The Graemian

The annual magazine of Graeme College



2025

The Graemian
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The annual magazine of
Graeme College Boys' High School

Number 107






FOOD 4
FUTURES










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SOUTH AFRICA







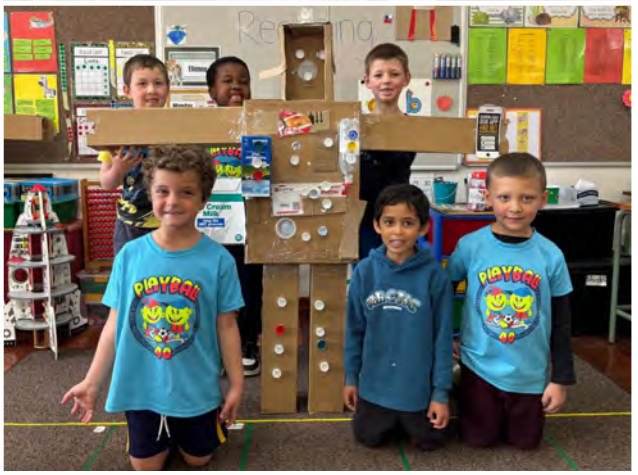




















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Editor's note

2025 was a year of growth, achievement, and vibrancy at Graeme College. The College continued to thrive across all areas of school life, with learners, staff, parents, and Old Graemians contributing to a strong sense of purpose and community.

One of the highlights of the year was seeing our swimming pool, originally built more than 52 years ago, fully restored and bustling with activity. Following extensive renovations and repairs completed in 2024, the facility became a hub of swimming and water polo. We extend our sincere gratitude to the passionate and dedicated School Governing Body, headmaster and parents whose vision, generosity, and commitment transformed this important space. It was particularly rewarding to host swimming galas during 2025, and to see our boys making full use of this outstanding facility.

Founders' Weekend remains one of the most cherished events on the Graeme College calendar, and we were delighted to once again welcome Old Graemians, families, and friends back to our campus. The weekend provided a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate the enduring bonds that unite the Graeme community. Several Founders' events were hosted at the Grahamstown Bowling Club, which served as a lively and welcoming social hub for reunion gatherings and evening celebrations. Visitors enjoyed a diverse programme of sporting, cultural, and social events throughout the weekend. Most importantly, the occasion was marked by heartfelt reunions, renewed friendships, and the strengthening of connections across generations of Graemians. These moments serve as a powerful reminder of the lasting impact and spirit of our Graeme College community.

One of the highlights on the sporting calendar was the Graeme College Legacy Derby—a week-long celebration of the traditions, values, and spirit that have shaped generations of Graemians. The Derby showcases the very best of our school community, bringing together learners, staff, parents, and Old Graemians in a vibrant display of talent, camaraderie, and healthy competition. From the Legacy Concert, a captivating evening of music and artistic excellence, to fiercely contested debates, strategic chess encounters, and an extensive programme of sporting fixtures, the week offered something for everyone. More than a series of events, the Legacy Derby served as a powerful reminder of the bonds that unite our community, honouring our rich heritage while creating memories that will endure.

Community outreach at Graeme College continues to inspire enthusiastic participation from our learners. Through a wide range of meaningful projects and initiatives, our boys are encouraged to serve others and make a positive impact in the wider community. In 2025 we were proud to establish a new partnership with the Rotary Club of Grahamstown, a collaboration that has significantly expanded our charitable efforts and strengthened our connection with the people of Makhanda.

The matric class attained a remarkable 100% pass rate, a testament to their hard work, commitment, and determination. We are immensely proud of this accomplishment. In addition, many learners were recognised with half colours, full colours, and honours awards for their outstanding achievements. This continued-upward trajectory in academic excellence reflects a culture of perseverance, aspiration, and pride in learning. We extend our sincere gratitude to both our dedicated staff and ambitious learners who have contributed to these successes.

While Makhanda continues to face visible infrastructure challenges, Graeme College remains a beacon of stability, opportunity, and excellence. Under the visionary leadership of our headmaster, Mr Kevin Watson, and through the unwavering commitment of our staff, we continue to nurture a campus that is both beautiful and functional. From the classrooms and boarding house to the sports fields, every aspect of the environment reflects the care and pride invested in maintaining a school where learners can thrive.

It is a privilege to be part of this extraordinary institution—a school where tradition is honoured, character is shaped, and excellence is pursued with purpose. At Graeme College, legacy and progress walk hand in hand, ensuring that each generation of boys is equipped not only to succeed, but to lead and serve with distinction.

Virtute et Opera.

Cherié Wille
Editor

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Graeme College School Song

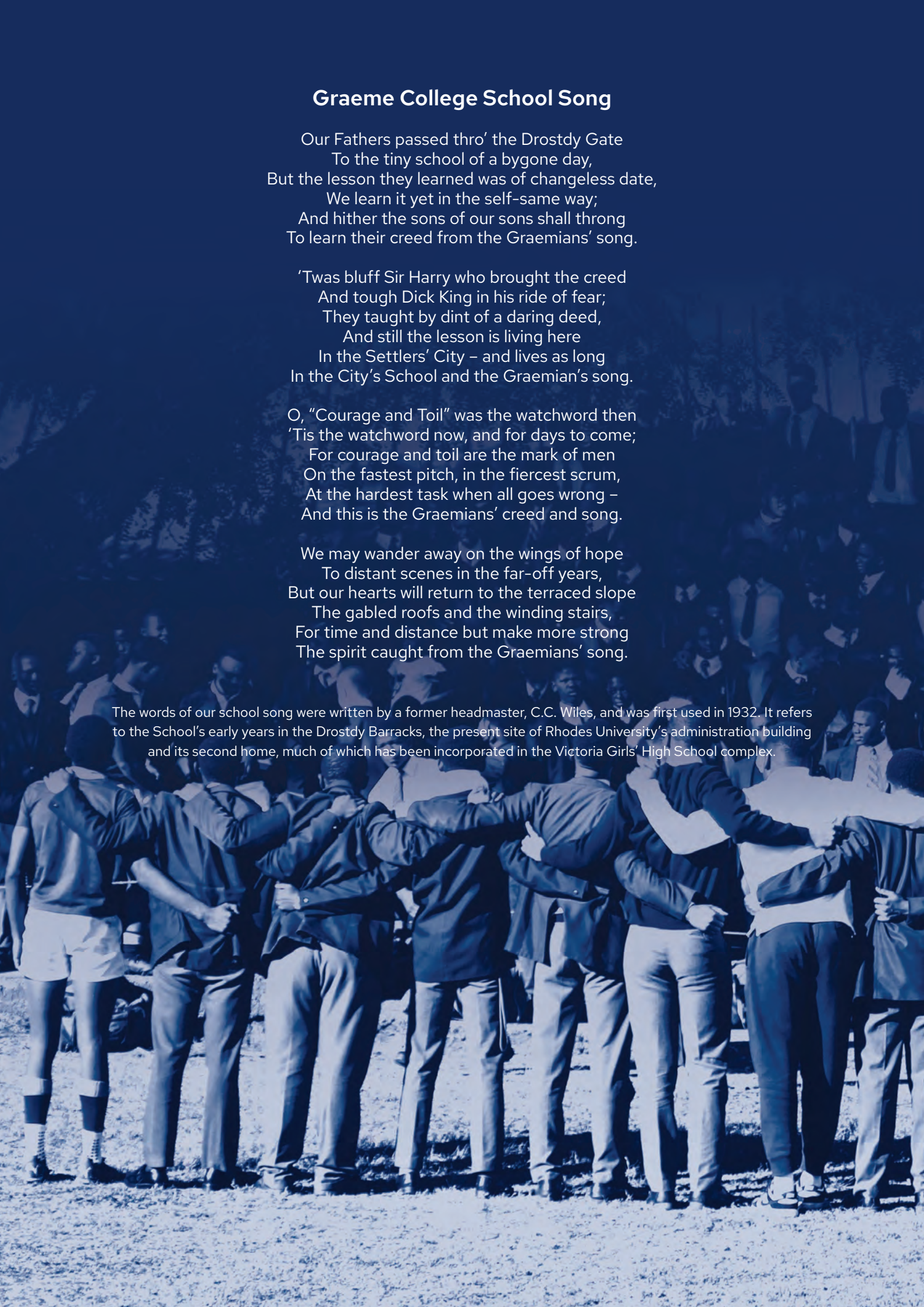
Our Fathers passed thro' the Drostdy Gate
To the tiny school of a bygone day,
But the lesson they learned was of changeless date,
We learn it yet in the self-same way;
And hither the sons of our sons shall throng
To learn their creed from the Graemians' song.

'Twas bluff Sir Harry who brought the creed
And tough Dick King in his ride of fear;
They taught by dint of a daring deed,
And still the lesson is living here
In the Settlers' City – and lives as long
In the City's School and the Graemian's song.

O, "Courage and Toil" was the watchword then
'Tis the watchword now, and for days to come;
For courage and toil are the mark of men
On the fastest pitch, in the fiercest scrum,
At the hardest task when all goes wrong –
And this is the Graemians' creed and song.

We may wander away on the wings of hope
To distant scenes in the far-off years,
But our hearts will return to the terraced slope
The gabled roofs and the winding stairs,
For time and distance but make more strong
The spirit caught from the Graemians' song.

The words of our school song were written by a former headmaster, C.C. Wiles, and was first used in 1932. It refers to the School's early years in the Drostdy Barracks, the present site of Rhodes University's administration building and its second home, much of which has been incorporated in the Victoria Girls' High School complex.



Graeme College Vision

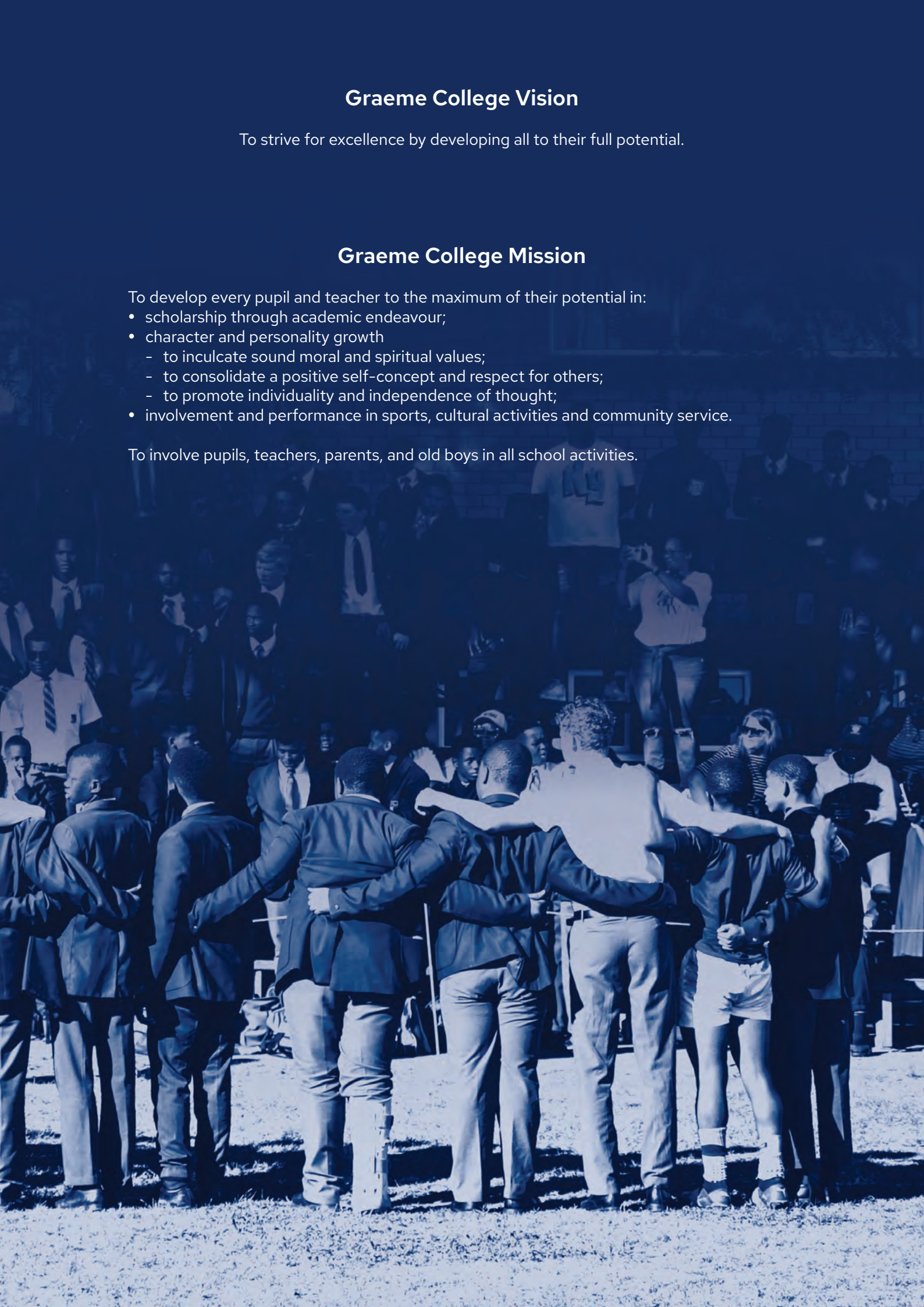
To strive for excellence by developing all to their full potential.

Graeme College Mission

To develop every pupil and teacher to the maximum of their potential in:

- scholarship through academic endeavour;
- character and personality growth
  - to inculcate sound moral and spiritual values;
  - to consolidate a positive self-concept and respect for others;
  - to promote individuality and independence of thought;
- involvement and performance in sports, cultural activities and community service.

To involve pupils, teachers, parents, and old boys in all school activities.



GRAEME COLLEGE STAFF

HEADMASTER Mr K. Watson *BA(Ed) (UPE)*
DEPUTY HEADMASTER Mr G. van Molendorff *BA(Ed) (UPE)* Geography

HEADS OF DEPARTMENT
Mr S. Appollis *MMus (Rhodes) RULS* Music
Mrs C. Johnson *HDE (CTCE)* Grade 3 to end of Term 1
Mrs R Dewing *BeEd (NMU)* Grade 3 from Term 2
Miss T. Kenyon *BA (Hons), MA, PGCE (Rhodes)* English
Mr M. Pretorius *BCom, PGCE (Rhodes)* Accounting, Business Studies, EMS
Mr A. Swift *BSc (Hons), HDE, MA (UCT)* Grade 7 and History

EDUCATORS
Mrs E. Banks *BMus, MMus (Rhodes)* Music
Mr J. Bodenstein *HDE Sports Management (UP)* Grade 5
Mrs J. Bussiahn *BFA, PGCE, MEd (Rhodes)* Art
Miss C. Craigie *BEd Foundation Phase (Rhodes)* Grade 1
Miss J. de Jong *BSc (NMMU), BSc(Hons)(UFS), BSc(M)(UCT), PGCE (NMU)* CAT
Mrs N. Danilatos *BA, PGCE (UKZN)* Grade 4
Mrs A. De Lacy *BEd. (NMMU)* Grade 2
Mr P. De Lacy *BSc Hons, MA, PGCE (Rhodes)* - Mathematics, Life Sciences
Mr B. Draai *BEd (Fort Hare)* isiXhosa, Geography, History
Miss G. Duncan *BA (Hons Psychology), PGCE (UCT)* Geography, Economics, Life Orientation
Mrs L. du Preez *BA (Hons), PGCE (Rhodes)* English
Mr L. Ferreira *BPrimEd (UNISA)* Geography, Mathematical Literacy
Mr K. Fischer *BEd (UNISA)* Grade 6
Mr A. Greyling *HDE* Afrikaans Grade 8 to 12
Mrs M. Greyling *HDE* (PETC) Grade 4
Dr J. Gush *BSc (Hons), PhD (Rhodes)* Life Science
Mrs N.T. Hobson *BSocSci (Rhodes),* PGCE (UNISA) EMS, Mathematical Literacy, Accounting
Mr D. Keys *BA (UWC), PGCE (UCT)* English, Computer Applications Technology
Mrs M. Lister *BSocSci (UFS), PGCE (Rhodes)* Grade R
Mr L. Mafane *BEd (NMU)* - Grade 5
Miss V. Potts *BSS and PGCE (Rhodes)* Afrikaans and Life Orientation
Mr J. Pretorius *BSc (UOFS), Music Conducting (IMC, North Dakota)* Music
Mrs L. Pretorius *ECD. Level 4, Developmental Child Psychology (Intec)* Grade 00
Mr S. Ralo *BCom, PGCE (Rhodes); PGDipBA (Rhodes Business School)* EMS, Business Studies, History
Ms S. Randall *BA, PGCE (Rhodes)* Life Orientation
Mr R. Rowe *BEd (NWU)* Accounting and English
Mr D. Schneigansz *BEd (NMMU)* Grade 6
Dr. L. Shaw *BSc(Hons), MSc (NMMU), PhD (Rhodes)* Physical Science
Mr V. Tshekela *BA, PGCE (Rhodes), PGDE (NMU)* Life Orientation, Xhosa
Mr J. van der Meulen *BA, PGCE (Rhodes)* Geography, Technology
Ms M. White *BEd Snr and FET Phases (UNISA)* Mathematics, EMS
Mr E. Wille Computer Applied Technology, ICT Administrator
Mr O. Xonxa *BEd (NMU), Hons (Rhodes)* Intersen Phase

INTERNS
Mr C. Ngodwane, Mr L. Sam, Mr K. Barber, Miss A. Benn

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
Mrs Z. King - Financial Manager/Bursar (to end March 2025)

Mrs T. Steele – Finance Manager (from March 2025)
Mrs S. Krüger – Secretary (retired end January 2025)
Mrs C. Wille – Personal Assistant to the Headmaster (from February 2025)
Mrs M. Strydom – Creditors (to end February 2025)
Miss B. Stamper – Administration/Creditors
Mrs D. Labuschagne – Marketing
Miss Z. Viljoen - Administration

ESTATE STAFF
Mr C. Berriman (Maintenance Manager), Mr D. Behr, Mr Z. Boyi, Mr G. Dondashe, Mr M. Kondile, Mr G. Mali, Mr L. Mzizi, Mr E. Ndubela, Mrs C. Tonyuela, Ms P. Nojoko, Mr P. Makina, Mr Z. Ngxisha, Mr T. Snooks, Mr P. Manyamana

GRANT HOUSE
Mr M. Pretorius (superintendent), Ms E. Manning (matron), Mrs L. Holland (matron), Mrs C. Ngciphu, Mr X. Pati, Mrs T. Soxujwa, Mr D. Soxujwa, Mr Z. Maaotla, Mrs W. Ndzengu (to end May 2025), Ms N. Mafele (from end May 2025), Ms R. Nkupju (to end May 2025), Mrs F. Mzileni (from end May 2025), Ms R. Planga (to end February 2025), Ms D. Soxujwa (from end February 2025).

TEACHER ASSISTANTS
Ms P. Hulushe, Ms T. Mfecane, Ms X. Wewe, Ms C. Swanepoel

THE ROY AND DEE SIMPSON GRAEMIAN CENTRE
Ms C. Croukam

AFTERCARE FACILITY
Ms S. Christian, Ms N. Mfecane

Staff notes

~ Tracy Kenyon

In musical terms, harmony is desirable. It makes music sound better, and when it makes everyone's feet start twitching, you know that you have a winning song. In many ways, teaching at Graeme College is like playing in the ultimate orchestra. We hit such beautifully high notes while organising our young men to be proud, decent citizens of the world who are trained to excel across a range of different spheres.

Because your sons are of pivotal importance for the school's success, it is in the best interests of everyone that the staff complement remains strong. Think of the staff as master musicians who are best able to hone your son's talents, whether they are academic, sporting or cultural. This report comprises staff news for 2025.

January 2025 dawned, and the year started with a crescendo (this article has a musical theme). There was a much-improved pass rate and a new, motivated class of grade 12s champing at the bit to get their year started. As part of this introduction to the year, Graeme College was proud to welcome some new staff. Mr Anthony Greyling replaced Mrs van der Meulen who retired at the end of last year. Mr Greyling bounced into the school with a certain zeal and soon had the learners doing Afrikaans dancing to his tune. Mr Nicholas Dettmer joined the staff to teach a combination of junior school English and high school Mathematics. Mrs Elizabeth Banks joined the Music Department and soon enhanced all of the junior music classes with her enthusiasm and knowledge. Miss Zane Viljoen started in an administrative position at the beginning of January, and she brought a newness and a friendly smile into the office, which proved to be infectious. Two interns, Mr Kelson Barber in the intermediate phase, and and Ms Abigail Benn in the foundation phase, also joined the show. 2025 was indeed off to a good start.

The first bit of disharmony occurred at the end of January when long-time secretary to the headmaster, Mrs Sharon Kruger retired. Mrs Kruger had been part of the Graeme College family for a very long time, and her institutional knowledge is sorely missed. She had a great sense of humour, and often helped with fundraising in the form of various variety concerts that she co-ordinated. Her dedication to the school was often noted, and it was with great sadness that we bade farewell to her. In her place, Graeme College welcomed Mrs Cherié Wille, who capably stepped into Mrs Kruger's office, but not her place. Her role had been negotiated, and the job description had changed somewhat, but she very soon won the staff over and had them all dancing in the same direction.

There was a further blow towards the end of the first term when the school bursar, Mrs Zinta King, left to pursue a career in the private sector. Mrs King was always very enthusiastic and full of treats for the staff, and she too, will be greatly missed. Mrs Tessa Steele joined Graeme College in her place. Mrs Steele proved to be a lady of great vision – a hard worker who we hope will not be in a hurry to leave. She, too, soon had staff and parents marching in an orderly way. The financial affairs of a fee-paying school are of paramount importance, and Mrs Steele's role cannot be underestimated.

The starring orchestra was once again intact, and the second term flew past with the music going faster and faster. The usual annual events and fixtures filled the calendar, and the learners were as excitable as always.

Two things happened at the end of the second term that changed the melody for the year. Mrs Caryn Johnson left the College to join her husband, who had been promoted to a principal's position in another province. The whole family moved, but Mrs Johnson left a hole in grade 3. The School Management Team had got used to her quiet efficiency, and there were certain worries about what would happen in her absence. As luck would have it, Mrs Robynne Dewing was able to join the staff, and she brought a very different experience, but was easily capable of picking up all of Mrs Johnson's duties.

Mrs Laura du Preez went on maternity leave at the end of the second term. On 1 July 2025 at 06h14, Hayden made his entrance into the world, and the school community celebrated. Hayden represented a 3.2kg addition to the Graeme College family. His father is an Old Graemian and there are already signs that he will be following in his father's footsteps. He is as busy as his dad, friendly, and too sweet for words.

Mrs Adeline Gowar filled in for a term of relief teaching while Mrs du Preez was on maternity leave. Mrs Gowar has a long history of teaching in and around Makhanda. Her experience makes her able to step into any class, in any grade, without skipping a beat. She was a welcome addition to the staff, with her friendly smile and her supportive attitude. We were very grateful to her for stepping in at short notice, and we know that we have a reliable English teacher should the need ever arise again.

Ms Caitlyn Craigie joined the Graeme College staff at the beginning of the second term in a support post after Ms Roxanne Esterhuyse was suddenly offered a permanent position elsewhere. Caitlyn has been a very successful addition to the staff. She kept chaos at bay in the preschool while we awaited the return of Mrs Michaela Lister from her terrible brush with cancer. It was a delight to see Mrs Lister return to her rightful place, and we got to keep Miss Craigie, so things could not have been better.

The year has slowly danced its way to the end. When you work with people, particularly when those people are minors, there are going to be some hiccups along the way. These hiccups were minor though, and 2025 has been a good year. There have been some sadnesses: four staff are leaving us at the end of 2025, but it is important that they, too, follow a path that will lead them on to better (or more relaxing) things. Mrs Henriette Nel retires after years of long service to the school. She started with remedial work for grades 1, 2 and 3, later picked up conversational isiXhosa in grades 4–7, before finally teaching grade 1s from 2021. Mrs Nel is retiring to the farm, and our best wishes accompany her.

Mrs Nicole Hobson joined the staff in 2019 and will be assuming a post at Kingswood College in 2026. Our loss is their gain. Her direct approach and exacting expectations helped shape some of the more academic learners, and this makes it sad for us to see her go.

We also had to deal with the double blow of the De Lacys leaving. Mr Peter De Lacy has dedicated a lot of time to the teaching of mathematics and squash, but has felt the call of the wild and is returning to his roots, as a consultant in the environmental field. Mrs Amy De Lacy, much-loved grade 2 teacher, was offered a post at Kingswood College, which led to many tears from many sections of the school. We wish the De Lacys well as their path changes so radically.

And so, 2025 winds down to a murmur. Any operation this size takes a huge amount of orchestrating from behind the scenes. Once again, gratitude needs to be conveyed to our very own conductor, headmaster, Mr Kevin Watson, who always flicks the baton in just the right place. He has led Graeme College to great heights and will leave it strong for future generations. English actress, Penelope Keith, once said, "I plant a lot of trees. I am a great believer in planting things for future generations. I loathe the 'now culture' where you just live for today". If we want future generations of Graemians to have positive experiences of Graeme College, we need to keep planting. We need people to invest in the school; this could be financial, but it could just as easily be through life service. This will create a unique space and foster a place where people want to come. We thank the staff for their dedication. It is through their commitment and Mr Watson's leadership that the school will make music for generations to come. This is a rather special legacy.



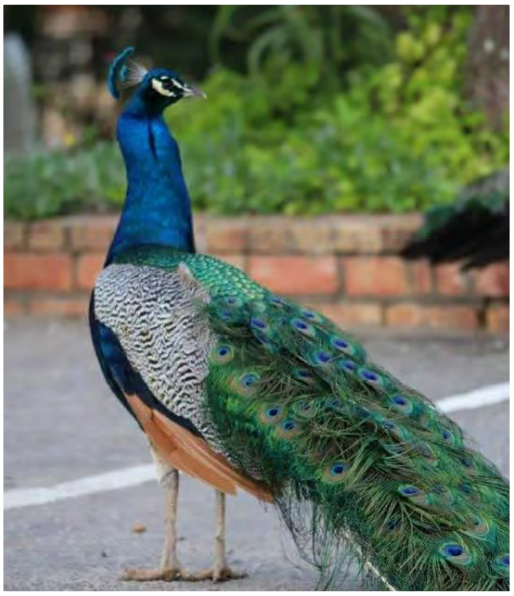

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GRAEME COLLEGE
GRANT HOUSE











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Back row: Mr Johannes Bodenstein, Mr Johan Pretorius, Mr Sean Kilian, Mr Keagan Fischer, Mr Lakanye Sam, Mr Sinolwazi Ralo, Mr Kelson Barber, Mr Dylan Schneigansz, Mr Bongolwethu Draai, Mr Peter De Lacy, Mr Ryan Rowe

Third row: Dr Jennifer Gush, Mrs Mariska Greyling, Mrs Amy De Lacy, Ms Caitlin Craigie, Mrs Justine Bussiahn, Mrs Elizabeth Banks, Mrs Michaela Lister, Dr Lauren Shaw, Ms Abigail Benn, Mrs Lana Pretorius, Ms Giorgia Duncan, Ms Jaqui de Jongh, Mrs Nicole Hobson, Ms Morgan White, Ms Shavonne Randall, Ms Veronique Potts, Mrs Candice Tidbury

Second row: Mr Vuyo Tshekela, Mr Ciko Ngodwane, Mr Eddie Wille, Mr Jonty van der Meulen, Mr Carl Bradfield, Mr Devon Keys, Mr Odwa Xonxa, Mr Liyema Mafane, Mr Lawrence Ferreira, Mr Anthony Greyling

Seated: Mrs Robynne Dewing, Mr Michael Pretorius, Mr Andrew Swift, Mr Kevin Watson (headmaster), Mr Gregg van Molendorff (deputy headmaster), Miss Tracey Kenyon, Mr Sylvester. Appollis



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Back: Miss Zané Viljoen, Ms Busi Stamper
Seated: Mrs Tessa Steele, Mr Kevin Watson (headmaster), Mrs Cherié Wille



GROUND STAFF

Back: Mr Donovan Behr, Mr Luhona Mzizi, Mr George Dondashe, Mr Msimbothi Khondile, Mr Zola Ngqisha.
Mr Ellen Ndubela
Front: Mr Zalisila Boyi, Mr Germiston Mali, Mr Clinton Berriman, Mr Thembani Snooks, Mr Patrick Makina

Learner leadership

~ Mr Peter De Lacy

Learner leadership at Graeme College is based on distributed leadership and learner voice. It gives grade 12s the chance to be the head of a portfolio, as well as other learners of the grade 8 to 12 classes the opportunity to be members of these portfolios.

Highlights of the year included the many drives of the Community Outreach Portfolio, the gardening done by the Environmental Portfolio, the sporting activities of the School Sport/Spirit and House Portfolios and the academic buddy system designed by our Academic Portfolio. These systems and activities will be continued as the leadership at Graeme College goes from strength to strength.

This programme was designed to allow learners to be rewarded if they excel in their position. The system of reward for excellence in any sphere at Graeme College is to be awarded half colours or full colours. This new system has allowed for any member, not just a portfolio head, to obtain half colours or full colours for learner leadership, should they meet the requirements.

This year, full colours were awarded to Jesse McConnachie, Noah Tabensky, Leon Mwepu, Jaycie Pieterse and Azola Zondani. Jayden Brits received half colours and Matthew Lamont and Cullen Goliath received certificates of achievement. Well done to all of these learners leaders.



LEARNER LEADERSHIP

Back: Dinilesizwe Mjuku, Ayamila Bill, Cullen Goliath

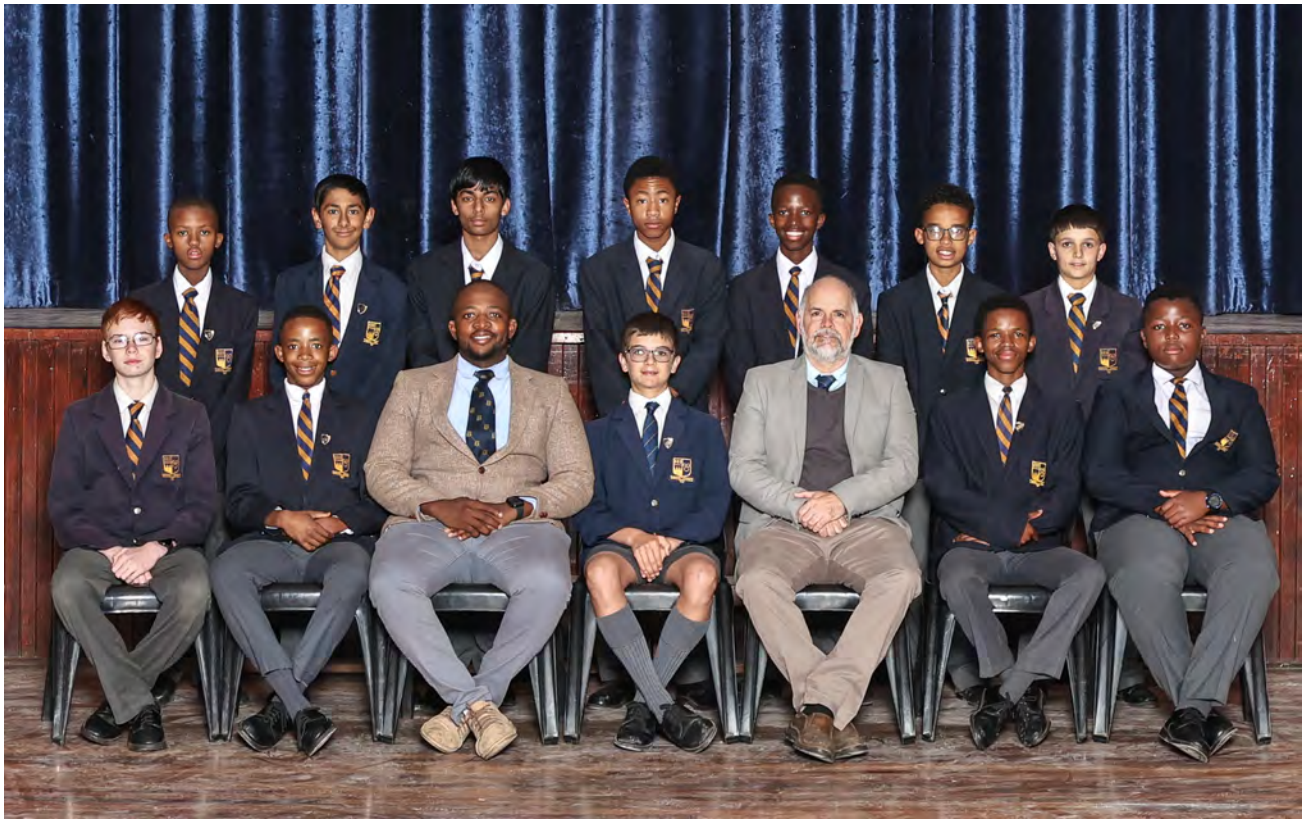
Middle: Lebohang Mahasele, Lutwesiwe Kobese, Avuyile Helesi, Lunga Pikoli, Jonathan Pretorius, Jethro Visagie, Athelihle Bonga

Seated: Jaycie Pieterse, Leon Mwepu (deputy head boy), Mr Peter De Lacy (master-in-charge), Jesse McConnachie (head boy), Mr Kevin Watson (headmaster), Noah Tabensky (deputy head boy), Ayola Mali



REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF LEARNERS

Back: Lindokuhle Mhono, Daniel Barnard, Oyama Masela, Zimi Nelani, Leo Murray
Seated: Nicholas Cock, Iviwe Mshubeki, Cullen Goliath, Mr Peter De Lacy (master-in-charge), Ayamila Bill, Likhona Cakata, Ibenathi Kondile



MONITORS

Back: Iminathi Mancam, Uthmaan Motara, Hamza Muhammad, Maphelo Matyholweni, Lunje Manyati, Joel Chitsike, Gabriel Danilatos
Seated: Tristan Killian, Samanga Bulana, Mr Odwa Xonxa, Morne Bodenstein, Mr Andrew Swift, Othandwayo Booi, Mihle Songca

GRANT HOUSE

Grant House report

~ Mr Michael Pretorius

Grant House has, once again, proven itself to be a true home away from home for many boys, continuing a proud tradition of care, structure, and opportunity. 2025 was no exception, with the boarding house maintaining its unique character of accommodating boys from grade 4 through to grade 12 under one roof. This rare feature is a point of great pride as it fosters a strong sense of family, mentorship, and belonging that defines the Grant House experience.

Boarder numbers have continued to grow, now exceeding 105 learners. This represents the highest occupancy the boarding house has seen in some time, and is a clear indication that Grant House remains the backbone of the school. The increasing demand has prompted the commencement of a process to upgrade dormitories to increase capacity. In addition, sections of the general areas have been tiled, further enhancing the boarding house and contributing to a more welcoming and functional environment.

Grant House provides learners with full access to all of the facilities and opportunities that Graeme College offers, enabling learners to focus on being boys while fully engaging in academic, cultural, and sporting pursuits. This balance is reflected in the success of many Grant House boarders who have gone on to represent their province and, in some cases, their nation in various sporting codes.

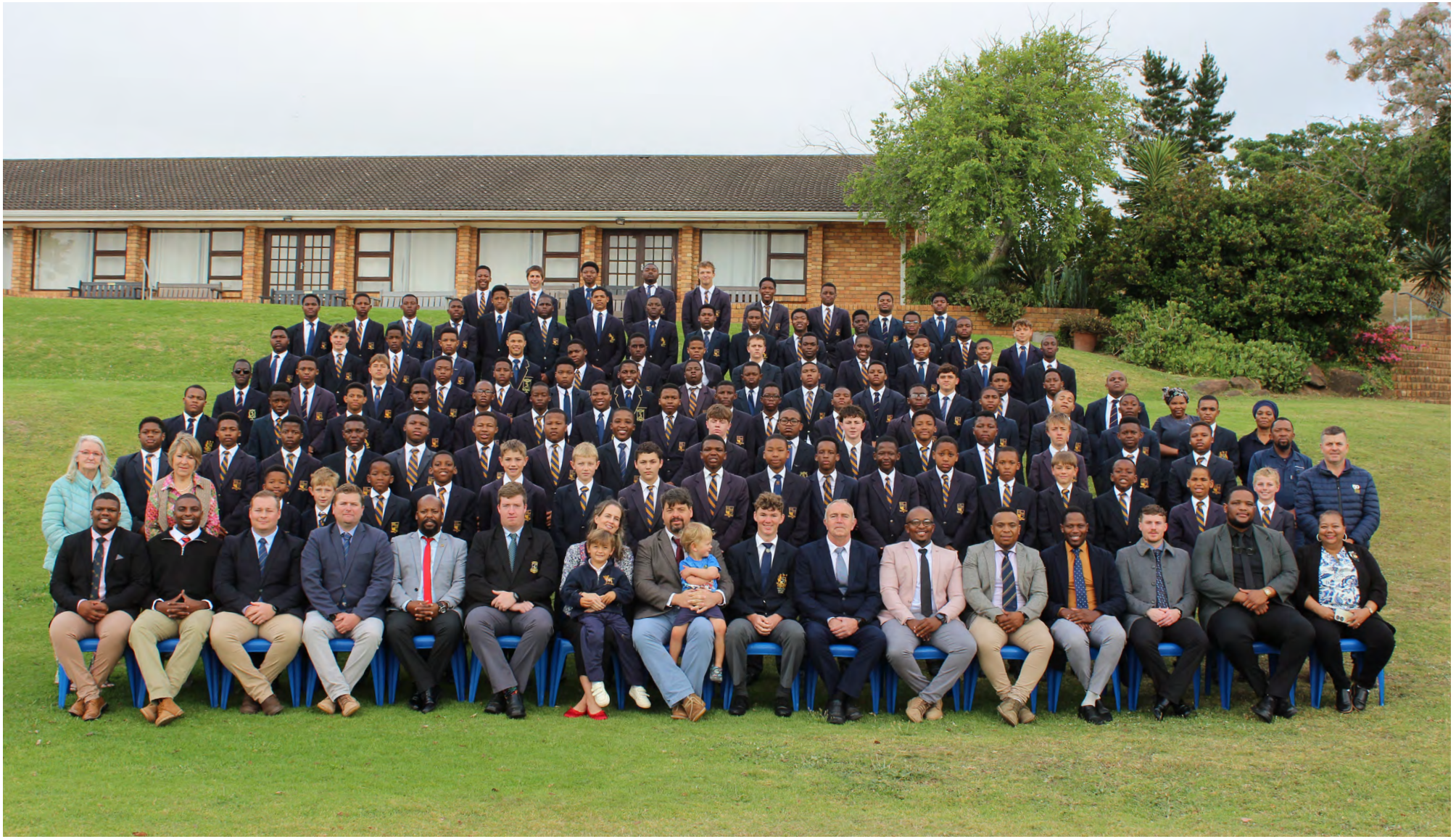
One of the core beliefs in the Grant House is that a consistent routine and clear structure allows learners to flourish. Grant House offers an environment where learners can concentrate solely on their academic, sporting, and cultural development. Supervised and timetabled homework sessions ensure focus and accountability, even during challenges such as load shedding. Learner academic results speak for themselves, with the boarding house once again proudly achieving a 100% pass rate among its matric learners for the class of 2025.

This year also saw us bid farewell to valued members of staff. Ms Rusch concluded nine years of dedicated service as the catering manager, while Ms Tidbury finished off after her committed assistance with the grade 4 and grade 5 evening prep sessions. Their contributions to Grant House are sincerely appreciated and will be warmly remembered.

A heartfelt thank you is extended to Mr and Mrs Watson for their outstanding leadership and genuine passion for Grant House and all who form part of it. Their commitment and example continue to guide and inspire both staff and learners alike.

The success of Grant House is the result of the collective effort and dedication of its learners, stooges, masters, and matrons. Together, they create a safe, structured, and rewarding environment, contributing to the strong spirit and sense of community that lie at the heart of life in Grant House.





VALEDICTORY

Headmaster's address

~ Mr Kevin Watson

Good morning, staff, parents, and of course, the remarkable grade 12s – the 2025 matric class of Graeme College.

