 overs

Rhys Wiblin 2/20 in 8 overs

Graeme 88/2

Rhys Wiblin 41 not out

Graeme winning by 8 wickets

Graeme U13b vs Sunridge.

Graeme made 160 all out

Umar Hayat 37

Logan Strauss 26

Sunridge 114 all out

Elgenio Oerson 6/22

Keagan Jattiem 2/15

Graeme winning by 46 runs.



Sports

- Senior Cricket

The Senior sides found it hard going against Grey, despite some dogged performances. The first XI started well, but struggled to break through the exerted by the Grey spinners. After being 96/ 1, they would have been disappointed to only managed 142, but again, it was a greatly learning opportunity for our young batsmen. There are exciting signs for the future.

1st XI vs Grey

Graeme 142 all out

Mihlali Kobese 45

Onosizo Ntinga 42

Grey 143/ 3

Aphiwe Mnyanda 2/ 15

Grey won by 7 wickets.

Grey u15 scored 310- 7 in 50.

GC u15 scored 114 all out.

Athandile Feni 33

GC lost by 196 runs.

Graeme u14A

88 all out

Luphelo Mdyesha 18

Grey U14 90/3

Ethan Bockbard 1/8

GC lost by 7 wickets.

Graeme 2nd XI

174 all out in (33)

David Tyson 52*

Mihlali Xalabile 32

Grey 2nd XI

175/3 in (35)

Kevin Bodie 1- 32 in 10 (2 drops)

Banzi Mnandi 1- 28 in 10

GC 2nd XI lost 7 wickets.



Sports

- School Golf Plan

The Belmont Golf Club School plan is available for all boys at Graeme College that are interested in becoming scholar members.

Please contact Mr Kilian if you would like further information
s.kilian@graemecollege.co.za

- Cricket

PLEASE SHARE AND SUPPORT OUR LATEST CRICKET FUNDRAISING PROJECT.

This is a link to Jumpstarter - where we have created a page to raise funds through donations.

<https://bit.ly/GC-Cricket>

JOKER POKER IS BACK!

1st XI Cricket Fundraiser - THE COVID (REMOTELY ORGANISED) VERSION...

All funds received go towards the 1st XI cricket tour costs in 2021.

To summarise, 52 playing cards plus a joker are shuffled and pinned face down on a board. Each week or fortnight, a raffle is held where supporters pay for the opportunity to possibly be the lucky winner who selects a single card from the board. The objective is to select the joker from the playing cards that are pinned faced down, and thereby win the grand prize. Part of the excitement and fun of Joker Poker is that after each unsuccessful card selection the prize jackpots and technically the odds improve with each draw as well. The prize will be carried over to the next draw if the Joker is not turned. Tickets are R10 per draw entry and you are allowed as many entries as you like in each draw. Your ticket will get you into the draws which will be organised by the parent group. The prize is a percentage of all ticket sales and a 5000 litre Eco water tank donated by Eco Tanks and Bucu, which is valued at R7000. That is an incredible prize which will generate a lot of interest in Grahamstown.

Tickets can be bought at the Graemian Centre, School Reception and via the Karri App. Draws for the Joker will be made on the following dates:

- Fri 29 October (16h30)

*All draws will be held at the Graemian Centre. This gives you several opportunities to win the grand prize. Social Media videos of draws will be held - you dont need to be present; you will be contacted telephonically.



Grade R

The Pre-primary boys slithered into the fascinating world of reptiles this week. Children and teachers alike enjoyed the opportunity to learn hands on about these fascinating creatures with the bravest being willing to stroke the snakes and bearded dragon. Pupils had the opportunity to learn in a real life, tactile situations, which is always beneficial. One can imagine how delighted the boys were to get up-close and personal with the scaly creatures. Special thanks to Louwna Coetzee, one of our pre-primary moms, for organizing our reptile talk for us.



Grade R

The Pre-Primary boys (both Grade R and Grade 00) celebrated a South African day today and what it is that makes them proud to be from this Rainbow Nation. Celebrating our South African culture and heritage is very important. Our 11 official languages, the food we eat as well as the country we live in, with its beautiful surroundings and animals, are all things we are thankful for. The boys also brought along South African snacks that they shared with all their friends.



Campus news

The thrill of marble season is back in full swing in the Junior School. Is there greater fulfillment in life than starting break with 3 marbles and finishing with 25?



Stay Connected

Do you follow Graeme College on the following platforms?

- Instagram:

@graemecollege

@graemeboys

- Facebook:

Graeme College

- Link to online Covid Questionnaire - must be completed by all visitors and sports teams visiting Graeme College. It must be completed on the day that you visit. Click on this link: <http://bit.ly/GCccovidQ>

- Awsum App:

<https://www.awsum.co.za/download-the-awsum-app-for-schools>

Library

Library times

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.

2nd Hand Clothing Shop

The Graeme College second-hand clothing shop will be open between 13h00 and 14h00 every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (excluding public holidays and school holidays). Please contact Mrs Mary Siebritz should you have any queries.