Graeme College



1873 - 2023

2023- In celebration of 150 years of excellence



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 24 November 2024

"When you give joy to other people, you get more joy in return. You should give a good thought to the happiness that you can give out." —Eleanor Roosevelt

Message from the Deputy Headmaster

As the school year draws to a close, we reflect on an unforgettable final week at Graeme College. After finishing strong with exams, the Junior School staff brought joy and laughter to our learners with an incredible dance performance—truly showcasing the unique bond that makes our school a family.

Even as the learners said their goodbyes, our staff remained full of festive spirit, hosting the much-loved Farmer Brown Christmas Party. To top it all off, we had the privilege of welcoming the Makana Community Orchestra for a breathtaking Sundowner Concert on Saturday evening. With the perfect weather and enchanting music, it was a night that epitomised the magic of our community. We have such incredible staff at Graeme and this is just one event of so many; but it was such an amazing experience - which was thoroughly enjoyed by the community. We wish all our families a well-deserved, joyful holiday together and look forward to seeing you in the new year! In the meantime, Graeme College continues to stay active. We are proud to host the marking centre until 15 December, welcoming over 400 visitors to our campus. Our 1st XI cricket team is battling hard for qualification in the prestigious SA20 competition, while many of our learners and staff prepare for exciting provincial commitments during the holidays.

The new year kicks off with the Makhanda Schools' Cricket Festival in January, and staff return on Monday, 13 January.

Thank you for being part of this incredible journey with us.

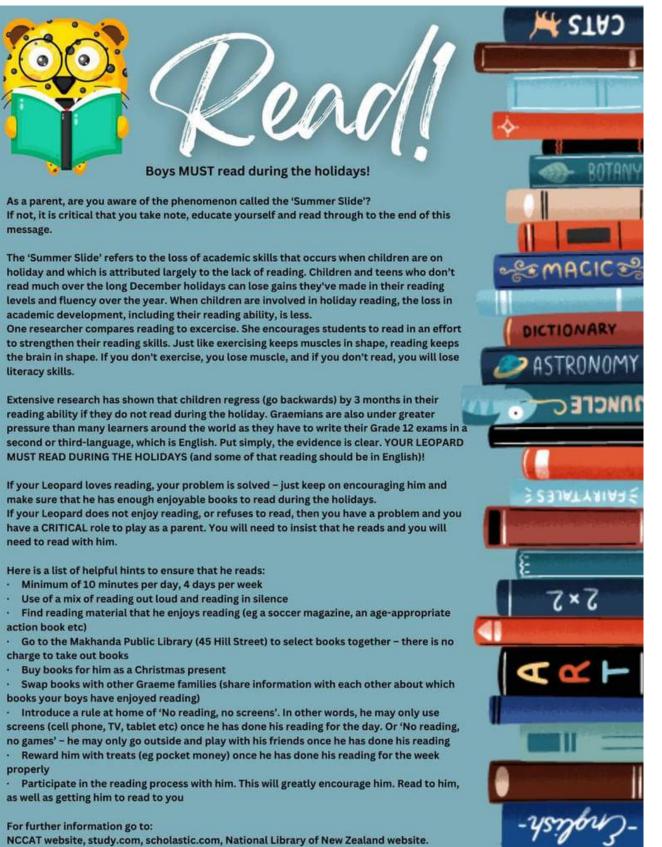
Mr G van Molendorff

Reading this holiday

Dear Parents

Upcoming holidays and reading:

Please read through this information carefully - as a parent it contains some pertinent and important information for you and your son for the holiday ahead. Children and teens that do not read during the December holidays, can lose gains they have made during their academic year. We encourage our parents to take note, educate oneself and encourage reading during the holidays. It is IMPORTANT for your young Leopard !



Templeton Drive, Grahamstown PO Box 281, Grahamstown, 6140

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

Farmer Brown Christmas Picnic

We had a truly magical evening! The Farmer Brown's Christmas Picnic, combined with our preschool nativity play, was so heartwarming and festive to watch. These moments are so fleeting, but they create memories that last a lifetime. It's incredible to think that some of those little ones will be stepping into Grade 1 next year. Time really does fly!

