Today marks a defining milestone – a day filled with pride, excitement, and perhaps a touch of nervous anticipation. As you gather for your valedictory assembly, I invite you to pause for a moment, look back on your journey here, and look ahead to the adventure that awaits beyond these walls.

As you walked into the hall this morning, I handed each of you a key. There's a saying: "A door is bigger than the lock, and the lock is bigger than the key, yet it's the tiny key that opens it all."

At first, the image seems simple—doors are large, locks are strong, and keys are small. Yet that small key holds the power to open new worlds. This is more than a lesson in scale; it is a reminder of how challenges in life work.

Often, we face doors that seem too big to move—personal obstacles, tight deadlines, or moments of uncertainty. The sheer size of these challenges can make us believe the solution must be equally enormous. But the truth is, most breakthroughs don't come from grand gestures—they come from the smallest, most intentional actions.

Sometimes it's a shift in perspective – choosing to see failure as a lesson rather than a setback. Sometimes it's one brave conversation, one deliberate step forward, or one new habit. These small "keys" may seem modest, but they hold the power to unlock paths you never imagined.

The key you hold in your hand today is not just a token—it is a gift from the school, a symbol of what you've gained here. It represents your education, your friendships, the late nights of hard work, the laughter you've shared, and the dreams that have taken root during your years at Graeme College.





The doors ahead

In the years to come, this key will open many doors – doors to learning, to growth, to exploration, and to a passion yet to be discovered. Some will lead to university or further study, others to work, travel, creativity, or entirely new adventures. Yet having the key is not enough. It's how you choose to use it that will shape your journey. Some doors will shine with promise but lead nowhere worth going; others may appear ordinary yet hide incredible opportunities within. The challenge lies in deciding which doors are truly worth unlocking.

As you step onto the threshold of adulthood, ask yourselves: What kind of future do I want to build? Which doors align with my values, my passions, and my goals? Seek out the ones that inspire you, challenge you, and bring out your best. Surround yourself with people and experiences that help you grow and keep you true to yourself.

Carry your key with purpose

The path ahead won't always be smooth. You'll encounter locked doors, detours, and setbacks. But each experience, good or bad, will sharpen your resilience and deepen your wisdom. Keep your key at the ready, because there will always be another door worth opening. So as you prepare to leave Graeme College, carry your key with pride. Sellotape or Prestik this key in your cupboard or on your bookshelf in your room. Let it remind you of where you've come from and what you are capable of. Embrace the uncertainty of the future with confidence, knowing you have the tools to shape it.

Congratulations, class of 2025. May your keys unlock doors filled with joy, success, and meaning. The world is waiting – go ahead, unlock it

May the doors before you open wide with promise, and may your key fit each one that leads to purpose and joy. May you find courage when locks seem too strong, and wisdom to know which doors are truly yours to open. May laughter echo through the halls of your journey, and friendship lights your way when paths grow dim. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rain fall gently on your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you safely in the palm of His hand.









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GRAEME COLLEGE SENIOR SCHOOL

Headmaster's address

~ Mr Kevin Watson

Good morning honoured guests, parents, guardians, staff, and the young men of Graeme College.

It is both a privilege and a pleasure to welcome you to this special occasion. Seeing so many parents, friends, and members of our broader Graeme community gathered here today reminds us of the strong partnership that sustains our school and enables our boys to thrive.

Today, we come together to celebrate the achievements of our young men – hard-working, dedicated, and articulate individuals who are a credit to our school and an example to their peers. The prize winners we honour this morning reflect the very best of what Graeme College stands for.

This year has been remarkable. Across academics, sport, culture, and service, our Graemians have excelled. The honours board, the media, and the many events / festivals throughout the year tell a story of success—but behind every achievement lies the dedication of our boys, the support of our parents, and the tireless effort of our staff.

To all members of staff – teaching, administrative, and grounds – thank you. Your commitment and teamwork have made 2025 a year of great accomplishment.

A special word of appreciation goes to Mr Swift for his dynamic leadership of the Junior School, where young lives are shaped through care and vision; and to Mr Pretorius, Superintendent of Grant House, whose energy continues to strengthen what we often call the backbone of our school—our boarding house.

We also bid farewell to several staff members at the end of this year: After more than two decades in the Foundation Phase, Mrs Nel leaves us to join her family on the farm. Mrs Hobson, who joined Graeme in 2019, will be leaving us at the end of the year along with Mr and Mrs de Lacy who will also be leaving us at the end of 2025. We thank them deeply for their service and the positive impact they have had on our boys. We wish them continued fulfilment and success in the years ahead.

Graeme College continues to benefit from the wise and servant leadership of our School Governing Body, led by Mr Cameron McConnachie. Their strategic direction ensures that we remain true to our purpose: developing young men of character, equipped with the skills and values needed to play their role in society. Thank you to Mr McConnachie and the entire Governing Body for your unwavering commitment.

I also extend heartfelt gratitude to my wife, Sandra, and our family for their constant support and understanding. They share in the life of this school in ways seen and unseen, and I am deeply grateful for their strength and encouragement.

To Mr Sean Wiblin, Chairman of the Old Graemian Union, our Old Boys, neighbouring schools, community partners, and Dr Mayana, our circuit manager—thank you for your partnership, advice, and encouragement throughout the year.

At our recent Strategic Planning Workshop, a guest speaker made a thought-provoking point. He reminded us that, statistically, the world today is safer and more prosperous than at any other time in history: life expectancy is higher, poverty has declined, and access to education and healthcare has improved. Yet many feel that the world has become more uncertain and chaotic.

Why the disconnect? Perhaps because information now reaches us instantly—news, opinions, and misinformation alike. Combined with real global challenges such as climate change, political instability, and rapid technological change, it is easy to feel overwhelmed.

In this time of change, certain qualities matter more than ever:
Critical thinking – The ability to question, analyse, and seek truth rather than accept opinion.
Resilience and adaptability – The courage to navigate change and embrace new opportunities.
Values and community – The honesty, empathy, and respect that anchor us in uncertain times.
Hope and leadership – The choice to be a voice of reason, a source of solutions, and a leader who helps shape a better tomorrow.

These are the qualities we aim to develop in every Graemian. The world will continue to change—but with clear thinking, resilience, strong values, and leadership, we will not only face that change; we will shape it.

To the prize winners; be proud of what you have achieved. And to our matrics, this is your moment. You have earned it through dedication, perseverance, and courage. As you step into the next chapter of your lives, remember these words about success:

Success is not measured by how well you meet others' expectations, but by how honestly you live up to your own.

Success is not a destination, but the spirit with which you continue the journey.

Success is staying true to yourself in the pursuit of your dreams. As you cross the bridge from school to the wider world, hold on to that spirit.

And remember Nelson Mandela's wise words: *"When you get knocked down, be sure to land on your back, because if you can look up, you can get up."*



SPORTING AWARDS

ATHLETICS

Graeme College Senior Victor Ludorum
Jordan Damons

CRICKET

Howard Edge Trophy
for the most promising under 15 cricketer
Corbin Tidbury

Ian Lloyd Cup
for the best all-rounder
Luphelo Mdyesha

Charlton Richardson Cup
for the best batting average
Enrique Strydom

Charlton Richardson Cup
for the best bowling average
Andrew Muir

Doug Meyer Cup
for services to cricket
Liyema Merile

CROSS COUNTRY

Senior Cup
donated by Mrs L. Clarke
Cairis Appollis

HOCKEY

Butterworth Trophy
for the best senior hockey player
Lutwesiwe Kobese

Ferreira Trophy
Most promising under 15 hockey player
Ashton Burger

RUGBY

Ryan Cup
for the most promising under 15 player
Avuyisiwe Mnandi

Monwabisi Mdyesha Trophy
for the most promising under 16 player
Ibenathi Kondile

Old Graemian Trophy
for the most promising senior player
Ayola Mali

WATER POLO

Peppergrove Spar Trophy
for the best senior player
Jesse McConnachie

Most improved senior player
Hamish Haakonsen

Best junior player
Jayden Botha

SQUASH

Albany Sports Trophy
for the under 14 champion
Jordan du Plessis

Model Butchery Trophy
for the under 16 champion
Caleb Jattiem

Angus Barnard Trophy
for the senior squash champion
Ashton Burger

SWIMMING

Reynolds Cup
for the most outstanding performance
Christopher McLean

TENNIS

Rumboll Junior Cup
under 15 singles
Joshwin Burger

Under 15 Doubles Cup
Joshwin Burger and Gino O'Brien

Kemp Senior Singles Cup
Kits McConnachie

Birch Senior Doubles Cup
Kits McConnachie and Jesse McConnachie

Trevor Cowie Cup
for outstanding temperament and sportsmanship
Kits McConnachie

CHESS

Best Player
Lorien Yazbek

ACADEMIC AWARDS

GRADE 8

Achievement
Usiphile Jadi *(Vernal isiXhosa Prize)*, Ayabonga Jili, Abakhe Luwaya, Liyema Madiza, Uyapha Madodonke, Lusenathi Manzana, Oyama Masela, Tseliso Matsoso, Hluma Mfabane, Hlobanisa Msakatya, Kenzo Prince, Cwenga Ramokolo, Adam Terblanche, Jed Van Der Merwe, Lavuya Vayi , Lorien Yazbek *(Vernal English Prize)*.

Diligence
Slater Hart

Excellence
Leo Murray *(Vernal Afrikaans Prize)*
Kenzo Santos-Osman
Matthew Lamont

GRADE 9

Achievement
Luke Cannon, Sinenhlanhla Cishe, Jayden Conroy, Ben-Francois du Toit, Okuhle Gongqa, Jaydon Kohl, Adriano Matroos, Avuyisiwe Mnandi, James Muir, Molemo Muroa, Iminathi Ngqiyaza *(Vernal isiXhosa Prize)*, Rory Robertson *(Vernal English Prize)*, Hlumelo Sifanele, Asikelelwe Songongo, Kungawo Tali, Corbin Tidbury, Mohammad Tukulu, De Wet van Deventer, Iyazi Zwedala

Diligence
Bathandwa Njoli

Excellence
Gino O'Brien *(Vernal Afrikaans Prize)*
Anesipho Mraji
Likhanye Ndevu

GRADE 10

Achievement
Liphumile Apleni, Ruben Bodenstein *(Vernal Afrikaans Prize)*, Tristan Boy, Nicholas Cock, Ethan de Wet, Mbulelo Gama, Salizwa Makhalima, Zotha Ngqoyiya, Michael Pretorius, Morgan Prevec, Ahlumile Sideba, Buhle Tyali, Jedd Youthed

Diligence
Donovan Pretorius

Excellence
Kits McConnachie
Joshua Danilatos *(Vernal English Prize)*
Luphawulwethu Madolo *(Vernal isiXhosa Prize)*

GRADE 11

Achievement
Leroy Adriaan *(Vernal Afrikaans Prize)*, Cairis Appollis, Liam Bodill, Likhona Cakata, Giano Fourie, Hamish Haakonsen, Linamandla Lento, Athenkosi Manyati, Thurston Marthinus, Larson McKaiser *(Vernal Afrikaans Prize)*, Katleho Mhlope, Yakha Mketsu, Iviwe Mshubeki, Mihlali Ngqinzi, Thandolwethu Njeza, Jovan Radovic, Eli Wood, Lubabalo Yamdeu-Youmbi.

Diligence
Hlumelo Fetsha, Crispin Lackay

Excellence
Jayden Brits *(Vernal English Prize)*
Liyema Merile *(Vernal isiXhosa Prize)*
Andrew Muir

GRADE 12

Excellence
Noah Tabensky *(Vernal English Prize, History Prize, Life Orientation Prize)*, Imiso Mpalala *(Life Sciences Prize, Mathematics Prize, Physical Sciences Prize)*, Nicholas McKeown *(Computer Applications Technology Prize)*

Subject prizewinners
Christopher McLean *(Visual Art Prize)*

Achievement
Likhona Bill *(Vernal isiXhosa Prize)*, Ethan Bokbaard, Herman de Bruin, Lizo Duma, Lungako George, Cullen Goliath *(Vernal Afrikaans Prize)*, Olothando Gxekwa, Andrew Isaacs, Ajay Jeggels *(Mathematical Literacy Prize)*, Lutwesiwe Kobese, Jesse McConnachie, Ngoie Mukenge, Leon Mwepu *(Accounting Prize)*, Jaycie Pieterse, Jonathan Pretorius *(Music Prize)*, Roman Prevec, Ali Rizvi *(Geography Prize)*, Herschelle September, Ryan Stobbs, Khaka Tapu

Diligence
Khaka Tapu

SPECIAL AWARDS

MUSIC PRIZES

Senior Music
Cairis Appollis *(Steelband)*
Duncan Mcleod *(Steelband)*
Jonathan Pretorius *(Cello)*

SERVICE AWARDS

Giano Fourie
Ruben Bodenstein
Indiphile Ntsinde

Morgan White Community Outreach Trophy
Donovan Pretorius

Rapportryers' Prize
for the best grade 12 Afrikaans second language speaker
Cullen Goliath

Best Speaker's Prize
for the top debater
Noah Tabensky

Graeme College Certificate
for the best speaker of isiXhosa
Dinilesizwe Mjuku

The Shackleton Environmental Award
for initiative in environmental conservation
Joshua Danilatos

Interhouse Sports Shield
Vernal

Muirhead Shield
for interhouse academic achievement
Hutton

Graeme Shield
interhouse in all facets of school life
Wiles

Hannie Malan Bursary
for a diligent and deserving pupil in grade 10
Mbulelo Gama

Graeme Willows Trophy
for endeavour
Olothando Gxekwa

Bruce Biggs Trophy
for contribution to hostel life
Jaycie Pieterse

Ingwe Award
(for valued contribution to school life in the senior School)
Noah Tabensky

Templeton Bursary
for Academic Achievement in grade 10
Kits McConnachie

Judge Smith Scholarship
for academic achievement in grade 11
Jayden Brits

Maggie van der Spuy Prize
for the school dux
Noah Tabensky

Isithwalandwe Award
for the best all-round sportsman of the year
Alden Walters

Sean Mills and Steven Bartlett Trophy
for the most outstanding sportsman of the year
Erin Nelson

Charlton Richardson Cup
for sportsmanship
Jaycie Pieterse

Kingsley Trophy
for rising above adversity
Andrew Isaacs

D.B. Kloot Cup
for participating and excelling in a number of sports and maintaining a high academic standard
Ayamila Bill

Lawrie Shuttleworth Prize
for excellence and leadership in music performance in the senior school
Amyoli Songongo (steelband)

Graemian Cup (J. C. Rae)
awarded to the boy who most exemplifies the Graemian motto, Virtute et Opera
Ajay Jeggels

Thomas St John Pattle Prize
for outstanding leadership and the boy who contributed most to Graeme College
Jesse McConnachie

SENIOR ACADEMICS









ACADEMIC DINNER

~ Miss Tracy Kenyon

On Thursday 20 February the annual Academic Dinner was held in the Graemian Centre. This event celebrates the top four achievers in each grade from the previous year.

The theme for this year's dinner was the world of books. The theme was chosen because of its link to the academic theme. The greatest thing that one can cultivate is a thirst for knowledge. It is very exciting to experience a group of young people who are keen to get to know their world and all of its component parts.

With everyone having such easy access to artificial intelligence, many people have stopped trying to think for themselves. The personal touches like a heartfelt letter may soon disappear, because we fail to express ourselves. Our connections to other people are of paramount importance. By being uniquely human, we ought never to forget that our compassion and ability to understand, or show empathy for other people, makes us not only who we are, but also gives us goals for who we might like to be in the future. As you grow your knowledge, you are also capable of growing your character.

The miniature books that adorned the tables were a reminder that our understanding of other people often comes through reading. The books were filled with blank paper, because our young Graemians have their whole lives to tell their stories. These young men need to be encouraged to tell an honest story, as they will be the hero of their tales. They need to surround themselves with people who compliment what they are trying to achieve. The key messages included:

- Always try your best.
- Show compassion and understanding.
- Always grow your knowledge.

To illustrate this point some quotes from books were chosen.

"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it."
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

"A person's a person no matter how small."
Horton hears a Who! by Dr Seuss

"It's our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J.K. Rowling

"It isn't the big troubles in life that require character. Anybody can rise to a crisis and face a crushing tragedy with courage, but to meet the petty hazards of the day with a laugh - I really think that requires spirit."
Daddy-Long-Legs by Jean Webster

"Can is not the same as must. But if you must and you can, then there's no excuse."
The Amber Spyglass by Philip Pullman

These are just a sample of the quotes that illustrate the complexity of human nature. We all have the capacity to grow ourselves. This gift is what the academic dinner celebrates.

After a sumptuous meal, guest speaker, Professor Warren Potts addressed the guests as he spoke about his life. With a very full and fascinating life, he highlighted the importance of being passionate about what one does. He spoke of how sometimes one has to look for opportunities. He is clearly a dedicated scientist, but also a humanitarian, a fisherman, a father, a genuinely caring person, and he gave the following pointers to the top Graemians:

- Focus on your short term goals.
- Exercise...Keep fit!
- Follow your passion.
- Spend time outdoors.
- Avoid social media.
- Open doors for yourself.

He reminded the learners that they are at a top school and that they must make the most of every opportunity.

The evening was truly wonderful and Professor Potts, Mr and Mrs Watson, Dr Shaw, Mr Appollis, the Academic Portfolio Committee and other volunteers, waiters, Capitol catering, and finally, the top four in each grade and their amazing parents need to be thanked. With ongoing support of genuine academic endeavour, we can shape our country. These young men are the hope for the future. This dinner was a fantastic way to start the new academic year!




Harry Potter
THE RETURN OF THE KING
J.R.R. TOLKIEN
DIANA GABALDON
VOYAGER
PUSS IN BOOTS

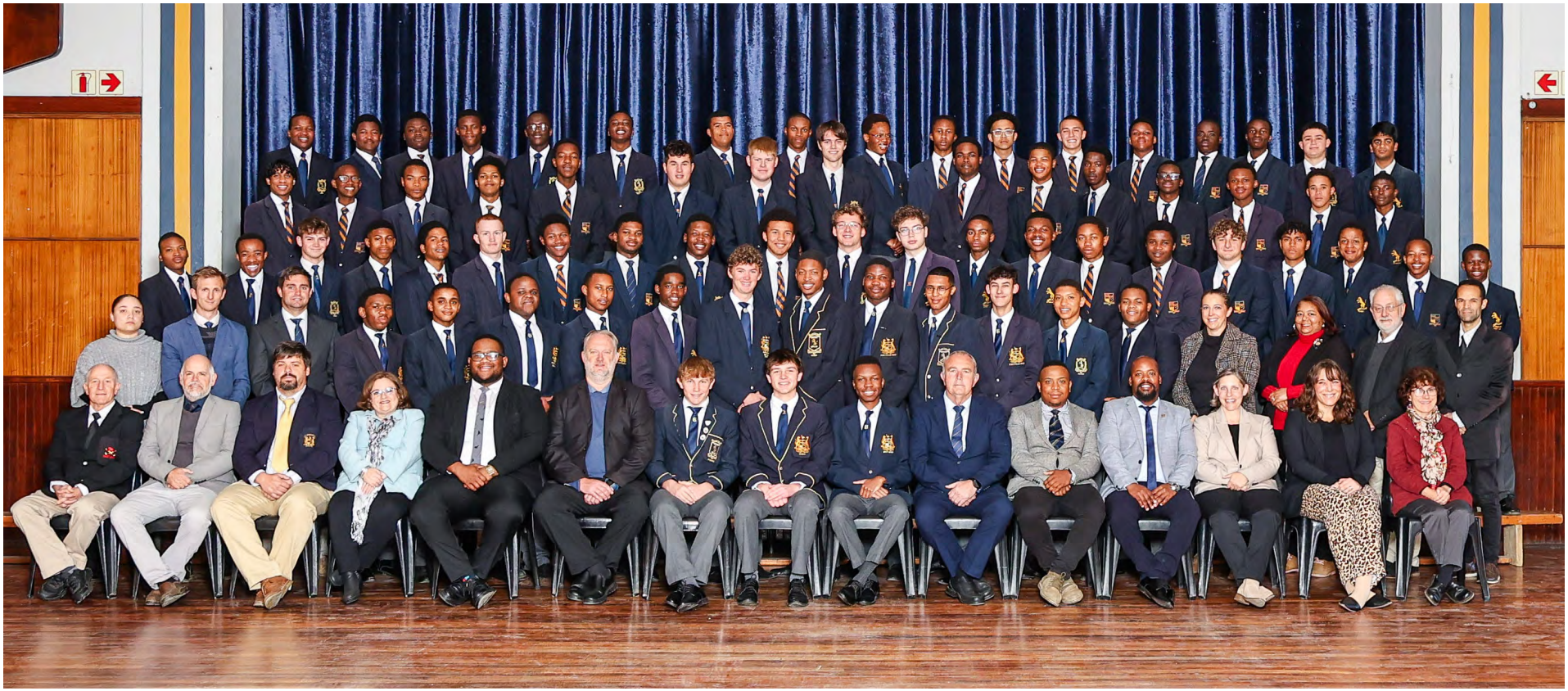












Back row: Lwandle Dlamini. Lizo Duma, Bishop Nyoni. Imiso Mpalala, Khaka Tapu, Azola Zondani, Ajay Jeggels, Yanga Mtwalo, Qhama Mafuya, Kamva Mjuza, Clive Christian, Damien Swart, Lihlombe Mkaza, Likhaya Sandi, Benediction Msindo, Duncan McLeod, Ali Rizvi

Third row: Nathan Gabriel, Bukhosi Nongauza, Zipho Ntlokwana, Curtly Potgieter, Okuhle Madinda, Andrew Isaacs, Herman de Bruin, Nicholas McKeown, Isiphile Magobiyana, Mihla Sifanele, Lungako George, Joy Mukenge, Luvuyolwethu Pakade, Liam van Rensburg, Esinako Jadi

Second row: Herschelle September, Amyoli Songongo, Ryan Stobbs, Ethan Bokbaard, Cizarheo Brooks, Reuben Dollery, Lusikelewe Plaatjie, Siyamthanda Masela, Mikhulu Yolani,Matthew Koopman, Christopher McLean, Roman Prevec, Qhama Ngoma, Lesedi Mothibe, Luvo Matya, Olothando Gxekwa, Stafford Avis, Alden Walters, Inathi Planga, Elihle Soxujwa, Khazimla Ntlabati

First row: Ms V. Potts, Mr D. Keys, Mr J. van der Meulen, Lebohang Mahasele, Lutwesiwe Kobese, Avuyile Helesi, Lunga Pikoli, Dinilesizwe Mjuku, Jaycie Pieterse, Ayola Mali, Ayamila Bill, Cullen Goliath, Jonathan Pretorius, Jethro Visagie, Athelihle Bonga, Mrs N. Hobson, Ms S. Randall, Mr A. Greyling, Mr S. Appollis

Seated: Mr L. Ferreira, Mr A. Swift, Mr M. Pretorius, Miss T. Kenyon, Mr S. Ralo, Mr G. van Molendorff (Deputy Headmaster), Noah Tabensky (Deputy Head), Jesse McConnachie, (Head), Leon Mwepu (Deputy Head), Mr K. Watson (Headmaster), Mr C. Ngodwane, Mr V. Tshekela, Ms M. White, Dr L. Shaw, Dr J. Gush

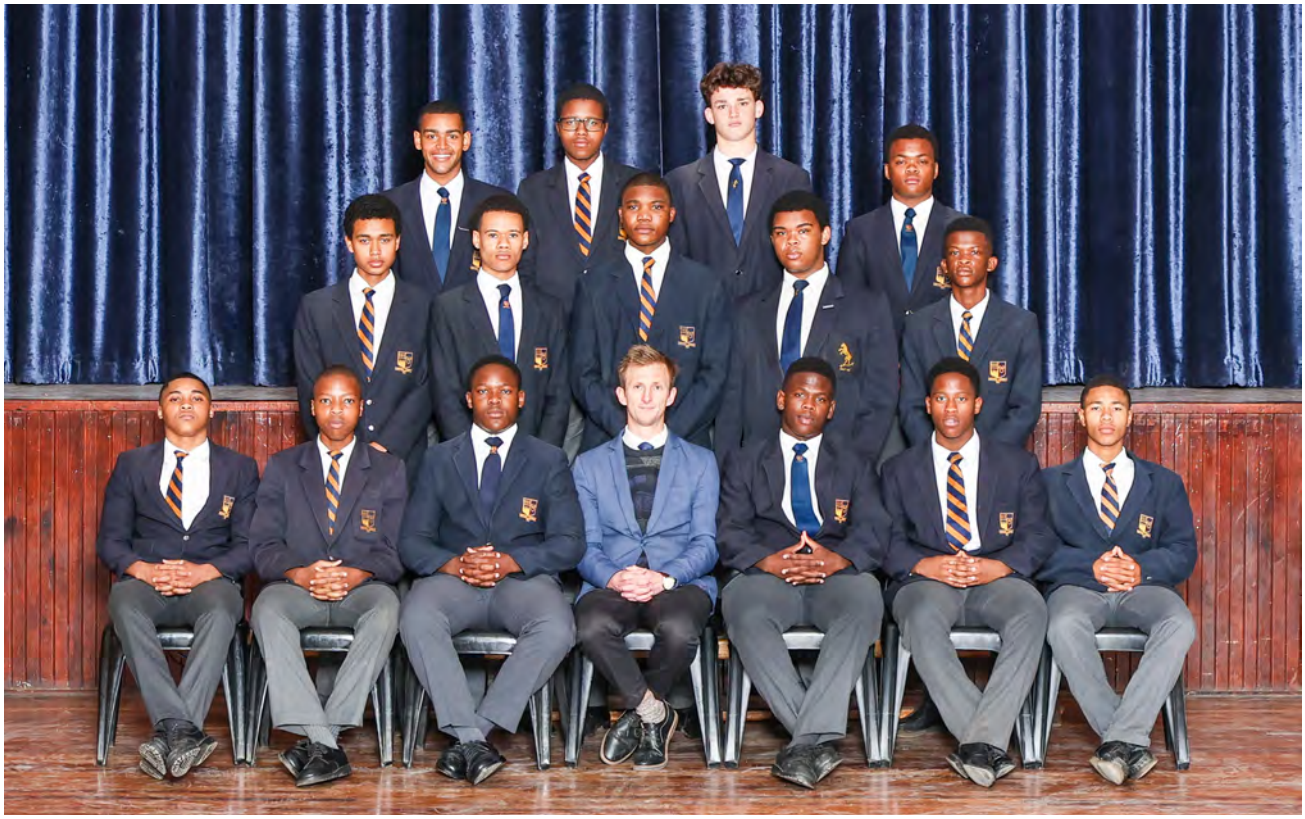
Absent: Roshan Jeggels



GRADE 1 (2014) TO GRADE 12 (2025)

Back: Herschelle September, Leon Mwepu, Christopher McLean, Jaycie Pieterse, Herman de Bruin, Andrew Isaacs, Roman Prevec, Cullen Goliath

Seated: Duncan McLeod, Zipho Ntlokwana, Damien Swart, Ryan Stobbs, Noah Tabensky, Jethro Visagie, Ali Rizvi

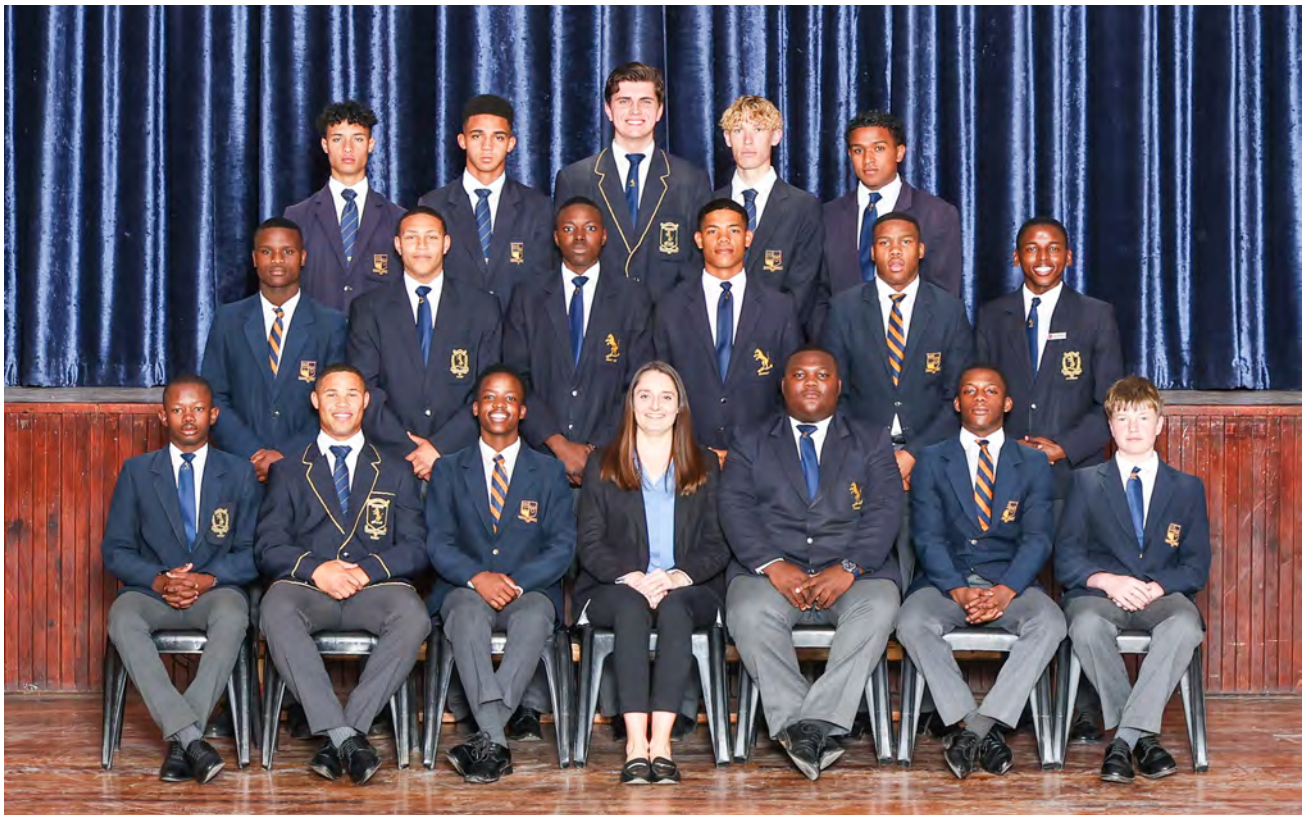


GRADE 11DK

Back: Giano Fourie, Zimyoli Ndyolashe, Hamish Haakonsen, Lilo Booi

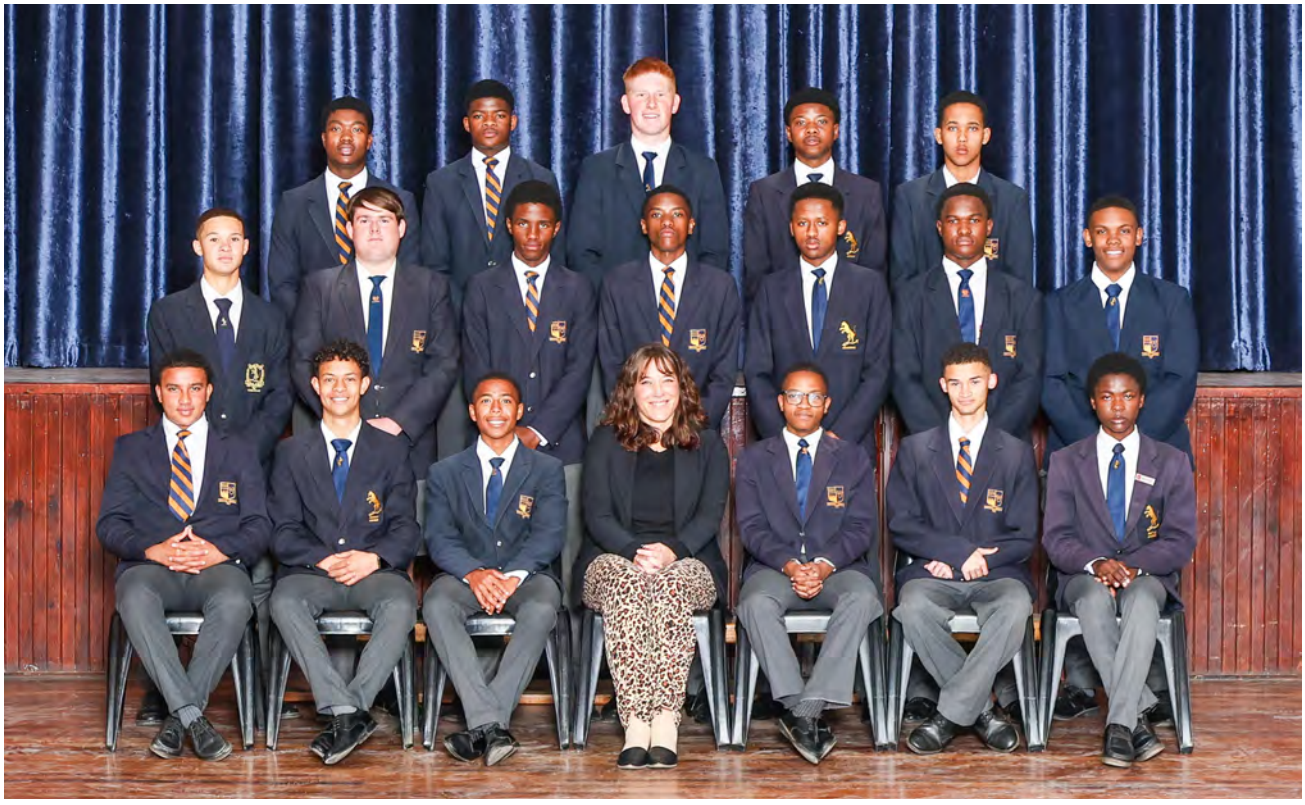
Middle: Crispin Lackay, Cian Keulder, Akho Tonjeni, Keanu-Josh Rooi, Image Sergeant

Seated: Onele Daniels, Someleze Mtitshana, Iviwe Mshubeki, Mr Devon Keys, Athenkosi Manyati, Donnelle Abdul



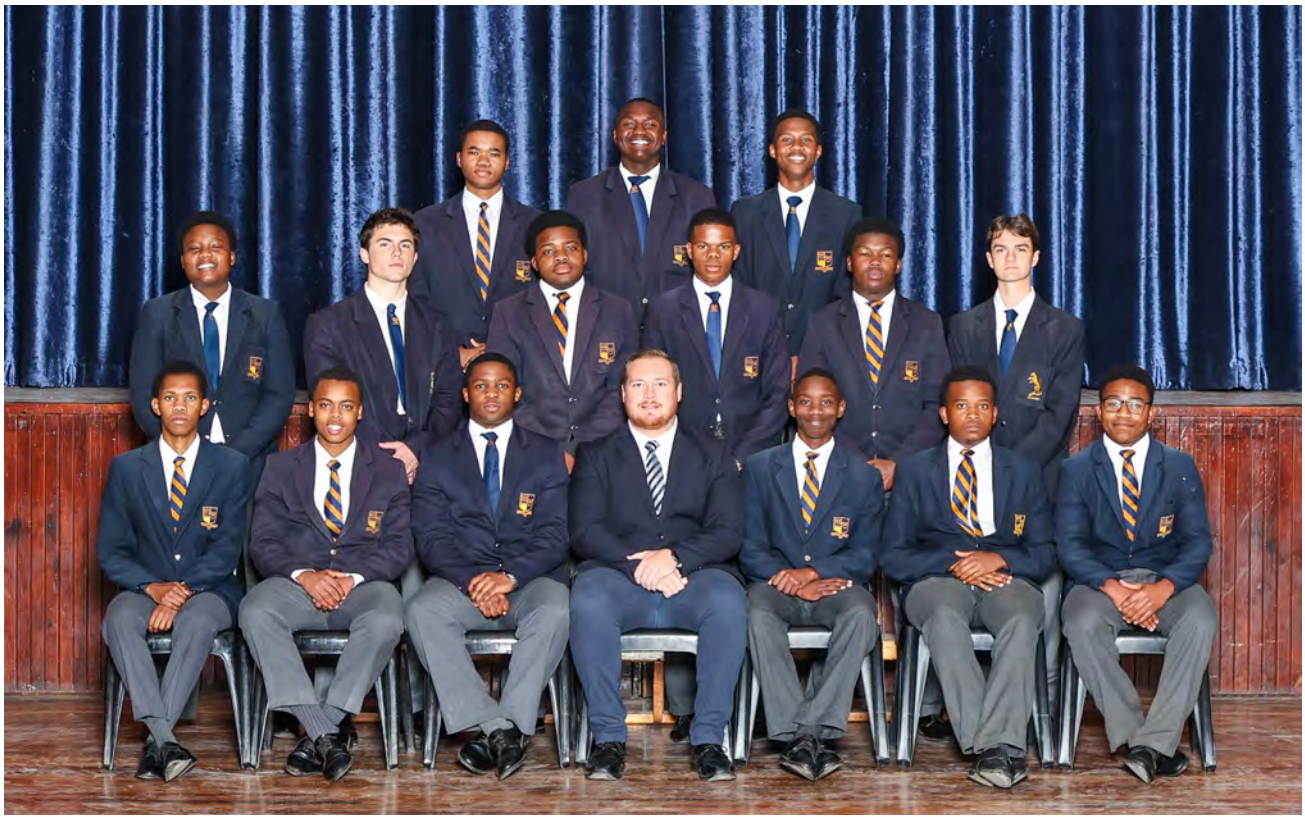
GRADE 11 GD

Back: Logan Strauss, Kearen Jeggels, Jayden Brits, Ryno Benn, Torres Fourie
Middle: Masilibone Maboza, Elgin Fanton, Toluwalope Osunkunle, Jordan Damons, Lidwala Maliti, Liyema Merile
Seated: Luphelo Mdyesha, Erin Nelson, Uniko Millie, Miss Giorgia Duncan (mentor teacher), Olothando Jaca, Buhle Bikitsha, Eli Wood



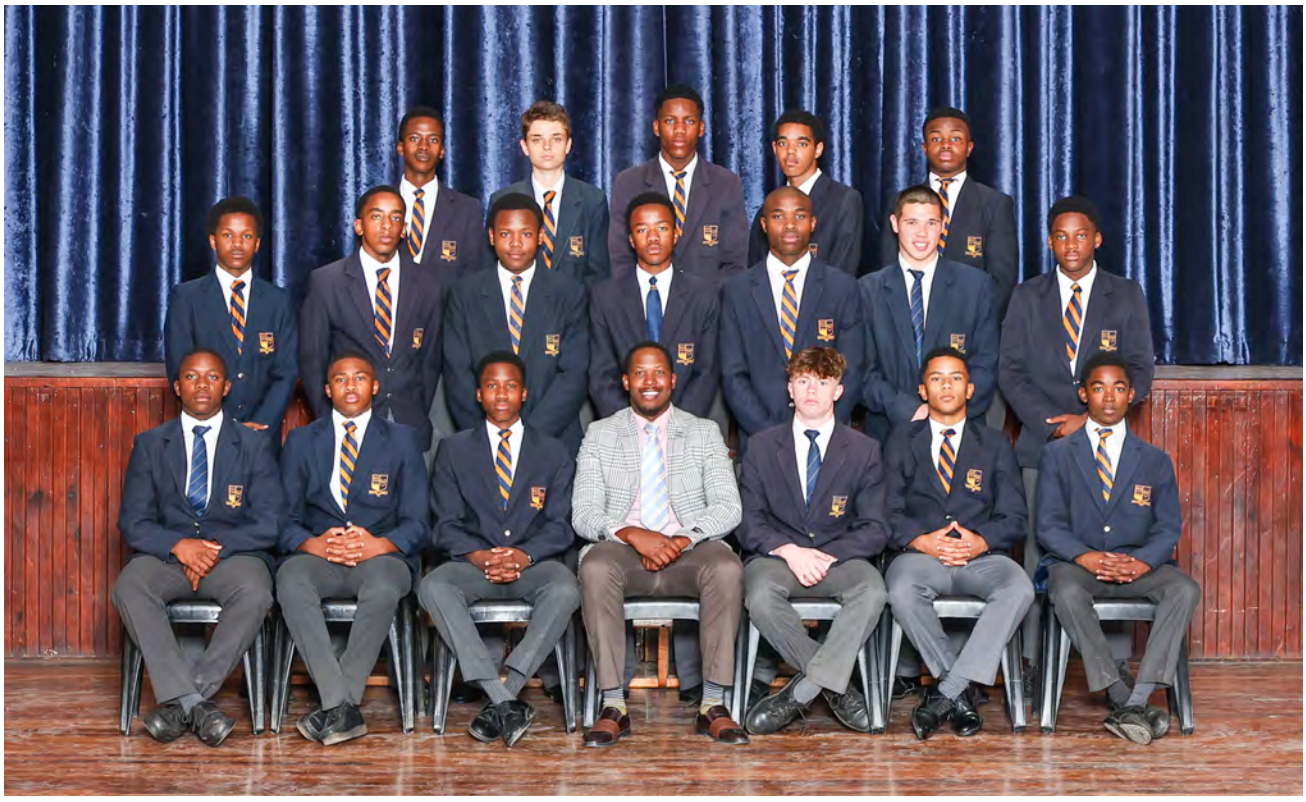
GRADE 11LS

Back: Ngothando Mabona, Qhawe Mbelani, Andrew Muir, Lelamixabiso Ndumndum, Shenaco Scheepers
Middle: Cairis Appollis, Heinrich Bouwer, Simamkele Frank, Inika Pantsi, Dinga Lento, Yakha Mketsu, Thurston Marthinus
Seated: Luke Doyle, Leroy Adriaan, Larson McKaiser, Dr Lauren Shaw, Thandolwethu Njeza, Keiran Faltain, Mihlali Ngqinzi



