

# Founders' 2025



# Message from the Headmaster

“Our fathers passed thro’ the Drostdy Gate, To the tiny school of a bygone day...”

Celebrating 152 Years of Graeme College.

This week, we celebrate Founders’ Day—a momentous occasion marking 152 years since the establishment of our amazing school. It is a time to reflect on the vision and dedication of our founding fathers, as well as the many individuals who have built upon the strong foundation laid in 1873. We take great pride in our heritage, particularly in our pursuit of excellence and our unwavering commitment to instilling in learners the values of courage and toil.

Our Founders’ Ceremony is also an opportunity for reflection. We acknowledge that our past was not without its flaws, as equal opportunities were not always afforded to all. This reality should inspire us to move forward with determination—upholding integrity and fostering respect for one another as we continue to build a better future.

Education has evolved significantly over the years, facing numerous challenges and transformations. While times have changed, Graeme College has proven that adaptability is key, and that our core values remain steadfast.

As we gather for this solemn occasion, we pledge to uphold and preserve the ethos of our institution for generations to come. At the Founders’ Ceremony on Friday, 28 February 2025, we reaffirm these commitments:

To remember the Old Graemians who sacrificed their lives in service to their country.

To honour the founders, benefactors, and leaders who have shaped this great school.

To recognise the importance of understanding our history as we transition from one generation to the next.

To unite both the young and the old around our memorial garden, where today’s young leaders stand as guardians of our legacy.

To look back with gratitude as we forge ahead with purpose.

As the saying goes, "The future seems to have an ancient heart." While we move forward with time, it is our history that grounds us as an institution, and our shared memories that provide us with strength and inspiration.

The future will not simply be handed to us, but with the combined effort of the Graeme College community, we can ensure that Graeme College is not only a school with a proud past—but one with a bright and enduring future.

Mr Kevin Watson



# Founders' Assembly

We had the most stunning speech by Mr Alan Campbell in the Founders' assembly on Friday morning. He even brought his SUITCASE of memories! Mr Campbell returned for his 50th school reunion this weekend and we were so privileged to have him speak.

We thought we would share his speech with you.

"FIFTY YEARS

Mr Watson, Members of Staff, Mr Izak Smuts, Chairman of the Old Graemian Union, Mr Neil Smuts, the most famous Old Graemian supporter, Ladies and Gentleman and the most important people here today, the Sons of the Leopard.

It is a great privilege and honour being asked to say a few words on behalf of the Class of 1975 as Graeme celebrates 50 years at the new school. We were the first matrics at the new school and we also celebrate 50 years since we left school. We also congratulate the Old Graemian Union on its Centenary of 100 proud years. It is also 50 years ago that Graeme first accepted Grade 1, 2 and 3 learners into the school. We as a Graemian family have much to celebrate.

I wish to share a story with you.

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother wash the dishes. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast to her brunette hair.

She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, Why are some of your hairs white, Mom. Her mother replied, "Well every time that you do something wrong, make me upset or unhappy, one of my hairs turn white"

The little girl thought for awhile and then said, Mommy how come grandma's hairs are all white.

When Mr Neil Smuts asked me to say a few words today I immediately accepted, but I then wondered what should I speak to you about.

Nelson Mandela made the statement: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the World" , He also said that Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through Education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mine worker can become the manager of the mine and that the child of a farm worker can become a president of a great nation.

Powerful words which I believe that Graeme College has achieved.

I want to ask you the following question.

What do you think school was like 50 years ago?

I must mention there were no computers like you have today.

There were no cell phones, wifi or the world wide web to do a google search for information.

# Founders' Assembly

We used books called encyclopaedias. Cell phones came on the market in South Africa in 1996. (That is 21 years after we left school) There was also no TV in 1975 in South Africa. It was first launched in 1976 and there was only one channel.

Imagine school today without computers, cell phones, wi-fi and television.

I thought I would take you back to the first day of school in 1975. We all arrived at the old school for the beginning of the new year to be told without warning that we were moving to the new school. There was a short planning meeting and shortly after that the trucks from Beaumont and Rice arrived and the packing began. Everyone helped, teachers and learners worked together, moving desks, tables, text books, stationary, library books, science laboratory equipment, gymnastic equipment, hostel beds etc to be transported to the new school.

