



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 7 June 2024

"Ethics is not an inconvenience; it is a fundamental aspect of responsible AI development. Ensuring that chatbots like ChatGPT are used ethically means prioritizing fairness, transparency, and accountability in every interaction." - Timnit Gebru

Message from the Deputy Headmaster

In recent years, AI via ChatGPT has made a massive impact within the classroom. There has been overwhelming positive support of that impact, with various comments suggesting or likening this change, to being similar to the addition of calculators, the initial internet search platforms or the initial use of wifi. There has been significant debate with regards to the pros and cons of ChatGPT. With that, the universal feeling is that it has to come with policy guidelines and education around the use of the application, which I am not sure we have done enough of.

Recently, Grade 12 handed in their research project, and that again, highlighted the negative impact of ChatGPT, and created more discussion around the processes at Graeme College, and highlighted how much more we needed to do around the education of the use of the application and technology. We are indeed very supportive and excited about the prospects, but conversations also need to be held at home with regards to the effective use of the technology available to our learners. Educators have been resistant to trust the new technology (which is a natural and historical trait), and with the learners looking for shortcuts, that mistrust is often encouraged.

Obviously, a variety of tools have become available to check for plagiarism, although there is clearly no tool required to check some of the assignments handed in at school level. It is important that those tools are there though, and that this is the first step in the education process of the learners. More importantly though, is how to use this great tool in a manner that assists the learner gain the information required.

Graeme College is now reviewing our own policy around the ethical use of Chat GPT. Ironically, if you add that question in its own search, the following guidelines are listed:

Introduce AI Ethics: Start with a broad overview of ethics in technology. Discuss concepts like privacy, bias, fairness, accountability, and transparency.

Chatbot Functionality: Explain how chatbots function, including how responses are generated based on patterns in data.

Discuss Potential Misuse: Raise awareness about the potential misuse of chatbots for spreading misinformation, perpetuating stereotypes, or manipulating emotions. Encourage critical thinking when interacting with AI.

Privacy and Data Security: Discuss data privacy laws and regulations and how they apply to AI systems.

Bias and Fairness: Explore the concept of bias in AI systems and how it can lead to unfair treatment or discrimination.

Promote Responsible Use: Encourage students to use chatbots responsibly and ethically. Discuss scenarios where using AI may be appropriate and when it may be better to seek human assistance.

Critical Evaluation: Teach students how to critically evaluate information provided by chatbots. Encourage them to verify information from multiple sources and question the accuracy of AI-generated content.

Empowerment and Agency: Empower students to make informed decisions when interacting with chatbots.

Case Studies and Discussions: Encourage class discussions where students can share their perspectives and brainstorm solutions.

Hands-on Projects: Engage students and move to more hands-on projects/ assignments.

Critical Thinking Skills: Equip students with critical thinking skills to evaluate the information provided by ChatGPT.

Like most schools, we have embraced the use of Chat GPT, but we are now planning a much improved policy which includes far more emphasis on the ethics involved, and the methods in how to actively use the information provided by it.

The next step is to again have a lot more talks with learners about ethics and academic integrity, emphasising honesty and the consequences of cheating. We need to provide more exact guidelines and clearly communicate expectations regarding the use of technology. We also need to reassess the types of assignments given where we need to promote critical thinking more.

Very importantly, our parents need to familiarise themselves a lot more with Chat GPT, and have those same conversations at home. PS - ran this message through ZeroGPT.com for a score... :)

Gregg van Molendorff

Your Text is Human written



Message from marketing

A big thank you to the parents who take the time to share photos of events/happenings at Graeme. We absolutely love to have your contribution and to be able to share photos for parents who are not able to attend matches etc. If you have photos, videos or info you wish to share with us, you are very welcome to email marketing@graemecollege.co.za or you can WhatsApp on 071 687 4531. Thank you.