GRADE 11RR

Back: Mlibo Magwala, Lubabalo Yamdeu-Yombi, Hlumelo Fetsha
Middle: Katleho Mhlope, Jovan Radovic, Bagcine Njengele, Avuyonke Katshwa, Landa Gojela, Liam Bodill
Seated: Libhongo Mata, Butsha Kondile, Gcinikhaya Mtse, Mr Ryan Rowe, Caleb Manyika, Anathi Vaaltyn, Likhona Cakata



GRADE 10BD

Back : Unako Jack, William van Aarde, Athenkosi Mukume, Corbien Hassim, Lukho Meleni
Middle : Ahlumile Sideba, Cartial Ngala, Lingomso Magopeni, Salizwa Makhalima, Donovan Pretorious, Kamva Sayita
Seated : Lucritia Magau, Onesimo Oliphant, Buhle Tyali, Mr Bongolwethu Draai, Andrew Wicks, Lervano Gill, Inam Masoma



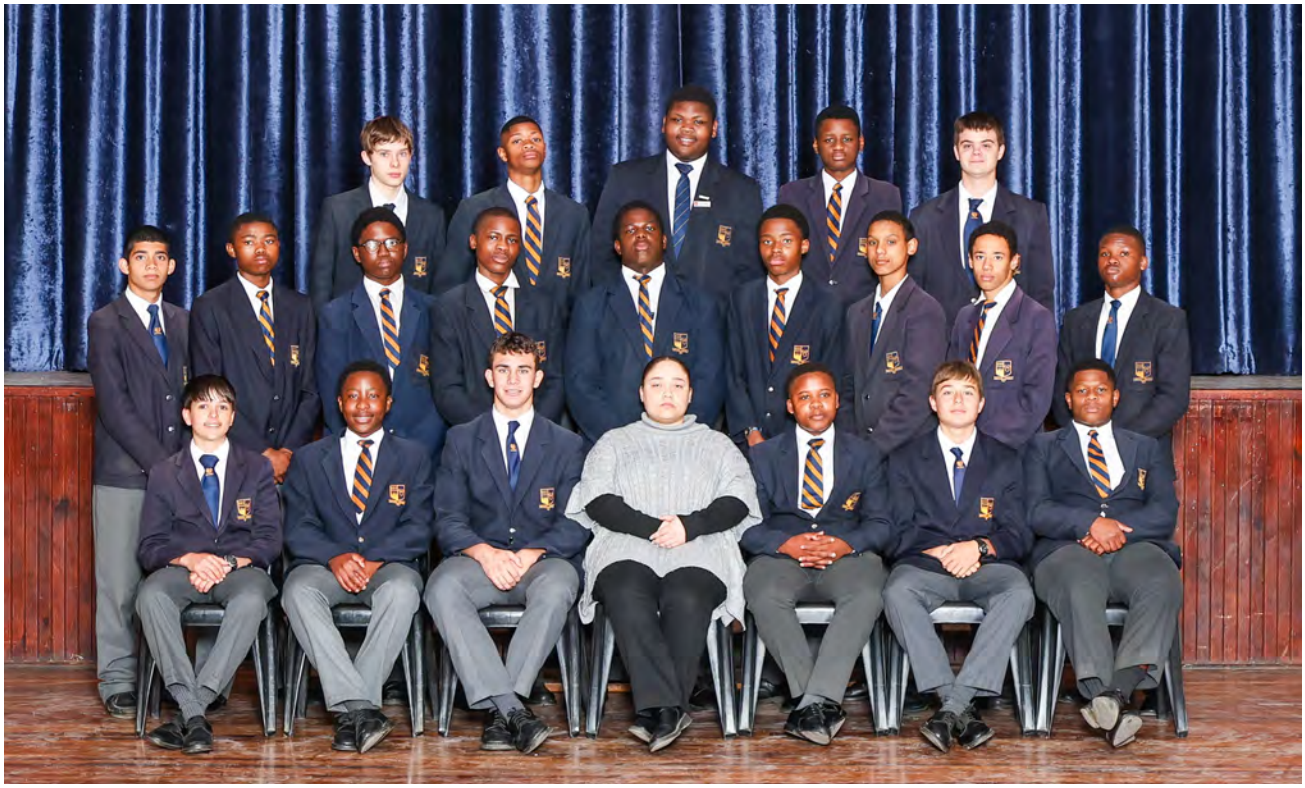
GRADE 10JVM

Back: Kirsten du Plesses, Okuhle Tuswa, Connor Haakonsen, Achuma Xayimpi, Kyle Pearson
MIddle : C-Jay Jeggels, Connor Richardson, Qhamani Quntu, Junaid Thomas, Luphawulwethu Madolo, Hunta van Zyl, Sibongiseni Gxekwa
Seated: Lisekhona Mbejeni, Tsepiso Klaas, Kukhanya Pakade, Mr Jonty van der Meulen, Malakiwe Nikelo, Enrique Strydom, Tshepo Molefe



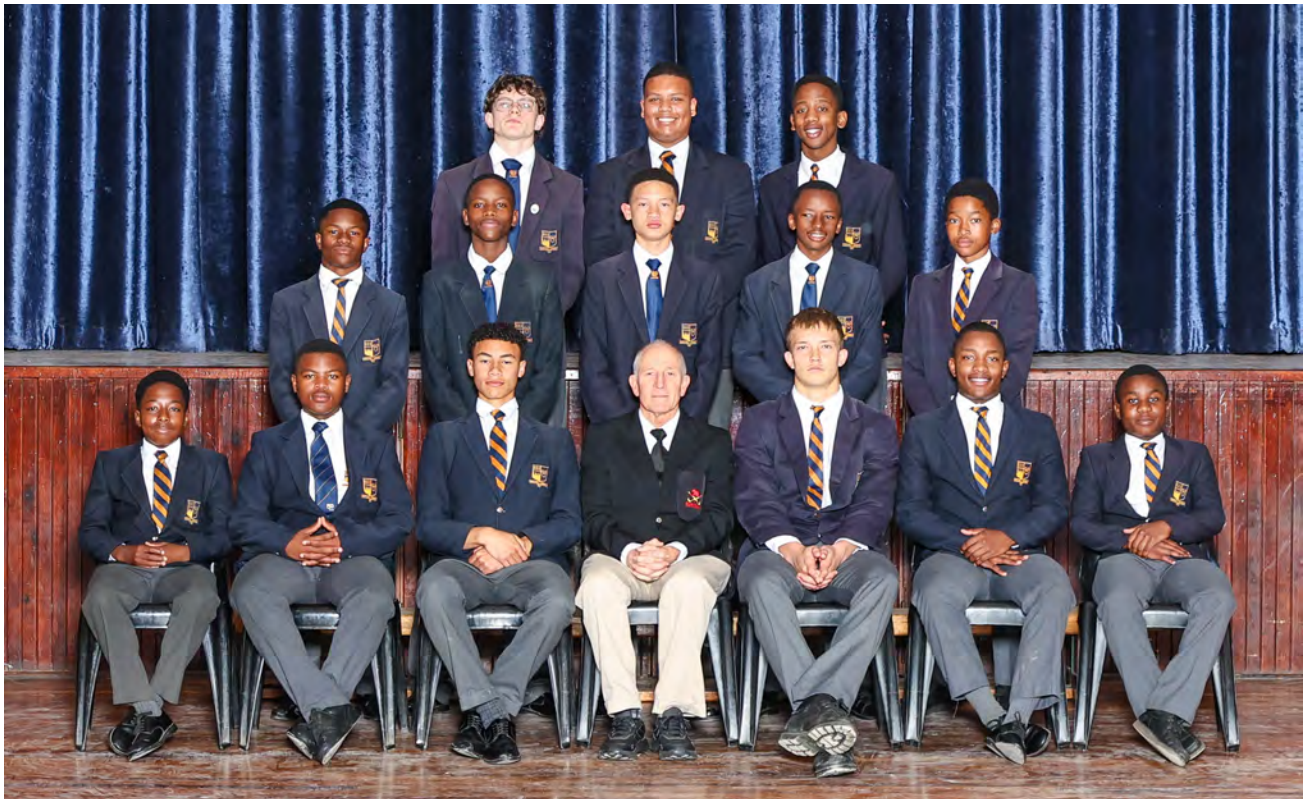
GRADE 10MP

Back: Mbulelo Gama, Keagan Jattiem, Asakhe Ranuga, Michael Pretorius, Olothando Cekesi
Middle: Benno Tomczik, Ethan de Wet, Giles Griffin, Duane Oosthuizen, Morgan Prevec, Zotha Kolisi, Kits McConnachie
Seated: Thurston Williams, Jedd Youthed, Ibenathi Kondile, Mr Michael Pretorius, Libhongo Nxawe, Yandisa Sitsila, Lisekho Zinyane



GRADE 10VP

Back: Tristan Boy, Luvolwethu Kosi, Indiphile Ntsinde, Ayola Dyasi, Ruben Bodenstein
Middle: Callum de Vos, Mthetho Xesi, Ntsika Duma, Liphumile Apleni, Ahlume Gxamesi, Malande Bikitsha, Tyler de Jongh, Jaydon Assumption, Ibenam Butana.
Seated: Joshua Danilatos, Likuhle Bashe, Nicholas Cock, Ms Veronique Potts, Sibabalwe Deliwe, Blake de la Mare, Lithabo Flack.



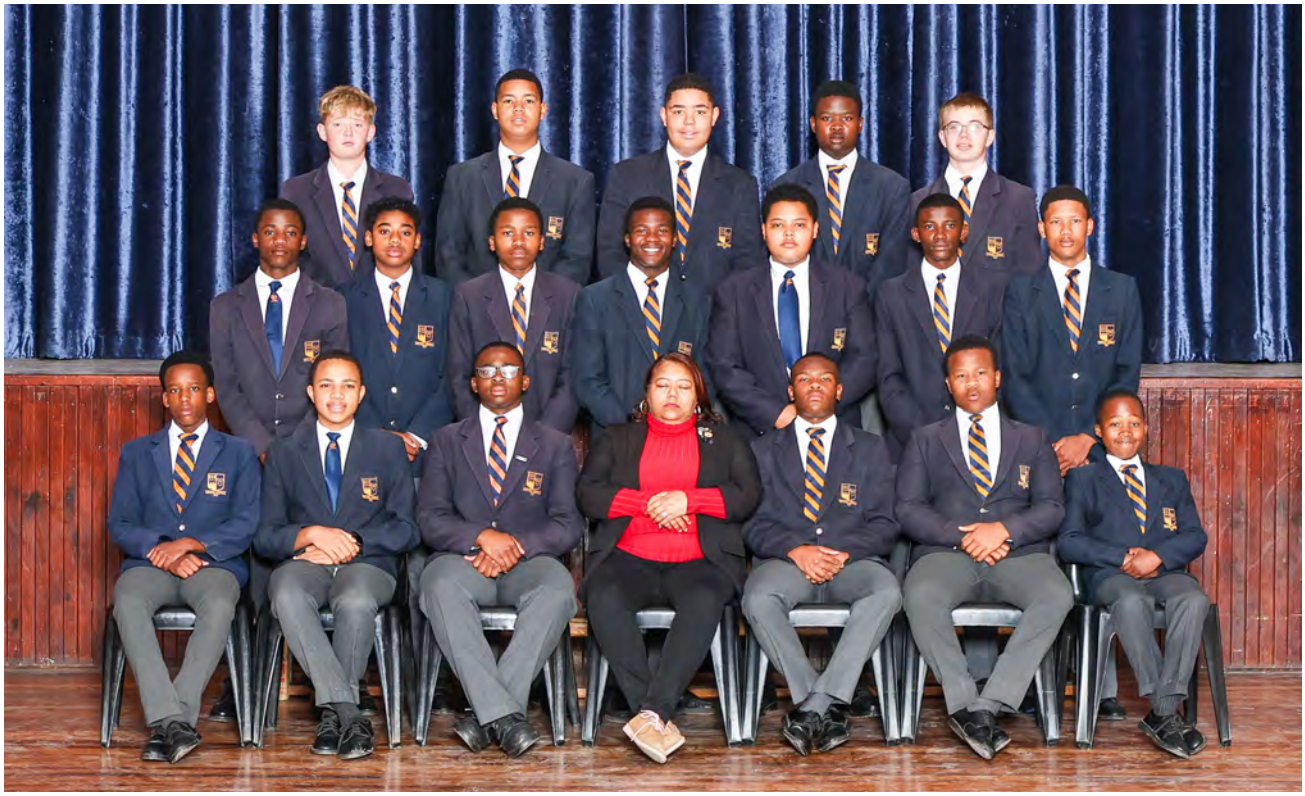
GRADE 9LF

Back: Rory Robertson, Emmett Sias, Lubabalo Phongolo
Middle: Batandwa Njoli, Onako Kili, Jayden Conroy, Anesipho Mraji, Kungawo Tali
Seated: Bukho-Bothando Munyadzwe, Endinako Booi, Maddox Fry, Mr. Lawrence Ferreira, Ben-Francois Du Toit, Busa Ngesimani, Likuthi Mjekula



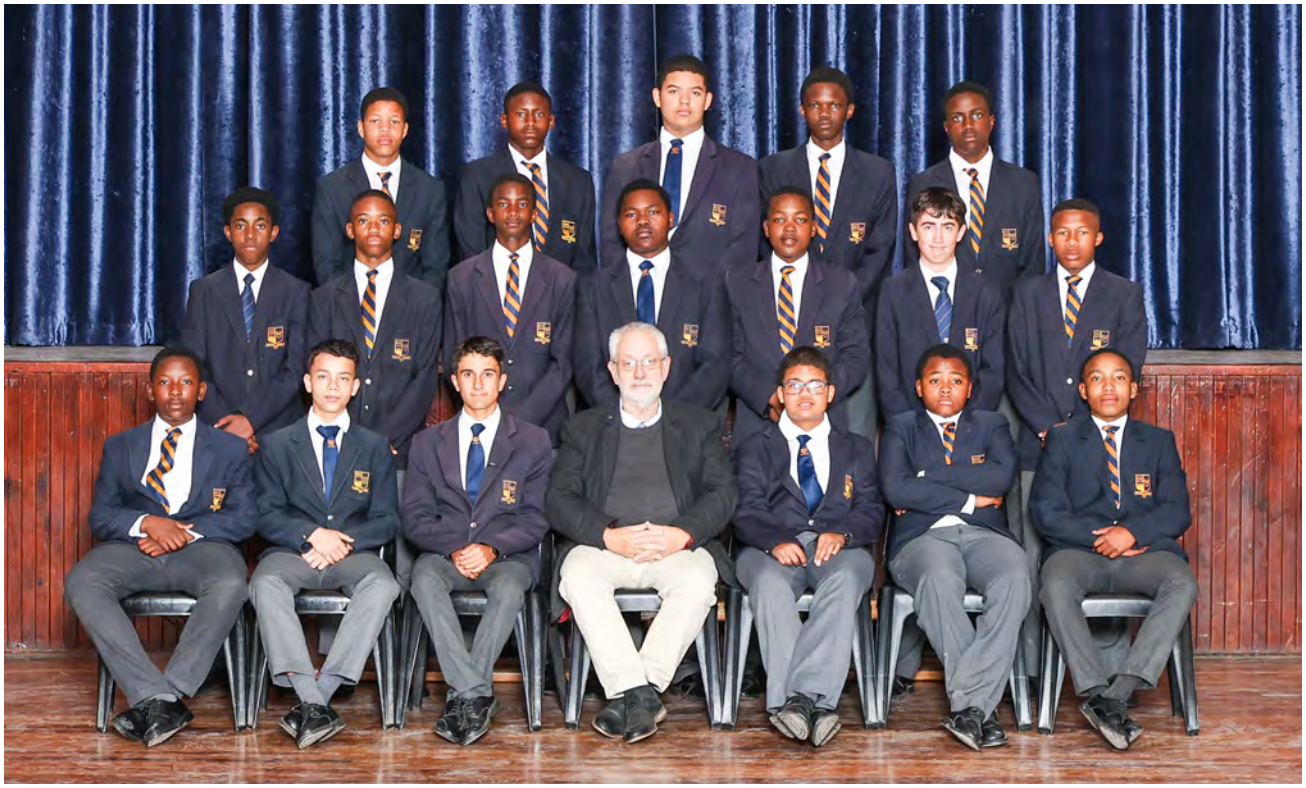
GRADE 9MW

Back: Sinenhlanhla Cishe, Owethu Ngetu, Miyolo Klaas
Middle: De Wet Van Deventer, Avuyisiwe Mnandi, Zuko Pontshi, Hlonela Kuselo, Hlumelo Sifanele, Molemo Muroa
Seated: Asikelelwe Songongo, Image Nodolwana, Daniel Barnard, Ms Morgan White, Caleb Jattiem, Ashton Burger, Daniel Czeredrecki-Schmidt



GRADE 9SR

Back: Dylan Bellingam, Adriano Jacobs, Tylo Bridger, Sesona Ngwetsheni, Aiden Lensley
Middle: Iyazi Zwedala, Zayron Bouwer, Mivuyo Mpiti, Selunathi Mfundisi, Nathan Gongqa, Linathi, Laylon Marthinus
Seated: Milani Njakata, Gino O'Brien, Zimi Nelani, Ms Shavonne Randall, Olwakhe Dlali, Sibongukanyo Zigayi, Ibongwe Mpafa



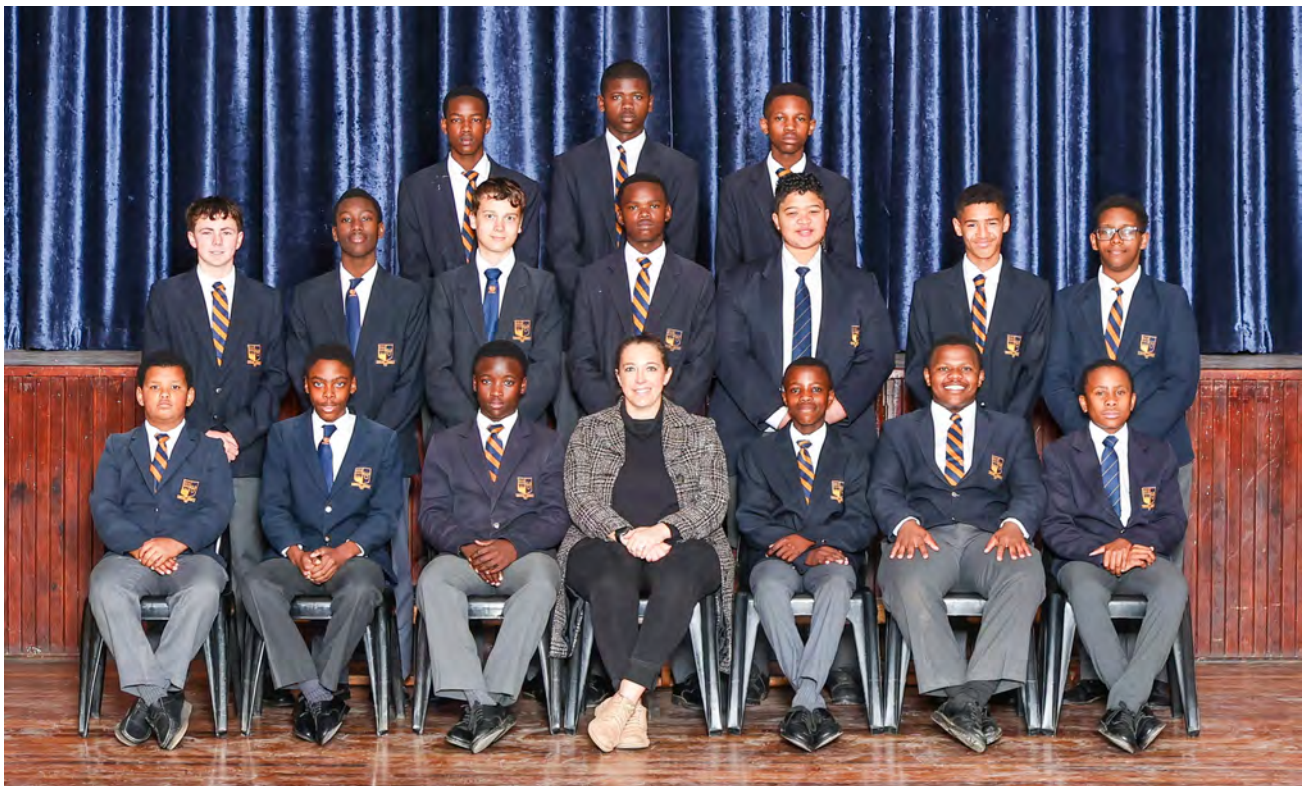
GRADE 8AG

Back: Simanye Lupuwana, Mbasa Mpiyane, Kenzo Repapis, Luminathi Mnconywa, Sinawe Mani
Middle: Avela Sam, Someleze Mandla, Kungawo Magopeni, Hluma Mfabane, Ayabonga Jili, Daniel Hanlon, Ondela Coto
Seated: Aqhama Sam, Kenzo Santos -Osman, Mr Anthony Greyling (Mentor teacher) Matthew Lamont, Sancuma Joni, Revanio Williams



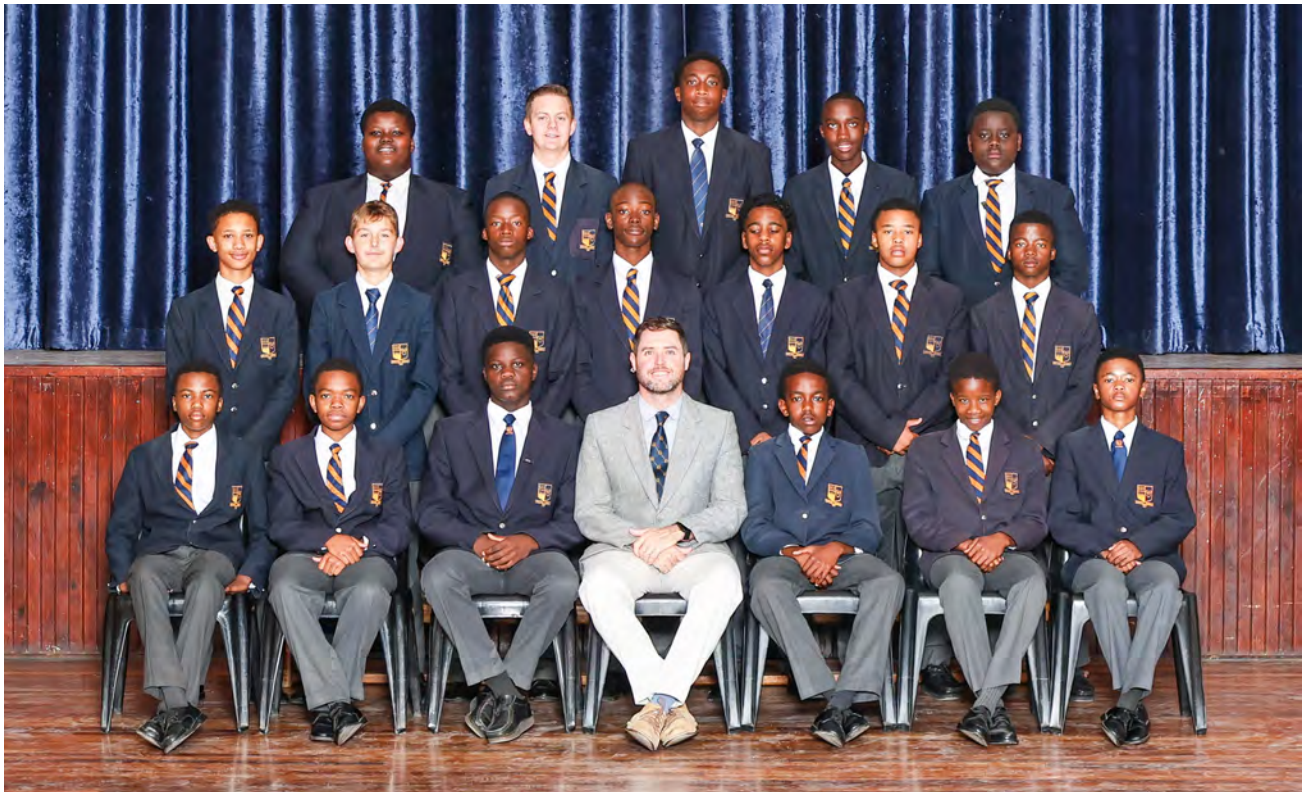
GRADE 8JG

Back: Linomtha Saliwa, Jordan du Plessis, Jayden Botha, Inganathi Ngxizele, Izibele Nonyukela
Middle: Kaino Meyers, Litalethu Beyi, Yazile Fatyi, Lusenathi Manzana, Abakhe Luwaya, Bonginkosi Toto, Liyema Madiza
Seated: Lorien Yazbek, Imange Peter, Lavuya Vayi, Dr Jennifer Gush, Kamohelo Hute, Iminathi Mali, Akum Ntontela



GRADE 8NH

Back: Qiqa Marambana, Sivuyisiwe Manyakanyaka, Hlobanisa Msakatya
Middle: Slater Hart, Tseliso Matsoso, Adam Terblanche, Mila Nothoko, Sheraad Russion, Jayden Isaacs, Tylo Marthinus
Seated: Keanan-Kyle Fourie, Uyapha Madodonke, Zimfefe Pokile, Mrs Nicole Hobson, Lithalethu Bartman, Makadunyiswe Klaas, Llunathi Twaku



GRADE 8PDL

Back: Musawenkosi Ngcayisa, Keagan Berriman, Thabiso Mosola, Avuswa Nabe, Cwenga Ramokolo
Middle: Ethan Crous, Jed van der Merwe, Lilo Fulani, Emmanuel Sibanda, Imaan Ngoqo, Othandwayo Antoni, Sinothando Madikane
Seated: Elethu Sandi, Lethabo Bayi, Oyama Masela, Mr Peter De Lacy, Bathandwa Mata, Imibongo Lusu, Usiphile Jadi

Senior Academic report

~ Miss Tracy Kenyon

Every year a school is measured by its academic performance at a grade 12 level. This is seen as a predictor of how strong and stable a school is. Often there is huge pressure on schools to obtain a hundred percent pass rate. The pressure is continually on us from the Department of Education, as well as our community. Teachers need to be strong and realise that it is our purpose to give each and every Graemian a chance at the best matric that they can get. A failure on the school's book is still an opportunity for that learner. They are able to rewrite and often obtain a pass with a rewrite. This being said, teachers and learners strive for the elusive 100% pass rate. The grade 12 class of 2025 more than exceeded all expectations by not only providing a hundred percent pass rate, but also an 80% Bachelor pass. This was absolutely thrilling for both the 2025 matrics and their teachers, as well as their parents, families and the broader Makhanda community.

This is perhaps indicative of the work of the staff and the learners over the 2025 year to try and better the previous year's results. Many classes were hives of activity with many learners encouraging others to achieve greater and greater marks. Across the high school, we are very proud of these various achievements. Grade 12 candidates like Noah Tabensky and Imiso Mpalala came through with brilliant results. Noah, school *dux* for 2025, was also accepted at Brown University, an Ivy League school in the United States of America and Noah's first choice for study. This proves that the effort is always worth it in the end.

2025 was also a year where two more Graemians received Academic Honours: Jayden Brits and Liyema Merile. May this number keep growing as our young men try and shape themselves to take a meaningful place in society.

The matric results were a fantastic way to start the 2026 year! They make the efforts of 2025 worth it. These results will also provide guidance for the groups coming up. They now have something to measure themselves against.

Accounting

~ Mr Michael Pretorius

Accounting focuses on measuring performance, and processing and communicating financial information about economic sectors. This discipline ensures that principles such as ethical behaviour, transparency and accountability are adhered to. It deals with the logical, systematic and accurate selection and recording of financial information and transactions, as well as the compilation, analysis, interpretation and communication of financial statements and managerial reports for use by interested parties. The subject encompasses accounting knowledge, skills and values that focus on the financial accounting, managerial accounting and auditing fields. These fields cover a broad spectrum of accounting concepts and skills to prepare learners for a variety of career opportunities. Each grade has a different focus with grade 10 being books of sole traders, grade 11 being partnerships and the grade 12 focus being companies.

Accounting at Graeme College remains a small class and this proves to be advantageous as it allows for the teacher to be attentive to the learners, and helps extract the best from them. Congratulations to Leon Mwepu for receiving the Accounting award.

Afrikaans

~ Mnr Anthony Greyling en Mej. Veronique Potts

Dit is vir my 'n groot voorreg om verslag te lewer oor die aktiwiteite van die Afrikaanse Departement gedurende 2025. Die onderrig van Afrikaans aan graad 8 tot 12 leerlinge was in die bekwame hande van Mnr Greyling en Mej. Potts.

Ons het met trots deelgeneem aan die ATKV Afrikaanse Olimpiade, en sewe van ons leerlinge het die toetse afgelê. In graad 10 het Ruben Bodenstein, Ethan de Wet en Kits McConnachie deelgeneem; in graad 11, Giano Fourie; en in graad 12, Herman de Bruyn, Cullen Goliath en Noah Tabensky. 'n Besonderse prestasie is deur Herman de Bruin behaal, wat onder die top 100 leerders in die land geëindig het. Ons streef daarna om in die komende jaar nog meer kandidate die geleentheid te bied om aan hierdie gesogte kompetisie deel te neem. Al die toetse is aanlyn geskryf en die resultate was onmiddellik beskikbaar.

Ons graad 10 leerlinge het hierdie jaar hulle taalvaardighede verder ontwikkel deur die samestelling van 'n skoolkoerant. 'n Kompetisie is geloods en die redaksie wat die beste koerant saamgestel het, is as wenners aangewys. Hulle is met 'n heerlike stuk koek vir hulle uitstekende werk beloon.



Die graad 11 leerlinge het hulle skryfvaardighede verbreed deur die geleentheid te kry om hulle eie blogs te begin. Verskeie van hierdie aktiwiteite is rekenaarmatig voltooi en met ander leerlinge gedeel, wat tot waardevolle samewerking en leerervaring gelei het.

Die graad 12 leerlinge het deur die roman *Lien se lankstaan-skoene* gewerk en ook tien verskillende gedigte voltooi. In graad 10 en graad 11 is van genres vervang met kortverhaalboeke, en daar word beoog om volgende jaar die roman *Die Kruppel Engel* in graad 11 te bestudeer in plaas van die poësie-afdeling. Hierdie aanpassing het ten doel om leerlinge aan 'n verskeidenheid Afrikaanse genres bloot te stel en sodoende hul lees- en interpretasievermoë te versterk.

Verskeie formele assesserings is deur die jaar voltooi, en die leerlinge het ook die geleentheid gekry om aan groepaktiwiteite deel te neem. Baie van hierdie aktiwiteite is met trots op die skool se sosiale media-platforms gedeel.

Hierdie jaar het die Afrikaanse gemeenskap die 100ste bestaansjaar van Afrikaans gevier. Ter aansluiting hiervan beplan die departement om volgende jaar 'n Afrikaanse aand aan te bied om die ryk diversiteit van die taal te vier. Daar word ook beoog om ander skole by hierdie viering te betrek. Verder is daar planne om 'n Afrikaanse sokkie te organiseer waar leerlinge op bekende Afrikaanse musiek kan dans – 'n heerlike manier om kultuur en taal te beleef.

Ten einde die leerders se redenaarsvermoë te bevorder, sal die projek "Sê jou sê" volgende jaar geïmplementeer word. Die wenner sal met 'n trofee tydens die jaarlikse prysuitdeling bekroon word.

Dit is duidelik dat die Afrikaanse Departement lewendig en vol geesdrif is. Ons doel bly om vir ons leerlinge te wys dat Afrikaans 'n lewende taal is wat bestaan uit 'n rykdom van kulturele en linguistiese komponente. Ons sien met groot opgewondenheid uit daarna om die nuwe graad 8 leerlinge volgende jaar in ons departement te verwelkom. Afrikaans is nie net 'n taal nie – dis 'n manier van dink, voel en leef.



National Afrikaans Olympiad

Seven senior learners participated in the 2025 national ATKV Afrikaans Olympiad, competing against more than 2500 learners in the Afrikaans First Additional Language category.

A huge congratulations to Cullen Goliath, who achieved placed in the top 150, and Herman de Bruin who placed in the top 100 nationwide.



(left to right) Herman de Bruin, Cullen Goliath, Giano Fourie,
Noah Tabensky, Ethan de Wet, Kits McConnachie, Ruben Bodenstein.

Business Studies

~ Mrs Nicole Hobson

Business Studies remains one of the most popular subject choices at Graeme College, offering learners the opportunity to explore key business concepts and deepen their understanding of real-world scenarios, both locally and internationally. Throughout the year, lessons were enriched with contemporary, real-life examples. This encouraged learners to stay informed about current affairs so they could participate meaningfully in class discussions and fully grasp the content being taught. Although engaging and relevant, Business Studies is a content-heavy subject, and many learners found the workload challenging. Success in this subject requires consistent effort and a strong work ethic. The teachers continually aimed to develop these qualities in their students.

Despite Business Studies not being inherently difficult, national results remain a concern. In response, the Business Studies Department at Graeme College committed to refining its teaching approaches, strengthening learners' understanding of the material, and improving how students prepare for assessments. Teachers provided ongoing support and additional learning resources to simplify the content and guide learners through their tasks. As in many academic disciplines, meaningful learning takes place in the classroom, where learners were encouraged to engage actively, ask questions, and share their viewpoints.

Overall, it has been rewarding to witness our learners' growth and their expanding interest in the business world. Those who dedicated themselves to their studies achieved commendable results. Moving forward, all learners are encouraged to continue to strive for excellence in order to achieve their full potential in this subject

English

~ Ms Tracy Kenyon

When one considers the importance of communication, one has to acknowledge the role the languages (both home and first additional) play in the world. The ability to take language and manipulate it in a way that leaves others spellbound can only be viewed as a superpower. Any successful advertising campaign is proof of this. In an age where everything is digital and learners tend to use Artificial Intelligence instead of formulating their own opinions based on their own research, it is vital that the language classes remain. They continue to quest for that connection between people, both through the study of the language itself as well as its literature, where there is often a striking similarity between what is happening in a character's world and our own world. This forms part of our core value system as we study concepts that are key in our own lives, including values like sympathy, empathy, integrity, honesty, charity, and respect, to name a few.

In grades 10, 11, and 12, learners are exposed to three genres: a novel, a drama, and poetry. For the English Department staff of Mr Keys, Mr Rowe, Mrs du Preez, and Miss Kenyon, teaching these young men is like putting on a dramatic production where everything has to be perfectly orchestrated in order for the learners to be able to play the roles in life that they were born to play. With English having a very specific pass mark, it is probably one of the most important subjects studied at school.

Staff continue to provide scaffolding for our young Graemians to be able to forge their path in this world. As language is acquired, so is confidence. There is nothing more exciting than knowing that you are able to read and write well. This is why good reading is often a feature of prizegiving in the Foundation Phase. The ability to read well often predetermines academic success. It is a skill that needs to be fostered from very early on. Children who are read to from birth often acquire the skills needed to excel in language more easily. This also scaffolds the art of listening. So much of learning at school is based on listening, and because children are overstimulated from a very early age by screen culture, it is important that parents try and establish this connection with their children. It is hugely beneficial, and teachers will capitalise on it forever more.

Graeme College is grateful that Mrs Gowar was able to step in during Mrs du Preez's maternity leave, bringing a wealth of experience with her..

The English Department will continue to strive to encourage learners to do their best at English – a fight a lot of the time because often, when one can speak a language, there is resistance to learning the rules of that language. The rules, and their applications, are the keys to success. They will open the doors to hitherto unexplored worlds, both real and imaginary. We need to start cultivating this learning for the positive change that it will bring in the world.

Geography

~ Mr Gregg van Molendorff

The senior school Geography Department continued to deliver high quality teaching and real-world learning in 2025. The team – Mr Gregg van Molendorff (grade 12), Mr Jonty van der Meulen (grades 8, 10, 11 and first year teaching grade 12), Mr Bongolwethu Draai (grade 9), and Ms Giorgia Duncan (grade 10), have shown dedication and enthusiasm throughout the year. Graeme College, once again, achieved a 100% pass rate in Geography in the 2025 National Senior Certificate exams.

Geography at Graeme College goes far beyond maps and memorised facts. In our classrooms we explore how places are shaped, how people interact with their environment, and where those interactions might lead in the future. We link classroom theory to current affairs and the everyday realities on our own continent, helping learners to make sense of the issues that affect them now.

There is always more to learn, and we are constantly reminded how limited any single perspective can be. That is why geographical knowledge matters: without a clear understanding of global patterns and local contexts, it is difficult to engage thoughtfully and responsibly in society.

Our daily task is an exciting one – fostering awareness, critical understanding and sensitivity so our pupils can navigate and contribute positively to the world they inherit.

National English Olympiad

On Tuesday 4 March a group of five matric learners sat for the English Olympiad examination – the culmination of weeks of preparation. The theme for 2025 was "let us celebrate: Love, Life and Land. The anthology utilised a mixed genre approach to looking at South Africa and celebrating how far we have come as a country.

There were some memorable moments leading up to the examination: Noah Tabensky and Jesse McConnachie's in-jokes; Joy Mukenge's passionate (if rather off-key) rendition of the National Anthem; and Ali Rizvi and Roman Prevec's attempts to keep the group focused. The English Olympiad is an experience that is well worth the effort. The young men who participate grow so much in terms of being able to articulate themselves, and this is such a privilege to witness. In many ways the results are immaterial – the growth in these young men is phenomenal. But if the truth be told, everyone likes a big win. In the lead up to the July holidays, we received the news that Noah Tabensky had made the Top 12 of the National English Olympiad.

Noah has written this examination every year since he was eligible to write. A humble young man, he has never really taken any credit for his talent. It was evident that this burgeoning talent was finally going to be recognised. Noah ultimately ranked 12th and was awarded with honours for Academic Achievement. At Joy's insistence, a party was held to celebrate the group's support of Noah in the lead up to the examination. What a wonderful group, and what a wonderful success. This was definitely one of this year's highlights.



Christopher McLean, Joy Mukenge, Jesse McConnachie, Miss Tracy Kenyon, Noah Tabensky, Ali Rizvi, Roman Prevec

History

~ Mr Andrew Swift

The History Department staff for 2025 were Mr Draai (grade 8), Mr Ralo (grade 9, 10, and 11) and Mr Swift (grade 12).