A group of the 1975 matrics decided to carry their desks across town to the new school, which took most of the day.

Within three days school commenced at the new school, however there was a lot to sort out. The new school was like a building site as the grounds were not complete. Roads needed to be completed, the swimming pool was green and the main sports field (Somerset Field) had no grass and still needed to be levelled. There were very few trees. Teaching was hampered for the first few weeks with power failures, water failures and book shortages, but one by one the problems were solved. We were at last at the New Graeme campus.

Today as we return after 50 years, you have a beautiful campus, one of the best campuses in South Africa with amazing facilities. As learners you must appreciate and look after what you have as not all schools have what you have. You are blessed to have:

Six sports fields

Tennis and Squash courts

Cricket nets

A Multipurpose Centre

The Graemian Centre

A 50m Swimming and diving pool Pre-School Music Centre

Technology Block

Memorial

Grandstand

Grant House

A school library

I can go on and on naming your facilities...

You are so privileged to be at a school like Graeme!



# Founders' Assembly

My memories of my school days include the following:

Excellent teachers

The Graemian spirit

The old building with its gabled roof and winding stairs

Good manners

Greeting visitors to the school

My first hiding in the Principal's office

Tuck shop

Hard work

5M

Playing marbles and spinning tops under the Pear Tree

VG Girls and letters being passed across the fence

Saturday Rugby matches

32M

The big crowds

War cries

Champion rugby teams from 1971 to 1974

Another hiding in the Principal office

The Big Walk to Port Alfred

A fort under the Pear tree

School dances

Yoyo season

... and my Graemian friends

There are so many memories!"





# Founders' Assembly





# Friday's Ceremony

On Friday, on our beautiful Somerset field, we were treated to breathtaking images from a truly unforgettable Founders' Ceremony.

Our school, now 152 years old, stands as a testament to enduring traditions, each moment of the ceremony echoing the legacy of those who paved the way.

The beauty of the setting was matched only by the profound sense of belonging and accomplishment that filled the air—a celebration of a past well-lived and a future yet to be written. It was a day steeped in reverence, where every step taken on that hallowed ground resonated with the triumphs and values of the generations before us.





# Friday's Ceremony

The unity and brotherhood that defined our Founders' Ceremony are vividly captured in these photos. The sense of togetherness was palpable, as learners, faculty and alumni came together to honour the traditions that bind us. Each image tells a story of shared pride and collective strength, reflecting the deep connections formed over 152 years. From the smiles exchanged to the hands joined in solidarity, these photos beautifully capture the spirit of camaraderie that has been at the heart of our school since its inception!



# Pastor's message

We wanted to share the heartfelt message from Pastor Tendai Chitsike, a proud Graemian parent, delivered at Founders' Day yesterday. His words were truly inspiring and a reminder of honour and hope.

"As a parent of a Graemian, a pastor to several Graeme boys in Grant House and a citizen of our town, I count it a great privilege to stand and share this devotion with you all today. In an age where so much emphasis is placed on the self in social media, advertising and the like, perhaps some may ask: why take the time to honour others who have gone before us?

In a 2024 survey in the United Kingdom, among young people aged between 18-24, just 14% said they would be willing to make the sacrifices to serve their nation that these past Graemians made.

Why Honour? Why don't we just get on with achieving personal success, or depending on your preference, take the day off?! So, besides the free drink and donut, why honour? Our Lord Jesus said the following to his disciples in the gospel of John (4:38): Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour."

Bearing this in mind, may I suggest at least four reasons why we should honour:

1. When we honour, we appreciate and don't take for granted the benefits we currently have. Remember the feeling you have when power comes back on after load-shedding, and be grateful for Thomas Edison and others!
2. When we honour, we appreciate the significant sacrifice that others made for us to enjoy today, a sacrifice that occurred in times much more challenging than our own, and often at the cost of their very lives.
3. When we honour others, it is good for own soul...it draws us upward and outward, away from seeking honour for ourselves as we recognise that which is honourable in others.
4. Lastly, when we honour past generations, we set a good example to future generations to gratefully receive what others have worked for.

