



Graeme College

To strive for excellence by developing all to their full potential



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Friday 20 May 2022

“Grit is living life like it is a marathon, and not a sprint”- Angela Lee Duckworth

Message from the Deputy Headmaster

A friend sent me a Ted Talk to listen to recently and I wanted to share some of the insights from it. The talk is presented by psychologist Angela Lee Duckworth, from the University of Pennsylvania, who studies intangible concepts such as self-control and grit to determine how they might predict both academic and professional success.

Leaving a high-flying job in consulting, Angela Lee Duckworth took a job teaching maths to seventh graders in a New York public school. She quickly realised that IQ wasn't the only thing separating the successful students from those who struggled. Over the years of teaching, she questioned why some of her smartest children didn't perform well, when she knew they could. She came to the conclusion that “what we need in education is a much better understanding of students and learning from a motivational perspective, from a psychological perspective.”

What makes some people more successful than others? If it isn't IQ, physical health, good looks or even talent, then her theory and belief is 'grit'. She believes that “grit is the tendency to sustain interest in, and effort toward, very long-term goals”. It is stamina, persistence and a stick-with-it attitude, which trumps the ability to learn quickly and easily.

In psychology, grit is defined as “a positive, non-cognitive trait based on an individual's perseverance of effort combined with the passion for a particular long-term goal or end state.”

There is very little science on building grit, unlike IQ, which is quantifiable. How does one teach a child to have a good work ethic and perseverance and dedication for a long-term goal? Is it in-built from an early age, does it take shape from a school environment or from the home? It is very difficult to know exactly. In a rapidly evolving world where there is a thrill on quick satisfaction and temporariness, it's even more impetrative to be able to stick to long term goals and commitments.

Mr Watson raised an important subject recently when he spoke about letting children make mistakes and taking their own risks. It is true that children, and adults alike, learn from such experiences- it is what builds our characters and personalities. Failure is not permanent and children need to be willing to be wrong in order to learn. It is from challenging conditions that we all grow as people and from whence perhaps grit is created.

Students internally need to develop, sometimes in challenging life conditions, their own capacity to overcome obstacles and navigate their school system.

If "grit" is indeed a predictor of success, we should perhaps see challenges in a more positive light: perhaps these environments are what create gritty people and hopefully students who possess indomitable spirits and a drive for success.

If the ability to learn more changes with the amount of effort one is prepared to give, then maybe this is also true of grit: it is inherent but can be exemplified with a more conscious effort to remain committed to goals and passions, despite circumstances.

Talk link: https://www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duckworth_grit_the_power_of_passion_and_perseverance?language=en

G van Molendorff

Academics

End of Term Assessment Schedule

The Grade 8 - 12s will write formal assessments. These will take either the form of a test or examination series. The timetable for these assessments is included with this newsletter. Please pay very careful attention to the starting time for each assessment. For Grade 10, 11 and 12 these exams sometimes have different starting times.

COVID RESURGENCE IN SCHOOLS

We ask parents to be sensitive, cautious but not to panic in the current space. It seems that because of a lack of sensitivity from visitors to our campus - some of our staff were exposed to covid and were booked off as a result. As usual - please do not send your son to school if he is showing the usual symptoms. What does complicate it - is the fact there are the seasonal flu issues that are concurrent in this space. Hence the request for patience and not panic with regards to the current situation. As always - the school will monitor this very closely.

Mathematics Support

Mrs Boynton has kindly offered to give Mathematics support classes after school on Mondays to Thursdays from 13h45 - 14h45 in her classroom. Boys will be given an opportunity to do their Mathematics homework with guidance from a teacher. Any boy from Grade 9 - 12 who got less than 60% for Mathematics at the end of Term 1 is encouraged to attend these sessions.



Stellenbosch Presentation
 The Grade 11s and 12s took advantage of the opportunity presented to them to attend a talk given by Stellenbosch University on the courses offered by the university. The boys enjoyed the afternoon and had many questions for the presenter. What was very evident by the end of the talk was that boys need to be aiming for very much higher marks than expected for the minimum bachelor's pass. The other thing that was stressed was the importance of Mathematics as a school subject.



History
 Congratulations to Khanya Mayana (3rd place), Asivile Mjuza (4th) and Lukhanyo Dondashe who received awards for their History essays at the International Amazwi Museum.