A pleasing aspect of the year was learners entering the National History Olympiad for the second time. The results were once again really impressive. Graeme College as a school, was placed first in the Eastern Cape. Matric learner, Jesse McConnachie, placed first in the Eastern Cape.

The grade 12 history syllabus is divided into world history (paper 1) and South African history (paper 2). Some world history examples include the Civil Rights Movement, the Black Power Movement, the Angolan Civil War, and the Vietnam War. Some aspects of South African history that are covered include the country's road to democracy, Steve Biko and the Black Consciousness Movement, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. History learners have to write one major project each year. In grade 12

the learners sometimes struggle to cope with the scale and magnitude of the project, which requires extensive reading and university-level referencing.

The hope is that a learner who has studied history at Graeme College will be able to understand himself, the world, and his own complex nation a little better. This will hopefully enable him to become a more engaging, empathetic, and understanding citizen who will be able to be a part of guiding the nation towards peace and prosperity.

Nelson Mandela, the father of the nation, said: 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world'.

How mightily this relates to the subject of history. May our history learners go on to be powerful agents of change in the nation. Nkosi sikelela iAfrika!

isiXhosa

~ Mr Vuyo Tshekela

Uyakumva umXhosa xa evuyela okanye evuyisana nesehlo esihle esithi, 'ukwanda kwaliwa ngumthakathi'. Le ntetho ke ifanelekile xa sisothule le ngxelo yalo nyaka umiyo. Zininzi kaloku iinkalo ezintle esingathetha ngazo malunga nokuqingqa kolwimi olo lwesiXhosa njengesifundo kwesi sikolo. Masiqale ngokuthi huntshu kwintloko yesifundo esi apha esikolweni owenu, uMnu Tshekela ngokuthi atyunjwe abe yintloko yabamakishi (Chief Marker) yephondo leMpuma Koloni kwesi sifundo sesiXhosa Ulwimi Lokuqala Olungezelelweyo kwiphepha lesibi kwisivumelwano seminyaka emibini esiphelelwa ngenyanga yeThupha ngomnyaka wama-2027. Oku kuza emva kokuba ebemakisha eli phepha iminyaka evisayo njenge-Senior Marker. Ngenene nangenyaniso sithi kuwe ntinga ntakandini. Sikuthembile ekuluthwaleni ngempumelelo olo xanduva.

Sinethemba ke ukuba abafundi bethu ingakumbi kwibanga le-12 abasayi kusidanisa kwiziphumo zabo emva kokuhlohlwa ngulo mpondozihlanjiwe kwesi sifundo. Sijonge enkalweni ke kwiziphumo zabo kwaye sibanqwenelela okuhle kodwa kuzo zonke iinkalo zobomi kwisiqalo sobomi emva kweminyaka emininzi besesikolweni. Kubafundi bamanye abanga, nisekule ndlela, yibambeni itshisa! Bhinqani omfutshane, niluqule nilugangathe xa nilungiselela amabanga alandelayo. Kwabo bangaphumelelanga, eli lixesha lokulungisa ezo mpazamo neziphoso ezibangele ukusilela kwenu ukuze kunyaka ozayo nani ninyukele kumabanga angasentla. Mawethu, kukangako okwakaloku nje, mandingawenzi made kuba kaloku umbengo omde uyawucima umlilo. Malihlale livutha ke elo dangatya de ibe ngunyaka ozayo. Camagu!

Life Orientation

~ Ms Shavonne Randall

Life Orientation has grown into a greatly loved and highly appreciated subject at Graeme College. It is a subject that focuses on people's daily roles as individuals in their family life, school life, the world of work, and as a South African citizen. It points to various challenges people might face like substance abuse, gender-based violence, divorce, adoption, death, and suicide, to name a few. The true significance of this subject is not just to look at the above mentioned topics, but also, and most importantly, to see how to heal, get counselling, and move forward, and what individuals and/or families can do to improve on their circumstances.

Life Orientation also teaches learners the importance of having a positive outlook on life, as well as the importance of being assertive, having a high self esteem, and which tools to use and structures to put in place in order to reach this. Careers and career choices is another big area focused on in the subject. Learners are taught to identify their strengths and weaknesses, and how to improve on their weaknesses, and also to look at the various personality traits and one's individual and unique interests, and how knowing all of this could assist in finding the right career path.

The assessment of the subject in the FET phase includes two research tasks and two written exams or controlled tests per year. Most learners achieve top results and some do very impressive research project work. The top 2025 Life Orientation learner in grade 12 was Noah Tabensky. Congratulations to Noah and all the best with his future endeavors.

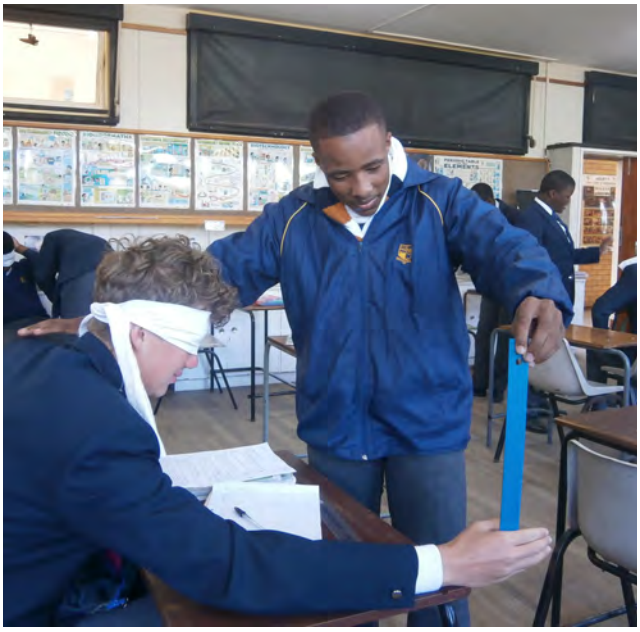
Parents are urged to encourage their sons to embrace and respect Life Orientation as a pivotal part of a child's school learning experience, and that all tasks should always be completed and handed in on the scheduled due dates. Lastly, all the best to the matric class of 2025; may you reach all your goals and dreams.

Life Science

~ Dr Jennifer Gush

The Life Science classes for 2025 maintained a sustained focus on hands-on practical work to enhance conceptual understanding across all of the grades. The goal remains to provide engaging and meaningful learning experiences that take students beyond the textbook.

Grade 12 is always a busy year, with pressure to complete the curriculum and allow time for comprehensive revision ahead of the final examinations. This demanding schedule did not deter the class from enjoying a number of crucial practicals. Highlights included a simulation of the famous example of natural selection of pepper moths in the forests of England, and the entertaining process of testing one another's reaction times to different types of stimuli.



Without a doubt, the academic highlight of the grade 12 year was a workshop run by Dr Prevec focusing on human evolution. Dr Prevec has an amazing resource in the form of replicas of the type specimens of some of the predecessors of modern-day humans. The learners were able to handle the specimens and develop a practical understanding of the different parts of the skulls that are used as diagnostic features in evolutionary biology.

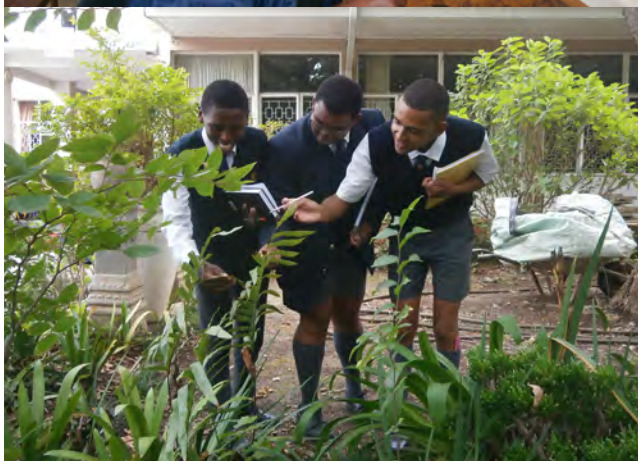
In addition to this workshop on the fossil evidence of human evolution, a member of the class, Herman de Bruin, introduced us to different types of Stone Age tools used by our predecessors. Herman collects and researches these items as a hobby and hopes to develop this interest into a career in archaeology.





Grade 11 learners were exposed to a broad practical curriculum. On top of the numerous photosynthesis experiments and organ dissections they are exposed to, they also explored the Graeme College school grounds to identify the different plant divisions and their general characteristics.





Graeme College is extremely proud to highlight three dedicated grade 11 learners, Likhona Cakata, Katleho Mhlope, and Iviwe Mshubeki, who were selected to participate in the prestigious Rhodes University Science Internship Programme. This intensive, hands-on opportunity allowed them to work alongside university researchers, providing invaluable exposure to tertiary-level science and research methodologies.



The grade 10 classes aim to build a solid foundation in key biological concepts. The mastery of the scientific method, the development of a logical and analytical way of thinking, the study of the impact of humans on the world, and understanding the great patterns of life over time provide a truly unique and valuable outlook that empowers every learner.

The curriculum takes students on an ambitious pathway of discovery: we start small, examining the atoms and elements that constitute life itself, then move onto cells, organs and systems, and finally explore ecology and the history of life over time. By the end of the year, learners develop an integrated understanding of the pathway from simple chemistry to the entire biosphere. The year was filled with fun and memorable practical discoveries. From the focused patience required when staring down a microscope and the intricate processes observed when dyeing flowers using osmosis, to the hands-on experience of a heart dissection and an energetic fitness test, it was certainly a busy year.



The Natural Science classes for grade 8 and grade 9, which include biology, chemistry, and physics, benefited greatly from an external partnership this year. Graeme College was fortunate to be selected to be part of the Key Concepts in Science programme, developed by the University of Free State and rolled out in the Eastern Cape by Nelson Mandela University. This programme aims to provide a very hands-on science education. The school has benefitted significantly from donations of new equipment and comprehensive teacher training, further bolstering our capacity to deliver excellent practical lessons in the junior phase.

Mathematics

~ Ms Morgan White

The Mathematics Department has continued to lead the charge to promote academic growth within the school. We continued with our Mathematics 100 Club initiative. Each learner who achieves 100% for a test or examination is inducted into the 100 Club. This year we also continued the Mathematics A Club. Learners achieving 80–99% for tests and exams are inducted into the A Club. These two initiatives have encouraged learners to work towards specific mathematical goals and have raised the standard significantly. The competition between the maths learners has been wonderful to see.

Focus study sessions have continued to be offered to learners wanting to improve their mathematics or gain clarity on any concepts.

Staff collaboration has continued within the department. Team teaching and assisting each other to improve have been the cornerstone of success. At the beginning of the year, we welcomed Mr Dettemer to the Maths Department.

At the end of 2025 we say goodbye to Mr De Lacy. Mr De Lacy has been a wonderful colleague to all of us. He has taught with excellence, and truly cared about the learners in his classes. We wish Mr De Lacy well in his new endeavours. Thank you to Mr De Lacy, Mr Dettemer and Ms De Jong for their hard work this year. Your willingness to go the extra mile for the learners is greatly appreciated and valued.

Physical Science

~ Dr Lauren Shaw

The thud of two colliding packs in a competitive scrum, the perfect arc of a cricket ball hit for six, or the explosive power of a Formula One car. These examples are not only exciting events to experience, but are real-life applications of physical science – the combination of physics and chemistry.

Three Graemians took up the challenge of exploring other real life, hands-on applications of science by entering projects into the 2025 Eskom Expo for Young Scientists. At the regional expo, Mivuyo Mpiti (grade 9) achieved a merit award. Benjamin Shaw (grade 6) and Joshua Danilatos (grade 10) each received gold awards and scooped up multiple other prizes, with Joshua's project selected as the best scoring at the expo. Joshua went on to compete at the International Science Fair where he received a silver award in the Animal Sciences category.

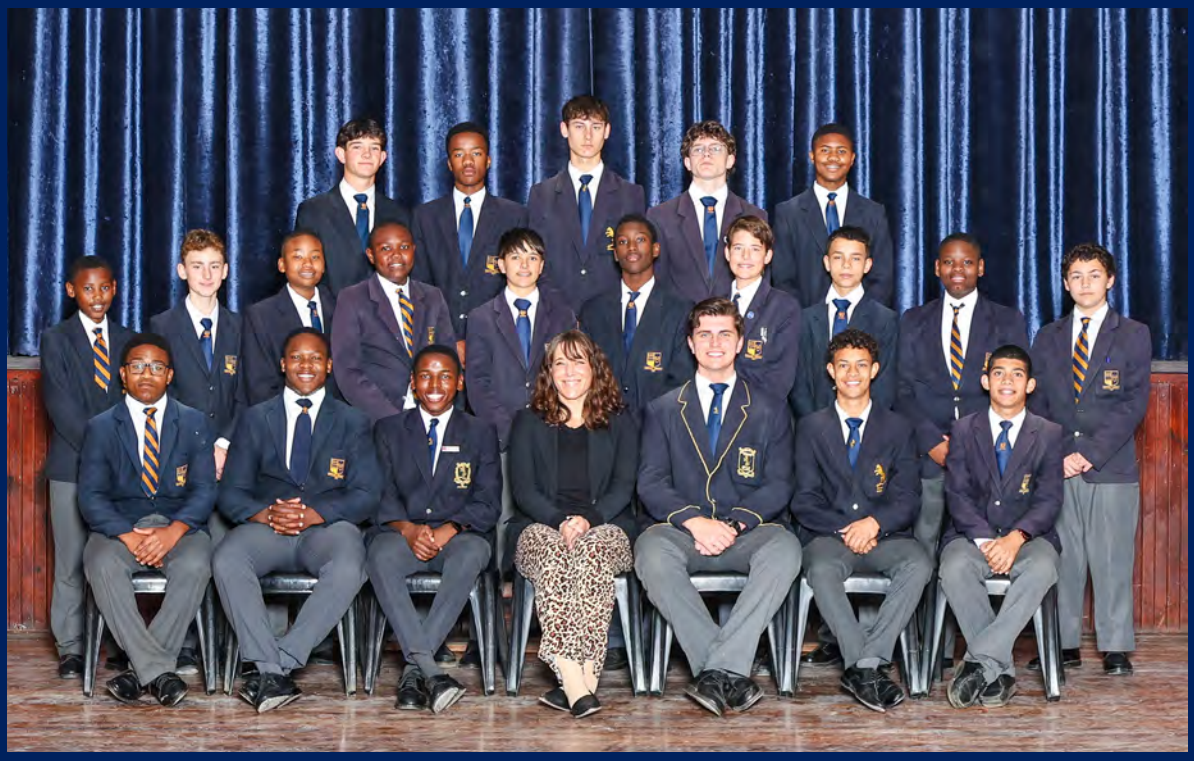
Physical science isn't just a subject confined to a classroom textbook, it is the blueprint for how the universe works and moves. Understanding these principles doesn't just lead to better learners academically, but can result in smarter athletes, sharper engineers and more effective problem-solvers. All the best scientists are the ones who are able to apply their knowledge to real world problems and situations, and our Graemian scientists are showing that they are more than capable of this.





National Science Olympiad

Graeme College entered learners into four different NRF National Science Olympiads in 2025, including the grade 4-6 Natural Science Olympiad for the first time. These olympiads take the form of particularly challenging quizzes that test not only content covered in the classroom, but also stretch the participants to think deeply and apply their knowledge and logic to complex problems that they would not have encountered before. All of the Graeme College entrants in the Life Science Olympiad qualified to receive certificates for achieving over 50%, with Jayden Brits (grade 11) impressing with an overall score of 73%. The grade 7–9 Graemians performed admirably with all of the entrants placing in the top 25% of learners in the province. Lorien Yazbek (grade 8) excelled in the competition, achieving an impressive score of 73% and ending in the top 3% of competitors in the province. The youngest leopards to compete also impressed, with Tyler Terblanche (grade 6) achieving an excellent score of 73%, ensuring his place in the top 5% of learners in the province.



Back: Kits McConnachie, Salizwa Makhalima, Michael Pretorius, Rory Roberston, Luphawulwethu Madolo
Middle: Iviwe Sitsila, Lorien Yazbek, Liyema Madiza, Kuaishe Magadza, Joshua Danilatos, Tseliso Matsoso, Benjamin Shaw, Kenzo Santos-Osman, Kungawo Makaula, Tyler Terblanche
Seated: Likhona Cakata, Iviwe Mshubeki, Liyema Merile, Dr Lauren Shaw, Jayden Brits, Leroy Adriaan, Callum De Vos

Tourism

~ Miss Giorgia Duncan

Tourism remains an exciting and relevant subject for our learners, especially here in the Eastern Cape, a province overflowing with natural beauty, vibrant cultural traditions, and history. We are fortunate to live and learn in a place that acts as a living classroom, where the impact and importance of tourism can be experienced first hand.

Tourism is a vital part of our provincial economy. Whether it is the world-renowned Addo Elephant National Park, the unspoilt Wild Coast, or the deeply significant Nelson Mandela Museum, the Eastern Cape continues to attract visitors from all over South Africa and beyond. Through studying tourism, our learners develop a clear understanding

of how this industry supports jobs, preserves culture, and encourages sustainable practices that protect our environment for future generations.

One of the reasons I am so passionate about this subject is the wide range of opportunities it opens for our learners. Tourism stretches across many fields – hospitality, transport, guiding, event management, conservation, and so much more. The skills they learn along the way are just as valuable: digital literacy for modern communication and bookings, critical thinking when planning itineraries or working with foreign exchange, and responsible citizenship through sustainable tourism principles. All these skills set our learners up to contribute meaningfully to the Eastern Cape's future growth.

2025 was a truly memorable year. The grade 10 class enjoyed a wonderful field trip to Amakhala Game Reserve, where they visited Woodbury Lodge and Woodbury Tented Camp, explored the reserve on a guided game drive, and ended the day with an inspiring talk from the Amakhala team. Hearing directly from passionate professionals gave our learners a deeper appreciation for the industry and its many career paths.





The grade 11 learners also had valuable real-world exposure. Their site visit to Avis Car Rental in Makhanda helped them understand the essential role of transport services in tourism, while the excursion to Gqeberha gave them an inside look at the Chief Dawid Stuurman International Airport, including a rare opportunity to tour the Air Traffic Control Tower, and a professional walkthrough of the four star Beach Hotel.

As we look to the year ahead, I am excited about the opportunities still to come. We are committed to broadening our learners' experiences through more field trips, industry interactions, and hands-on learning moments. These experiences not only enhance their understanding, but also help nurture them into confident, informed, and responsible young leaders ready to thrive in the dynamic tourism industry.







SENIOR CULTURAL

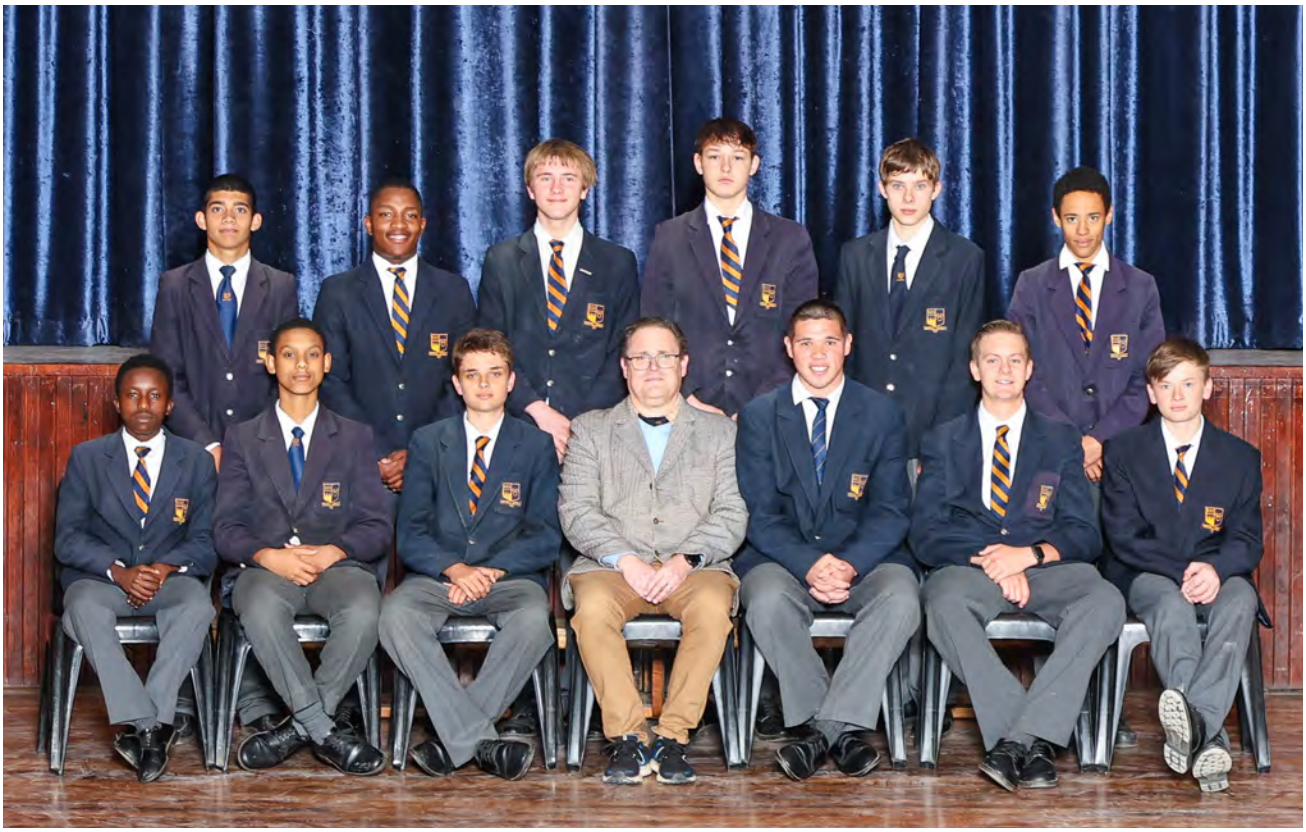
Audio Visual Club

~ Mr Eddie Wille

The Graeme College Audio Visual Club, under the leadership of William van Aarde and expertly supported by Donovan Pretorius and Jaydon Assumption, enjoyed a landmark year in 2025. The team's dedication ensured that every school event was backed by professional-grade technical support, seamlessly blending sound, and visual media to enhance the school's rich cultural and sporting life.

The year was defined by a series of high-profile successes, most notably a flawless Founders' Weekend. The club's technical prowess was further tested and proven during the high-energy Rugby Festival, the prestigious Sports Dinner, and the weekly rhythm of school assemblies. The team provided essential support for major community events, including the Makana Night Race and the GBS Half Marathon, showcasing their versatility in outdoor environments.

A significant highlight of 2025 was the collaborative spirit between the senior and junior AV Clubs. This mentorship ensured that every production was a collective triumph. The year culminated in the enchanting preschool play. Through tireless behind-the-scenes work, the AV Club remained the heartbeat of Graeme College's most memorable moments.



AUDIO VISUAL CLUB

Back: Callum de Vos, Busa Ngesimani, Giles Griffin; Conner Haakonsen, Tristan Boy, Jayden Assumption
Seated: Tshepo Molefe, Tyler de Jongh, William van Aarde, Mr Eddie Wille, Donovan Pretorius, Keagan Berriman, Daniel Czeredrecki-Schmidt

Chess Club

~ Ms Shavonne Randall

Graeme College chess welcomed a new coach, Mr Sewelo, in 2025. The learners have enjoyed his coaching style and enthusiasm, and have become more engaged with the sport. The Player of the Year award for 2025 was awarded to Lorien Yazbek. Our very hands-on chess leaders were Ali Rizvi and Lizo Duma and the chess team flourished under their great leadership. The chess team did a fair amount of travelling this year, where they participated in three chess derbies, one at home and two away. The team was accompanied by Miss De Jong, chess assistant coordinator The hope is to start 2026 off with more chess matches planned against other schools, as well as to be part of a possible Makhanda schools' tournament in September 2026.







CHESS CLUB

Back:Noah Tabensky, Jesse McConnachie, Matthew Koopman, Salizwa Makhalima, Ayabonga Jili
Middle: Keanen Fourie, Sancuma Joni, Molemo Muroa, Zipho Ntlokwana,Imiso Mpalala, Tseliso Matsoso, Uyapha Madodonke, Lorien Yazbek
Seated: Nicholas McKeown, Ali Rizvi, Ms Shavonne Randall, Lizo Duma, Luminathi Mnconywa

Community Outreach

~ Ms Morgan White

"We collect anything at any time and will find a home for it" has been our motto in 2025. Portfolio members have been exceptionally busy this year. Community Outreach continues to be popular amongst learners. The sheer volume of projects that run concurrently is impressive. We have become the go-to for anyone wishing to donate items or needing our learners to roll up their sleeves for a project or function. In 2025 we built relationships with various organisations we have assisted in the past. Child Welfare, in particular, benefitted tremendously each term. This partnership is important as it is a children's organisation supported by children. Our portfolio members gained invaluable skills at Ikhaya Losizo Cluster Foster Home. They learned to paint, drill, build, mix concrete, and order materials at our local hardware stores - all for the renovation of the children's playground at Ikhaya Losizo.

The learners developed social skills in dealing with the public when shaking donation tins outside Pick 'n Pay. Funds were raised to purchase blankets and food for Food for Futures, dog and cat food for the SPCA, items for the charity shops of Hospice and SPCA, clothing for the Curry Street Soup Kitchen, and so much more.

A wine tasting and auction was held in aid of Sibanye Special Day Care Centre. Sibanye was also the beneficiary of proceeds from our annual 21km hike. We look forward to 2026 when we will spend time at Sibanye, renovating the classroom space for the most vulnerable children in the informal settlement.

The Graeme College community continued to support the Lebone Centre by providing wool and reading books. This has helped to improve reading literacy in our town.

A new partnership and collaboration with the Rotary Club of Grahamstown was of tremendous value to our portfolio. We assisted the many projects of Rotary during the year. This partnership has seen both organisations increase their charity work together in our town. Our learners assisted at the National Arts Festival, Polio Mile Walk, and Oldenburgia Trail Run. Rotary reciprocated with a donation towards our club that we will use towards our Sibanye projects in the new year.

We are proud to have continued with our work with Hospice. The funds raised for them continue to provide dignity for people who require end-of-life treatment and care. While this is difficult for our learners to understand and experience, they know that they are providing assistance to those in need.

One of the achievements that the Community Outreach club can be proud of is that we have become a cornerstone of our local community. Our learners are asked for assistance by many different organisations and charities. During 2025 we hosted a dinner to bring together all of the organisations that assist us, and the beneficiaries of our work. It was fitting that we thank those who help us to help others, and it was also important for them to meet the people that they have directly or indirectly helped. The focus of the evening was networking to build relationships between us all. The members of the Community Outreach Portfolio were thanked for their hard work and dedication towards the work that we do. They are young men of true character, high standards and wonderful temperament. Their morals and values have impressed everyone. We look forward to continuing our work next year.




MAKANA
VETERINARY CLINIC
EST. 2021


CHARITY
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FOOD 4
FUTURES




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Lebone Centre
mr price sport







Debating

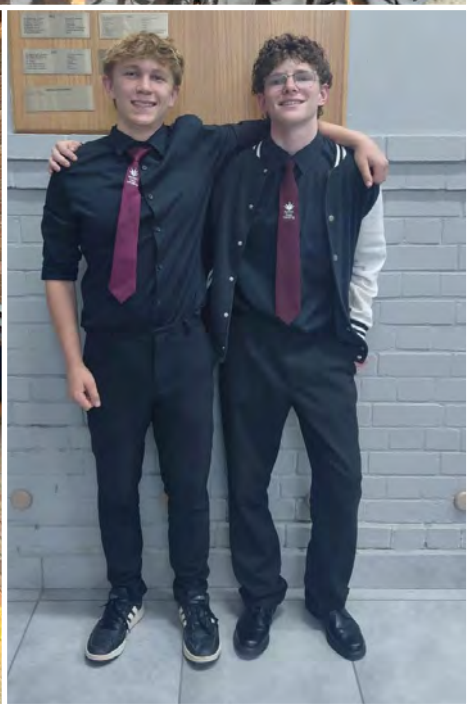
~ Mr Richard Gowar

The Graeme College debating society has, once again, achieved a wonderful set of results throughout the year. 2025 kicked off on 8 March with six teams participating in the local Rhini Debating League trials, and ended with the senior first team placing first in their pool. The junior A team (grade 9 and under) also placed first. The results of these strong performances were nine (later reduced to seven) Graemians being selected for further trialling. They were chosen to represent the Rhini Debating League in the provincial trials, in which they faced many tough schools. A team of three Graemians and a Victoria Girls' High School learner really shone throughout the tournament, with them placing third in their senior section. Rory Robertson helped bring his team to fourth place in the junior section. Both Noah Tabensky and Rory were chosen to represent the Eastern Cape in the national debating tournament in the Free State at the end of 2025 – this being Noah's fifth and Rory's second time attending this tournament. We wish them the best of luck.











SENIOR DEBATING

Back: Liam Bodill, Zotha Kolisi, Crispin Lackay, Michael Pretorius, Jayden Brits, Salizwa Makhalima, Luphawulwethu Madolo, Connor Richardson, Jedd Youthed

Seated: Roman Prevec, Lesedi Mothibe, Noah Tabensky, Mr Richard. Gowar, Jesse McConnachie, Joy Mukenge, Morgan Prevec



JUNIOR DEBATING

Back: Lethabo Bayi, Tyler Terblanche, Ben-Francois du Toit, Usiphile Jadi

Seated: Rory Robertson, Mr Richard. Gowar, Tseliso Matsoso

First Aid

~ Mrs Lana Pretorius

Graeme College continues to uphold its proud reputation as one of the leading first aid teams in the country. With such a high benchmark already set, our learners once again rose to the challenge.

Although team numbers were slightly lower than 2024, we were delighted to welcome eight new members into the fold. The learners worked with impressive dedication throughout the year, serving tirelessly during the rugby season, supporting various medical services, and volunteering at numerous community events across Grahamstown.

This year's first aid team comprised 23 committed members, 17 of whom have already achieved their Level 3 qualification. At the conclusion of the year we were proud to present three certificates of achievement, four half-colours, five full-colours, and one honours award.

Congratulations to all members of the first aid team for another exceptional year of service to both the school and the broader community. An honours award was presented to Dinilisizwe Mjuku, accompanied by the following citation:

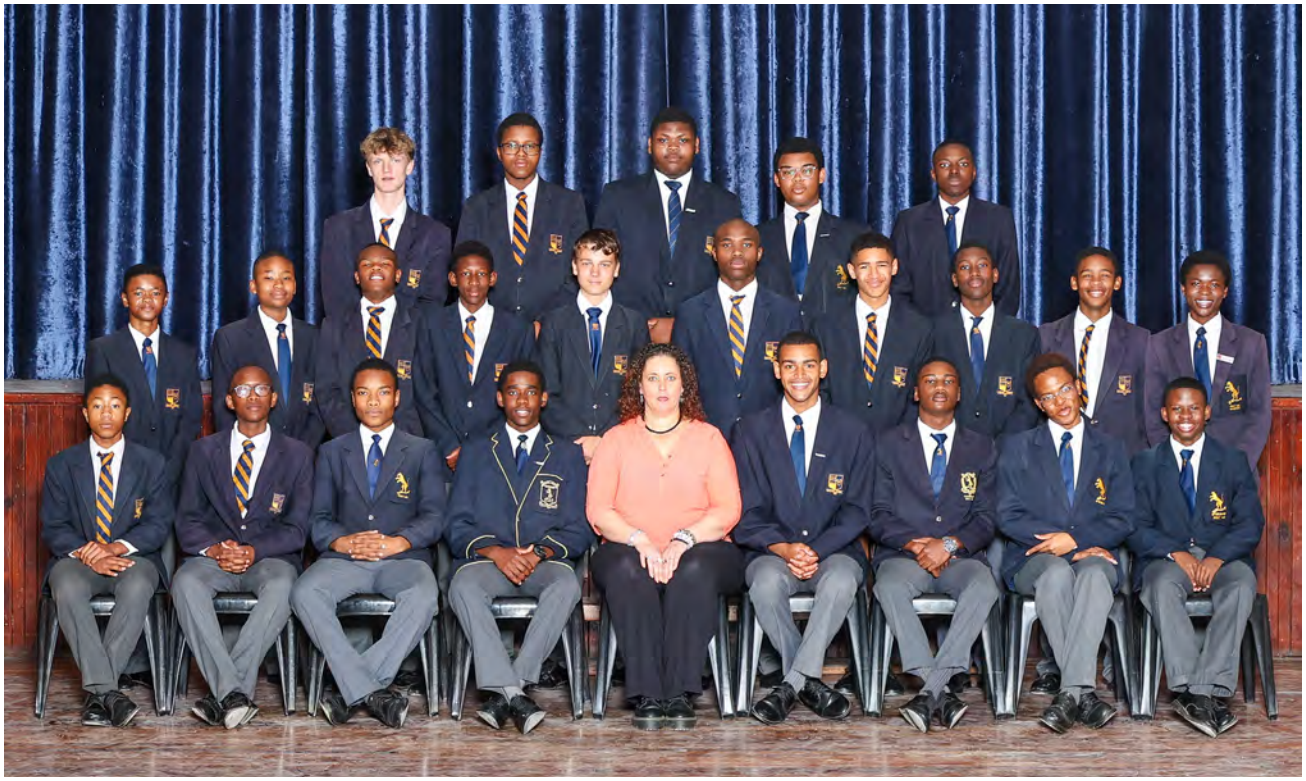
"Since 2021, this learner has devoted himself to serving Graeme College through his role as a school first aider. He has consistently provided medical assistance at sporting events and other activities, never seeking recognition for his efforts. His quiet dedication has offered reassurance to those he has assisted, and his willingness to serve is a testament to his humility, diligence and genuine concern for others.

His service has been characterised by sacrifice – giving up countless hours of personal time and standing beside fields in all types of weather. From the blazing heat of rugby festivals to freezing, rain-soaked afternoons in winter, he has always placed the needs of others before his own comfort. His resilience and perseverance has set him apart, and his unwavering commitment to the wellbeing of the Graeme College community is deeply admired.

What makes this learner's contribution truly remarkable is its sustainability. Since completing his first aid training, he has served year after year, continually improving his knowledge and practical skills. Beyond his involvement at school, he has volunteered with private ambulance services, gaining exposure to caring for critically injured patients under paramedic supervision. His natural curiosity and eagerness to learn saw him engage thoughtfully with medical professionals to refine his abilities.

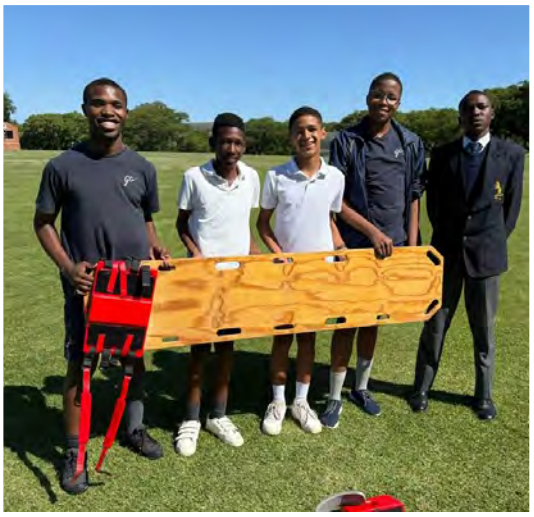
In total, he has dedicated 920 hours to supporting the wider Grahamstown community and 277 hours to Graeme College – a remarkable commitment of nearly 1 200 hours spent in service to others.

This steady growth and dedication led to his appointment as Head of First Aid in 2025, where he demonstrated strong leadership, reliability, initiative, empathy and effective communication. Under his guidance, the first aid team functioned with unity and purpose, inspired by his example. At the heart of his service lies his loyalty to Graeme College – every hour volunteered, every skill sharpened, and every sacrifice made has contributed to the safety, reputation and wellbeing of the College. His efforts have strengthened the preparedness and care of the Graemian community. It gives me great pride to award Honours to Dinilisizwe Mjuku for his remarkable service and commitment to first aid."



FIRST AID

Back: Kyle Pearson, Zimyoli Ndyolashe, Indiphile Ntsinde, Keanu-Josh Rooi, Joshua Osunkunle
Middle: Usiphile Jadi, Liyema Madiza, Olwakhe Dlali, Lucinati Manzana, Adam Terblanche, Xabiso Gedze, Jayden Isaacs, Tseliso Matsoso, Bongi Toto, Mihlali Ngqinzi
Seated: Maphelo Matyholweni, Qiqa Nongauza, Zipho Ntlokwana, Dinilisizwe Mjuku (head of first aid), Ms Lana Pretorius, Giano-Reece Fourie, Azola Zondani, Qhama Mafuya, Khazimla Ntlabat











Music

~ Mrs Elizabeth Banks

Music is life. That's why our hearts have beats."

2025 has seen the Graeme College Music Department continue to grow in strength. The junior music programme has seen the vibrant and enthusiastic addition of Mrs Elizabeth Banks. Her energy has been welcomed by the learners who show a keen interest in gaining new music knowledge, while having as much fun as possible. The marimba programme has continued with the assistance of Rhodes University student mentors. In August the programme welcomed a group of young musicians from Watershed College, in Zimbabwe, who presented a workshop for our keen musicians.

With the assistance of Mr Sibusiso Mkhize, the senior choir programme has laid a foundation that will be developed further. The choir performed at two events, which attracted attention and drew in new choir members. The junior choir, led by Mrs Banks, have also made steady progress during the past year. The department once again had the privilege of obtaining the expertise of Mr Sibusiso Njeza as the solo vocal teacher for the grade 10–12 learners. This was highlighted by three grade 12 learners achieving a final mark above 75% for their external exams.

Steelband continues to be a popular and important part of the music programme. The past year has seen the Senior A steelband perform at the Rhodes University Graduation Garden party, the Bathurst Show, and the East London Port Rex Lions Eisteddfod. A highlight of the year was the performance at the annual Steelpannival concert at Nelson Mandela University in Gqeberha, with international jazz steelpan artist, Andy Narell, as the guest artist.

Under the guidance of Mr Pretorius, the instrumental programme has continued to grow and develop further this year. Many learners have benefited from the collaboration with the Rhodes University Music Department and their student mentors. Credit and acknowledgement must go to Dr Boudina McConnachie for her support in this initiative.

Other major events that took place during the year were the participation of Mr Johan Pretorius and Jonathan Pretorius in the Makhanda Community Orchestra Concert with Sipho "Hotstix" Mabuse, performing with the Eastern Cape Philharmonic Orchestra during the National Arts Festival, and hosting a Legacy Concert which included local school choirs and performers. 2025 concluded with the grade 11 subject music learners participating in a workshop on the *ancklung*, a traditional musical instrument from Indonesia.







South African National Blood Service

~ Ms Morgan White

A record number of units of blood were donated by the Graeme College learners, staff, and families in 2025. Each term a goal was set to surpass the previous number of units donated. Approximately 200 units of blood were donated on our campus during 2025. This is testament to the kind and caring nature of everyone who rolled up their sleeves and bravely donated their blood. Each unit can save up to three lives. In addition to life-saving blood, donations are also used for other purposes like plasma collections. Next year we look forward to continuing our partnership with the South African National Blood Service. It has been a wonderful collaboration during 2025. We thank the SANBS staff, nurses, and volunteers for making blood donation a pleasant experience for all concerned.



Steelband

~ Mr Sylester Appollis

Another year of head-bopping and foot-tapping music. The steelband continued to bring joy and happiness to many audiences in 2025.

The year began with many eager grade 8 learners signing up for the beginner band. With gradual progress, the group managed to learn three pieces during the year. The grade 9 and 10 groups had similar development, building on the foundation from previous years. The senior performance band had many public performances in 2025, including a Lawson Brown High School steelband concert, the Rhodes University Graduation Garden Party, and the Bathurst Show. One of the highlights of the year was the performance at the annual Steelpannival Concert at Nelson Mandela University in Gqeberha. This year's event was especially memorable as it hosted international jazz steelpan artist, Andy Narell – a memory many of the steelband members will cherish forever.