In those that have gone before us at Graeme, we have numerous examples.

We have those who did the hard work of not only envisaging, but pioneering and building a school from the ground up.

We have those who did the hard work of paying the price to make our world and our country a better place, even at the cost of their very life in war and trial. So, this is why we honour!



# Pastor's message

But something else happens when we honour those who have gone before us. We are met with the fact that they have passed on, and we too, like them, will pass on. And that reality begs the question: Where then does our ultimate hope lie?....

To answer this question, we can look across all of human history to one man alone, who answered

this question not only with his words, but with his life, death and resurrection.

As our Lord Jesus said to Martha in John 11:25-26: ..."I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?"

Our Lord Jesus offers this hope to us all, whether you are a young Graemian with the future ahead of you, an 'old Graemian' looking partly in the future and partly in the rear view mirror, or a citizen of our town and nation.

The hope is this: that whatever the shortcomings or success we experience in this world, come what may, if we as mere mortals turn and put our trust in Him, we have an everlasting hope found in our Lord Jesus Christ.

So, today as we honour the courage and toil of past generations, may we also anchor our present and future hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, Our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, and Our eternal home- Amen.

## PRAYER

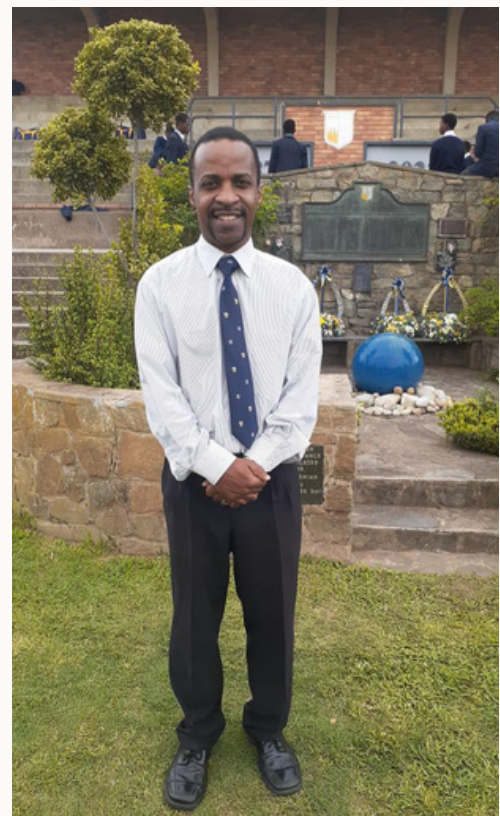
Heavenly Father,

As we remember those that made sacrifices for the benefits we now enjoy, we pray that we would live lives that carry this virtue of giving honour where honour is due.

We pray that young or old, rich or poor, that we would anchor our hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, and that He would be our hope for years to come and our eternal home.

We pray for your blessing on every aspect of our school Graeme College.

And now, May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you."





# AGM 2025

After the Founders' Ceremony on Friday, the Old Boys gathered at the Graemian Centre for the Old Graemian Union (OGU) Annual General Meeting, with the goal of being "part of the conversation and the future of our Union."

The Old Graemian Union would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to Izak Smuts for his unwavering dedication and commitment during his tenure as Chairman over the past four years. Izak has worked tirelessly to establish regional OGU groups, greatly expanding the involvement and engagement of the wider OGU community. His efforts in this area will continue as he transitions to a new role as a committee member.

The Old Graemian Union is also pleased to congratulate Sean Wiblin on his election as the new Chairman of the OGU. Sean, who previously served as Vice Chairman, has shown exceptional leadership and passion for the Union's goals, and we look forward to his continued contributions in this important new role.









# Cricket

It was thrilling cricket action as the Old Boys faced off against the Second Team in an exciting match. The game was packed with intense moments and competitive spirit, keeping everyone on the edge of their seats. Herewith the final score:

GC 2s vs OGU2s  
OGU2s 179/9 20 overs  
Aya Bill 4/20  
GC 2s 137/7 20 overs  
Siba Deliwe 32  
GC 2s lost by 42 runs.