Campus driving

Just a reminder about the speed limit on campus. Sadly two guinea fowl were driven over recently. It's just an obvious worry with so many learners walking/arriving at school during the peak traffic times. Please report any poor or dangerous driving to the admin office.



30 May 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

Re: End of Term Arrangements - Term 2 2024

Please note the end of Term arrangements and please make sure that the learner's do not miss important activities in the last week of term.

10 June, Mon	Exams! G10 Tourism PAT G11 History exam G12 Accounting exam Normal school day for the rest of the school (incl other G10s)
11 June, Tue	G10 Tourism PAT (NB!) Normal school day (NB! Exam feedback)
12 June, Wed	Normal school day (NB! Mark checking) G8 - 12 Grant House learners can sign out to go home
13 June, Thu	Normal School day G4-7 collect reports by 13h30 in class. Grant House: Travel day Last day of school in Term 2 (whole school). Pre-School: Doughnuts with dads
14 June, Fri	G8-12 collect reports at Graemian Centre (07h30 - 09h00) Last day of Term 2 (staff).
9 July, Tue	Term 3 Starts

Please note that the Makhanda Arts Festival will move into the school hall during the final week of term. We hope that our Graeme College community has a great school holiday, and the learners return recharged for a busy third term. As always, please assist us and make sure the boys return neatly dressed with haircuts appropriate for the school term.

Yours sincerely

Grade 00s

The grade 00 class have started with the “Little Stars” literacy program. The training for educators is being run by the Lebone Centre in Grahamstown. This program is geared at introducing children in the 4-5yr age group to early literacy in a fun and imaginative way. At the end of each book, which runs over a 2 week cycle, with different activities around the same story each day, the children make a “small book” without words which they take home to keep in their very own library. At the end of the year long program, each child should have a small library consisting of 18 books which they have made themselves. The boys in grade 00 are loving this program. Here are a few pictures of them “reading” their books on their own and then to a friend.





MARIMBA BAND REHEARSALS

Monday: 14h00 - 14h45 Grade 6 and Grade 7 Group
Wednesday: 13h30 - 14h15 Grade 4 and Grade 5 Group

STEELBAND REHEARSALS

Monday: 14h00 - 14h30 Beginner Steelband
14h30 - 15h00 Intermediate Steelband
Tuesday: 13h30 - 14h15 Senior A Steelband
14h15 - 15h00 Senior B Steelband
Friday: 14h00 - 15h00 Senior A Steelband

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Tuesday: 13h30 - 14h15 Junior Choir
Wednesday: 13h30 - 14h30 Senior Choir
Thursday: 13h30 - 14h30 Senior Choir



Above right: Young pianists ardently learning and practising an arrangement of a very exciting piece of music. Watch this space!

Below: The Grade 3 class had lots of fun learning about rhythmical layering! The boys had the opportunity to perform and sing a favourite song in small percussion groups for their class.



Grade 4s

The Grade 4 boys played a times table game this week before writing their test for assessment week after break...Who says you can't have fun during assessment week!



Junior School events

Junior School Letter Dress-Up Day

Dress up as someone/something and use the first letter of your name or your surname.

For e.g: Peter Stevens

P= Peter Pan

S= Surfer

Cost R5

Thursday 13 June



Calling all keen knitters! Please take note that the Lebone Centre is looking for knitters to knit “Reading Buddies”. If you are able to knit we would love you to be able to let Ms White know. She in turn will be able to give you the simple pattern and the wool we have collected for the project. The buddies are made from an easy knitting pattern. These little cuties are quick-knit favourites for beginning knitters and these adorable buddy friends will be used to gift each child that visits the Lebone centre with a book and a teddy buddy to keep them company while they read. They are encouraging reading in homes that can't afford books, or where literacy is a challenge. So please let us know if you are keen to help. What a stunning cause!

Our Term 3 project has just started...

Term 3:

Graeme College Community Engagement

SCHOOL SHOE
DRIVE

Please consider donating your old school shoes for our next community engagement drive.