Eight steelpan soloists participated in the Port Rex Lions Eisteddfod in East London: Leroy Adriaan, Athenkosi Manyati, Thurston Marthinus, Duncan McLeod, Mikhulu Yolani, Herschelle September, Amyoli Songongo, and Cairis Appollis. The learners performed well and returned with three gold, three silver, and two bronze certificates.

During the third term, some of the soloists also participated in the Pearson Praeludium (Eisteddfod) in Gqeberha. Leroy Adriaan, Athenkosi Manyati, Thurston Marthinus, Amyoli Songongo, and Cairis Appollis returned with two double-gold certificates (diplomas 90%-99%) and three gold certificates (80%-89%). The senior performing steelband obtained a Diploma certificate at the same event.

The steelband continues to grow, and 2026 will be a big year for the programme. Initiated in 1996, 2026 will be the 30-year anniversary of steelband at Graeme College. 2025 has lived up to the tradition of creating many memories for our music enthusiasts and school learners.

"It's fantastic in every sense, the music we get from these instruments." – The Steelband Music – Calypsonian, Aldwyn "Lord Kitchener" Roberts.



SENIOR STEELBAND A

Back: Joy Mukenge, Lesedi Mothibe, Giano Fourie, Qhama Mafuya, Inika Pantsi
Middle: Herschelle September, Liam van Rensburg, Qiqa Nongauza, Athenkosi Manyati, Thurston Marthinus, Benediction Msindo, Jethro Visagie, Leroy Adriaan, Khazimla Ntlabati
Seated: Mikhulu Yolani, Duncan Mcleod, Amyoli Songongo, Mr Sylvester Appollis, Ayamila Bill, Leon Mwepu, Cairis Appollis



SENIOR STEELBAND B

Back: Bukho Gxekwa, Kits McConnachie, Duanne Oosthuizen, Nicholas Cock, Indiphile Ntsinde, Keagan Jattiem, Lindikhaya Kosi, Xabiso Gedze, Liphumile Apleni, Ahlumile Sideba

Seated: Likuhle Bashe, Usisipho Marepula, Ibenam Butana, Mr Sylvester Appollis, Thurston Williams, Joshua Danilatos, Lithabo Flack



INTERMEDIATE STEELBAND

Back: Ashton Burger, Hlonela Kuselo, Caleb Jattiem, Tylo Bridger, Eliyandro Kivitts, Adriano Matroos, Emmett Sias, Lubabalo Phongolo, Jaydon Kohl

Seated: Amahle Benya, Zayron Bouwer, Sinqobile Tauzen, Mr Sylvester Appollis, Olwakhe Dlali, Othandwayo Antonio, Joshwin Burger



BEGINNER STEELBAND

Back: Kwazi Fatyi, Kungawo Magopeni, Musawenkosi Ncanywa, Sheraad Russion, Lavuya Vayi, Ayabonga Jili
Middle: Liyema Madiza, Uyapha Madodonke, Tylo Marthinus, Jayden Isaacs, Lusenathi Mazana, Tseliso Matsoso, Bonginkosi Toto, Aqhama Sam, Iminathi Mali
Seated: Sancuma Joni, Keanan Fourie, Image Peter, Mr Sylvester Appollis, Akum Ntontela, Kenzo Santos-Osman, Usiphile Jadi







Student Christian Association

~ Ms Liz Manning

2025 has been a year of meaningful growth within the Student Christian Association (SCA). It has been heart-warming to see so many boys step forward with confidence and compassion to take on leadership roles—whether through leading prayer or guiding our weekly meetings. Attendance remained strong throughout the year, and it has been wonderful to witness how much the boys have learned from one another.

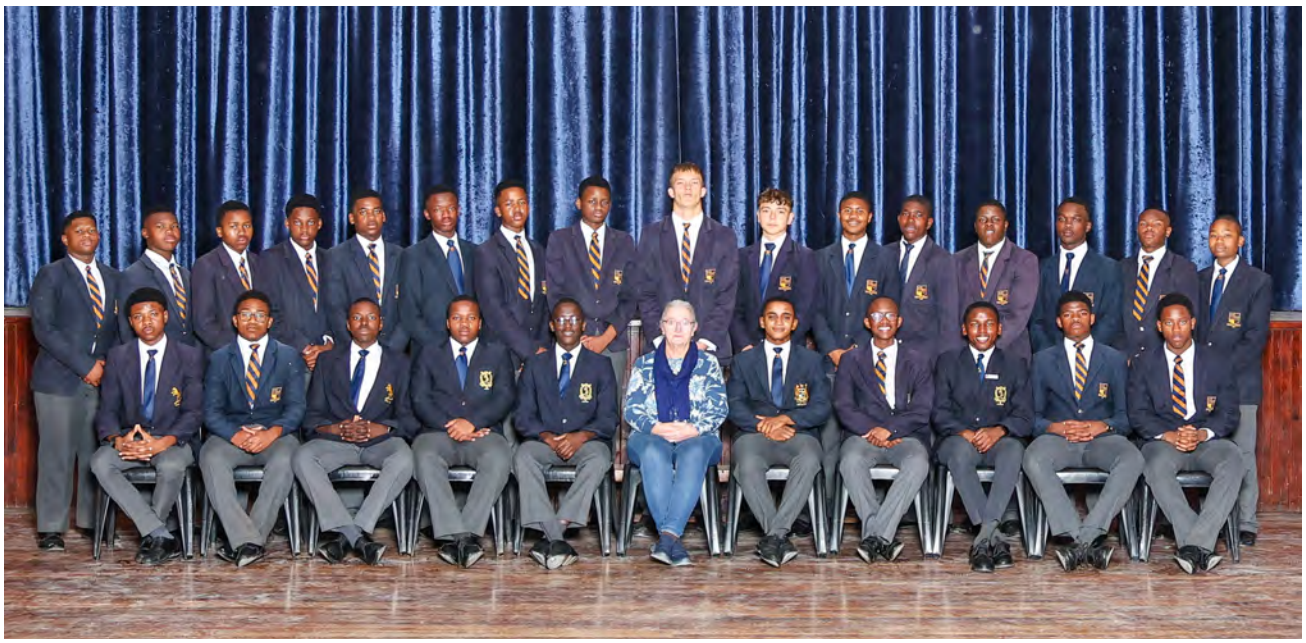
This has also been a year where many boys felt deeply encouraged and supported as they made the life-changing decision to give their hearts to Jesus. Their peers have walked alongside them with genuine care, inspiring one another to read their Bibles, participate actively in school meetings, and join the growing group of boys attending church on Sundays.

We are sincerely grateful to Jeremy Siebehagen for once again leading our Founders' Day service with such dedication. We were also blessed by the powerful testimony shared by Hennie le Roux, whose story as a Springbok rugby player brought encouragement and inspiration to all who attended.

A highlight of the second term was witnessing several boys take the step of being baptised at Every Nation Church—a moment of joy and celebration for the entire SCA family.

In the third term, we were enriched by an eye-opening Worldview Seminar at Every Nation Church, where the boys gained a deeper understanding of different worldviews and how they compare to a Biblical perspective.

As the learners prepared for their final exams, our prayer meetings became a treasured time of inviting the Holy Spirit to guide, comfort, and strengthen them through their studies and into the exam room. The testimonies shared during this season were incredibly uplifting, reminding the boys that God's presence is woven into every aspect of our lives.



Back: Lithabo Flack, Kukhanya Pakade, Mivuyo Mpiti, Kamvalethu Sayita, Linamandla Masela, Sinenthlanthla Cishe, Owethu Ngetu, Ayola Dyasi, Ben-Francois du Toit, Ethan de Wet, Luphawulwethu Madolo, Zuko Pontshi, Lisekho Zinyani, Avuyisiwe Mnandi, Olwakhe Dlali, Liyema Madiza
Seated: Lelamixabiso Ndumndum, Likhona Cakata, Joshua Osunkunle, Lwandle Dlamini, Khaka Tapu, Ms Liz Manning, Lutwesiwe Kobese, Qiqa Nongauza, Liyema Merile, Qhawe Mbelani, Ahlumile Maqungu









SENIOR SPORT



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SPORTS DINNER












ATHLETICS

Athletics report

~ Mr Vuyo Tshekela

Athletics season kicked off with our athletes competing in the Makhanda High Schools elimination meeting. This is where athletes battle it out for qualification into the district championships. Some of our senior athletes performed exceptionally well and made the cut into the next round of championships.

Sarah Baartman District Championships
After a successful display at Makhanda Schools Athletics, eight Graeme College athletes qualified to compete at Sarah Baartman District Championships held in Gqeberha. Some of our athletes made a very good account of themselves in this meeting.

Ayamila Bill	gold	under 19 shot put
	gold	under 19 discus
Reuben Dollery	gold	under 19 javelin.
Inam Masoma	silver	under 17 high jump.
Ahlume Gxamesi	bronze	under 17 discus throw

Eastern Cape Championships
Graeme College high jumper, Inam Masoma, qualified for and was selected to compete at the Eastern Cape Provincial Championships held in Komani in March. This was Inam's third consecutive time qualifying for Provincial Champs. Unfortunately, the results from this meeting were not favourable to him.

The Hirsch Shield
Our senior athletes competed in the 102nd edition of Hirsch Shield hosted at Grey High School in Gqeberha. The Hirsch Shield is not just one of the oldest interschools' boys-only competitions, but it is also one of the toughest competitions around. Nevertheless, athletes from all schools enjoy the competitiveness and camaraderie at this auspicious occasion. The Hirsch Shield is for under 19 boys, the SF Edwards Shield is for under 16 boys, and the Sammy Gunn Shield is for under 14 boys.

Some of the highlights from this edition were:
Luphawulwethu Madolo, gold, under 16 400m
C-Jay Jeggels, gold, under 16 800m
Inam Masoma, bronze, under 16 high jump.
Qhawe Mbelani, bronze, under 19 110m hurdles



Interhouse Athletics

The annual interhouse Athletics Day always brings much anticipation and excitement from the learners who came out in numbers, painted in their house colours, to show their commitment and camaraderie to their housemates. This year's edition, as all other editions, commenced with pre-events on Tuesday 2 September, and athletics' day on Wednesday 3 September. At this year's event, we witnessed the little ones taking the limelight with record-breaking performances. Jordie van der Meulen improved the under 6 80m race record from 15.90s to 15.66s. Miguel Featherstone produced a record-breaking performance in the under 8 high jump, improving the record from 1.09m to 1.12m. We congratulate these little athletes on their achievements and look forward to more excellent performances in the coming years. The overall performance of all our athletes was noticeably pleasing in terms of numbers as well as individual results. The event could not have been the success that it was without the collective effort and collaboration of all staff members.

Most outstanding athlete awards:

under 7	Avuyile Ngqoko
under 8	Miguel Featherstone
under 9	Karson Doyle
under 10	Frederick Tladi and Lunabile Manyati
under 11	Lulo Mbambo
under 12	Miyolo Baliso
under 13	Othandwayo Booi
under 14	Jayden Botha

Narshai Trophy (best under 15 sprinter)
Avuyisiwe Mnandi
Smith Trophy (most outstanding under 15 athlete)
Avuyisiwe Mnandi
Howell Trophy (most outstanding under 16 athlete)
C-Jay Jeggels
Sieberhagen Trophy
Vernal
Powell Trophy (best field performance)
Jordan Damons
Coetzer Trophy (best track performance)
Erin Nelson
Victor Ludorum
Jordan Damons

Overall house points:

Neilson	1	860
Wiles	2	814
Vernal	3	802
Hutton	4	764

Congratulations to all our athletes for another season of great athletics. We look forward to the start of the new season at the begging of next year.









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CRICKET

First XI Cricket

~ Mr Carl Bradfield

Graeme College vs Peterhouse Boys' School
Peterhouse 98 all out
Ajay Jeggels 3/29
Jordan Damons 2/20
Graeme College 210/5 declared
Corbin Tidbury 92
Zuko Pontshi 69
Peterhouse 48/5
Erin Nelson 2/2
Graeme won by an innings and 66 runs

Graeme College vs St Alban's College
St Alban's 153/10 (68 overs)
Ajay Jeggels 2/16
Jordan Damons 2/45
Graeme College 154/2 (35 overs)
Enrique Strydom 82
Corbin Tidbury 35
Graeme College won by 8 wickets

Graeme College vs Hellenic Academy
Graeme College 237/5 (40 overs)
Corbin Tidbury 95
Zuko Pontshi 47
Luphelo Mdyesha 45
Hellenic Academy 128/8 (40 overs)
Andrew Muir 3/19 (8 overs)
Jordan 2/16 (6 overs)
Graeme College won by 107 runs

Graeme College vs St David's
St David's 153/10 in 20 overs
Ajay Jeggels 2/16
Jordan Damons 3/47
Match abandoned due to inclement weather

Graeme College vs Muir College
Graeme College 422/8 declared (62 overs)
Luphelo Mdyesha 138
Ryan Stobbs 65
Zuko Pontshi 57
Andrew Muir 54
Muir College 105 all out (39 overs)
Luphelo Mdyesha 7/17 in 14 overs
Andrew Muir 2/16 in 6 overs
Graeme College won by 317 runs

Graeme College vs Pearson High School
Graeme College 140/10 all out 52 overs
Enrique Strydom 51
Kits McConnachie 30
Pearson 154 all out 47.3 overs
Erin Nelson 4/4 in 1.3 overs (hat trick)
Luphelo Mdyesha 2/64 in (17 overs)
Jordan Damons 3/28 (8 overs)
2nd Innings
Graeme College 35/5 (target 22)
Pearson 22/1
Erin Nelson 1/11
Graeme College lost by 4 wickets

Graeme College vs St Andrew's College T20
St Andrew's College 130 all out
Erin Nelson 3/27
Kits McConnachie 2/15
Jordan Damons 2/23
Andrew Muir 2/22
Graeme College 119 all out
Ryan Stobbs 29 off 20
Graeme College lost by 11 runs

Graeme College vs St Andrew's College
Saturday
Declaration cricket
Graeme College 188 in 52 overs
Zuko Pontshi 68
Enrique Strydom 33
St Andrews College 189/3 in 59 overs
Graeme College lost by 7 wickets

Graeme College vs Stanley Cricket Club 50 overs
Stanley 205/10 all out
Erin Nelson 3/30
Ajay Jeggels 3/31
Graeme College 198/9 after 50 overs
Kits McConnachie 64
Jordan Damons 24
Graeme College lost by 7 runs

Graeme College vs Selborne College
Declaration
Selborne College 132 all out
Lisekho Zinyane 3/19
Luphelo Mdyesha 3/30
Graeme College 205/9
Kits McConnachie 58
Ryan Stobbs 38
Andrew Muir 35
Graeme College won by 70 runs and 1 wicket

Graeme College vs Alice RPC Hub under 19
Alice RPC 111 all out
Lisekho Zinyane 4/17
Jordan Damons 3/18
Graeme College 112/0
Enrique Strydom 88 not out
Graeme College won by 10 wickets

Graeme College vs Old Graemian Union
Old Graemian Union 95 all out
Murray Tyson (OG '24) 27 off 36
Jonty van der Meulen (OG '08) 22 off 20
Seviano Jasson (OG '10) 16 off 13
Ajay Jeggels 3/9 in 3 overs
Caleb Jattiem 2/12 in 2 overs
Graeme College 98-5 in 13 overs
Luphelo Mdyesha 47 not out off 34
Corbin Tidbury 16 not out off 8
Kevin Geldenhuys (OG '23) 2/23 in 4 overs
Graeme College won by 5 wickets

Graeme College vs Hudson Park High School
Hudson Park 101 all out
Ajay Jeggels 4/6 in 4.2 overs
Andrew Muir 2/8 in 6 overs
Jordan Damons 2/13 in 8 overs
Graeme College 102/6 in 24 overs
Luphelo Mdyesha 36 off 24
Kits McConnachie 24 not out off 35
Graeme College won by 4 wickets

Graeme College vs Cambridge High School T20
Graeme College 140/6 in 20 overs
Luphelo Mdyesha 26
Enrique Strydom 26
Andrew Muir 25
Cambridge 70/10
Luphelo Mdyesha 3/15
Caleb Jattiem 2/4
Graeme College won by 70 runs

Graeme College vs Parel Vallei High School T20
Graeme College 133/5 in 20 overs
Luphelo Mdyesha 50
Corbin Tidbury 47
Parel Vallei
Luphelo Mdyesha 2/22
Siba Deliwe 2/1
Graeme College won by 47 runs

Graeme College vs Stirling High School (40 overs)
Stirling 89/10
Caleb Jattiem 5/24 (7.2 overs)
Andrew Muir 2/15
Graeme College 90/5 in 19.2 overs
Corbin Tidbury 27* (57)
Jordan Damons 15 (22)
Graeme College won by 5 wickets

Graeme College vs Wynberg invitational (50 overs)
Wynberg 161 all out after 46 overs
Enrique Strydom 5/17 (4)
Kits MCconnachie 2/14 (8)
Graeme College 162/3 in 31 overs
Enrique Strydom 51 (81)
Kits MCconnachie 51 (45)
Graeme College won by 7 wickets

Pearson Rugby Festival
The Pearson Rugby Festival took place from 11–14 September and featured some of the top teams from around country. The Graeme College Stayers team were flawless at the Pearson Festival. The boys showcased exceptional skill, discipline, consistency and teamwork in all departments. Graeme College dominated in all the matches they played.

Graeme College vs Cambridge High School
Graeme College won by 70 runs
Luphelo Mdyesha 3-15
Caleb Jatiem 2-4

Graeme College vs Parel Vallei High School
Luphelo Mdyesha 50
Corbin Tidbury 47
Graeme College won by 47 runs

Graeme College vs Stirling High School
Caleb Jatiem 5- 24
Corbin Tidbury 27*
Graeme College won by 5 wickets

Graeme College vs Wynberg Boy's High School
Graeme won by 7 wickets
Enrique Strydom 5-17 and 52 not out
Kits McConnachie 2-14 and 51

The young Graeme College team showed a lot of maturity, with different players putting their hands up and performing on different occasions. The unbeaten run is testament to hard work, dedication and team cohesion. Each and every player contributed, whether on or off the field, showcasing unity and mutual support. Everyone stepped up and it was a team effort from start to finish. Going undefeated speaks volumes about the commitment and focus of this young team.

In addition, for the first time since 2007, the team had two sets of brothers in Caleb and Keagan Jatiem, and Andrew and James Muir. In 2007 the Smuts and van der Meulen brothers played in the first eleven.

Thank you to the parents and teachers who came out to support our team.

Graeme College vs Daniel Pienaar
Daniel Pienaar 141 all out in 38.2 overs
Kits McConnachie 4/13 in 6.2 overs
Andrew Muir 3/25 in 10 overs
Graeme College 145/5 in 28 overs
Corbin Tidbury 47(62)
Kits McConnachie 34(44)
Andrew Muir 23(24)*
Graeme College won by 5 wickets

Graeme College vs Woodridge College
Graeme College 300/8
Jordan Damons 77*
Luphelo Mdyesha 33
Ajay Jeggels 25*
Woodridge 253/9
Luphelo Mdyesha 3/64
Andrew Muir 2/30
Graeme College won by 47 runs

Cape Schools' Cricket 2025
Graeme College vs Dale College
1st Innings
Dale College 99/10
Andrew Muir 3/13
Ajay Jeggels 2/23
Luphelo Mdyesha 2/10
Graeme College 161/10
Enrique Strydom 36
Luphelo Mdyesha 33
Corbin Tidbury 30
2nd Innings
Dale College 95/5
Lisekho Zinyane 3/12
Graeme College 37/4
Graeme College won by 1 wicket

Graeme College vs Wynberg Boys' High School
Graeme College 289/10
Corbin Tidbury 117
Andrew Muir 113
Wynberg 182/9
Corbin Tidbury 2/6
Lisekho Zinyane 2/29
Luphelo Mdyesha 2/34
Match drawn

Graeme College vs Queen's College
14 Overs (DLS)
Graeme College 124/2 in 14 overs
Enrique Strydom 49*
Kits McConnachie 33*
Corbin Tidbury 31
Queen's College 51/9 in 14 overs
Ajay Jeggels 2/12
Lisekho Zinyane 2/10
Luphelo Mdyesha 3/5
Graeme College won by 73 runs

Graeme College vs Bishops
Graeme College 188/10
Qhama Ngoma 40
Kits McConnachie 37
Bishops 190/4
Graeme College lost by 6 wickets

Graeme College vs Dale College
Dale College 144/10
Lisekho Zinyane 2/11
Kits McConnachie 2/17
Ajay Jeggels 2/18
Andrew Muir 2/32
Graeme College 146/1
Enrique Strydom 58 not out
Corbin Tidbury 36 not out
Siba Deliwe 34
Graeme College won by 9 wickets

Graeme College vs Queen's College
Queen's College 114 all out
Ajay Jeggels 3/13
Andrew Muir 2/19
Jordan Damons 2/26
Graeme College 117/4
Kits McConnachie 40*
Luphelo Mdyesha 23
Graeme College won by 6 wickets

Graeme College vs Grey High School
Grey High 197 All out
Ajay Jeggels 4/16
Jordan Damons 2/24
Lisekho Zinyane 2/28
Graeme College 189/10
Luphelo Mdyesha 60
Ajay Jeggels 42 not out
Kits McConnachie 37
Graeme College lost by 8 runs

Graeme College vs St Andrew's College
St Andrew's College 172/10 in 47 overs
Corbin Tidbury 2/10
Ajay Jeggels 2/26
Luphelo Mdyesha 2/41
Lisekho Zinyane 2/29
Graeme College 178/3 in 27.4 overs
Luphelo Mdyesha 72 not out
Corbin Tidbury 55 not out
Graeme College won by 7 wickets

Graeme College vs Hudson Park
Hudson Park High 62 all out in 18.2 overs
Luphelo Mdyesha 5/7 (4 overs)
Graeme College 63/1 in 7.5 overs
Corbin Tidbury 28 not out
Enrique Strydom 19 not out
Graeme College won by 9 wickets

Graeme College secures spot in Switch SA20 title

The Graeme College first XI delivered a magnificent performance. They successfully defended their Cricket South Africa (CSA) Switch SA20 trophy and secured their place in the prestigious national finals in Pretoria in 2026. Graeme College left the tournament undefeated, showcasing exceptional skill and great form throughout their campaign.

Graeme College started their journey with clinical victories in the group stages, overpowering strong cricketing schools like Hudson Park High School, Dale College, Prestige College in the semi-final by a bowl-out at the Buffalo Park stadium, and a double triumph over Queen's College.

The highlight of the tournament was Graeme's ability to twice overcome a formidable and well-drilled Queen's College side. Meeting Queen's College again in the final under immense pressure, Graeme College replicated their earlier success, delivering a commanding performance when it mattered most, to clinch the title. This final victory cemented their spot at the 2026 Switch SA20 Schools' finals where the 1st XI compete against the best schoo teams from across the country, for the ultimate national title.



Graeme College vs Dale College
Dale College 90/9 all out in 20 overs
Kits McConnachie 3/15 (4 overs)
Corbin Tidbury 3/8 (2 overs)
Graeme College 93/2 in 12.2 overs
Corbin Tidbury 47 not out
Luphelo Mdyesha 17 not out
Graeme College won by 8 wickets

Graeme College vs Queen's College
15 Overs (DLS)
Queen's College 76/7 in 15 overs
Jordan Damons 4/11 (2 overs)
Graeme College
Enrique Strydom 19
Andrew Muir 15
Caleb Jattiem 14
Graeme College won by 3 wickets

Semi-final
Graeme College vs Prestige College
Graeme College 78/1 in 8.3 overs
Corbin Tidbury 53 not out
Enrique Strydom 29 not out
Match abandoned due to rain
Bowl out 1-0 to Graeme College

Final
Graeme College vs Queen's College
Graeme College 119/8 in 20 overs
Kits McConnachie 30
Olo Jaca 19
Queen's College 79/9 in 20 overs
Luphelo Mdyesha 2/16
Kits McConnachie 2/9
Corbin Tidbury 2/7
Graeme College won by 40 runs

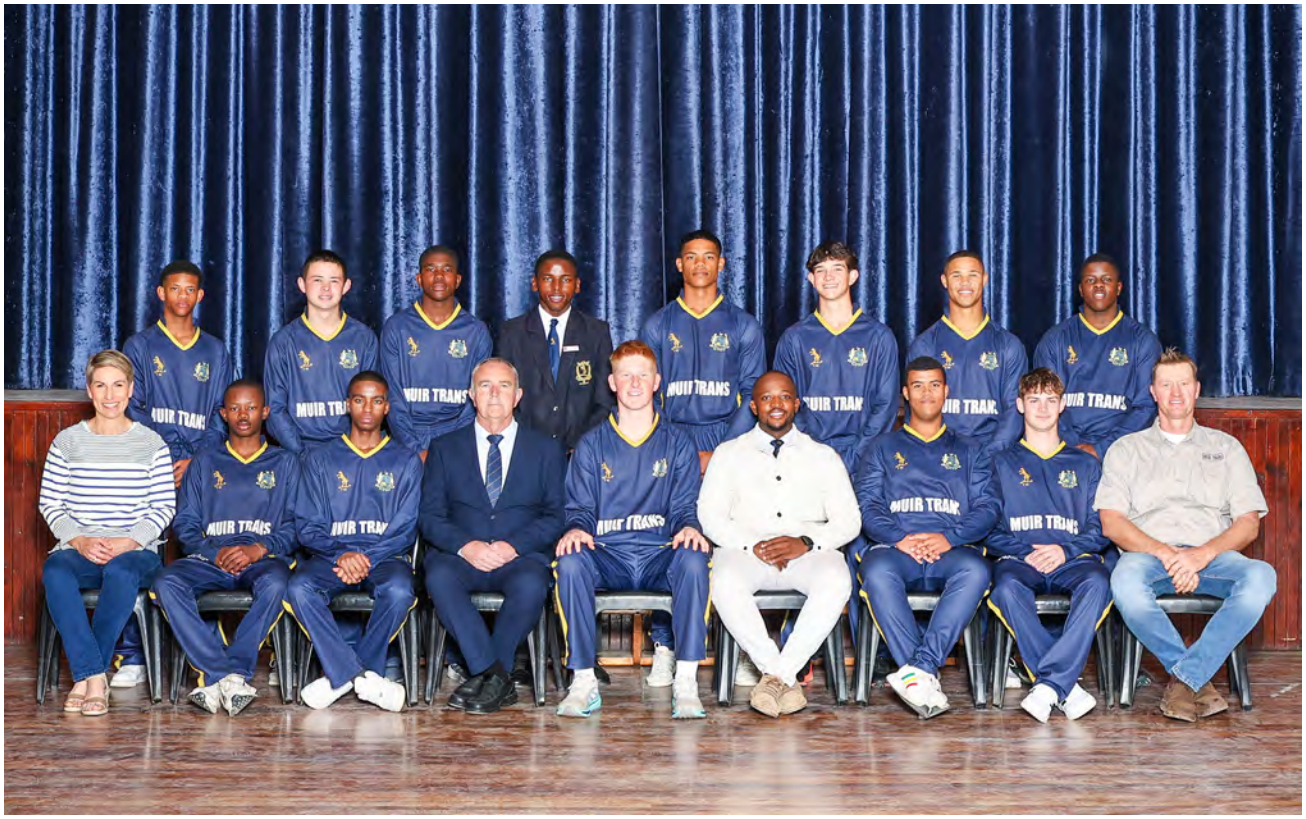




FIRST XI CRICKET

Back: Enrique Strydom, Corbin Tidbury, Zuko Pontshi, Liyema Merile (scorer), Jordan Damons, Kits McConnachie, Erin Nelson, Lisekho Zinyane.

Seated: Ryan Stobbs, Luphelo Mdyesha, Mr Kevin Watson (headmaster), Andrew Muir (captain), Mr Odwa Xonxa (coach), AJ Jeggels, Qhama Ngoma.



FIRST XI CRICKET SPONSORS

Back : Enrique Strydom, Zuko Pontshi, Liyema Merile, (scorer), Jordan Damons, Kits MCconachie, Erin Nelson, Lisekho Nzinyane

Seated: Mrs Ellouise Muir (sponsor, Muir Trans), Luphelo Mdyesha, Qhama Mngoma, Mr Watson (headmaster), Andrew Muir (captain), Mr Odwa Xonxa (coach), Ajay Jeggels, Ryan Stobbs, Mr Richard Muir (sponsor, Muir Trans)



Second XI Cricket

~ Mr Ciko Ngodwane

The cricket season for the second XI was an absolute blast, with players thoroughly enjoying themselves on the field. Despite the challenges, the team showed remarkable resilience and determination, ultimately losing only four games across the first and fourth terms. The camaraderie and team spirit were palpable, and it has been a joy to see the players grow and develop their skills.

One of the standout aspects of the season was the team's ability to score at a rapid pace. Time and again, we were able to chase down targets with ease, often reaching the opposition's total within 25 overs. This was a testament to the skill and aggression of the batsmen, and it was thrilling to watch. Two players stood out with outstanding performances, scoring centuries that will be remembered for a long time.

The team's success can be attributed to the hard work, dedication, and teamwork displayed throughout the season. The players have shown a real passion for the game, and it has been a pleasure to see them flourish. With such a talented group of young cricketers, we are excited to see what the future holds for this team.

Third XI Cricket

~ Mr Jonty van der Meulen

The third team XI enjoyed a spirited and entertaining season, largely thanks to a strong focus on T20 cricket. Several internal fixtures against the under 15A side provided valuable match time, even though the younger team often proved too strong. These encounters nonetheless offered excellent opportunities for players to spend time in the middle and sharpen their skills.

The highlight of the season came in the first term with a well-deserved victory over the St Andrew's College fourth team, in which Lebo Mahasele and Callum de Vos delivered standout performances. Although the team was unable to repeat that success in the fourth term rematch, the fixture produced a remarkable individual achievement, namely Miyolo Qabaka's magnificent 140 not out. This superb innings earned him Man of the Match honours, even as he stood alone on the losing side, a memorable moment that will be long remembered in third team cricket folklore.



SECOND XI CRICKET

Back: Kukhanya Pakade, Ibenathi Kondile, Sibabalwe Deliwe, Olothando Jaca, Keagan Jattiem, Malakiwe Nikelo, Iviwe Mshubeki, Larson Mckaiser

Seated: Aldern Walters, Ethan Bokbaard, Mikhulu Yolani, Mr Ciko Ngodwane (coach), Likhona Bill (captain), Likhona Cakata, Leroy Adrian



THIRD XI CRICKET

Back: Ukukhanya Pakade, Kamva Sayita, Ruben Bodenstein, Okuhle Tuswa, Olothando Cekiso, Maddox Fry, Lukho Meleni, Miyolo Klaas, Lithabo Flack

Seated: Blake de la Mare, Aphelele Bill, Callum de Vos, Mr Jonty van der Meulen (coach), Tsepiso Klaas (captain), Onesimo Oliphant, Andrew Wicks

Under 15A Cricket

~ Mr Bongolwethu Draai

The under 15A cricket team enjoyed an excellent start to the 2025 season, suffering only two losses in the first term. Then-captain Corbin Tisbury led from the front with an exceptional run of form, scoring five centuries in just eight matches.

The second half of the season, however, told a very different story, with the team managing only one win—a dominant performance against Dale College. Despite a challenging run of results, the boys consistently displayed admirable determination, resilience, and true Graemian spirit.

One of the closest encounters came against Daniel Pienaar Technical High School, where the team nearly defended a modest total of 120. Captain James Muir delivered a remarkable spell of bowling, claiming five wickets, including an incredible burst of three wickets in one over. Unfortunately, the opposition edged across the line by a single wicket.

There were several individual standout performances throughout the season. Caleb Jattiem impressed with both bat and ball, earning a well-deserved place in the EP under 16 side. His superb fifty against Queens College away sparked a strong run of form, followed by multiple scores in the 30s and 40s.

The highlight of an otherwise difficult season was undoubtedly the consistency of 'Mr Reliable', Joshwin Burger. He was the stabilising force in the batting line-up, finishing with an impressive average of 37. Joshwin contributed valuable runs in every match he played and is certainly a player to watch in the coming years.

Well done to all of the players. We trust that they have taken valuable lessons from both the highs and the challenges of the season, which will support their continued growth and development.

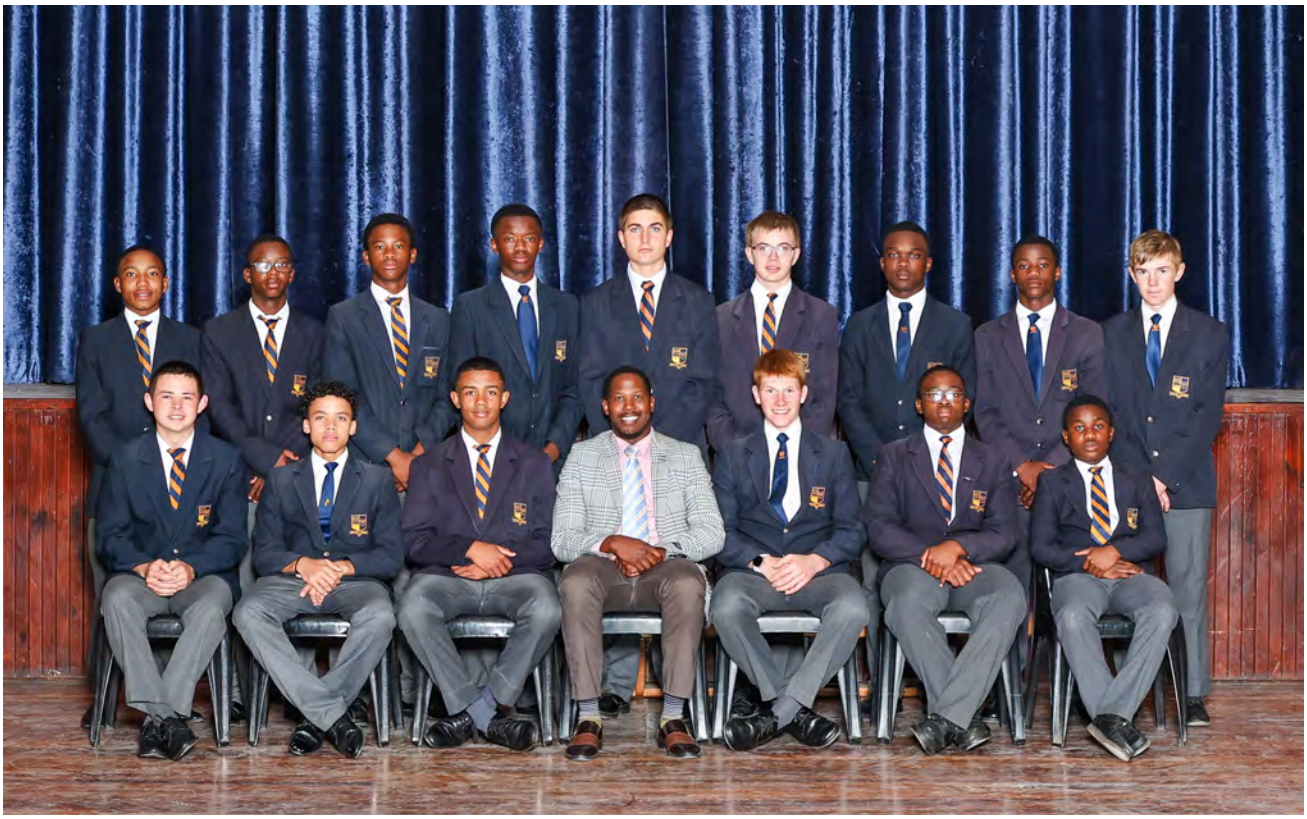
Under 15B Cricket

~ Mr Michael Pretorius

The under 15B cricket season, while short on fixtures, was long on competition. The squad played a limited but high-quality schedule, engaging in fiercely contestable games against St Andrew's College under 15B, Marlow Agricultural High School under 15A, and Graeme College under 13A, with many results coming right down to the final overs. These challenging matches highlighted the team's resilience and strong competitive spirit.

The large and enthusiastic group of players created welcome selection difficulties throughout the term. The team's clear strength lay in its impressive bowling attack, which consistently performed under pressure. However, the batting line-up is acknowledged as the main area for growth, providing a clear focus for development next season. Above all, the under 15B side was defined by its infectious energy and fun, making the season a great success in terms of team morale and camaraderie.





UNDER 15A CRICKET

Back: Revanio Williams, Lindokuhle Mhono, Hlumelo Sifanele, Sinekhaya Cishe, Nicholas Campbell, Aidan Lensley, Avuyisiwe Mnandi, Iyazi Zwedala, De Wet Van Der Venter

Seated: Corbin Tidbury, Ashwin Burger, Caleb Jattiem, Mr Bongolwethu Draai, James Muir (captain), Zimi Nelani, Likuthi Mjekula



UNDER 15B CRICKET

Back:Likhanye Ndevu. Mila Nothoko, Laylon Marthinus, Mawande Mayalo, Sesona Ngwetsheni, Okuhle Gongqa, Linathi Mtobi, Daniel Barnard, Lusenathi Manzana

Seated:Milani Jakatyana, Sibongukhanyo Zigayi, Zimi Nelani,Mr Michael Pretorius (coach), Thabiso Mosola,Bathandwa Mata, Olwakhe Dlali

Under 14A Cricket

~ Mr Devon Keys

The under 14A cricket team started the season off strong, beating Muir College. Jordan du Plessis and Daniel Hanlon both scored 50s and Iminathi Mali achieved his best figures of the season, taking seven wickets.

As the season progressed, the players continued to learn and improve. After a couple of disappointing results, they bounced back with a great victory over Grey High School's under 14B team.

After a jam-packed winter sports season, the team returned for the second half of the cricket season, eager to showcase their cricketing skills once again. They started off strong beating Daniel Pienaar, with Slater Hart hitting the winning runs.

Although there were some disappointing results in between, they achieved a fantastic result against Dale College, with Sivu Manyakanaka scoring an excellent 70 to help Graeme College set a respectable target.

The team finished the year with two fixtures against St Andrew's College, including a night game. Although the results didn't go our way, the team showed tenacity and grit in both games.

Jordan du Plessis ended the season with three half-centuries, showing great batting improvement throughout the year.

The players will participate in an under 15 festival early in 2026 before the start of the academic year and the continuation of their cricketing journey at Graeme College.





UNDER 14A CRICKET

Back: Zimfefe Pokile, Slater Hart, Abakhe Luwaya, Sivu Manyakanyaka, Jed van der Merwe, Aqhama Sam, Ethan Crous.

Seated: Leo Murray, Iminathi Mali, Mr Devon Keys(coach), Daniel Hanlon, Mr Lakhanya Sam (coach), Jordan du Plessis, Llunathi Twaku.



UNDER 14B CRICKET

Back: Maphelo Matyholweni, Linomtha Saliwa, Musawenkosi Ngcayisa, Hlobanisa Msakatya, Oyama Masela, Avuzwa Nabe, Aya Jili, Ondela Coto

Seated: Kenzo Santos-Osman, Liyema Madiza, Uyapha Madodonke, Sinolwazingekamvalakhe Ralo, Makadunyiswe Klaas (captain), Lithalethu Bartman, Kamohelo Hute




GRAEME
COLLEGE
Grant House Entrance

CROSS COUNTRY

Interhouse Cross Country

~ Mr Sylvester Appollis

The annual senior interhouse cross country event took place on Monday 25 August. Just over 150 senior athletes completed the roughly 6 km course, with Cairis Appollis of Hutton finishing in first position in a time of 27:20. He was followed closely by Larson Mckaiser of Wiles in 27:31 and Jordan Damons of Hutton in 27:33.



The age category results for the event were as follows:
open: Cairis Appollis (Hutton) – 27m 20s
under 16: Kits McConnachie (Vernal) – 27m 45s
under 15: James Muir (Hutton) – 28m 45s
under 14: Iminathi Mali (Hutton) – 30m 37s

Hutton House were the overall winners of the event with 115 points. They were followed by Wiles (108), Vernal (78) and Neilson (77).