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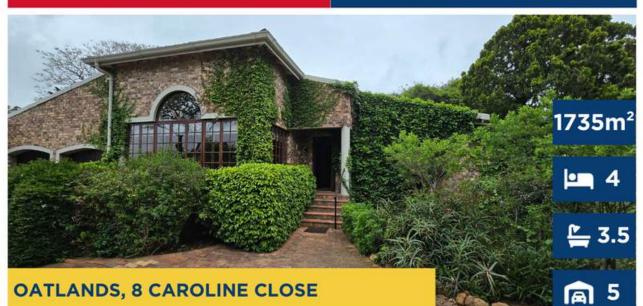




300m from Graeme College• Large Sunny Lounge •Flatlet •Double Garage

FOR SALE

R1 950 000



2 Lounges • Well Manicured Garden • Indoor Braai Area • Jacuzzi/Sauna



Just Property Group Grahamstown (Pty) Ltd, trading as Just Property Prime, is a franchise of Just Property. Registered with the PPRA.

Makana Community Orchestra Event

What an absolutely incredible concert last night! The combination of the Makana Community Orchestra, the talented singer Sibu Mkize, the Urban Jazz Crew with such gifted musicians, and the energetic GC Steel Pan Band, created a truly unique and vibrant experience. The diversity of genres—from orchestral to jazz to steel pan— brought something really special to the event. Graeme College was proud to host such a memorable performance.

















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Staff function

What a wonderful way to wrap up a busy term! Our staff had a lunch at Major Fraser's this past week and it was the perfect setting for the team to relax and recharge. It's so important to take those moments to connect outside of work, especially after a very busy 4th term. We wish all our staff a safe and restful festive season.















Junior School

Introducing our new leopard: Kilimani

- Graeme College is proud to unveil the Kilimani Award, a new accolade inspired by the majestic symbolism of mountains—Kilimani, derived from the South African term for "mountain," embodies stability, perseverance, and the aspiration to reach great heights.
- This special floating trophy will be awarded by the Headmaster to a Graemian whose achievements, even outside of the school setting, have made a profound impression. Whether through remarkable accomplishments, acts of extraordinary character, or groundbreaking contributions to the broader community, the recipient of the Kilimani Award will exemplify the very best of Graeme College's values. A graemian who achieves greatness beyond ordinary boundaries.
- The Kilimani Award is unique in that it will only be presented when a truly deserving individual emerges, marking it as a rare and prestigious honour. The trophy will return to the school until the next worthy Graemian rises to the occasion.
- May this new award inspire all Graemians to strive for greatness and scale their own personal mountains. Details of the Kilimani Award:
- Purpose: To recognize and honour exceptional achievements by Graemians (even outside of the school environment).
- Criteria: Open to any boy whose actions, accomplishments, or contributions deeply impress the Headmaster.
- Nature of the Award: A floating trophy, re-awarded only when another deserving candidate emerges. This exclusivity highlights the significance and prestige of the Kilimani Award.
- Presentation: To be awarded personally by the Headmaster, emphasizing its weight and honour. This new tradition is a beautiful addition to Graeme College's legacy, inspiring boys to strive for excellence and embody the values of determination and perseverance, no matter where they make their mark. May Kilimani inspire countless Graemians to reach great heights and stand as a testament to their remarkable achievements.









Junior School

"Behind every young child who believes in themselves is a teacher who believed in them first." Foundation Phase Prize Giving was such a heartwarming and meaningful event this week! Congratulations to all the learners for their achievements; such a well-deserved acknowledgement for their hard work and dedication. These moments are always so special, marking not only the achievements of the learners, but also the growth and milestones they've reached throughout the year. It's such a joyful occasion for the parents, teachers and scholars to come together and celebrate progress and hard work.