ANY SIZE

IN A GOOD
CONDITION



Please contact Ms White for further information.

Community Engagement

Community Outreach Portfolio supports the Lebone Centre & ICDP Trust.

The Community Outreach Portfolio boys have been collecting reading books and wool for the Lebone Centre during term 2.

The wool collection is for knitters to knit reading buddies for the children at the Lebone Centre. These are little teddy bears that the children can practice reading to or to cuddle while they read.

This drive had a huge response from the Graeme College family. Thank you to each family who supported this project. How wonderful to witness the joy of receiving. Our boys certainly have kind hearts.



END OF TERM RAFFLE

To celebrate the end of term, we will be holding a charity raffle. The prize is a R500 dry wors prize!
R10 a ticket.
Draw: 1 August
Contact: Ms White



Below: Great to see one of our community engagement boys, Kyle Pearson, who has chosen to adopt his new fur friend from the local SPCA.



Left: Our boys and parents are urged to participate in our end of term raffle. Participants enter their names into the draw and a winner will be chosen randomly. The prize is delicious dry wors worth R500.

Community Engagement

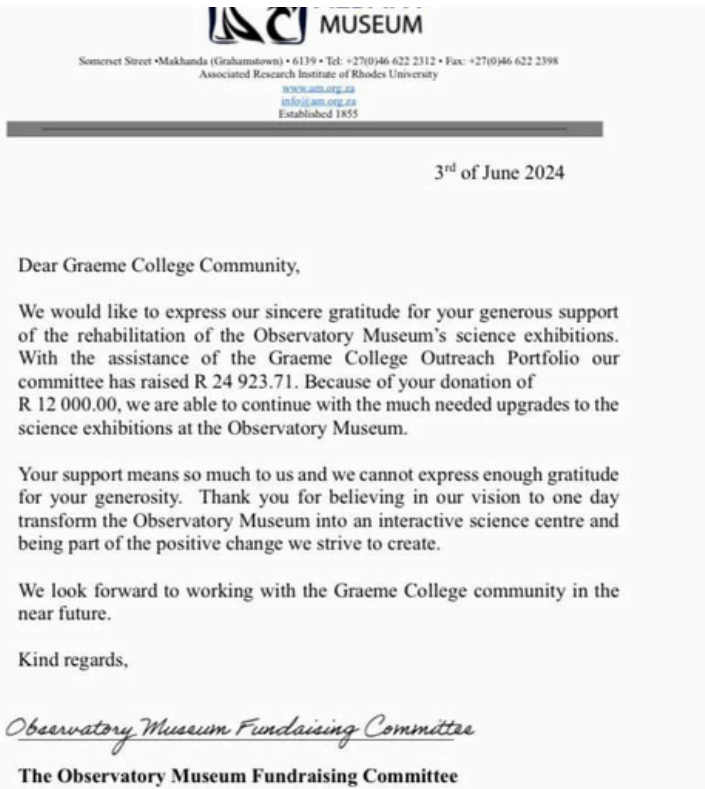
Just incredible! Community Engagement you have done it again! R12000 raised!

Mountain Drive 21km Challenge success!

This week members of the Community Outreach Portfolio visited the Observatory Museum to hand over a "cheque" for R12 000!

These funds were raised by boys of the Community Outreach Portfolio in aid of the Observatory Museum. The Observatory Museum is raising funds to install a world class, digital and interactive, scientific display. This would place Makhanda on the map in South Africa!

We thank everyone involved in this project. How wonderful to add educational value to our town. We are making history!



Community Engagement

It's so amazing to see a community come together when one of their own needs help and support. We called on our Graeme College community to help one of our own Graeme family's whose house was burnt down in a fire this week. It's overwhelming to just feel the love within our community and how our GC family responded. Thank you for your kindness and caring. We filled a car load and more with clothes etc. for the family.