HOCKEY



First Team Hockey

~ Mr Devon Keys

The first team hockey side, captained by Lutwe Kobese and vice-captained by Lelami Ndumdum, enjoyed a rewarding season marked by growth, development, setbacks, and moments of excellence.

Among the highlights of the year was a tour to the Midlands to participate in the Michaelhouse Hockey Festival, as well as impressive victories against significantly larger schools such as Stirling High School and Westering High School. The team also had the privilege of hosting an international touring side from England, a memorable experience for the players and the broader hockey community.

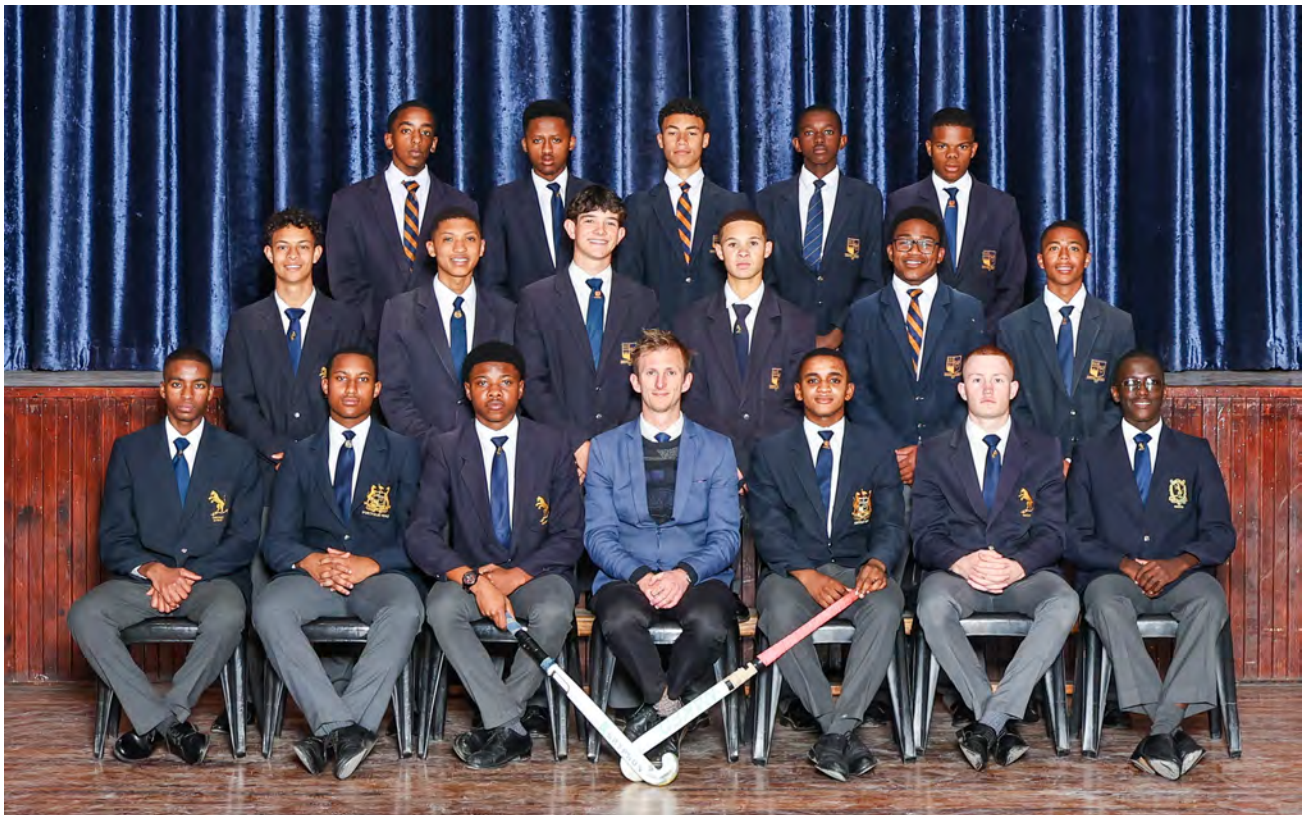
Several players made their first team debuts this season, including Malakiwe Nikelo, Maddox Fry, Cartial Ngala, Kits McConnachie, and Jethro Visagie. Each player can be proud of their contribution, demonstrating strong commitment, effort, and consistent improvement throughout the year.



The grade 11 group – Larson Mckaiser, Leroy Adriaan, Lelami Ndumdum, Avu Katshwa, Likhona Cakata, and Dinga Lento – embraced their roles as senior players with maturity and responsibility, consistently leading by example and delivering excellent individual campaigns.

The matric players – Lutwe Kobese, Lunga Pikoli, Kgala Tapu, and Qhama Ngoma – concluded their time at Graeme College with one of their most successful hockey seasons. They leave behind a meaningful legacy, having made a significant and lasting contribution to the continued growth of Graeme College hockey.

Looking ahead to the 2026 season, the players can take great confidence from the progress and important strides made during 2025.



FIRST TEAM HOCKEY

Back: Cartial Ngala, Dinga Lento, Maddox Fry, Malikiwe Nikelo, Avuyise Katshwa
Middle: Leroy Adriaan, Jethro Visagie, Kits McChonnachie, Cairis Appolis, Likhona Cakata, Larson McKaiser
Seated: Qhama Ngoma, Lunga Pikoli, Lelami Ndumdum, Mr Devon Keys, Lutwe Kobese, Reuben Dollery, Khaka Tapu





Second Team Hockey

~ Mr Lawrence Ferreira

The second hockey team has continued to build upon the success of 2024 with a series of impressive results. Despite a spate of injuries affecting key players throughout the season, they achieved a record three wins against St Andrew's College, Westering High School and Alexander Road High School, two draws against Saint Andrew's College and Victoria Park High School, and two defeats against Grey College and Cambridge High School. With four or more goals per match, the team played an exciting brand of hockey, led by a spine of top scorer Ryan Stobbs, captain Jaycie Pieterse, vice-captain Noah Tabensky and goalkeeper Qhama Mafuya. With a strong team spirit and an exciting set of players, they will look to improve on their already-impressive record heading into next year.

Results

vs	St Andrew's College	won 3–1
vs	Westering High School	won 5–2
vs	Cambridge High School	lost 0–7
vs	Grey College	lost 1–4
vs	Alexander Road High School	won 3–2
vs	Victoria Park High School	drew 2–2
vs	St Andrew's College	drew 2–2

Under 15 Hockey

~ Mr Devon Keys

From the outset, the under 15 hockey team was determined to score goals and keep clean sheets. The team, comprised of a mixture of grade 8 and 9 learners, performed diligently throughout the year.

The under 15s, after starting the season with a win against Port Alfred, continued their improvement and secured victories vs St Dominic's Priory, Victoria Park High School, Westering High School, Dale College and various other schools.

The team relied on their defense to win games, with Gino O'Brien, Malakiwe Nikelo, Bukho Manyadzwe, Jaydon Conroy and Keegan Jattiem all working as hard as possible to keep clean sheets. They made countless tackles, saves and last-ditch tackles. The forwards, which included prominent goal scorers Kits McConnachie and Maddox Fry, scored countless goals, both on the counter-attack and against a set defense. Kits' performances earned him a first-team call-up. The under 15s only lost two games throughout the season. Those losses came against St Andrew's College and Kingswood College.

A few members of the team, namely Avu Mnandi, Ethan De Wet and Sine Cishe decided to play both hockey and rugby throughout the year, a testament to their dedication and work ethic, and most of all, their willingness to win and learn.

The under 15 group will, no doubt, go on to represent the school's first team, but will remember the 2025 hockey season with pride.

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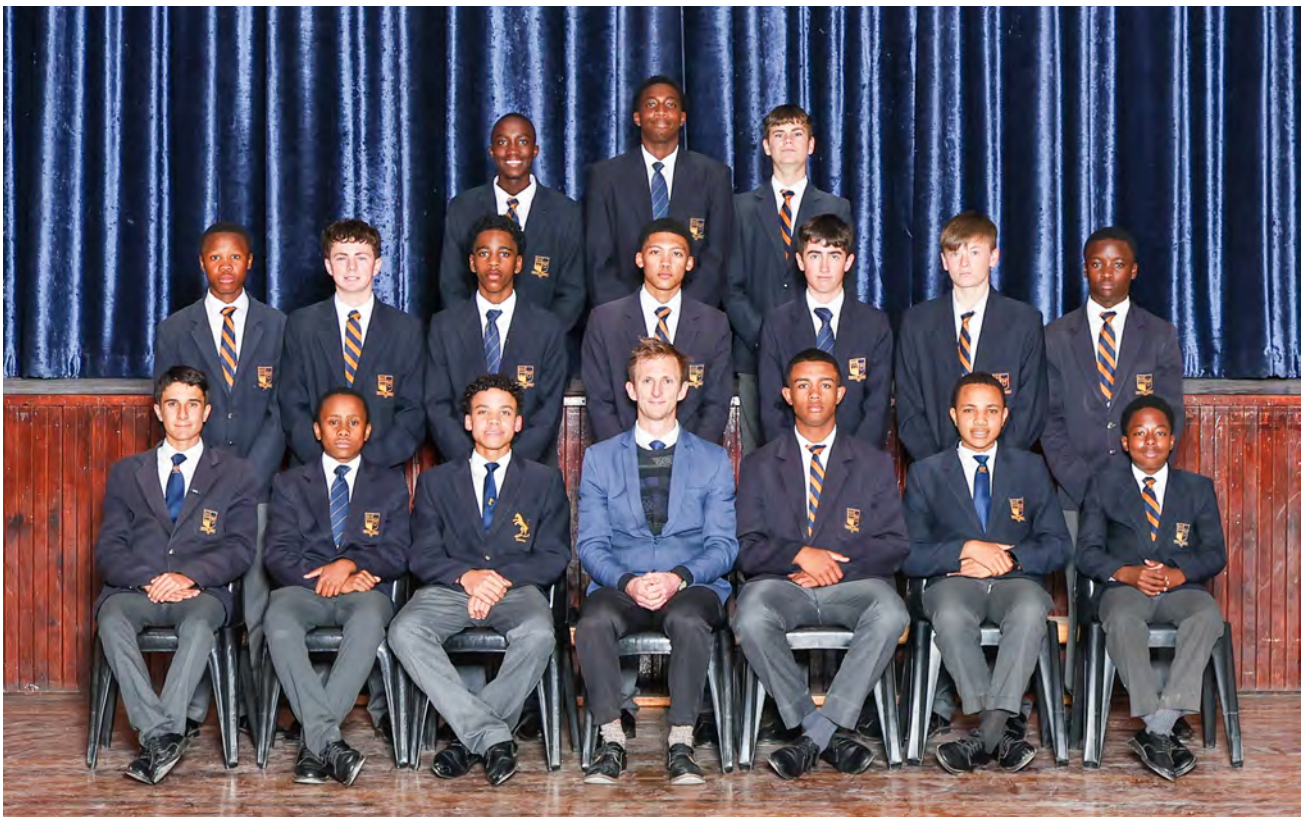


SECOND TEAM HOCKEY

Back: Toluwalope Osunkunle, Mbulelo Gama, Christopher McLean, Ryno Benn, Keagan Jattiem, Lesedi Mothibe, Malakiwe Nikelo

Middle: Joshua Danilatos, Callum de Vos, Azola Zondani, Thurston Marthinus, Cartial Ngala, Luphawulwethu Madolo, Liyema Marile, Qhama Mafuya, Keiran Faltain, Usisipho Marepula, Sibabalwe Deliwe

Seated: Ryan Stobbs, Joy Mukenge, Noah Tabensky, Mr Lawrence Ferreira (coach), Jaycie Pieterse, Jonathan Pretorius, Bishop Nyoni



UNDER 15 HOCKEY

Back: Avu Nabe, Thabiso Mosola, Daniel Barnard

Middle: Iminathi Mali, Slater Hart, Iman Ngoqo, Jordan Du Plessis, Daniel Hanlon, Daniel Czeredrecki-Schmidt, Zimfefe Pokile

Seated: Leo Murray, Llunathi Twaku, Ashton Burger, Mr Devon Keys (coach), Caleb Jattiem, Gino O'Brien, Bukho Munyadzwe

RUGBY



Senior Rugby report

~ Mr Jonty van der Meulen

Rugby remains a cornerstone of life at Graeme College, forming a key part of the school's culture, values and spirit. The sport continues to unite learners, staff, and the broader community, fostering discipline, resilience and pride. Match days on Somerset Field carry deep tradition, with every Graemian understanding the privilege and responsibility of wearing the school's colours, and representing the College.

The 2025 season proved to be another memorable chapter for senior rugby at Graeme College. Across the ten senior school rugby teams, a total of 139 matches were played – 84 wins, 49 losses and 6 draws – an impressive overall return. The under 15A side, under the expert guidance of Mr Pretorius, enjoyed a standout season with an exceptional 82% win rate, showcasing strong depth and talent coming through the system. The 1st XV also enjoyed a remarkable campaign, finishing with an outstanding 81% win rate and firmly establishing itself among the school's proudest rugby groups in recent years.

Graeme College was exceptionally proud to celebrate a number of provincial achievements this year. Five learners were selected for the Eastern Province under 18 squads: Erin Nelson (EP U18 Craven Week), Luke Doyle (EP U18 Craven Week), Lucritia Magau (EP U18 Craven Week), Akho Tonjeni (EP U18 Academy Week) and Athi Bonga (EP U18 Academy Week). At under 16 level, both Ibenathi Kondile and Selunathi Mfundisi represented EP at the Grant Khomo Week. Erin Nelson further



distinguished himself with selection for the South African under 18A side, representing the country in the international series. In addition, Luke Doyle, Erin Nelson, and Lucritia Magau were invited to the prestigious Elite Player Development (EPD) under 17 camp, which hosts the top emerging players from across South Africa – a remarkable achievement, and a testament to the strength of Graeme's rugby programme.

A sincere word of gratitude must be extended to the committed and passionate coaching staff who continue to serve Graeme rugby with distinction. In an era where many schools outsource their rugby programmes, Graeme College proudly stands apart – with all A-team coaches being full-time teaching staff who dedicate countless hours to developing the boys both on and off the field. Their commitment ensures that rugby at Graeme is not merely a sport, but a disciplined, values-driven institution that continues to shape fine young men.

Finally, rugby at Graeme College would not thrive without the dedication of the wider support network that underpins every training week, and every fixture. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the referees, first aid and medical staff, grounds and field maintenance teams, catering staff, sports administration, supporters, Old Graemians, and sponsors who consistently provide their time, expertise and passion. Each of these groups plays an essential role in maintaining the tradition, excellence, and spirit that make rugby at Graeme College truly special.

First XV Rugby

~ Mr Jonty van der Meulen

The 2025 season proved to be a memorable and rewarding campaign for the first XV, marked by a combination of experience, youthful energy, and a strong sense of team unity. Across eighteen matches, the side recorded fourteen wins, three losses, and one draw, achieving an impressive win percentage of 77.8% – a reflection of their consistency and commitment to excellence throughout the season, which means that they were one of the best first XV performing teams in recent history.

Several seasoned forwards returned from the 2024 squad, providing a solid platform up front and invaluable leadership on and off the field. Their dominance at set pieces and work rate around the park laid the foundation for much of the team's success.

The backline, though youthful, showed exceptional promise. Over the course of the season, the young backs matured into a confident, cohesive, and creative unit. Their attacking flair added an exciting edge to the team's play, and their development was rewarded with three players earning provincial selection (Craven Week U18).

Performances that defined the 2025 season included memorable victories over St John's College, Queen's College, Dale College, and Nico Malan High School. The matches showcased the team's resilience under pressure, their tactical discipline, and ability to rise to the occasion against top opposition. Each win reflected not only the skill of the individuals, but also the collective spirit that has become a hallmark of this group. On reflection, the team would probably believe they could turn the results around against Hilton College and St Andrew's College, where they went down 18-28 and 10-17, respectively. The other disappointment came against Union High School; not a true reflection as the team was missing six players to provincial duties.

The 2025 first XV embodied the values of hard work, pride, and perseverance. Their performances on the field brought great credit to the school and set a strong example for future teams to follow. With a solid core of returning players and the continued emergence of exciting young talent, the future of the rugby programme looks very bright indeed. Some stand-out performers that can't go without mentioning were Ayola Mali, who was awarded the Player of the Season, and consistently put in top performances throughout the season. He co-captained the team alongside Ayamila Bill, who was both a quality leader and player for the team. Ayamila Bill, Erin Nelson, Luke Doyle and Lucritia Magau were all selected for the Eastern Province U18 Craven Week team. Erin, who was the vice-captain for the EP team, was selected for the SA U18A team at the conclusion of Craven Week and

2025 season results

Daniel Pienaar	won 51-17
Brandwag Hoërskool	won 31-27
St John's College	won 39-24
Hilton College	lost 18-28
Port Rex Technical School	won 33-0
Voortrekker Bethlehem	won 21-10
Pretoria Boys' High School	won 25-10
Cambridge High School	won 50-10
St David's Inanda	won 66-8
St Andrew's College	lost 10-17
Hudson Park High School	won 27-22
Nico Malan	won 43-42
Stirling High School	won 45-10
Union High School	lost 14-19
Pearson High School	drew 10-10
Dale College	won 17-10
Queen's College	won 20-17
Muir College	won 29-26



represented this team at the International Series against Ireland, France, England, and Georgia, an achievement that he thoroughly deserved. Akho Tonjeni and Athi Bonga were also included in the Eastern Province U18 Academy Week Team.

Rugby awards

Half colours: Andrew Muir, Asakhe Ranuga, Iviwe Mshubheki, Masi Maboza, Torres Fourie, Inathi Planga, Alden Walters, Ethan Bokbaard.

Full colours: Ayamila Bill, Bagcine Njengele, Lebo Mahasele, Athi Bonga, Mikhulu Yolani, Lwandle Dlamini, Elgin Fanton, Lucritia Magau, Luke Doyle

Honours: Ayola Mali and Erin Nelson.

Eastern Province U18 Craven Week: Ayamila Bill, Erin Nelson, Luke Doyle and Lucritia Magau.

Eastern Province U18 Academy Week: Athi Bonga and Akho Tonjeni.

Thank you to the entire Graeme College community – scholars, parents, old boys, teachers, and the broader community who continue to support the Graeme College first XV. We do truly appreciate the support. Also, thank you to our sponsors Buco, Thirsti and Rhino, without whom the kit, travel, and extras would not be possible. Thank you to those who coached alongside me this year – Mr Ralo and Mr Ngodwane brought great energy and expertise in their relevant roles, and it was a pleasure to work alongside them. Thank you to Mr Rennie, who continues to do great work in the strength and conditioning areas. Thank you to Mr Watson and the school, as they continue to support us through the ups and downs.



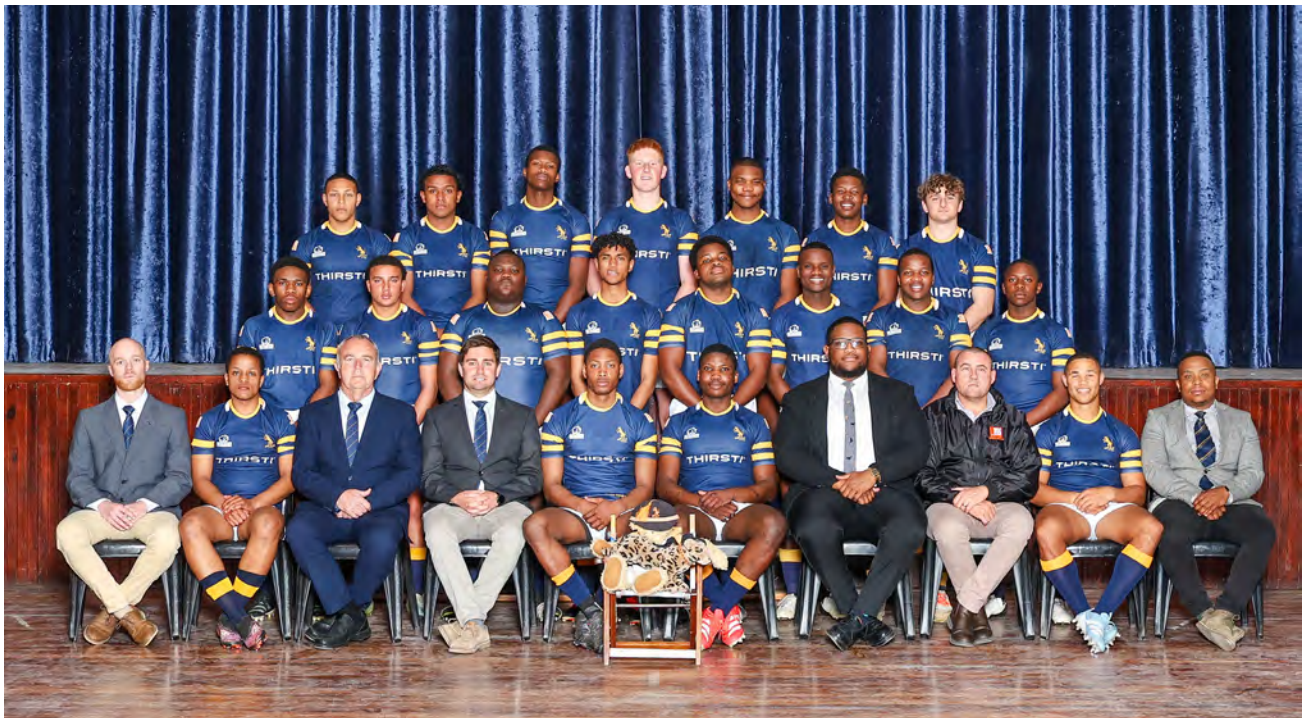






FIRST XV RUGBY

Back: Elgin Fanton, Torres Fourie, Asakhe Ranuga, Andrew Muir, Akho Tonjeni, Mikhulu Yolani, Stafford Avis
Middle: Lebohang Mahasele, Luke Doyle, Olothando Jaca, Alden Walters, Bagcine Njengele, Masilibone Maboza, Lwandle Dlamini
Seated: Mr Bryce Rennie, Inathi Planga (vc), Mr Kevin Watson, Mr Jonty van der Meulen, Ayola Mali (c), Ayamila Bill (c), Mr Sinolwazingekamvalakhe Ralo, Segomotsi Magau, Erin Nelson, Mr Ciko Ngodwane



FIRST XV RUGBY SPONSOR

Back: Elgin Fanton, Torres Fourie, Asakhe Ranuga, Andrew Muir, Akho Tonjeni, Mikhulu Yolani, Stafford Avis
Middle: Lebohang Mahasele, Luke Doyle, Olothando Jaca, Alden Walters, Bagcine Njengele, Masilibone Maboza, Lwandle Dlamini, Segomotsi Magau
Seated: Mr Bryce Rennie, Inathi Planga (vc), Mr Kevin Watson, Mr Jonty van der Meulen, Ayola Mali (c), Ayamila Bill (captain), Mr Sinolwazingekamvalakhe Ralo, Mr Marius Roberts, Erin Nelson, Mr Ciko Ngodwane

Second XV Rugby

~ Mr Ciko Ngodwane

The 2025 season was a rollercoaster ride for the second XV, but ultimately a successful one. The team experienced a fair share of highs and lows, but the positives far outweighed the negatives. The squad of 28 dedicated players worked tirelessly, showcasing their skills and passion for the game.

Throughout the fourteen-match season, the team won four matches, and drew two, but the highlight was the team's eagerness to learn and develop. Several players earned more than five caps for the first XV, demonstrating the depth of talent within our squad. The commitment and camaraderie among the players were evident in every match.

Huge credit must go to the entire team for their sportsmanship, teamwork and dedication. The future looks bright for our second team, and we are excited to build on the success of 2025. Special mention to the players who stepped up to the challenge and represented the first team with distinction.

Third XV Rugby

~ Mr Mfundo Manyati

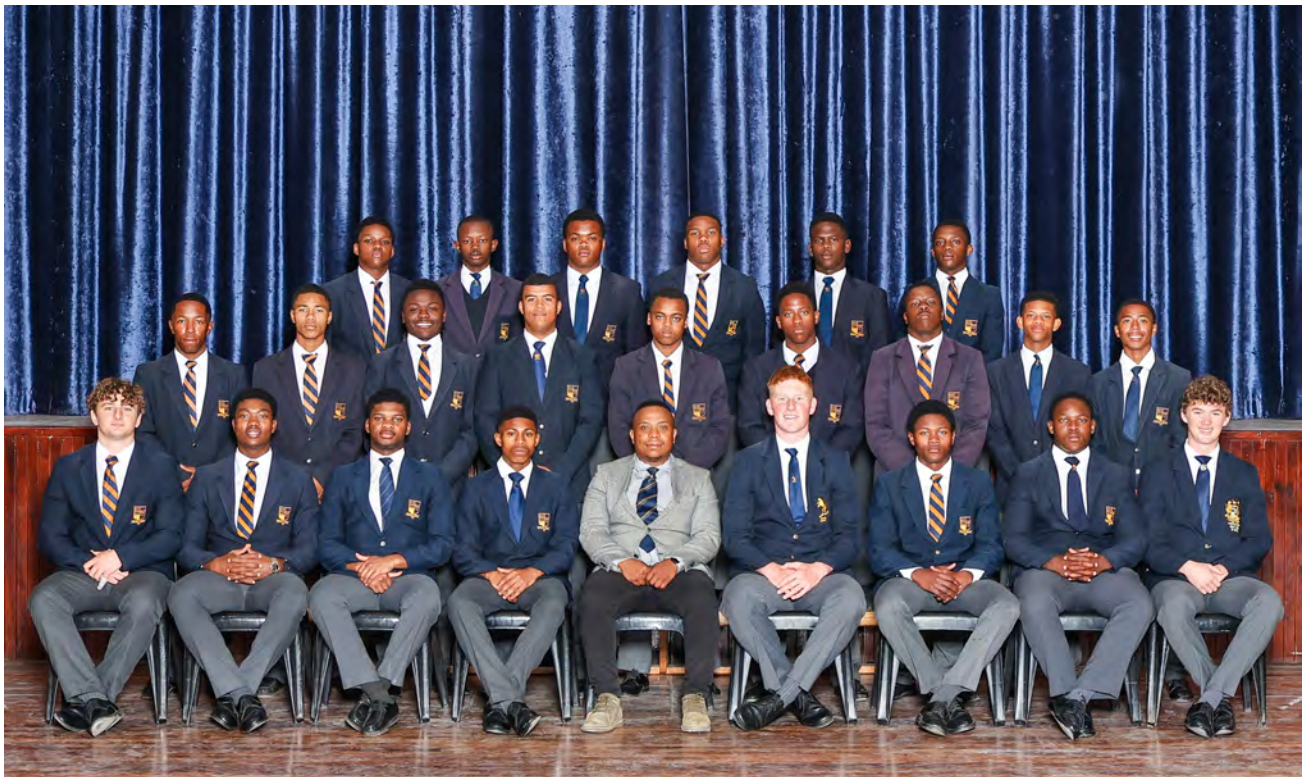
Under the strong and composed leadership of co-captains Ajay Jeggels, Jaycie Pieterse, and Bishop Nyoni, the team developed a united approach, both on and off the field. Their guidance and commitment set the standard for the rest of the squad, ensuring that every player contributed to the team's success.

A standout performer for the 2025 season was Aphelele Bill, whose outstanding control and creativity at fly-half proved instrumental in directing play. His ability to read the game, manage territory, and create opportunities for others consistently put the team on the front foot. On defence, Lubabalo Yamdeu-Youmbi and Landa Gojela were exceptional, combining strong tackling with powerful ball carries that often shifted the momentum of matches in the team's favour.

Throughout the season, the squad displayed great resilience and teamwork, often turning challenging fixtures into memorable victories. One of the real highlights of the season was the hard-fought victory over St Andrew's College on Somerset field – a performance that showcased everything this group stands for: courage, teamwork, and belief.

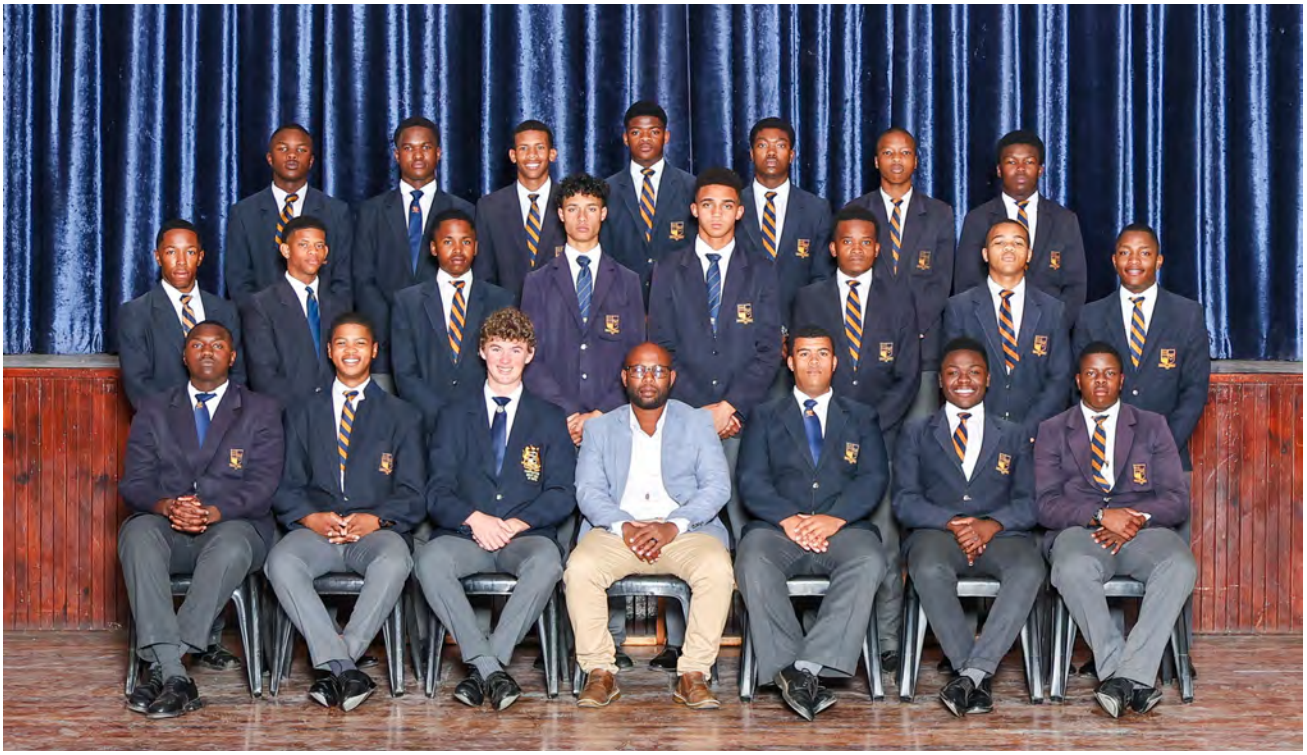
In conclusion, the third XV can look back on the 2025 season with pride and satisfaction. With 12 wins from 16 matches, strong leadership, and exceptional individual and team performances, the group has laid a solid foundation for continued success in the years ahead.





SECOND XV RUGBY

Back: Lihlombe Mkhaza, Luphelo Mdyesha, Lilo Booi, Lidwala Maliti, Athenkosi Manyati, Buhle Bikitsha
Middle: Usisipho Marepula, Donnel Abdul, Bishop Nyoni, Ajay Jeggles, Butsha Kondile, Ahlumile Maqungu, Lisekho Zinyane, Enrique Strydom, Larson Mckaiser
Seated: Stafford Avis, Ngothando Mabona, Siya Masela, Ethan Bokbaard, Mr Ngodwane, Andrew Muir, Luphi Plaaitjie, Iviwe Mshubeki, Jaycie Pieters



THIRD XV RUGBY

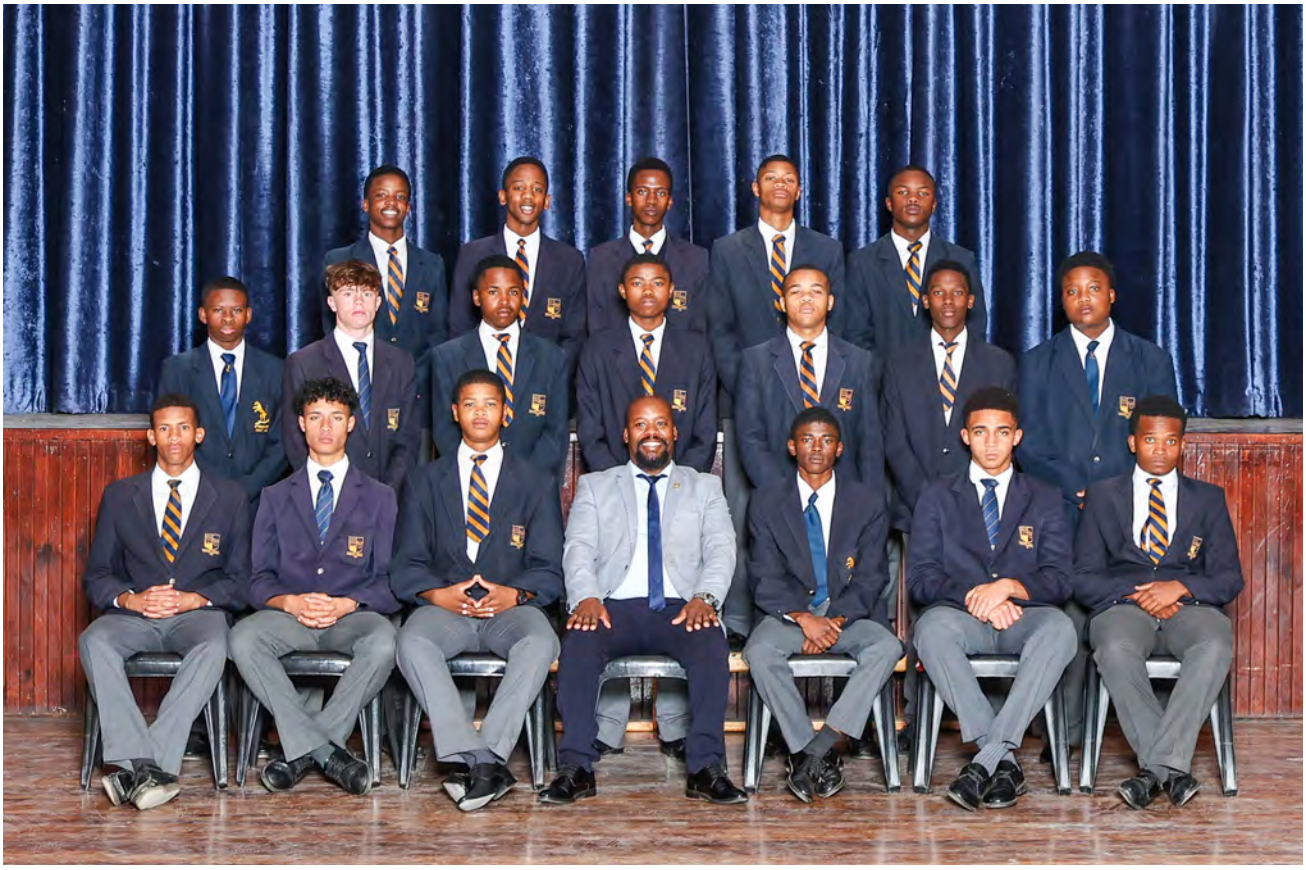
Back: Qhamani Qunti, Yakha Mpulane, Kirsten Du Plesis, Qhawe Mbelani, Ngothando Mabona, Someleze Mtitshana, Landa Gojela
Middle: Usisipho Marepula, Enrique Strydom, Aphelele Bill, Logan Straus, Kieren Jeggels, Anathi Vaaltyn, Lisekho Mbejeni, Busa Ngesimani
Seated: Lubabalo Yamdeu-Youmbi, Mihla Sifanele, Jaycie Pieterse, Mr Manyati, Ajay Jeggels (c), Bishop Nyoni, Lisekho Nzinyane

Fourth XV Rugby

~ Mr Vuyo Tshekela

The mighty fourths, affectionately known as 'Kenya', did not have a particularly good season this year. This can be attributed to a whole host of reasons, but mainly the lack of numbers, which is a direct indication of a lack of interest from the boys to play at this less competitive and more festive and social level. The lack of numbers resulted in difficulty having meaningful practice sessions for the weekend matches. In most cases, the team would be filled up on Friday morning for the match on Saturday. This dire situation evidently disadvantaged the team in competing fiercely against the opposition, hence the win ratio of 1:3. The 2025 season saw the team play a total of nine matches, winning two, drawing one, and losing six. It must be noted that all matches were played in good spirits, and some scores were very close. The two wins of the season came against Andrew Moyake Public School of Excellence and Isibane Sports Academy. The final scores were 27–17 and 32–19, respectively. The solitary draw came against Get Ahead College with the final score at 12-12. The unfortunate losses came against a variety of schools, including Daniel Pienaar High School (24–10), St Andrew's College (36–15), Nico Malan High School (41–27), Pearson High School (29–26), Dale College (29–21), and Queen's College (31 – 0). We can safely say that despite all the challenges and difficulties, the team did not make a mockery of itself this season – they showed up on matchdays and fought a good fight against some very tough opposition.

The team missed out on three fixtures, which were not played this year for various reasons, from inclement weather conditions to changes in the fixture list. We look forward to a better season next year.



FOURTH XV RUGBY

Back: Uniko Millie, Lubabalo Phongolo, Unako Jack, Lindikhaya Khosi, Qhamani Quntu

Middle: Khazimla Ntlumbini, Andrew Wicks, Aphele Bill, Mthetho Xesi, Lisekho Mbejeni, Tshepiso Klaas, Katleho Mhlophe

Seated: Kirsten du Plessis, Logan Strauss, Mihla Sifanele, Mr Vuyo Tshekela, Esinako Jadi, Kieren Jeggels, Anathi Vaaltyn

Under 16A Rugby

~ Mr Odwa Xonxa

The under 16 rugby group had a successful and enjoyable season. The under 16 year is an interesting one. Players can no longer rely on natural strength and talent alone, as they could maybe do in the under 14 and under 15 divisions. So, success at a team and individual level becomes a lot about character. Is there a willingness to work hard? Is there a commitment to developing skill levels? The 2025 group generally got this right. There was a proper commitment to working hard and getting things right. Correct dress and arrival times at practice were always good, which, as a squad, are important things to get right.

The fact that the players got these critical basics right is reflected in their results. The A side won just under 70% of their games, while the B team won just over 70% of their games. The B team was coached by Old Graemian,Mr Mhlangabezi Mtwanambi, while the A side was coached by Mr Xonxa and Mr Swift. Mr Lathi Jodwana, also an Old Graemian, managed strength and conditioning in the under 16s. Mr Jodwana was selected as the strength and conditioning coach for the EP under 16 Grant Khomo, which was a notable feather in his cap. There was a very positive relationship between the teams, with squad practice on Tuesday being followed by team-specific match preparation practice on Thursday.

The under 16 squad travelled to Gauteng early in the season to participate in the Jeppe Rugby Festival. The festival could be seen as a turning point in the season. Two below-par performances were followed by a top-notch outing, from which the boys never looked back. They became very difficult to beat, winning ten of their next thirteen games. The three losses were by margins of four, five, and five points, respectively. The team displayed some proper backbone and mental toughness as the season progressed, notably in the narrow wins against Hudson Park High School and Pearson High School. Several team meetings were held early in the season where the players were free to identify what they perceived as weaknesses in the squad. The key one was the way that players communicated with each other on the field. There was a strong sense that verbal criticism and negativity were holding back the players. Once this was rectified, it translated into a much stronger and healthier team environment.

We look forward to watching the under 16 players challenge for places in the 1st XV in the years to come. We also look forward to tracking their progress and seeing who has the maturity and determination to take their games to the next level in the Varsity Cup, club, United Rugby Championship and international environments. Ibenathi Kondile and Selunathi Mfundisi were selected for the Grant Khomo EP under 16 side.