Music

- Steelband rehearsal times:
 Monday: 14h00 - 14h30 Beginner Steelband (Grade 8)
 14h30 - 15h00 Intermediate Steelband (Grade 9)
 Tuesday: 13h30 - 14h15 Senior A Steelband
 14h15 - 15h00 Senior B Steelband (Grade 10)
 Friday: 14h00 - 15h00 Senior A Steelband

- Choir
 Junior choir: Tuesdays 13:30-14:30
 Senior Choir: Thursdays 13:00-14:30

- New marimba times:
 Marimba A:
 Mondays at 14h00-15h00
 Marimba B:
 Tuesdays at 13h30-14h15
 Marimba C:
 at 13h30 - 14h15



Celebrity Music Birthdays

<p>MAY 20 Joe Cocker (1944) Cher (1946) Busta Rhymes (1972) 21 Fats Waller (1904) Biggy "B.I.G." Smalls (1972) 22 Richard Wagner (1813) 24 Bob Dylan (1941) Patti LaBelle (1944) Heavy D (1967) G-Eazy (1989)</p>	<p>26 Miles Davis (1926) Lenny Kravitz (1964) Lauren Hill (1975) 27 Left Eye (1971) Andre 3000 (1975) Jadakiss (1975)</p>
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Music

SAC/ DSG Music Festival

The Music Department participated in the SAC/ DSG Music Festival during the past week. The performers included three vocal soloists, Sihlangule Budaza, Yonela Sandi and Sonwabiso Sizani, as well as the Senior Steelband. Well done to all the performers.



Music

EL Port Rex Lions Virtual Eisteddfod

During the past week the Music Department also received the results from the East London Eisteddfod. Grade 12 learner Malihlale Jongile was awarded a Gold certificate for his Solo Steelpan performance. He was also awarded the EL Eisteddfod Medal for the most promising percussion performer. The results are as follows:

Grade 7 Junior Marimba Band - Silver

Senior Steelband - Silver

Cairis Appollis (Solo steelpan 13-14 years) - Silver

Malihlale Jongile (Solo steelpan 17-18years) - Gold & EL Eisteddfod Medal



Junior School

Well done to the Notch Kings of the Week!



Junior School



Left: Likuthi Mtise (middle) is our Graemian of the Week. Every rugby practice and match is 'David and Goliath' day for Likuthi. Playing scrumhalf for the u13B team means that he is up against young men of the size and stature like Kaden and Indi, pictured alongside Likuthi. Mr Schneiganz, Likuthi's coach, reports that he has not missed a tackle in 3 weeks. Wow! For bravery, commitment and dedication Likuthi is our Graemian of the Week. Well done and keep it up!

Below: Our Graeme boy Bathandwa went up to a Lorraine boy who was replaced at his rugby match on Saturday and feeling despondent. He sat next to the Lorraine boy and comforted and encouraged him. A true Graemian!



Left: We have a strict dress code at Graeme College and Mr Xonxa and Mr Mafane followed it very closely on Thursday by almost matching!

Grade 10

Here are some pics of the grade 10 life science boys having fun learning about the skeleton!



Grade 12

Grade 12 Life Science lessons have been focusing on Human Response to the Environment. As well as learning about how our eyes and ears function, the Grade 12s have been learning about how we respond to stimuli such as light, sound and touch. We investigated the reaction times of all the students when stimulated by visual cues, auditory cues and finally through the sense of touch. Some of the Grade 12s were surprised to discover that their reflex actions were quicker in response to the sense of touch than through visual stimulation.



Squash

Makana squash

League 5

GCJ1 beat SAP1 15 - 2.

League 6

SAC5 beat GCJ3 14 - 3.

Second League:

Thursday 28 April

GC1 beat Willows 9-6

Thursday 5 May

GC1 beat SAC 10-6

GC1 lot to KC2 8-6

Fourth League:

Tuesday 10 May

GC2 lost to Leopards 11-9

Tuesday 17 May

GC2 beat SAC3 15-0

Rugby

Senior results vs Volkskool

U14a won 52-0

U15a won 24-0

U16a lost 5-18

1sts won 27-15

Junior results vs Lorraine and PJ Olivier

U9a vs Lorraine u9a lost 0-7

U11c vs PJ u11a lost 20-32

U11b vs Lorraine u11b won 15-12

U11a vs Lorraine u11a lost 5-38

U13c vs PJ u13a lost 5-32

U13b vs Lorraine u13b won 50-0

U13a vs Lorraine u13a won 54-14



Rugby fixtures

Fixtures for tomorrow: please see below. All Kolisi Field matches will be on the Super Sport Schools app and one must search for Graeme College. Here are the links on YouTube for the other fields.