**Founders 2025**  
28 February - 1 March



**Celebrating 100 Years**  
as an Old Boys Union

14h00 - 28 Feb | Marais Field  
**OG 2nd XI LINE UP**

LUBABALO TSHONGWENI	2021
DAGAN WIBLIN	2012
JODY EATON	1995
KEAGAN FISCHER	2015
DYLAN SCHNEIGANSZ	2012
ROYDEN HORNE	2005
STEVEN DU PREEZ	2022
JUANDRE NEL	2010
OLIVIER RIPLEY	2022
LIYEMA MAFANE	2016
JADE BOWLES (WK)	2010
LELETHU CEKISO	2017
IVAN MARAIS	2013

*Virtute Et Opera*





# Tennis

The Old Boys vs 1st team tennis was an exciting and well supported event. The old boys dusted off their rackets, did much stretching and were eager to get on the courts while our first team boys were anxious to see who they would be up against! The first pair up from the first team were Kits McConnachie and Ryan Stobbs who took on old boys Cyril Tyson and Bryn Reynolds. Kits and Ryan were given a run for their money but eventually won the match 8-6.

The second pair up were Jesse McConnachie and Andrew Muir who were up against old boys Steven Gornall and Pete Watson. Steven and Pete have definitely been practicing for this and won their match 8-4.

The third pair, Larson McKaiser and Olothando Jaca, took on old boys Kevin Geldenhuys and Richard Beyleveld. This was a tough encounter for our first team boys and they went down 3-8 in games.

The fourth pair, Noah Tabensky and Bishop Nyoni were up against old boys Alan Mildenhall and Abiel Tuoane. These old boys skills were far from rusty and they took down our first team boys 8-0. Well done!

The fifth pair, Tristan Boy and Eli wood took on Adrian Ristow and Anthony Nelson. Adrian and Anthony played a phenomenal match together and won 8-1.

Overall the afternoon was a great success and a memorable time for old boys, both players and supporters, from the different years to get together again and reminisce.





# Tennis



## OG 1st Team LINE UP

- CYRIL TYSON
- KEVIN GORNALL
- BRYN REYNOLDS
- ALAN MILDENHALL
- ABIEL TUOANE
- ADRIAN RISTOW
- ANDREW HUME
- STEVEN GORNALL
- PETE WATSON
- RICHARD BEYLEVELD



Virtute Et Opera





# Golf Day

We had the pleasure of hosting our annual Golf Day during the Founders Weekend, and what an incredible and successful event it turned out to be! A heartfelt thank you goes out to all our sponsors who generously came on board, helping to make the day truly memorable and a great success. We also want to extend our congratulations to the winners of the Viv Jordan/Anthony Shaw Floating Trophy – Leon Classen and Joos Vos. Well done to both of them for their outstanding performance! It was a fantastic day, and we're already looking forward to next year's event!





# Reunion Evenings

It was truly incredible to have so many "Sons of the Leopard" at the Leopard Den for Founders' Weekend! The energy was electric, and we're beyond grateful for the fantastic turnout. Both evenings were filled with unforgettable moments and unforgettable connections. Thank you all for making this weekend so special — we can't wait to do it again!





# Founders' Church Service

On Sunday we had our Founders Service. Old boys, staff, parent and boys were treated with two amazing testimonies, one from Old Graemian Hennie Le Roux and the other from a Grade 12 scholar, Khaka Tapu.

Hennie shared how the road life takes us on is tough and we're faced with many challenges. Hennie had an injury that plagued him for many years. God miraculously sent someone across his path who helped him back to being able to playing rugby for the Springboks in '95. We have to have our base is in the right place, which is total dependence on and commitment to God, having faith and believing the truth.

Khaka spoke of his life growing up, feeling the need to fit in, be accepted as part of the crowd. He got involved and addicted to activities which were not in line with what he was brought up with. Khaka shared how his life changed once he accepted the Lord into his heart and how wonderful it is to now walk in freedom.

Thank you to Jeremy Sieberhagen, who took time out of his busy schedule, flying in from Kazakhstan earlier in the week to lead his third Founders' Service. We are so grateful for the message he brought about building our lives on the Rock, the Word of God.