Under 16B Rugby

~ Mr Mhlangabezi Ntwanambi

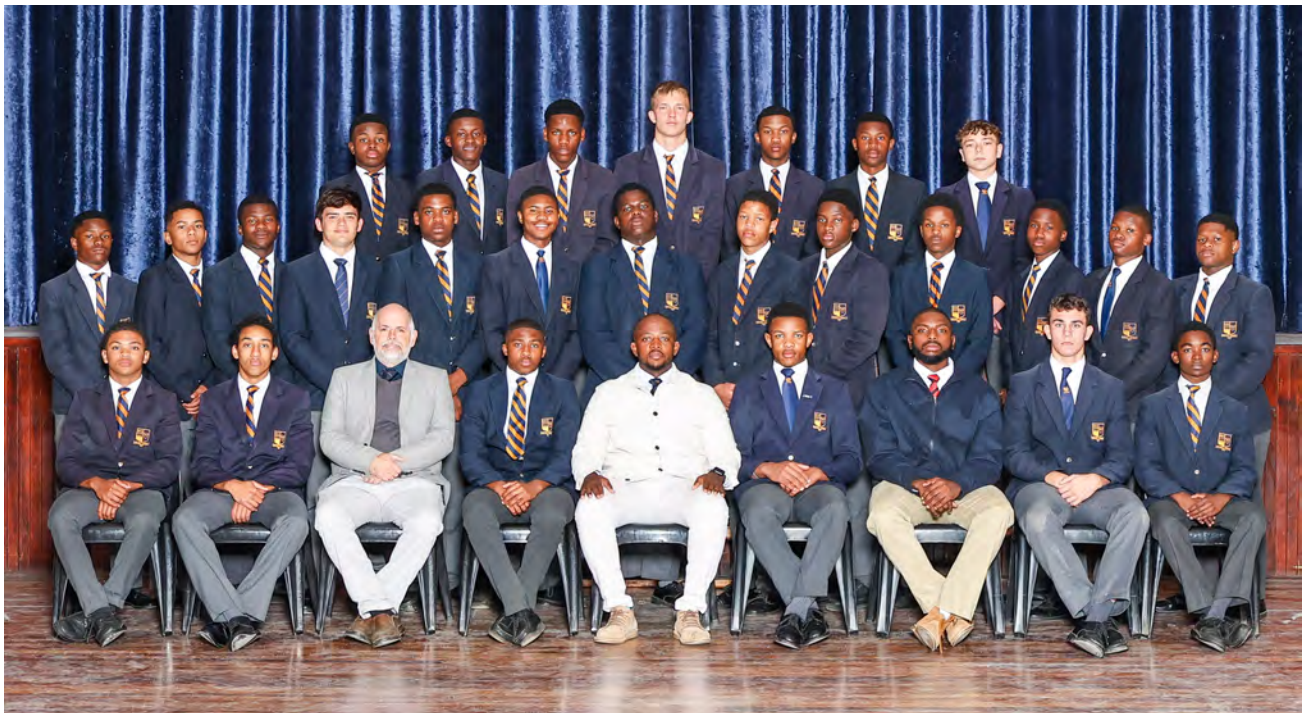
The under 16B rugby team of 2025 was a committed and hardworking group of players who consistently played for one another and showed great team spirit throughout the season. Although the campaign began with a tough loss to Daniel Pienaar High School, the team responded exceptionally well once the season resumed, putting together an impressive five-match winning streak. Highlights of the season included memorable away victories against Hudson Park High School and Pearson High School.

While there were a few challenging results on tour, the team showed resilience by using those setbacks as motivation to improve and prepare for the next fixture.

Under the squad system, expertly guided by Mr Odwa Xonxa and Mr Andrew Swift, players such as Ethan, Ben, and Blake de la Mare consistently stood out with their performances and leadership on the field.

The team played a total of ten matches, winning six and losing four against strong and highly competitive opposition.

The 2025 season was one of growth, determination, and excellent camaraderie, laying a strong foundation for the future.

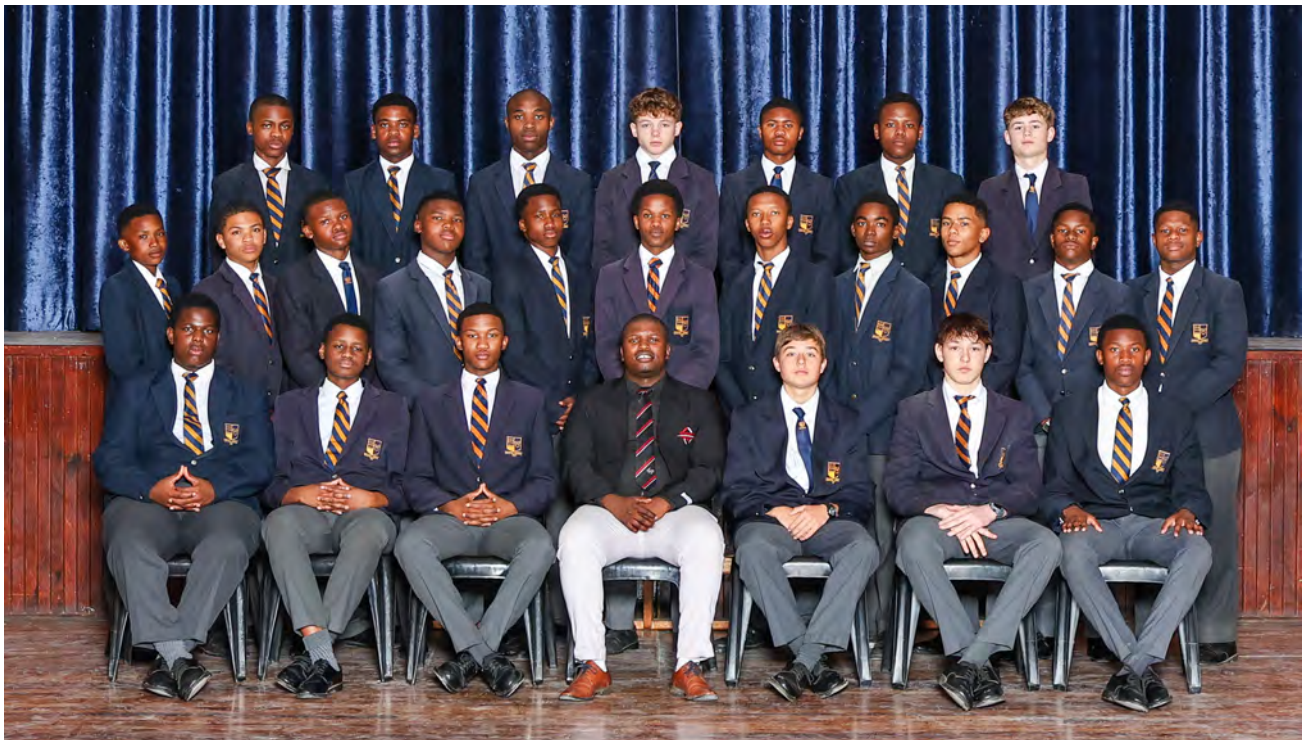


UNDER 16A RUGBY

Back: Lukho Meleni, Okuhle Tuswa, Athenkosi Mukume, Ben Francois du Toit, Bayolise Xayimpi, Olothando Cekiso, Ethan de Wet

Middle: Bathandwa Njoli, Lervano Gill, Selunathi Mfundisi, Hunta van Zyl, Lindamandla Masela, Luphawulethu Madolo, Ahlume Gxamesi, Simanye Lupuwana, Kamva Sayita, Ahlumile Sideba, Buhle Tyhali, Ibenam Butana, Lithabo Flack

Seated: Thurston Williams, Cee-Jay Jeggels, Mr Andrew Swift, Onesimo Olifant, Mr Odwa Xonxa, Ibenathi Kindile, Mr Lathi Jodwana, Nicholas Cock, Inam Masoma



UNDER 16B RUGBY

Back: Lihlumile Apleni, Linamandla Masela, Xabiso Gedze, Morgan Prevec, Luphawulethu Madolo, Lingomso Magopeni, Connor Richardson

Middle: Libhongo Nxawe, Thurston Williams, Ibenam Butana, Khanya Pakade, Buhle Tyhali, Ahlumile Sideba, Yandisa Sitsila, Inam Masoma, Lervano Gill, Bathandwa Njoli, Lithabo Flack

Seated: Ahlume Gxamesi, Ayola Dyasi, Bayolise Xayimpi, Mr Mhlangabezi Ntwanambi, Blake de la Mare, Connor Haakonsen, Olothando Cekiso

Under 15A Rugby

~ Mr Michael Pretorius

The 2025 season will go down as one of the most impressive campaigns for the Graeme College under 15A rugby team. Playing a total of fifteen matches, the team produced an exceptional record: winning 12, drawing 1, and suffering only 2 narrow defeats—an outstanding 86% win rate. Over the course of the season, the side scored an incredible 417 points, showcasing their attacking flair and clinical finishing. The close of the season saw them at number 14 on the national under 15 schools' rugby ranking.

With a well-balanced squad of 23 players, the coaching staff were able to rotate quality players throughout matches, maintaining intensity and ensuring consistent standards across the field. This depth became a defining strength, allowing the team to stay competitive in high-pressure moments.

The under 15A team will be remembered for their superb handling skills and expansive attacking style, regularly stretching opposition defenses and playing an exciting brand of rugby. Their dominant, aggressive defense was equally impressive—laying the foundation for their attacking successes and often frustrating opponents into errors.

Among the many highlights of the season were a commanding victory over Nico Malan High School, despite a depleted squad, emphatic wins against St Andrew's College and Queen's College, and a memorable triumph at the Graeme College Rugby Festival. These performances captured the character and quality of the group.

A special word of thanks goes to the incredibly supportive parents, whose presence at home and away made a noticeable difference. Gratitude is also extended to Muir Trans for sponsoring the warm-up shirts, which the boys proudly wore throughout the season.

A particular mention must be made of Avuyile Helesi, who coached the forwards with great expertise. Under his guidance, the under 15A pack became one of the strongest scrum units in the school, consistently dominating set pieces and providing front-foot ball for the back line.

The 2025 under 15A team has set a high standard—one built on skill, discipline, teamwork, and pride in the jersey. Their achievements will be remembered for years to come.



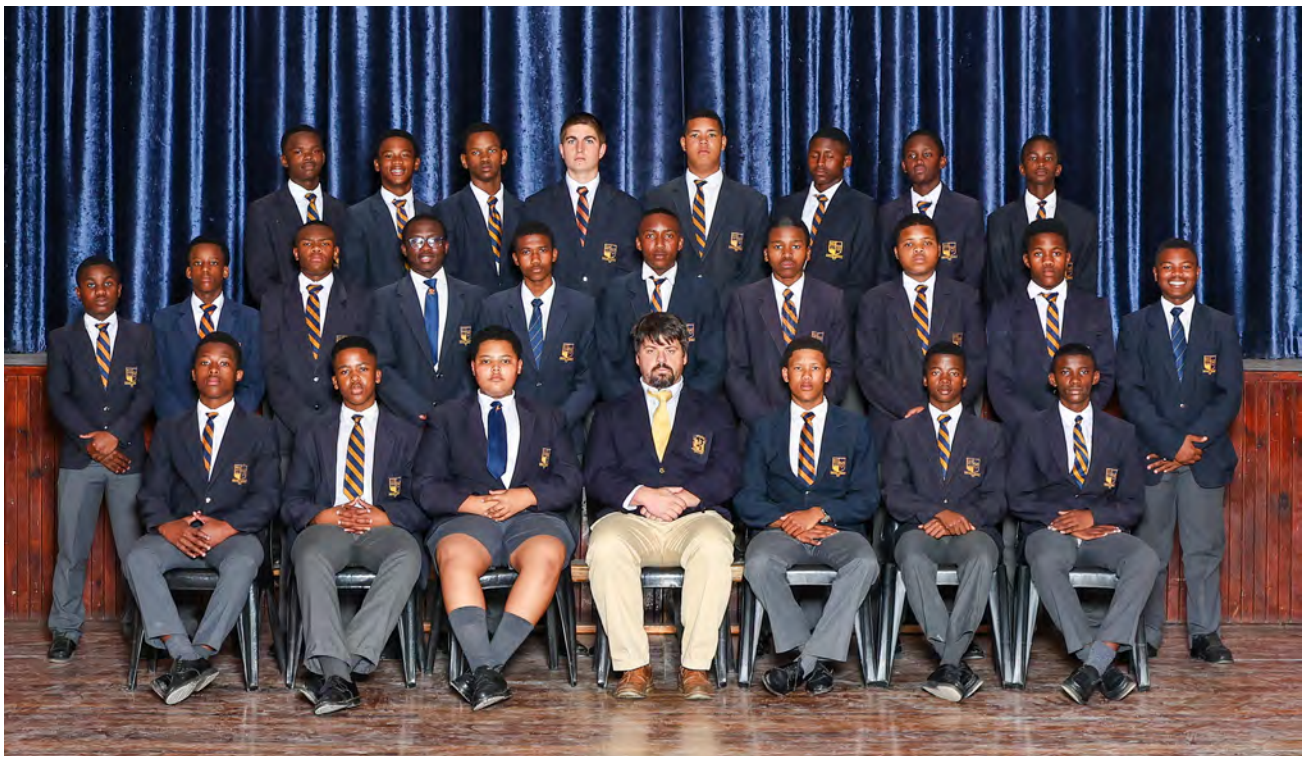


UNDER 15A RUGBY

Back:Hlumelo Sifanele, Hlonela Kuselo, Intsika Tukani, NJ Campbell, Sinenhlanhla Cishe, Aiden Lensley, Uzisiphe Majeke, Awonke Gaga

Middle: Sinothando Madikane, Alizwa Kepe, Lindokuhle Mhono, Linahti Mtobi, Imninathi Ngqiyaza, Mbasa Mpiyane, Litalethu Beyi, Likhanye Ndevu, Sibongukhanyo Zigayi, Likhuti Mjekula

Seated: Avuyisiwe Mnandi, Zimi Nelani, Mr Michael Pretorius, James Muir (c), Avuyile Helesi (Acc coach), Jaydon Kohl, Revanio Williams



UNDER 15B RUGBY

Back: Mila Nothoko, Hlumelo Sifanele, Hlonela Kuselo, NJ Campbell, Adriano Matroos, Mbasa Mpiyane, Mawande Mayalo, Sinqobile Tauzen

Middle: Likhuti Mjekula, Milani Jakatyana, Olwakhe Dlali, Likhanye Ndevu, Sinqobile Tauzen, Iminathi Ngqiyaza, Mivuyo Mpiti, Yazile Fatyi, Alizwa Kepe, Endinako Booi

Seated: Litalethu Beyi, Owethu Ngetu, Okuhle Gongqa, Mr Michael Pretorius, Laylon Marthinus, Sinothando Madikane, Linathi Mtobi

Under 14A Rugby

~ Mr Nicholas Dettmer

The 2025 under 14A rugby season at Graeme College was marked by growth, resilience, and a developing sense of unity. With a blend of new arrivals and returning players, many of the boys were representing the College together for the first time, which required the group to learn to trust one another and to adapt quickly to the demands of competitive schoolboy rugby. Their opening fixtures reflected this learning curve as the team faced strong opposition from Daniel Pienaar High School and Rondebosch Boys' High School, resulting in early setbacks. Nevertheless, these matches proved valuable in shaping the team's identity and sharpening their focus.

The lessons taken from these encounters fuelled a remarkable turnaround. The squad responded with maturity and determination, securing four consecutive victories, including noteworthy performances against St Andrew's College and Hudson Park High School. During this period, several promising talents emerged, most notably Ethan Crous and Emmanuel Sibanda, who consistently contributed to the team's growing confidence.

One of the standout moments of the season came during the hard-fought away fixture against Hudson Park High School. As the first match of the day, the players were once again met with challenging early-morning conditions in East London. In a tense match defined by discipline and commitment, both teams displayed unwavering resolve. The contest was ultimately decided by a single, well-struck penalty from Graeme's composed left-footed centre, Jayden Botha, securing a memorable 3–0 victory.

Following a narrow loss to a formidable Nico Malan High School side, the team closed the first half of the season strongly with confident wins over Stirling High School and Union High School. Throughout this period, Maka Klaas distinguished himself as a powerful forward and the team's leading try-scorer.

Post-holiday fixtures brought renewed challenges, with narrow and emotional defeats to Dale College and Queen's College. These experiences, while difficult, provided valuable lessons in perseverance and sportsmanship. The players concluded their season on a positive note with a well-deserved win against Muir College.

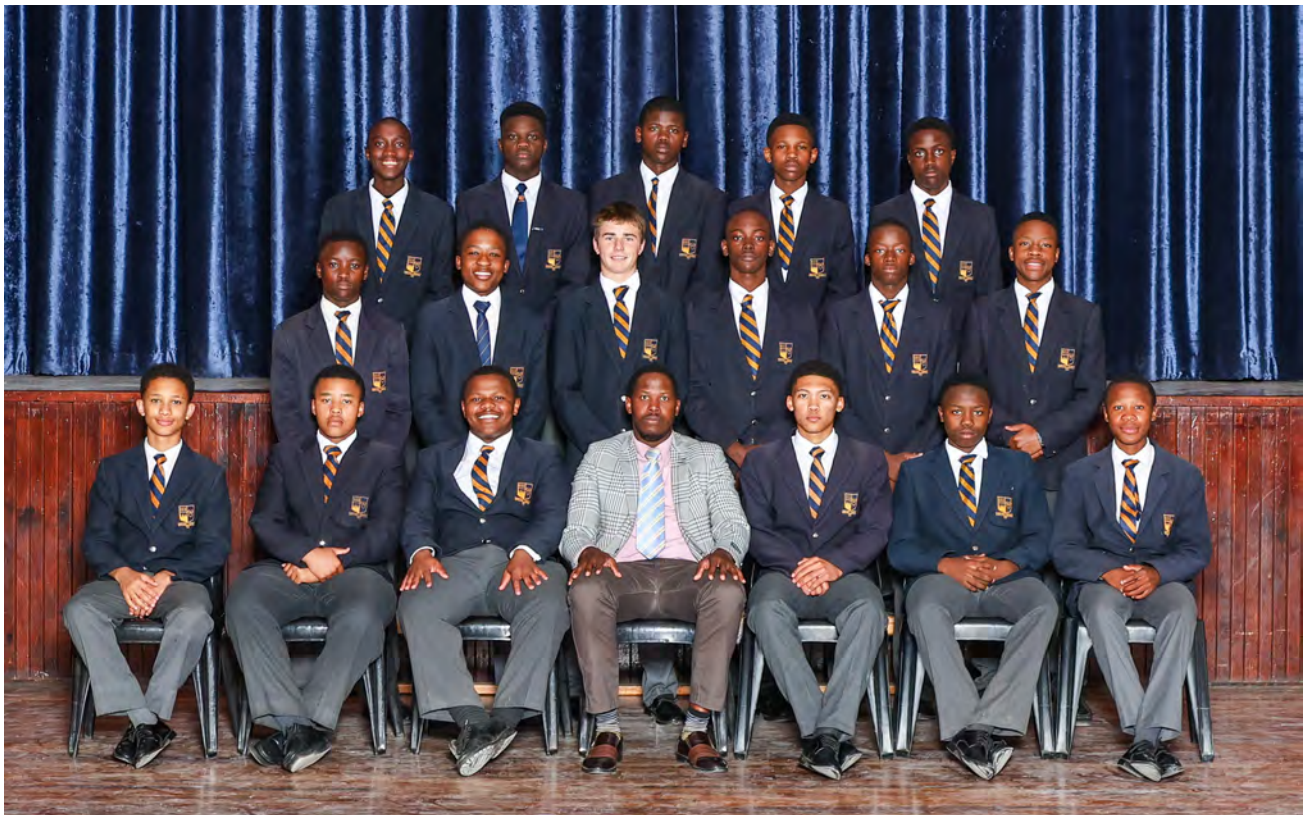
It has been a privilege to coach this dedicated group of young men. Their respect for the game, commitment to improvement, and pride in representing Graeme College ensure a bright and exciting future for this age group.

Under 14B Rugby

~ Mr Bongolwethu Draai

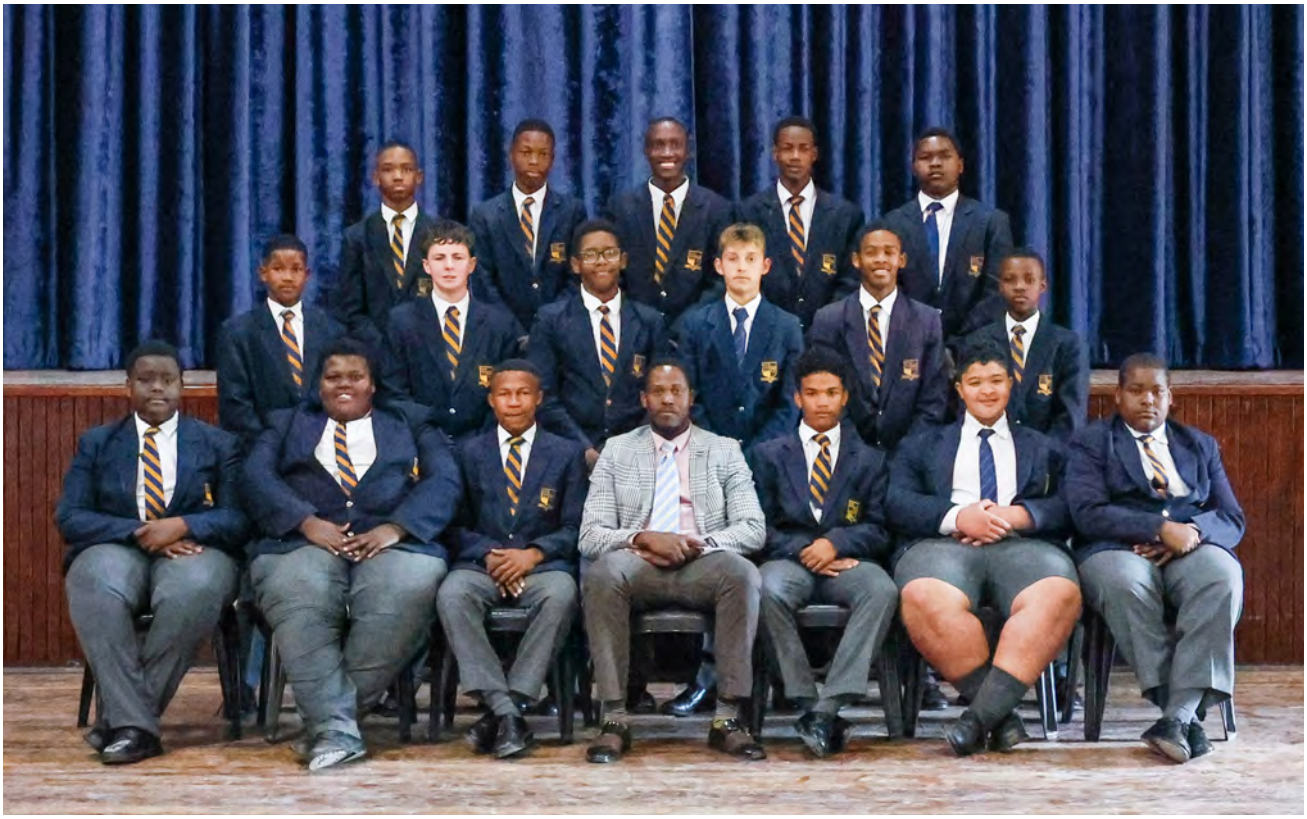
The under 14B team completed a challenging season playing a total of nine matches. With four victories and five defeats, the season reflected both promising talent and areas for growth. The boys showcased a lot of determination and passion, with the most memorable loss against Daniel Pienaar High School, who were a very strong opposition, boosted by the fact that they had a distinct size advantage. The Graeme players showed great determination and courage in that game, which gave them a platform to launch from for the rest of the season. The loss against Daniel Pienaar was the biggest of the season, but it was also the turning point as it taught us many lessons not only about ourselves and our identity as a team. It was also the game during which leaders among the young men began to emerge.

The players really stepped up under pressure and proved that they have what it takes to take on the best. The under 14B team was the largest pack in the school, some being dubbed as saying "they would rival the Springboks". This was the backbone of their resilience as they fought as one, even during the close losses. The boys shared a strong camaraderie both on and off the field; their skills improved immensely by the end of the season as they were passing and tackling with great accuracy and skill. Though the results might not show, the players had a very good season, and they made a lot of friends, which, from the perspective of coach, is more important than the results.



UNDER 14A RUGBY

Back: Avuzwa Nabe, Oyama Masela, Sivuyisiwe Manyakanyaka, Hlobanisa Msakatya, Sinawe Mani
Middle: Zimfefe Pokile, Abakhe Luwaya, Jayden Botha, Emmanual Sibanda, Lilo Fulani, Linomtha Saliwa
Seated: Ethan Crous, Othandwayo Antoni, Makadunyiswe Klaas, Mr Bongolwethu Draai, Jordan du Plessis (c), Kamohelo Hute, Iminathi Mali



UNDER 14B RUGBY

Back : Someleze Mandla, Inga Ngxizele, Avuzwa Nabe, Qiqa Marambane, Hluma Mfabane
Middle : Imange Peter, Slater Hart, Tylo Marthinus, Jed van der Merwe, Bonginkosi Toto, Litha Baartman,
Seated: Cwenga Ramokolo, Musa Ngcayisa, Ondela Coto, Mr Bongolwethu Draai, Kaino Meyers, Sheraad Russion, Izibele Nonyukela

Under 15 Sevens Rugby

~ Mr Michael Pretorius

The 2025 season was a brief but valuable one for the Graeme College under 15 Sevens team. With limited fixtures available, the team's only outing came at the Lilyfontein 7s Tournament. A young group of mostly under 15s with a few under 14s found it challenging to recreate the rhythm and cohesion shown by last year's squad.

Across four matches, the team produced moments of excellent rugby, including a strong performance against one of the competition's top sides. However, maintaining that level proved difficult, and inconsistency ultimately shaped their results.

Despite this, the tournament offered a massive learning experience. The players gained important exposure to the pace and demands of sevens rugby, and the lessons learned will undoubtedly strengthen the group as they continue to grow and build towards future seasons.



UNDER 15 SEVENS RUGBY

Back: Sibongukhanyo Zigayi, Kamohelo Hute, Awonke Gaga, Linomtha Saliwa, Uzisiphe Majeke, Hlumelo Sifanele, Alizwa Kepe, Sinothando Madikane

Seated:James Muir, Jaydon Kohl, Revanio Williams, Mr Michael Pretorius, Avuyisiwe Mnandi, Lindokuhle Mhono, Intsika Tukani

SOCCER

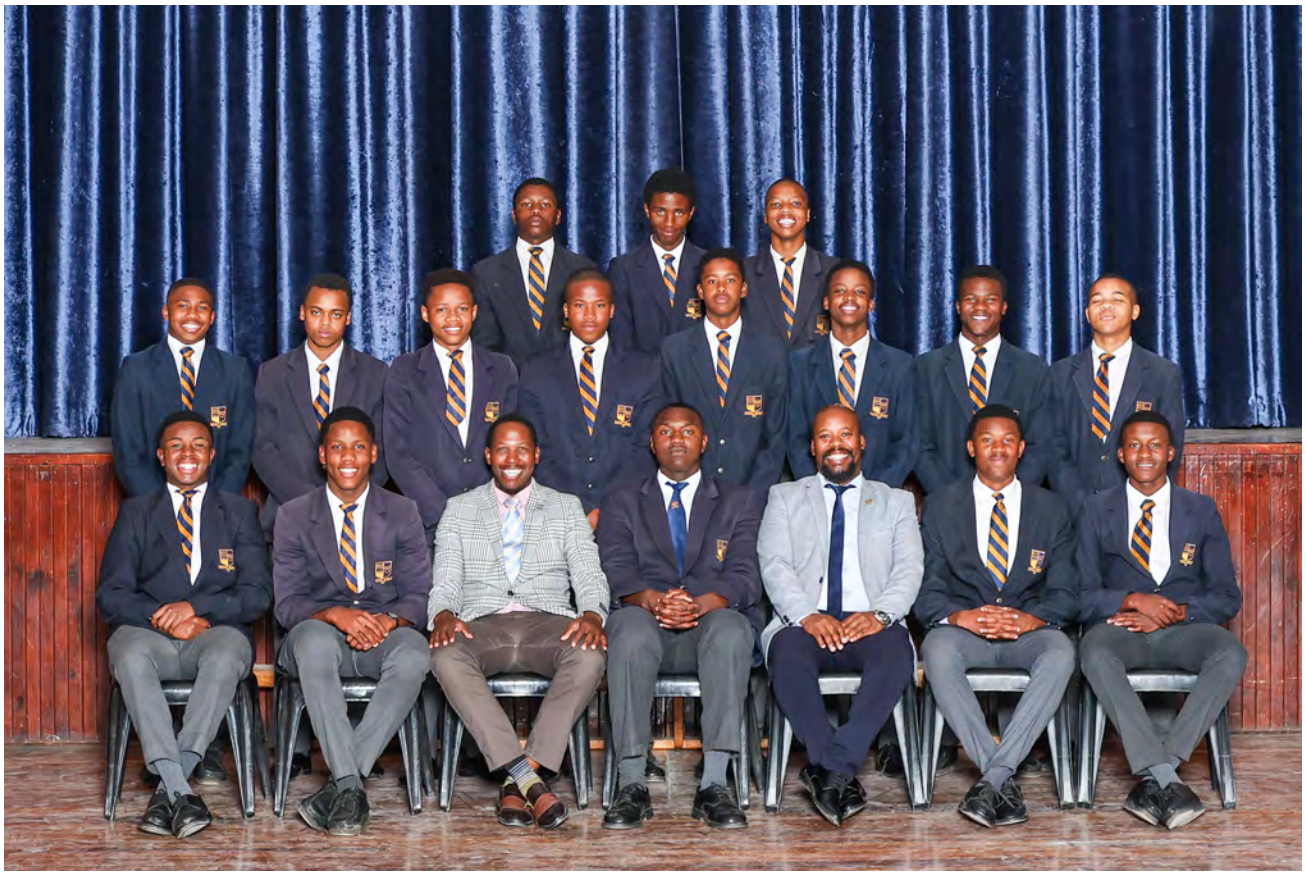
Senior Soccer report

~ Mr Bongolwethu Draai

The soccer season ended on 27 September 2025 with the under 14/15 team making it through the season unbeaten in their allotted five matches.

Under the tutelage of Mr Mamve who managed to get the best out of the players with his passionate halftime speeches, they won all of their games convincingly against Andrew Moyake, Dale College, Port Alfred High School, Capstone Primary and Siyaphakama Academy. The stand-out player for the season was Sinothando Madikane, scoring a total of eleven goals in the five matches, with two hat tricks. The second and first team did not have as great a season, with the first team losing all of their matches and the second team only beating Port Alfred.

Despite the results not going in our favour, the players still came out to practices with great enthusiasm and eagerness, and approached every game with passion. We hope that 2026 will be a better season.



FIRST SOCCER TEAM

Back: Miyolo Qabaka, Simamnkele Frank, Someleze Mtitshana
Middle: Onesimo Oliphant, Butsha Kondile, Bukho Gxekwa, Esihle Pakathi, Miyolo Klaas, Uniko Millie, Selunathi Mfundisi, Lisekho Mbejeni
Seated: Lukho Meleni, Athenkosi Mukume, Mr Bongolwethu Draai, Lubabalo Youmdem-youmbi, Olothando Cekiso, Okuhle Tuswa



SECOND TEAM SOCCER

Back: Tsepiso Klaas, Yandisa Sitsila, Mthetho Xesi, Anathi Vaaltyn, Uzusiphe Majeke, Awonke Gaga, Aphelele Bill, Libhongo Nxawe.

Seated: Linamandla Masela, Sinentlahla Cishe, Mr Lakhanya Sam, Okuhle Tuswa, Mr Vuyolwethu Tshekela, Miyolo Klaas, Simanye Lupuwana.



UNDER 14 AND UNDER 15 SOCCER

Back: Uzusiphe Majeke, Avuzwa Nabe, Mbasa Mpiyane, Hlumelo Sifanele.

Middle: Lilo Fulani, Linomtha Saliwa, Kungawo Magopeni, Lavuya Vayi, Luniko Lombo, Emihle Lombo, Zimi Nelani

Seated: Sinothando Madikane, Lithalethu Beyi, Mr Fikile Imibongo Lusu,Mr Vuyolwethu Tshekela, Lithalethu Baartman, Iminathi Mali

SWIMMING

Senior and Junior Swimming report

~ Mr Lawrence Ferreira

The 2024/2025 season started off in September 2024 with great anticipation; the School Governing Body had approved financing for repairs to the school pool. Fortunately one of our parents, Emile Fox, owner of East Cape Pools in Grahamstown/Makhanda, was prepared to take on this mammoth task and work began in earnest.

To shorten the story, after many trials and tribulations, the pool was eventually ready for use early in 2025. Suddenly there was a burst in enthusiasm and participation, and staff were once again involved in getting our learners back into the water. Sadly, after four years of almost no swimming, it has taken a massive effort from the coaches to get the learners to the skill levels we were at before the pool was out of action. Nonetheless, Graeme College has managed to complete a season with the beginners showing a huge improvement between January and April. We are looking forward to an even more successful 2025/2026 season.

In the competitive part of the season, a handful of Graeme College learners attended various galas both in the Grahamstown/Albany competition arena, and in the Eastern Province B-league and club competitions.

In the junior school, Benjamin Fox has had some good results; he was selected to swim for the Albany team in the interdistrict gala held in Graaff-Reinet, and he attended the Top 8 Invitational Gala hosted by Nelson Mandela Bay Aquatics where he achieved a sixth place in the 50m freestyle event.

Michael Pretorius participated in B-league galas and the Level 1 gala where he achieved two first placings in the 100m backstroke and 50m freestyle events.



SENIOR SWIMMING

Back: Andrew Isaacs, Ryno Benn
Seated: Christopher McLean, Mr Lawrence Ferreira, Michael Pretorius

Christopher McLean had a stellar season achieving a second place in the Eastern Cape SA Schools Sport trials and, in the process, swam a Level 2 time. He went on to swim at the Level 2 Regional Championship Gala at the Joan Harrison Swimming Pool in East London where he received numerous medals. At the Top 8 Invitational Gala, he achieved three gold medals in the 50m butterfly, 50m backstroke and 50m freestyle events.

An award of half colours went to Michael Pretorius and a full colours award (re-award) to Christopher McLean.

The 2025 Interhouse Gala was a huge success and will have more intense competition as more learners take to swimming next season.

Major awards presented at the interhouse gala awards assembly were:
Most improved junior swimmer
Benjamin Fox
Most advanced senior swimmer
Christopher McLean

House results were as follows:
Fourth place: Wiles
Third Place: Vernal
Second place: Neilson
First place: Hutton

Finally I would like to thank all of the coaches who spent endless hours with the learners (sometimes even in the water) for their support and dedication.









TENNIS

Senior Tennis report

~ Mrs Laura du Preez and Miss Giorgia Duncan

The 2025 tennis season was a good one for Graeme College, marked by commitment, steady improvement, and a positive team spirit both on and off the court. The Graeme College players made the most of every opportunity to compete and represent the school with pride.

The annual Settlers' Cup took place at the end of January, and Graeme College took second place overall.

Both the under 15 and first team players delivered determined performances this season. Despite showing great resilience, both teams fell short in their fixtures against St Andrew's College. They bounced back with confidence and composure, securing well-deserved victories against Port Alfred High School. The players demonstrated strong teamwork, improved consistency, and excellent sportsmanship throughout their matches, reflecting the hard work they continue to put into their training.

The Old Boys match over the Founders' Weekend brought much excitement. The Old Boys dusted off their rackets, did much stretching, and were eager to get on the courts, while the first team boys were anxious to see who they were up against. The Old Boys clearly hadn't lost their skill and secured a win against the first team.

Earlier in the year, Kits McConnachie, Jesse McConnachie, and Ryan Stobbs represented Eastern Province Tennis at the prestigious Synergy Tournament in Bloemfontein. Competing against some of the country's top young players, the boys displayed determination, skill, and composure, gaining valuable experience on a national stage.

In August, Kits McConnachie, Joshwin Burger, Larson McKaiser, and Olothando Jaca took part in the Top 4 Mixed Doubles Tournament, hosted by Diocesan School for Girls and St Andrew's College. The event brought together talented players from local schools, and our players represented Graeme College with enthusiasm and great sportsmanship.

The senior school Championships was another highlight of the season, with the results as follows:

Open singles (first draw)
Winner: Kits McConnachie
Runner-up: Jesse McConnachie
Open singles (second draw)
Winner: Liam Bodill
Runner-up: Heinrich Bouwer
Open doubles
Winners: Kits McConnachie and Jesse McConnachie
Runners-up: Noah Tabensky and Zipho Ntlokwana
Under 15 singles
Winner: Joshwin Burger
Runner-up: Leo Murray
Under 15 doubles
Winners: Joshwin Burger and Gino O'Brien
Runners-up: Leo Murray and Jed van der Merwe

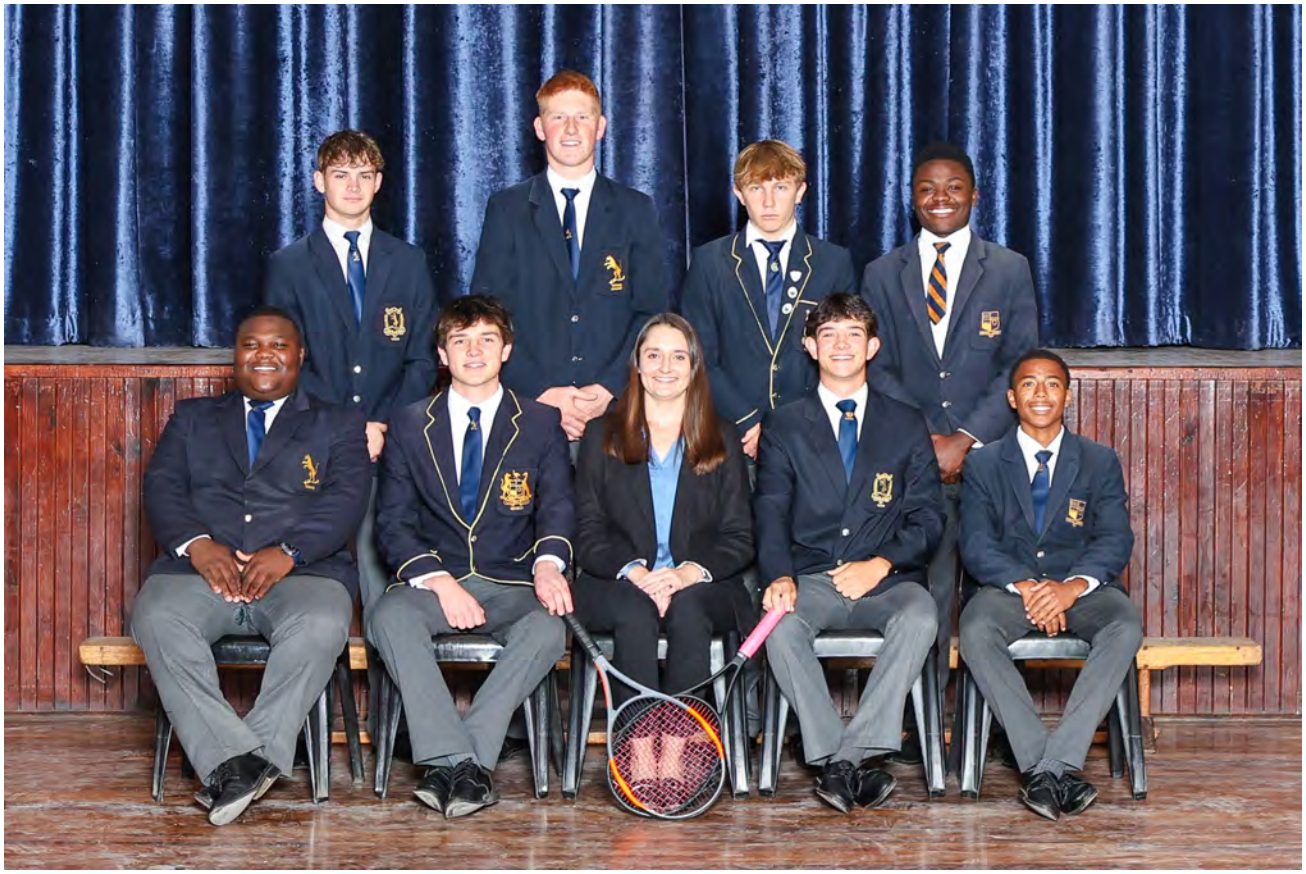
The Trevor Cowie Cup for Outstanding Temperament and Sportsmanship was awarded to Kits McConnachie for his exceptional attitude and leadership both on and off the court.