<https://youtu.be/BA1H9ybcOLg> Pollock

<https://youtu.be/tVCRjZqMVmE> Pyott

RUGBY

GRAEME COLLEGE VS ST ANDREW'S PREP Saturday 21 May 2022

Fairlawn A

TIME	FIXTURE
09h00	SAP U11A vs GC U11A
10h00	SAP U13B vs GC U13B
11h00	SAP U13A vs GC U13A

Fairlawn B

TIME	FIXTURE
08h30	SAP U9B vs GC U9B (10s)
08h30	SAP U9A vs GC U9A (10s)
09h15	SAP U13C vs GC U13C
10h15	SAP U11B vs GC U11B

Program for Grey High School fixture

Time	Kolisi Field	Pollock Oval	Pyott Field	Gordon Field
09:00	U16A	4th XV	U14B	
10:10	3 rd XV	U14A	U15B	5 th XV
11:20	2 nd XV	U15A	U16B	U14D vs Graeme U14C
12:30	1 st XV			

Rugby

On Saturday last week the Leopard Cubs also had a chance to play some rugby matches. It took a while for the young cubs to warm up - but once they did, there was great excitement!



Rugby

Some images from the U11A team in action.



Rugby

Some stunning visuals of the U13A team vs Lorraine. They won with an impressive 54-14 win! What a thrilling game to watch and we are so proud of these boys who delivered a fine performance on attack and defence.



Rugby

Team sports such as rugby are particularly good for youngsters. They not only improve fitness but crucially develop social skills including tolerance, leadership, concentration, determination, teamwork – and, of course, how to deal graciously with success or defeat. Despite losing 0-7 in their match to Lorraine the U9 boys showed all of the above and we are so proud of this team!



First Aid

First Aid is a club that does not often appear in the media, however it remains one of the most vital activities in this sports season. Graeme College First Aiders are a dynamic group of learners who are willing to assist wherever they can. A small group of the 24 members are pictured here and were those that helped out at Saturday's junior rugby fixtures against Lorraine Primary school on Marais Field. You will easily identify the First Aid team in their bright vests at any rugby or hockey fixture hosted by Graeme.



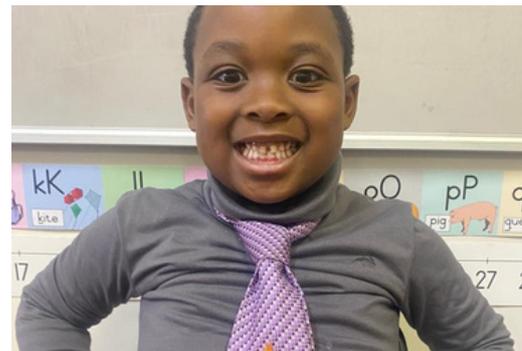
Chess

Well done to the Graeme boys who won 3 out of 5 games and drew 1 and lost 1 against Kingswood College.

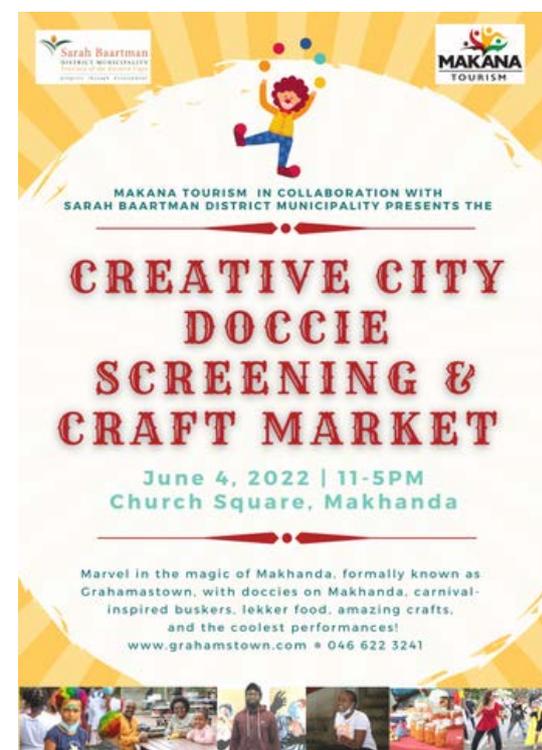


Pre-Primary

Today was funky tie day at the pre-primary in order to celebrate Fun Friday. It is the one and only day in the pre-school calendar dedicated to everyone's favourite underrated accessory. It was the perfect day for the boys to dig out their favorite tie and parade it around to show everyone just how dapper and sophisticated they are! The boys all looked very cute indeed.



Community Events



As part of the campaign, Makana Tourism, in collaboration with the Sarah Baartman District Municipality, will celebrate Makhanda (affectionately known as "Creative City") and its surrounding historical villages. There will be screenings of never-seen-before documentaries produced by Rhodes University media students, highlighting the various things to do around the city and a glimpse of tourism product owners, topped by a festive outdoor craft market. A great day out for the family.

Calendar

Link to Graeme College Google Calendar:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/r?cid=public.calendar@graemecollege.co.za>

Stay Connected

Do you follow us on the following platforms?

- Instagram:
@graemecollege
@graemeboys

- Facebook:
Graeme College

- 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/GCcovidQ>
- 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 the school should you have any queries.