Junior School

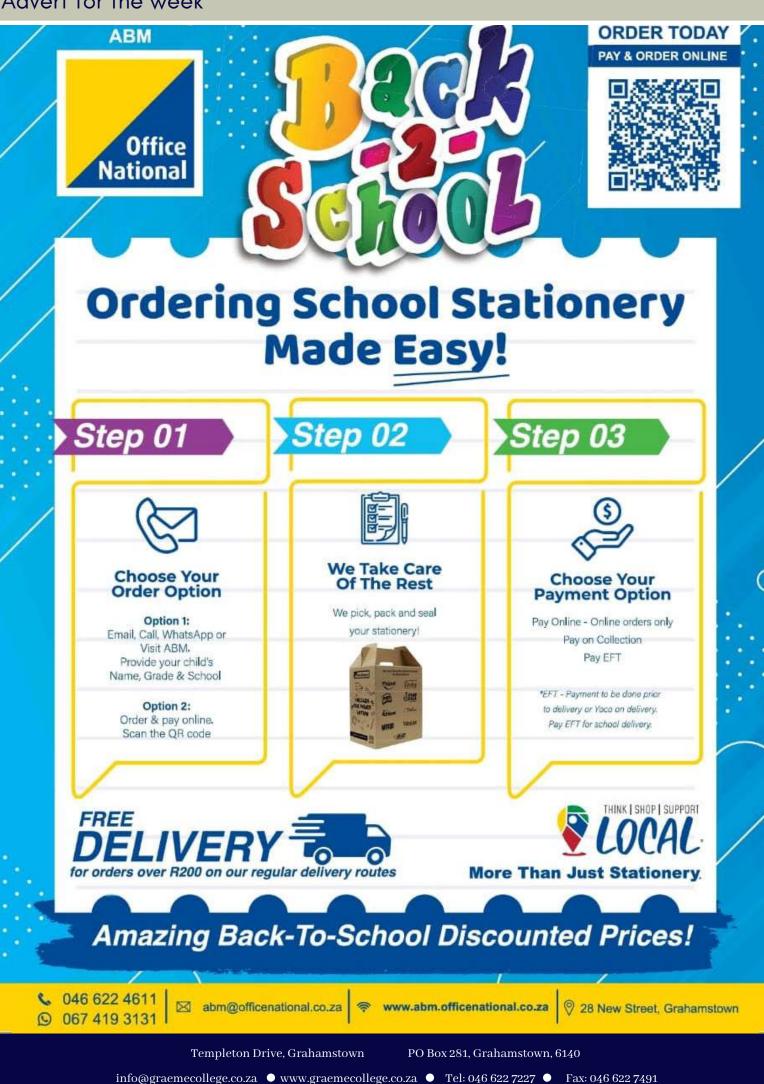
Well done to the Grade 4ND boys who received their certificates this week.



It has been a long, tough assessment week...so it was time for some fun and games!



Advert for the week



Foundation Phase Library

🌻 Spring Cleaning Donation Request 🌻

As we embrace the spirit of spring cleaning, our Foundation Phase Library is looking for the following when decluttering. We kindly request the following donations from our Graeme College Family:

- 1. Lego for our Lego wall project.
- 2. Art Supplies: Any leftover art materials, like crayons, coloured pencils, or craft paper, will help spark creativity in our young learners.

Thank you for your continued support in making our library a vibrant space for our students!

WE ARE BUILDING A LEGO WALL!

Lego walls have so many benefits including encouraging creativity, learning to reason and learning to solve problems.

The Foundation Phase Library is please requesting any donations of old Lego & Lego base plates, so this stunning new wall can be created for our junior school boys to enjoy.

Please send to school for the attention of Mrs Tidbury. Thank you!



Our Junior School Foundation Phase Library is getting a makeover! A makerspace/creative corner will be made for our creative, budding artists! We are therefore please requesting for anyone to donate cardboard, tape, glue, pens, stationery, googly eyes, pipecleaners - anything arts and crafty that we can use to get our craft on! Thank you Graeme College Family!

Grade R

What an incredible term and year it has been! Our Grade R learners have worked tirelessly, preparing for the exciting journey ahead in Grade 1. Through engaging themes and comprehensive content, our young scholars have:

- Explored vibrant topics, sparking curiosity and creativity
- Developed into confident readers, devouring books with enthusiasm
- Become maths whizzes, tackling problems with precision and flair
- Witnessing their growth and progress has been truly remarkable. They've blossomed into:
- Fearless learners, eager to take on new challenges
- Collaborative teammates, supporting and encouraging each other
- Bright thinkers, shining with pride and accomplishment

As we close this chapter, we celebrate the learners' achievements and look forward to their continued success in Grade 1.



