Community Outreach Portfolio shook tins for Child Welfare Grahamstown Ikhaya Losizo Foster Cluster Home this afternoon, despite the chilly weather! This is in aid of our Braai Project for Ikhaya Losizo. Our boys are an absolute credit to their school. Thank you!



Chess

Graeme College chess team represented the school in a spectacular fashion last week with some really close and intense games of chess against Dale. We unfortunately did not win overall, but ended off the day in a very positive spirit.



Hockey

Our hockey teams against Dale last week:

1st lost 2-0

2nds lost 6-0

U15A vs Dale u14A drew 1-1



Congratulations to Dinga Lento, who was selected for the EP u16C hockey side!

Templeton Drive, Grahamstown

PO Box 281, Grahamstown, 6140

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

Rugby

The u9B side played in the Kingswood Junior Mini Rugby Tournament today. It was a great experience for them all. They played Kingswood and Grahamstown Primary.



Senior Rugby results

Senior school results from last weekend versus Dale College - some incredibly hard fought and evenly contested matches against Dale College:

U14A won 18-10

U14B lost 22-0

U15B won 8-5

U15A won 17-7

U16B lost 11-9

U16A won 15-6

4th lost 46-0

3rds won 17-7

2nd lost 5-0

1st XV won 31-0

Pictured below are the 2nd team in action. More photos of teams are shared on our Facebook page.



Senior Rugby

Some action shots of the u14A team in action last weekend.

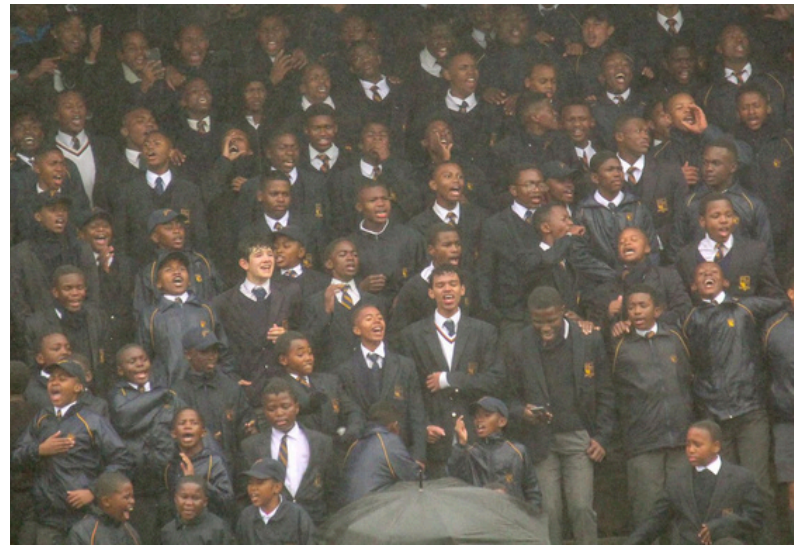


Rugby

Pictured below: Internal u15C/ u14C game. So amazing to see these boys were keen to play, with some games cancelled last week.



Our school war cries and all the passion and heart that goes into the songs can give you goosebumps. Our boys pictured in action this last weekend. Also pictured our supporters who came to watch, despite the cold!



Pictured below: This photo sums up the GC spirit. The first team players pause to thank the little supporters!



Pictured below: A very drenched Mr Pretorius and Mr van der Meulen at the rugby last weekend. Our dedicated rugby coaches!



The pure and unrestrained emotion and exuberation can be seen in these pictures of the 1st team as they celebrate their win!



We are delighted to announce that Graeme College has purchased a full membership of the VIVE TEEN WELLNESS application, which will enable ALL our learners to have full access to the app. It is something that we have thoroughly investigated, and feel that this is a massive step in the right direction for the wellbeing of our all learners. We are excited that every learner will have safe space to learn more about mental wellness, and reach out for help if needed, in a number of ways.