Templeton Drive, Grahamstown



PO Box 281, Grahamstown, 6140



The classic mnemonic... "My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Noodles" is such a fun way to remember the order of the planets in our solar system. It stands for: M - Mercury, V - Venus, E - Earth, M - Mars, J -Jupiter

S - Saturn, U - Uranus, N - Neptune

Such a simple and creative way to make learning more memorable, especially for our grade 4 students! The boys had a great time making their planet mobiles for Natural Science and Technology.



Grade 5

The Grade 5LM class had an exciting term with their rocket-building project in Technology! Projects like this are a fantastic way to spark creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. Students used recycled materials such as cardboard tubes, plastic bottles, aluminium foil, and craft supplies to design their rockets. The project involved brainstorming designs, sketching blueprints and assembling parts to resemble a rocket. Through this activity, the boys explored concepts like aerodynamics, propulsion and creative engineering. The boys also had to work together in groups which promotes teamwork and communication, as they shared ideas and divided tasks. It's always a thrill to see a project come to life, especially one as exciting as a rocket!





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Making skeletons is a fun and educational activity for our Grade 4 students, especially when learning about the human body. This activity not only enhances creativity but also helps the boys understand the structure of the human skeleton in a hands-on way. Here are the Grade 4ND class with their creations.



Grade 7

Below are some pics of the Grade 7 Creative Arts performances over the last two weeks. The classes had to come up with their own drama productions, telling a story that showcases the characteristics and virtues that we need to build a productive society.



Grade 7 Farewell Tradition: Signed Shirts as Mementos!

- As part of the Grade 7 boys' farewell to junior school, their teachers added a special touch to the occasion by signing their shirts. This heartfelt tradition symbolises the lasting bonds and cherished memories formed during their time in junior school.
- Each signature, message, and doodle is a reminder of the lessons learned, the laughter shared, and the guidance provided throughout their journey. These shirts will serve as treasured keepsakes, capturing a moment in time as they prepare to move on to high school.
- To the Grade 7 teachers, thank you for your dedication and the meaningful impact you've had on each boy's life. And to the boys, may these signed shirts remind you of the foundation you've built and the bright future ahead. Here's to celebrating the past and embracing the exciting new chapter ahead!













- The Grade 7 boys and their families enjoyed a farewell function on Thursday evening at the Graemian Centre. The evening was entirely run by the parents under the guidance of Mrs van der Merwe. Our heartfelt thanks to Mrs van der Merwe and her team!
- The staff had an opportunity to explain all the progress that boys made during 2024, both individually and as a group which made staff very proud.
- The boys were also given a custom-made water bottle to remind them of who they are and where their roots come from!
- Next year, when they turn right to go to the High School instead of turning left to go to the Junior School they must build on the foundation that their first 7 years have given them.
- Well done and thank you!



















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Community Engagement

Leaving a lasting legacy behind...

The journey to creating a double braai at Ikhaya Losizo truly captures the heart of what it means to leave a legacy behind. It's a story of resilience, generosity, and the incredible power of a community coming together to make a dream a reality.

Community Outreach Portfolio set out a goal to help to build a double braai at Ikhaya Losizo Cluster Foster Home this year. The goal was to make their wish come true and worry about how to achieve this goal later! On Friday night was the official opening of the braai for Ikhaya Losizo and it was heartwarming and incredibly special. The braai highlighted the power of community collaboration and generosity.

Our boys actively participated by braaing, playing with the children, and tidying up (without being asked to do so!) which speaks volumes about their character and the values instilled through this project. It's clear that this project has impacted not just Ikhaya Losizo, but also the young men involved, fostering a sense of service and responsibility.

The project took special and unforeseen turns that no one could have predicted. Makana Brick and National Arts Festival Social Employment Fund came on board to help even further. Gregg Haakonsen and Hilton Haakonsen made the dream a reality, with the added benefit of repairing and maintaining the houses at Ikhaya Losizo.

The highlight of the evening was having the invoice for the work handed over to Ms White and Makabongwe Mancam (Head of Community Outreach 2024), only to see that the amount payable was ZERO rands. Tears gathered and hearts sang- the surprise of a zero-rand invoice is a testament to the goodwill and compassion that underpinned this initiative. The surprise was an incredibly profound moment for everyone involved. Now, with the funds redirected towards upgrading the playground facilities, the children of Ikhaya Losizo will benefit even further.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to Leard King-King Construction, Derrick Hagamann-Amatola Quarries, Buco Grahamstown, Jarrod Wescot -Albany and Bathurst Engineering, Hilton Haakonsen -SEF/NAF and of course Gregg Haakonsen -Makana Brick.

This project demonstrates the essence of community spirit, with every donation and effort symbolizing a shared commitment to making a difference. Congratulations to the Community Outreach Portfolio of Graeme College, and everyone who played a part in bringing this dream to life. Your dedication has left a lasting legacy that will surely be remembered for years to come! It's a beautiful reminder that every contribution, no matter how small, builds towards something truly meaningful.



Community Engagement

A message from Sibanye Special Day Care Centre: "A Heartfelt Thank You to Graeme College: Today, we had the privilege of being visited by our wonderful partners from Graeme College at Sibanye Special Day Care Centre. During our meeting, we discussed several exciting plans to renovate and improve our premises, ensuring it becomes an even better and more efficient space for our physically challenged children as we look ahead to 2025. Some of the key areas we are focusing on include:

- Renovating and fixing the playground to ensure it is safe and accessible.
- Installing two doors for the photocopy machine/printing areas for improved functionality.
- Upgrading tables for our kids to ensure they are comfortable and user-friendly.

We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support from Graeme College. Their dedication and partnership mean the world to us, and we truly believe that without them, we wouldn't be able to achieve so much for our children.

Thank you, Graeme College, for being such a vital part of our journey!"



Academics

He has done it again!

Massive congratulations to Sizo Klaas who not only achieved full marks for his June Accounting examination but has now achieved 100% for his final November examination. Needless to say, he has chosen to continue with Accounting in Grade 10 next year.

Well done Sizo, you have made us all very proud!



Swimming



At the BEST (Bay Eagle Swimming Team) Junior Gala held at St Dominic's Priory in PE this Saturday, Benjamin Fox placed first for u10 25m Butterfly, Backstroke and Freestyle, first for 50m Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Freestyle, and second for 25m Breaststroke.

Cricket



Since 2013, former coach Ian Suttie's tradition of awarding a Springbok hide to first team players after their maiden century, has become a proud milestone in the 1st XI cricket journey.

For the first time in a calendar year, we celebrate THREE new centurions: Murray Tyson (107 vs Hudson Park), Luphelo Mdyesha (124 vs Union High), and Zuko Pontshi (105* vs Westering High).

A testament to hard work, dedication, and the spirit of the game.

Leopard's Cricket

Just a little thank you surprise for Mr Lensley this week to say thank you for the Leopard's Cricket session 2024, from the Grade 1 class. Aren't they just the sweetest? Mr Lensley wrote "What a humbling experience. Simple gifts from the boys. This is the reason I love facilitating the Leopard's Cricket and Rugby. But all the thanks must go to all the parents assisting and the family members that support these young sons of the Leopards. Without your willingness to help this would not be possible.

A special word of thanks to Graeme College for accommodating the Leopards Cricket and Rugby."





Cricket

FIVE Old Graemians in these squads!



Cricket

This week we had a beautiful game of cricket - the Lads/Dads game. It was a heartfelt way for the boys to connect with someone special in their lives (their dad or someone who they admire). The U13 cricket game was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate both the sport and special bonds and connections. Celebrating both the game and the relationship makes it a truly beautiful and meaningful experience for both the dads and lads involved!













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Cricket

The U9A boys had a wonderful end of season braai and it was the perfect way to wrap up a fantastic cricket season! It was an opportunity to celebrate all the hard work, camaraderie and success the U9a boys experienced throughout the year.

















Campus news



A huge thank you to Mr WJ Hart for being a one-man alien removal machine! Mr Hart cut down all the wattles on the bank opposite Grant House. Thank you Sir, we really appreciate the support, as we continue to work on the gardens around campus. You are a star!