VIVE TEEN WELLNESS is an Artificial Intelligence enabled digital platform and smartphone application that was built in South Africa. The first version was launched earlier in 2023, with several schools presently using the full suite of functionality. The schools and learners that have been using the platform in recent months have provided us with very valuable feedback that assisted us in planning the next phase of the roll-out.

During 2022 VIVE TEENS has been selected as a winner in the UpLink - World Economic Forum (WEF) Youth Mental Health Challenge where it has competed with over 120 other mental health companies from across the globe.

The platform is expected to launch internationally early in 2024, and as part of that process we are awarding South African schools the opportunity to gain from a locally built application and support the mental wellness of our children.

The Graeme College subscription starts from 1 September 2023, but we would like our learners to download the application in the meantime, and familiarise themselves with it by referring to the various videos and guides.

Here is a link to the video to understand what Vive is all about: <https://fb.watch/mcK3MzNNrn/>



Browse uplifting stories

Vive Teens
Your always-there
personal wellness
companion



Discover content
that is AI-curated
for you



Plaques for Indoor Sports Centre

Our commemorative plaques allow you to celebrate and appreciate the memories of your loved ones, honour someone special or distinguish your family.

Our granite plaques are enduring and timeless. They are a fitting tribute on our beautiful new Indoor Sports Centre and a valuable contribution to our school.

ADD YOUR NAME INTO THE HISTORY OF THE GRAEME COLLEGE CAMPUS FOREVER:

We are selling plaques to add to the new indoor centre... where you can add your name or family name into the history of the building. The idea is to sell 150 plaques only.

Email your request to z.wille@graemecollege.co.za - we will send you more information re payment etc.

The plaques will be R5000 each and will be 270mm x 130mm. They are Rustenburg Granite - black/grey. Lettering is 15mm in height. All funds raised will go into the extra building costs as well as equipping the facility with sports and gym equipment.

150
GRAEME COLLEGE
1873 - 2023

#GC150Plaques

Would you like to honour someone special/loved ones or your family through our commemorative plaques? Our plaques at the new Indoor Sports Centre will be the mainstay for putting the finishing touch on a beautiful and historical great buildings at our school, thereby adding your name to the history of Graeme forever. Our commemorative plaques are a dignified and formal means of honouring someone truly special/or your family.

150
GRAEME COLLEGE
1873 - 2023

#GC150Plaques

Our first few plaques are up!

150
GRAEME COLLEGE
1873 - 2023

#GC150Plaques

Our commemorative plaques allow you to celebrate and appreciate the memories of your loved ones, honour someone special or distinguish your family. Our granite plaques are enduring and timeless. They are a fitting tribute on our beautiful new Indoor Sports Centre and a valuable contribution to our school.

150
GRAEME COLLEGE
1873 - 2023

#GC150Plaques

Email your request to z.wille@graemecollege.co.za . We will send you more information re: payment etc. The plaques will be R5000 each and will be 270mm x 130mm. They are Rustenburg Granite - black/grey. Lettering is 15mm in height. All funds raised will go into the extra building costs as well as equipping the facility with sports and gym equipment.

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 to get permission. Thank you for your cooperation.

2nd Hand Clothing Shop

The Second Hand Clothing Shop is now open longer.

Time: 08:00-13:00, Monday to Friday.

Please report to Reception for enquiries or contact Jerri via e-mail (info@graemecollege.co.za).

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.

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

Stay connected

Do you follow Graeme College on the following platforms?

Instagram:

@graemecollege

@graemeboys

Awsum App

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

Facebook:

Graeme College

If you aren't on the GC Community WhatsApp group - you can join by following the QR Code below or communicate with your Class Register Teacher or Mentor Teacher.



The Graeme College Rugby Festival replies are coming in thick and fast.

We are so excited to have Grey College, Hoërskool Noordheuwel and St John's College confirming for the 2025 festival, this week.

The festival will take place from 20-22 March 2025.