Old Graemians

It's always such a please running into Old Graemians. Keith Gibbs (OG 1975), was the skipper of 'My China' which is one of the Raggy Charters boats. What an absolutely INCREDIBLE experience with Keith!



Founders 2025





Celebrating 125 Years as an Old Boys Union

Save the Date

"A weekend full of reconnections, memories, and milestone celebrations!"

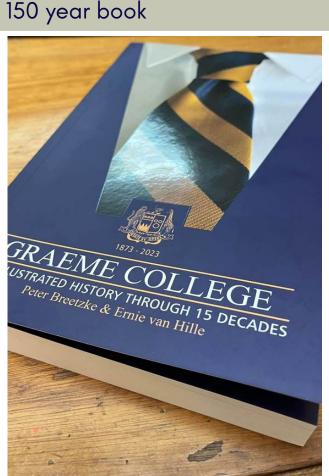
CALLING THE CLASSES OF

2015 - 2010 - 2005 - 2000 - 1995 - 1990 - 1985 - 1980 1975 - 1970 - 1965 - 1960 - 1955 your reunion awaits!

Virtute Et Opera

Save the Date! Founders Day 2025 is coming up from 28 Feb - 1 March 2025! We're celebrating 50 years of being on our current campus and 125 years of the Graeme College Old Boys Union. It's going to be a weekend full of reconnections, memories, and milestone celebrations. Calling the classes of 2015, 2010, 2005, 2000, 1995, 1990, 1985, 1980, 1975, 1970, 1965, 1960, and 1955 – your reunion awaits! Stay tuned for more details. <u>#FoundersDay2025</u> #GraemeCollege

<u>#OGU125</u> <u>#SaveTheDate</u>

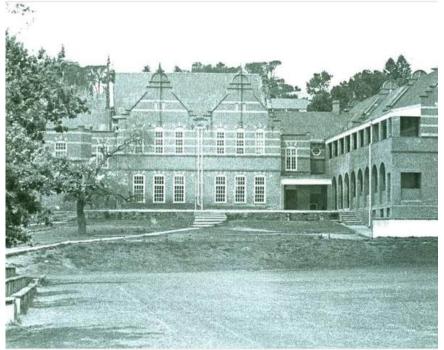


What a meaningful and timeless Christmas gift idea! A book that captures over 150 years of Graeme College's rich history is sure to be cherished by alumni and history enthusiasts alike. The dedication and effort from Peter Breetzke and Ernie van Hille in bringing this project to life make it even more special—a true labour of love.

For anyone with ties to Graeme College or an interest in its legacy, this book sounds like a treasure trove of stories and memories. Don't miss out on the opportunity to own a piece of this proud history or to gift it to someone who would appreciate it!

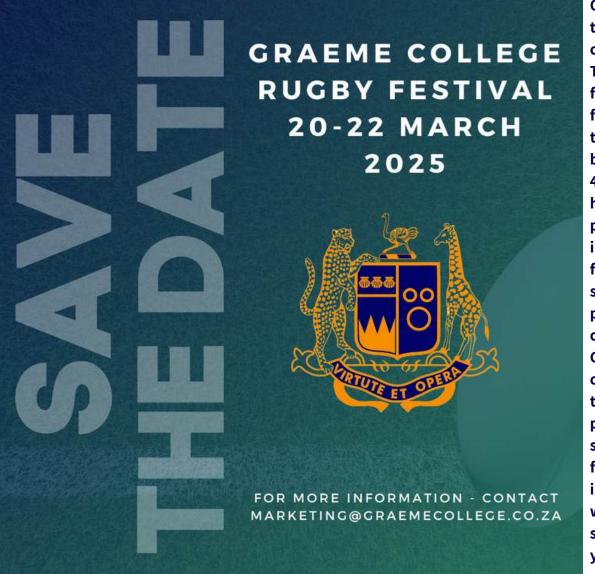
To place your order, simply reach out to Ms. Busi Stamper at b.stamper@graemecollege.co.za. Perfect timing for the festive season!

Founders 2025



Next year 2025 Graeme College will be 152 years old. More importantly, the new Graeme College, where it is now, started in 1975 -which will be 50 years ago. It follows that it will be a special milestone. The 1975 matric class will be celebrating their 50th class reunion (the first matric class). The reunion will add an extra layer of nostalgia and excitement to the celebrations. There will be plenty of opportunities for everyone to come together and reflect on the school's rich history. More dates to follow.

Save the Date



Templeton Drive, Grahamstown

One of the highlights of the school's rugby calendar is Rugby Day. Traditionally this one-day festival is held on the final Saturday of the first term. From humble beginnings in 1998 when 4 schools participated, it has grown into the most prestigious day of rugby in the Eastern Cape featuring no less than 16 schools and over 1200 players. Rugby Day is an opportunity for the whole **Graeme Family and** community to come together and a chance for players to enjoy the special camaraderie and fellowship that is evident in a sporting contest when played in the right spirit. Save the Date in your diary!

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

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2025 School Diary



Stay Organised with the Graeme College 2025 School Diary! Get ready for the new year and let your son stay on top of his schedule with the 2025 School Diary – now available for purchase!

- Cost: R45
- Available from Reception

A great way to keep track of important dates, assignments, and events all year long. Don't miss out – grab yours today!

Puzzle for the week

Last week's solution.







6	5	9	3	1	4	2	8	7
1	8	7	6	5	2	4	3	9
2	3	4	8	9	7	5	1	6
4	2	6	1	3	5	9	7	8
8	7	1	9	4	6	3	5	2
5	9	3	2	7	8	6	4	1
3	1	2	5	8	9	7	6	4
7	6	5	4	2	1	8	9	3
9	4	8	7	6	3	1	2	5

Advertising

Promote Your Business in Our School Newsletter!

If you would like to promote your business or service in our school newsletter, please contact us for more details. This is a fantastic opportunity to reach our school community! Contact: marketing@graemecollege.co.za or 071 687 4531.

Pricing is as follows:

- A6 R1000 per month
- A5 R1500 per month
- A4 R2000 per month
- Page Footer R400 per month

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Teen App

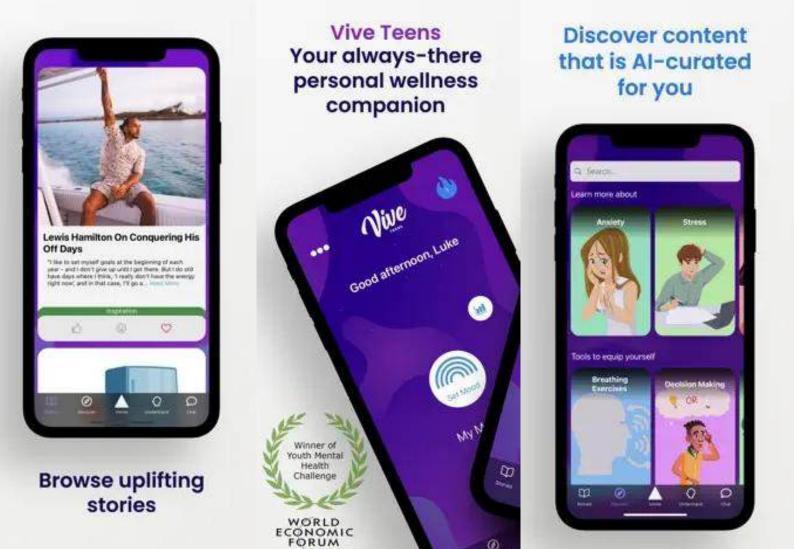
We are delighted to announce that Graeme College has purchased a full membership of the VIVE TEEN WELLNESS application, which will enable ALL our learners to have full access to the app. It is something that we have thoroughly investigated, and feel that this is a massive step in the right direction 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/



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 marketing@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.

22 #G(150 Plaques

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.

99 # (7 150 Plaques 1873 - 2023

Our first few plaques are up!



G (150 Plaques



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.

22 # G (150 Plaques 1873 - 2023

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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: PLEASE NOTE DAYS HAVE CHANGED. Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, between 13h00 and 14h00. Please report to Reception for enquiries or contact Jerri via e-mail (<u>info@graemecollege.co.za</u>).

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.



Right: ...And that's a wrap of 2024! It's been real Officially break up day for our Graemians. We wish everyone a safe and restful holiday.



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