The Interhouse Tennis Cup was won by Vernal House, with Wiles House as runners-up.

Overall, 2025 was a year of steady progress and dedication for Graeme College tennis. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by our players has laid a strong foundation for the seasons to come.

Looking ahead, there is much to be excited about, with plans already underway for a Top 8 Tennis Tour to Cape Town in March 2026. The tour will provide our top players with the chance to test themselves against strong opposition and continue building camaraderie within the team. Special thanks to Carara Agro Processing, Varnam Farms, Coetzee Plumbing and Du Preez Maintenance, who have sponsored the first team kit for 2026.

A sincere thank you is extended to all players, parents, and coaches for their support throughout the year. The future of Graeme College tennis is bright.



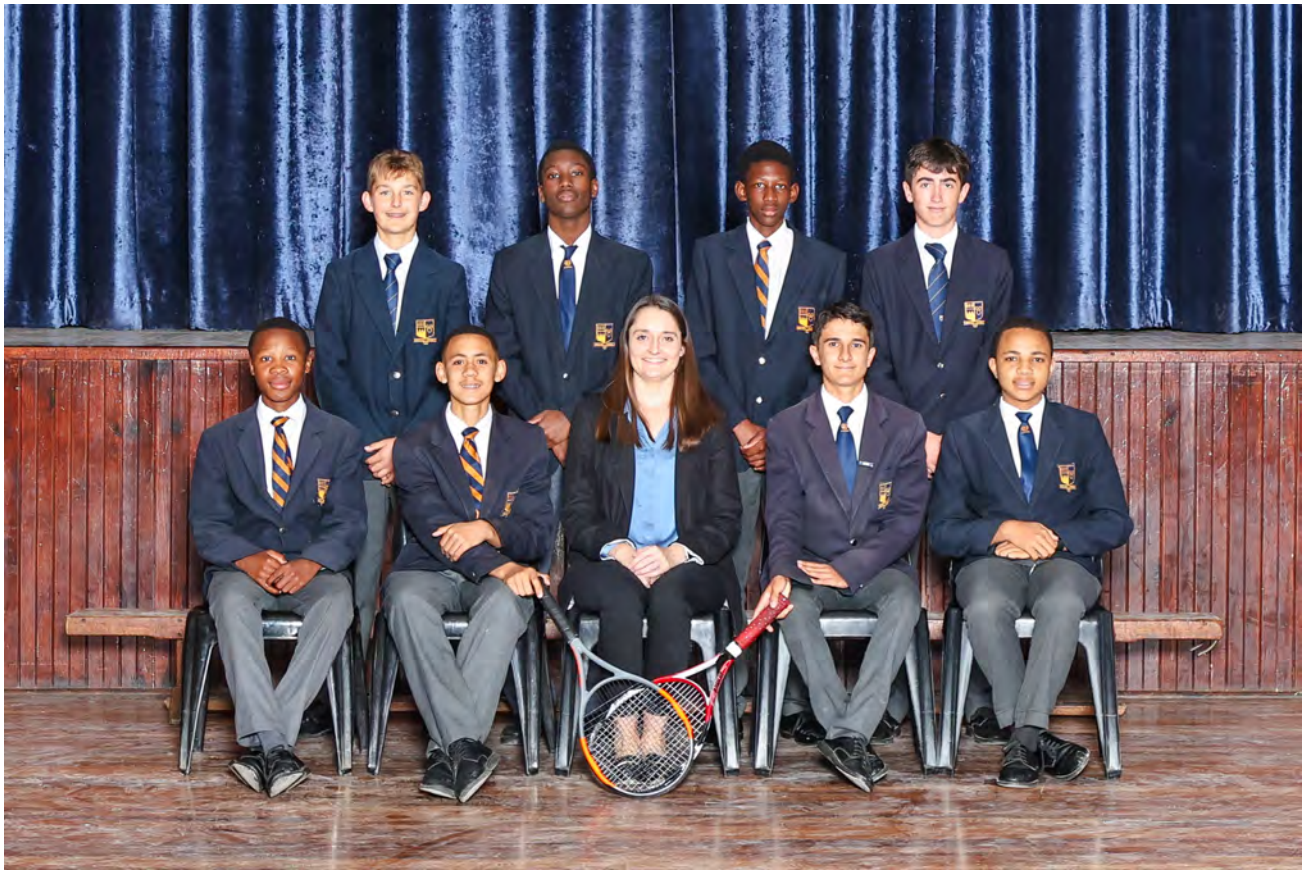
FIRST TEAM TENNIS

Back: Ryan Stobbs, Andrew Muir, Noah Tabensky, Bishop Nyoni
Seated: Olothando Jaca, Jesse McConnachie, Miss Giorgia Duncan, Kits McConnachie, Larson McKaiser



SECOND TEAM TENNIS

Back: Heinrich Bouwer, Mbulelo Gama, Jayden Brits, Matthew Koopman, Crispin Lackay
Seated: Likuhle Bashe, Caleb Manyika, Tristan Boy, Miss Giorgia Duncan, Joshua Danilatos, Eli Wood, Liam Bodill



UNDER 15A TENNIS

Back: Jed van der Merwe, Tseliso Matsoso, Lusenathi Manzana, Daniel Hanlon
Seated: Iminathi Mali, Joshwin Burger, Miss Giorgia Duncan, Leo Murray, Gino O'Brien



UNDER 15B TENNIS

Back: Lorien Yazbek, Bonginkosi Toto, Liyema Madiza
Seated: Emmett Sias, Eliyandro Kivitts, Miss Giorgia Duncan, Slater Hart, Uyapha Madodonke













WATER POLO

Water polo report

~ Mr Andrew Swift

Water polo at Graeme College continued during the 2025 season, with Mr Swift working with the senior boys and Mr Rowe coaching the junior division.

The highlight for the first team was, as always, the tour to Knysna for the Oakhill Chukka Festival. Mr Swift and Mr Rowe accompanied the boys. The matches take place in the water at the Knysna waterfront, and it makes for an exciting and sociable atmosphere. For the rest of the season, the players struggled on the results front, but not through a lack of effort or enthusiasm. Our swimming (throughout the club) tended to be the key area of weakness, with other teams simply being faster across the pool and stronger in the water. We spent an enjoyable afternoon at Buffelsbaai, and the weather was beautiful throughout our time in Knysna.

We were grateful to receive a sponsorship from the Pieterse family which allowed the first team to be kitted out with parkas, costumes and bags for the Oakhill Chukka Festival tour. Our hearty thanks to the Pieterse family – their contribution gave Graeme College polo a proper boost.

The matric players contributed a great deal to water polo at Graeme College during 2025. Their attitude and conduct were consistently committed and positive. It was pleasing to have matrics representing the College in the fourth term, at both practices and matches. Special mention must be made of Jaycie Pieterse, Athenkosi Manyati and Jesse McConnachie in this regard.

The juniors' highlight of 2025 was their weekend in East London at the end of term three for the Milton Gates Plate, organised by Selborne College. The Graemians played some good polo, getting some valuable wins. This produced a very credible final placing of sixth out of eight teams. The Graeme College team was hosted by the van Zyl and Hunter families at the East London Convention Centre (Premier Hotels), which was most appreciated and very enjoyable.

In term four we really enjoyed being back in our fully renovated pool and played fixtures locally against St Andrew's College.

The following boys were awarded half colours for the 2025 season: Jesse McConnachie (re-award); Jaycie Pieterse (re-award); Hamish Haakonsen; Athenkosi Manyati; Noah Tabensky
Best Junior Player: Jaydon Botha
Player of the Year: Jesse McConnachie

As coaches, it is enjoyable to work with the young men and watch them play, as long as we see effort. That is the crux of the matter – back yourself and try as hard as you possibly can.

Virtute et opera.



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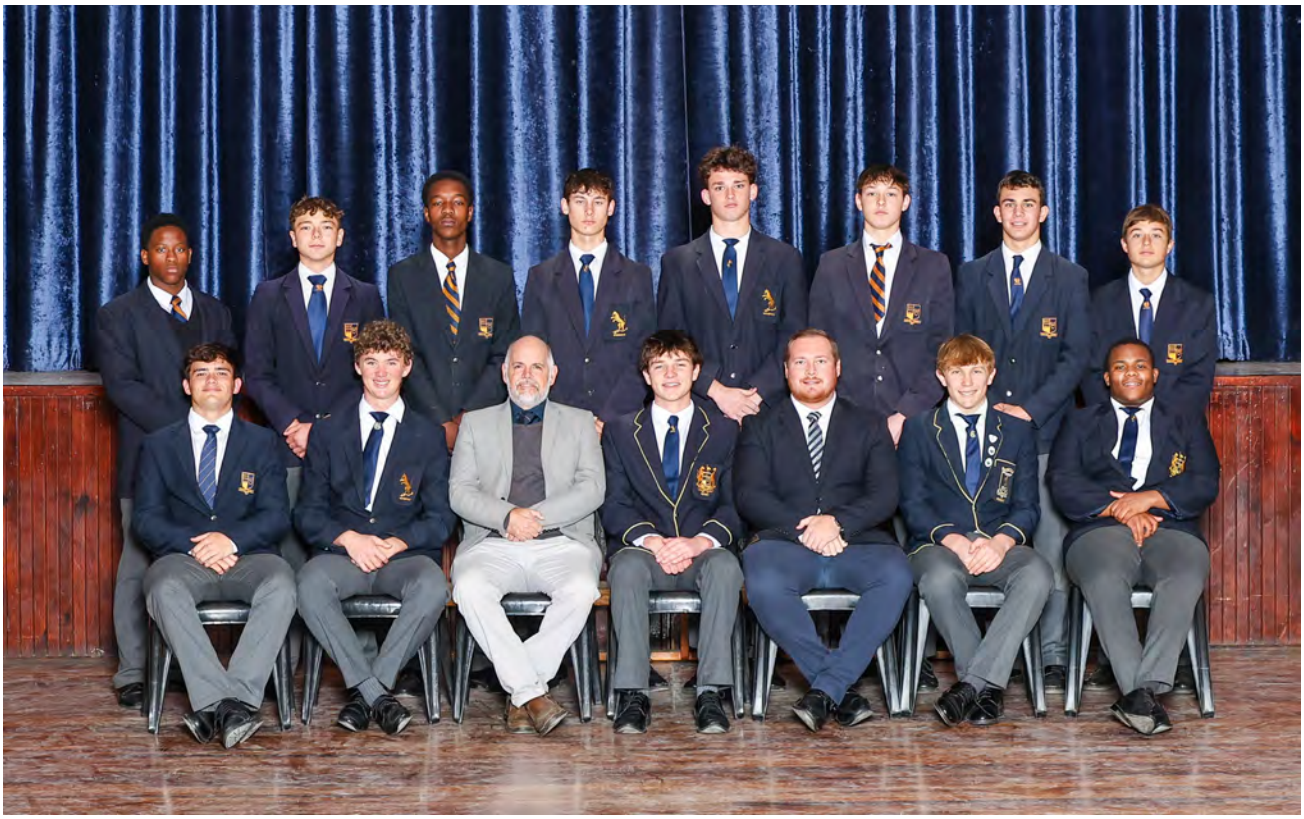
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FIRST TEAM WATERPOLO

Back: Ahlumile Maqungu, Okuhle Madinda, Michael Pretorius, Hamish Haakonsen, Connor Haakonsen, Nicholas Cock, Blake de la Mare

Seated: Hunta van Zyl, Jaycie Pieterse, Mr Andrew Swift, Jesse McConnachie, Mr Ryan Rowe, Noah Tabensky, Athelihle Bonga



UNDER 15 WATERPOLO

Back: Zimi Nelani, Sinawe Mani, Keagan Berriman, Coenraad Pieterse, Owethu Ngetu, Dylan Bellingan, Heinrich Bouwer, Hluma Mfabane, Daniel Czeredricki-Schmidt

Seated: Nicholas Cock, Blake de la Mare, Connor Haakonsen (vc), Mr Ryan Rowe, Hunta van Zyl (c), Ethan de Wet, Ben-Francois du Toit

Bathurst Show

~ Ms Justine Bussiahn

Graeme College was well represented at the 2025 Bathurst Show Art Competition. The following learners received gold awards: Uminathi Deu for his mixed media bird portrait, Lulo Mbambo for his Egyptian drawing and Okuhle Nathan Gongqa for his self-portrait. The following learners were awarded silver medals: Ntlakanipho Bamla, Tavonga Madimu, Ongako Buduza, Laik Santos-Osman, James Catto, Michael Pretorius and Tristan Killian. Congratulations to all of the learners on their well-earned achievements!

Johan Carinus Art Centre Exhibition and Prizegiving

~ Ms Justine Bussiahn

Graeme College was well represented at the annual Johan Carinus Art Exhibition and Prizegiving held on the JCAC campus towards the end of 2025. The following learners were awarded gold awards in their respective categories: Tavonga Madimu, Daniel Loest, Gerrit Cloete, Hlanga Jongile, Matthew Lamond and Okuhle Nathan Gongqa.

Okuhle Nathan Gongqa was awarded the Junior Drawing Prize for his pen and ink of a panda bear. Miyolo Qabaka was awarded a bronze award for his pen and ink drawing of a rhino. Congratulations to all of the award winners.



Daniel Loest
Grade 5



Tavonga Madimu
Grade 4



James Catto
Grade 5



Miyolo Qabaka
Grade 9



Okuhle Nathan Gongqa
Grade 9

Ceramic Design

~ Ms Rowena Roberts

Ceramic Design is so much more than just working with clay – it is about imagination, storytelling, and bringing ideas to life in a tangible, three-dimensional form. In this subject, learners don't just design on paper; they build, sculpt, shape, and decorate beautiful, functional, and meaningful objects using their hands, creativity, and growing technical skills. Each grade embarked on a unique creative journey this year, exploring different themes, techniques, and artistic influences.

Grade 10 learners began their ceramic adventure by exploring natural textures in Term 1, creating containers inspired by the patterns found in stones, bark, leaves, and other organic surfaces. In Term 2, they travelled back in time and designed award gifts inspired by Ancient Civilizations, drawing on symbols, pottery styles, and decorative elements from cultures like Egypt, Greece, and Mesopotamia. Their final project in Term 3 added a fun and playful twist—designing candy-themed vases using bright colours, swirling shapes, and sweet-inspired forms. Through these projects, they mastered both the slab technique and, later in the year, the coiling method to build their colourful forms.

Grade 11 learners took a step deeper into design history and refinement. In Term 1, they created Art Deco-inspired cologne bottles, incorporating the sleek lines, symmetry, and geometric elegance of the era. In Term 2, the mood shifted to the elegant, flowing lines of Art Nouveau for their vase designs, inspired by nature, curves, and graceful movement. By Term 3, the focus turned to experimentation—learners explored oxides, stains, and glazing to study how different combinations affected texture, colour, and surface quality. They then used this knowledge to develop an organic ceramic form for an Oceanarium. Throughout the year, they worked with slab-building and coiling techniques, building from their earlier pinch pot concepts.

Grade 12 learners, on the brink of their creative futures, tackled concepts of rhythm, movement, and balance in Term 1 through the creation of expressive ceramic jugs that showcased advanced design and construction. In Term 2, they explored heritage and culture by creating African-inspired vessels suitable for a Safari lodge—focusing not only on form and function but also on symbolism and storytelling. Their Term 3 external exam put their creativity and problem-solving to the test. Learners chose between designing with a theme of Ubuntu or rebranding an item for a Spaza shop. They overwhelmingly chose the Spaza shop challenge, considering everyday products and transforming them into thoughtful ceramic pieces with engaging surface designs, enhanced functions, and meaningful purpose.

Across all grades, learners moved from basic construction to conceptual thinking, from textures to storytelling, from technique to expression. Ceramic Design has not only shaped their artworks, but also their confidence, creativity, and ability to see ordinary objects with extraordinary possibilities.

GRADE 10 CERAMIC DESIGN



Libongo Nxawe



Libongo Nxawe



Yandisa Sitsila

GRADE 11 CERAMIC DESIGN


Esihle Pakati


Jordan Damons

GRADE 12 CERAMIC DESIGN


Yanga Mtwalo


Lebo Mahasele


Elihle Soxujwa


Yanga Mtwalo


Lebo Mahasele


Elihle Soxujwa


Yanga Mtwalo


Lebo Mahasele

Painting

~ Ms Philmarie Uys

The Graeme College learners did very well overall in Painting during 2025, with some great progress being made. All improved technically, and special mention must be made of Shenaco Scheepers and Donovan Pretorius who progressed in leaps and bounds this year.

The matrics fared well in their final external moderation, with Christopher McLean achieving a first-class pass (above 70%) and Luvo Matya and Qhama Mafuya both achieving above 50%.

All work was handed in on time throughout the year and all three learners worked consistently right up to the end of the practical exam. Special mention must be made of Qhama and Christopher's perseverance up to the very last minute of the exam.

The grade 11 learners did well in their final project and we hope to see the same level of hard work, determination, focus, and progress in their matric year in 2026. All eyes are on you now. Special mention must be made of Michael Pretorius (grade 10) who produced an exceptional body of very bold, energetic paintings and drawings that all but dominated the annual prizegiving exhibition. Keep up the good work.



Michael Pretorius
Grade 10





Christopher McLean
Grade 12



Qhama Mafuya
Grade 12



Michael Pretorius
Grade 10

Printmaking

~ Ms Logan Human

In 2025 the Printmaking learners really embraced the creative challenges inside the studio. They enjoyed experimenting with new techniques, exploring different materials, and developing their own artistic voices. The result was a collection of interesting, imaginative, and highly creative works that truly showcased their growth and enthusiasm throughout the year.



Giles Griffin
Grade 10

Zuko Duma
Grade 10



Sculpture

~ Mr Graeme Germond

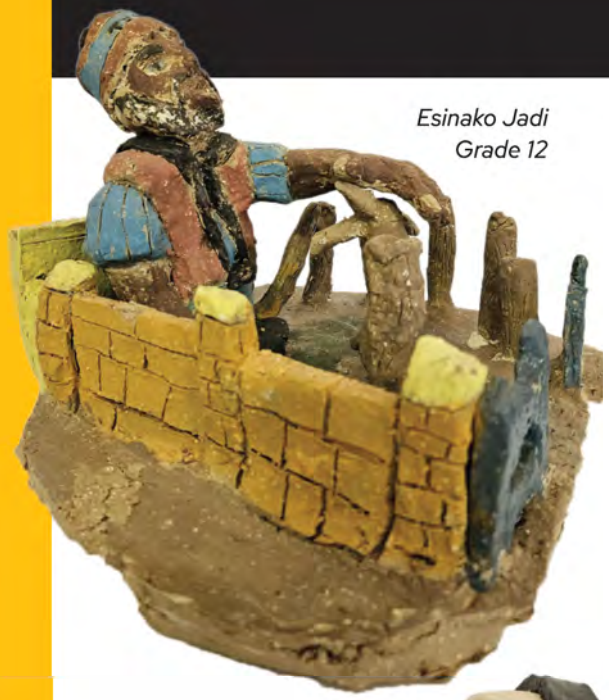
It is curious that very few Graeme College learners choose to take sculpture as a visual art discipline. Those who do, benefit from the range of technical skills they learn such as modeling in clay, construction in cardboard, carving in plaster of paris, welding steel, paper maché, experimenting in digital new media and making multimedia and mixed-media sculptures.



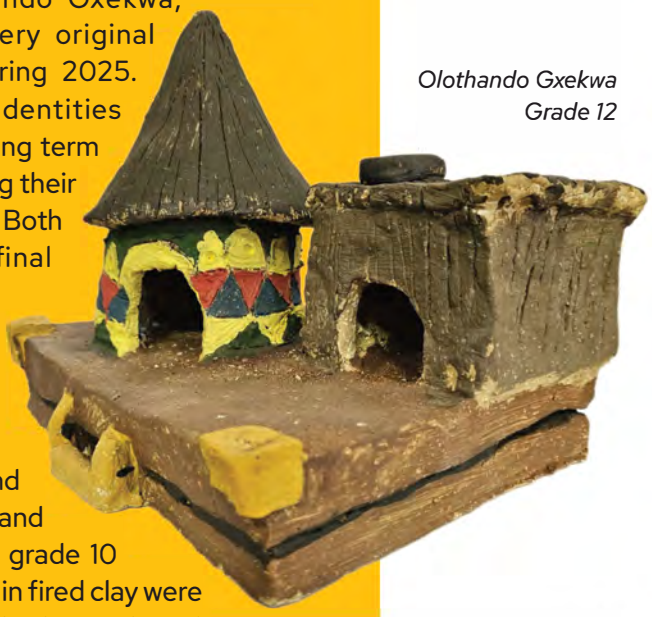
Esinako Jadi
Grade 12

It is with great pride that we can celebrate the four learners who enjoyed this year's projects and completed wonderful sculptures!

Two matric learners, Esinako Jadi and Olothando Gxekwa, produced very original sculptures during 2025. They explored their identities using mixed media sculptures during term 1, as well as exploring and examining their 'Headspace' in the second term. Both successfully completed their final practical exams – they celebrated their traditional Xhosa cultural heritage with highly original fired clay ceramic sculptures.



Esinako Jadi
Grade 12





Olothando Gxekwa
Grade 12

Congratulations to Zuko Duma and Giles Griffin who made interesting and successful sculptures during their grade 10 year. Their term 1 hybrid sculptures in fired clay were highly original and creative. In the third term they also successfully carved a fantastic beast out of a block of plaster of paris.



Giles Griffin
Grade 10



Zuko Duma
Grade 10



Olothando Gxekwa
Grade 12

Textile Design

~ Ms Kerryn Staffen

The 2025 Graeme College Textile Design learners created a cushion cover and a tablecloth. The cushion cover was made using tie dye techniques. The learners each designed their own stencil – they had to create a stencil of an insect from the drawings they had done in their source books, and combine it with their tie dye pattern.

The tablecloth was created from multiple flower and plant drawings that had been drawn during art classes. The learners then put their drawings together to make a repeating pattern. This design was then put onto a silk screen and printed onto the fabric.

Andrew Wicks





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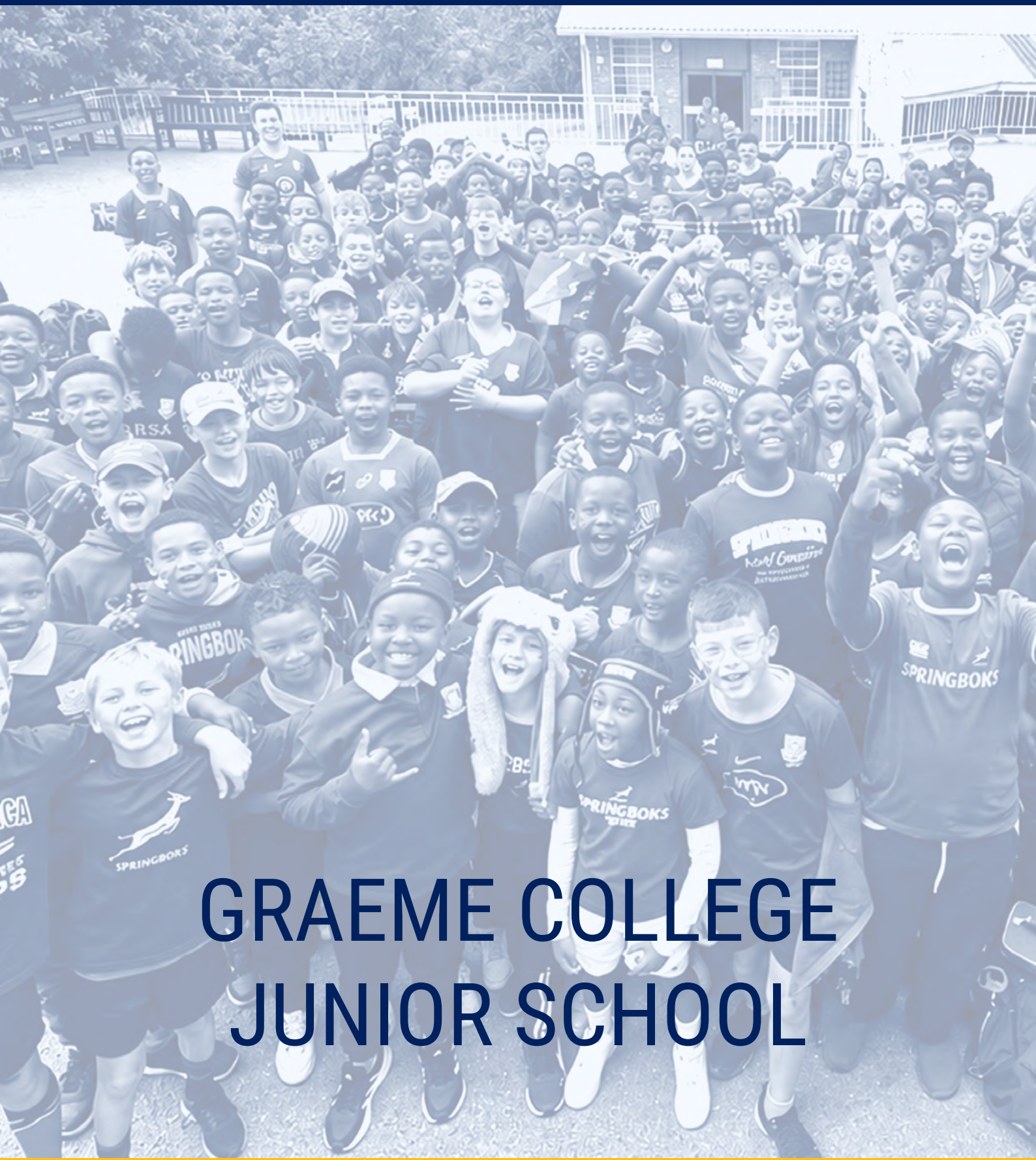


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GRAEME COLLEGE JUNIOR SCHOOL

JUNIOR SCHOOL PRIZEGIVING

Head of Junior School address

~ Mr Andrew Swift

Good morning Mr and Mrs Watson, Mr van Molendorff, parents and guardians, staff and learners – with a special welcome to Mrs Nel, who leaves us at the end of the year after many years of service at Graeme College.

It is a privilege to be a South African, and a privilege to be working at Graeme College. Being a grade 12 History teacher is also a privilege as I am reminded on a daily basis where we have come from as a nation. Engaging with our history makes me determined to be a part of building a South Africa that most of us want to see in the future. This is why I teach at Graeme College. Where are we going as a school? To answer that question, I will start in the past.

The grade 7 learners visit the Steve Biko Museum in Qonce (formerly King William's Town and Mr Ralo's territory) as part of their grade 7 camp. How many learners have heard of Steve Biko? Steven Bantu Biko is a South African hero. He is a hero because he gave up his life, fighting for a just and peaceful South Africa. He was a highly intelligent young man who was studying to become a doctor. He realised, however, that he had a more important task in life, and that was to defeat apartheid, and so he gave up his medical studies. In fighting apartheid, he became an enemy of the government and he was arrested and beaten to death by the police.

We are an interesting country – we have produced many people who one would consider heroic. Often, however, that heroism has been in response to things that were dark and evil, and so we can't necessarily celebrate our past, but we can celebrate what that past brought out of people. South Africa has been, and still is, a breeding ground for heroes.

I asked the question earlier – where are we going as a school? That depends on all of us sitting here in his hall. Steve Biko decided that he was willing to die for a better South Africa. What are each of us willing to give as we strive to be the best public boys' school in South Africa? I think many of us are willing, and already do, give a great deal to the College. One of the ways I like to think about Graeme College is as a community of heroes. Should it be necessary to be a hero to make a school work? Maybe not. But we are no ordinary school and we live in a not-so-ordinary country. So yes, I believe that in many ways we will have to be heroes if Graeme College is to remain at the forefront of education in South Africa.

Graeme College parents are our first heroes. To be a successful parent in the 21st century is no easy task. To raise boys who are successful, respectful, ambitious, caring, honest, and upright is hard. It's hard, but if you are willing to do the hard work, it is doable. If you are getting this right, as a great many Graeme parents are, then you are my hero. Graeme College parents also have to make financial sacrifices: you pay to travel with the Graeme family to watch and support our rugby teams, you pay your school fees on time and in full, and to the great many who do, you are my heroes.

Graeme College teachers are our next group of heroes. Understand this clearly – teachers at Graeme College are most definitely heroes. They are heroes because of how much they give. Graeme teachers give and give and give and, importantly, they give without receiving any additional financial remuneration. They give because they believe in Graeme College and they believe in our Graemians. Heroes make sacrifices. One of the ways in which Graeme College teachers sacrifice is through the amount of time that they commit to the school and the quality of work that they do during that time, often way beyond the call of duty. Mr Fischer, Mr Mafane, and Mr Schneigansz are heroes – they coach cricket and rugby. This means that every single Saturday of the school year (sometimes even in the holidays) is given over to their cricket and rugby boys. And what a job they do. Mrs Danilatos and Mr Dettmer are heroes – they give up a week to give a group of grade 7s the experience of a lifetime in Cape Town. Mr Bodenstein is a hero – he single-handedly organises a primary schools' squash festival that is attended by schools from around the country. Mr Kilian is a hero – he organises multiple rugby fixtures for every single junior school rugby team over a twenty-week season. Mrs Greyling is a hero – in her 30th year of teaching at the College, she becomes a Graeme legend. Consistent decency, kindness, professionalism day after day after, for 30 years – and counting. Mrs Banks is a hero for getting the Junior Choir up and running and performing. Mrs Bussiahn is a hero for the beautiful artwork that comes out of the art room. Mr Xonxa is a hero for being a fantastic role model for the learners in showing what can be achieved in life and having a proper spirit of adventure. Ms de Jongh is a hero for her acts of kindness and creativity, like her t-shirt design competition.

Finally, Mr Watson and Mr van Molendorff are heroes, for being willing to lead in the tough, tiring, energy-sapping environment that public school education can be.

The list goes on and on, and the high school or Foundation Phase would tell exactly the same story. Members of the Graeme College community, recognise what you have at Graeme College and out of that recognition let gratefulness, thankfulness, appreciation, support and protection flow.

The next group of heroes are the Graemians here today. Often a hero is a hero because they achieve something even though the odds are stacked against them. We have heroes in spades here. In every test passed, and every distinction gained, we have a hero. In every act of respect, like greeting an adult and allowing them to walk first through a door, we have a hero. In the grade 5 learner who saw something that he knew was wrong and immediately reported it to his class teacher, we have a hero. In every act of determination and courage on the sports field, we have heroes. In performing publicly as a music student, individual or as a group, we have heroes. In a grade 7 monitor putting up and taking down the South African flag every single day without fail, we have a hero. In our four best speakers operating at the highest level we have seen in years, we have heroes. The list goes on and on and on. Well done boys, understand what your achievements, big and small mean. You are my heroes. Keep it up. Keep fighting the good fight. And through your heroic acts, big and small, continue to make Graeme College the magnificent and special place that it is.

I believe that Graeme College is a community of heroes because of what it achieves with what it has. We remember David defeating Goliath because it was an unlikely outcome. Graeme College achieves beyond expectations time and time again. Graeme College is a modern-day David, staring down whatever it faces, because the battles are many and can be properly intimidating, and prevailing and emerging victorious, time and time again.

My challenge to all of us here today, as well as those who are not present, is that we will all have to be heroes if Graeme College is going to continue to succeed and flourish in the future. We will all have to continue to make sacrifices. As a teacher with a few decades of experience under the belt, I'm telling you that teaching at Graeme College is hard, but it is hard in a good way. Graeme College is a place of purpose where you know that the hardness of the work is okay, because it is making a proper difference in this community, and in this nation of South Africa. So to all of us, continue to be a David and continue to slay the Goliaths. This is a school that deserves it. And this is a school that is worth it.

God bless Africa, Guard her children, Guide her leaders, and give her peace. And let that peace begin with me
Virtute et Opera
Courage and Toil



SPORTING AWARDS

CRICKET

Riddin Trophy
for the most promising under 11 cricketer
Matthew Weber

Mallett Cup
for the most promising under 13 cricketer
Odwa Ndlazi

RUGBY

Federated Timbers Shield
for the most promising junior
Qhama Picane

Under 11 Rugby Cup
for the most promising under 11 player
Sonwabise Tonjeni and Lubambo Mabini

SQUASH

Van Hille Trophy
for the Under 11 Champion
Matthew Weber

The Bodenstein Trophy
for the Under 13 Champion
Morné Bodenstein

TENNIS

Under 11 Singles Champion Trophy
Josh Potts

Nelson Cup
for the under 11 doubles champions
Josh Potts and James Catto

Sergei van Niekerk Trophy
for the under 13 singles champion
Josh Potts

Allcock Junior Doubles Cup
for the under 13 doubles champions
Julian Boy and Bukho Yolani

ACADEMIC AWARDS

GRADE 4

Achievement
Matthew Weber, Evan Brauteseth, Arno Cloete, Isiphile Gadu, Lyall Goldschagg, Leo Labuschagne, Lunabile Manyati, Busanda Nelana, Tendai Nyakotyo, Owen O'linsky, Troy Smith

Diligence
Oswald le Roux

Excellence
Tavonga Madimu, Darian Smuts, Frederik Tladi

GRADE 5

Achievement
Patrick Bosman-Wisch, Liam Brooks, Jadon Byren, James Catto, Alexander Czeredrecki-Schmidt, Ciarin du Plessis, Benjamin Fox, Ayavuya Geelbooi, Ibanetaru Khelekethe, Amogelang Kulati, Swazi Sodo, Zukhanyo Sopotela

Diligence
Bathenkosi Kate

Excellence
Daniel Loest, Josh Potts, Live Solani

GRADE 6

Achievement
Daniel Coetsee, Alexander Goldschagg, Amzolele Gongqobe, Oliver Hart, Buyolo Mhasele, Thato Molefe, Baxter Robertson, Callen Steele, Christian Titus

Diligence
Linathi Ntabeni

Excellence
Gustav Jordan, Benjamin Shaw, Liam Viedge

GRADE 7

Achievement
Julian Boy, Carlon Brown, Mason de Vos, Eric Griffin, Jonathan Harris, Leo Malamis, Iminathi Mancam, Lunje Manyati, Uthmaan Motara, Iyanda Nodolwana, Travis Jackson

Imange Kiti *(Vernal isiXhosa Prize)*

Diligence
Hlangoluhle Jongile

Excellence
Morné Bodenstein *(Vernal Afrikaans Prize),* Gabriel Danilatos, Joel Chitsike *(Vernal English Prize)*

SPECIAL AWARDS

MUSIC PRIZES

Junior Music prize
Joel Chitsike

Service Award
Maphelo Matyholweni

The Shackleton Environmental Award
for initiative in environmental conservation
Benjamin Shaw

Maree Tarr Cup
for sportsmanship in the junior divisions
Lunje Manyati

Tom Campbell Cup
for good fellowship
Gabriel Danilatos

Du Toit Shield
for the best junior speaker
Benjamin Shaw

O'Kennedy Trophy
for the grade 7 dux
Morné Bodenstein

Searle Trophy
Leadership in the junior school
Morné Bodenstein

Ingwe Award
for valued contribution to school life
Joel Chitsike











JUNIOR ACADEMICS

Grade 7 report

~ Mr Andrew Swift

The grade 7s had a positive year and achieved a great deal – well done to them. The following teachers taught grade 7 in 2025:
Mr Dettmer (English); Mr Bodenstein (Afrikaans); Mr Xonxa (isiXhosa); Mr Xonxa (Social Sciences); Mr Swift (Natural Sciences); Mr Swift and Mr Fischer (Technology); Mr Xonxa, Mr Ngodwane, and Mr Sam (Life Orientation); Ms Banks and Ms Bussiahn (Creative Arts); and Mr Dettmer (EMS).

Leadership
The following boys served as monitors:
TERM 1
Julian Boy, Callum Cox, Gabriel Danilatos, Eric Griffin, Iminathi Mancam, Ngabo Mngxuma, Uthmaan Motara, Hamza Muhammad, Kholo Sam, Mihle Songca

TERM 2
Chad Amos, Morne Bodenstein, Othandwayo Booi, Sam Bulana, Joel Chitsike, Jonathan Harris, Tristan Killian, Miyanda Lombo, Lunje Manyati, Maphelo Matyholweni

The following boys were chosen to serve as monitors and monitor assistants during terms 3 and 4:
MONITORS
Morné Bodenstein; Othanwayo Booi; Joel Chitsike; Gabriel Danilatos; Samanga Bulana; Lunje Manyati; Uthmaan Motara; Jonathan Harris; Miyanda Lombo; Iminathi Mancam
MONITOR ASSISTANTS
Hamza Muhammad; Mihle Songca; Tristan Killian; Maphelo Matyholweni

The monitors and assistants worked hard and did a quality job. We trust that they learned a great deal about themselves, and about leadership and management. They assisted in a number of ways with the running of the school and were a great help to the teaching staff. We look forward to watching them lead and set the standard throughout their high school careers.

Legacy Project
The boys did a fantastic job in raising over R35 000 during our Big Walk. Participants were required to get sponsorship per kilometre, and then walk as much of the 21km route around Mountain Drive and back to the school, as possible. Although tough, they all approached the day with a can-do attitude. Our thanks to the grade 4, 5, and 6 classes for their support on the day. A big thank you also to the parents who walked with us and organised the finish line. The intention is to install pop-up sprinklers on the Junor B field during the course of 2026. What a great legacy to leave for Graeme College Junior – well done boys!

Grade 7 Camp
The grade 7 boys and teachers travelled to the Yellowsands campsite for a two-night, three-day camp. Mr Swift and Mr Xonxa were joined by Mr Kilian, Mr Cekiso and Mr Barber. It was a thoroughly enjoyable time. We started at the Steve Biko Centre in Qonce for an informative lecture. At Yellowsands everyone participated in various group activities on the beach, like a sandcastle building competition, a beach hike to Glengariff and back, a simulation of a rescue by constructing a stretcher made of found resources, and general fun camping. The camp ended with an ice-cream in Port Alfred on the way back to town.

Rondebosch Exchange
2025 saw the Rondebosch Exchange happening for the third time. A group of learners from Rondebosch Boys' Primary School, accompanied by Ms Lennox and Ms Mullins, joined us at the end of the second term for a tremendous Eastern Cape experience which included a pineapple farm tour (with Mr Muir), a visit to Backyard Braai in Joza, and a game drive at Amakhala Private Game Reserve (thanks to Dr Gush). Our host parents were wonderful in the way that they opened their homes to our Rondebosch visitors, and supported the exchange in every way possible.

A group of Graeme College boys went to Cape Town at the end of term 3. Their visit included a trip to Robben Island, taking the cable way to the top of Table Mountain, a visit to the Kirstenbosch Gardens, a visit to Bo-Kaap to make samosas, and a Peninsula Red Bus Tour. A huge thank you to: Rondebosch Boys' Primary School, and Ms Lennox and Ms Mullins, the Rondebosch host parents, and to Ms Danilatos and Mr Dettmer for accompanying the Graeme College learners. A great experience was had by all.

General
The grade 7 teachers really enjoyed watching the learners grow and mature during the year. This was particularly noticeable in term 3 and term 4 where

a great number really started taking responsibility for their academics. We trust that they will commit their hearts and minds to contributing to growing a world-class school during their time at the College.

Mrs (and Mr) Bodenstein organised the grade 7 farewell at the end of term 4. It was a festive and celebratory occasion where we were able to send the learners off to grade 8 with a bang. Each boy received a memento of a beautiful water bottle, inscribed with the words, "I am a Son of the Leopard"

A big thank you to the grade 7 parents for all of their support throughout the year. It was much appreciated and added so much value to the year.



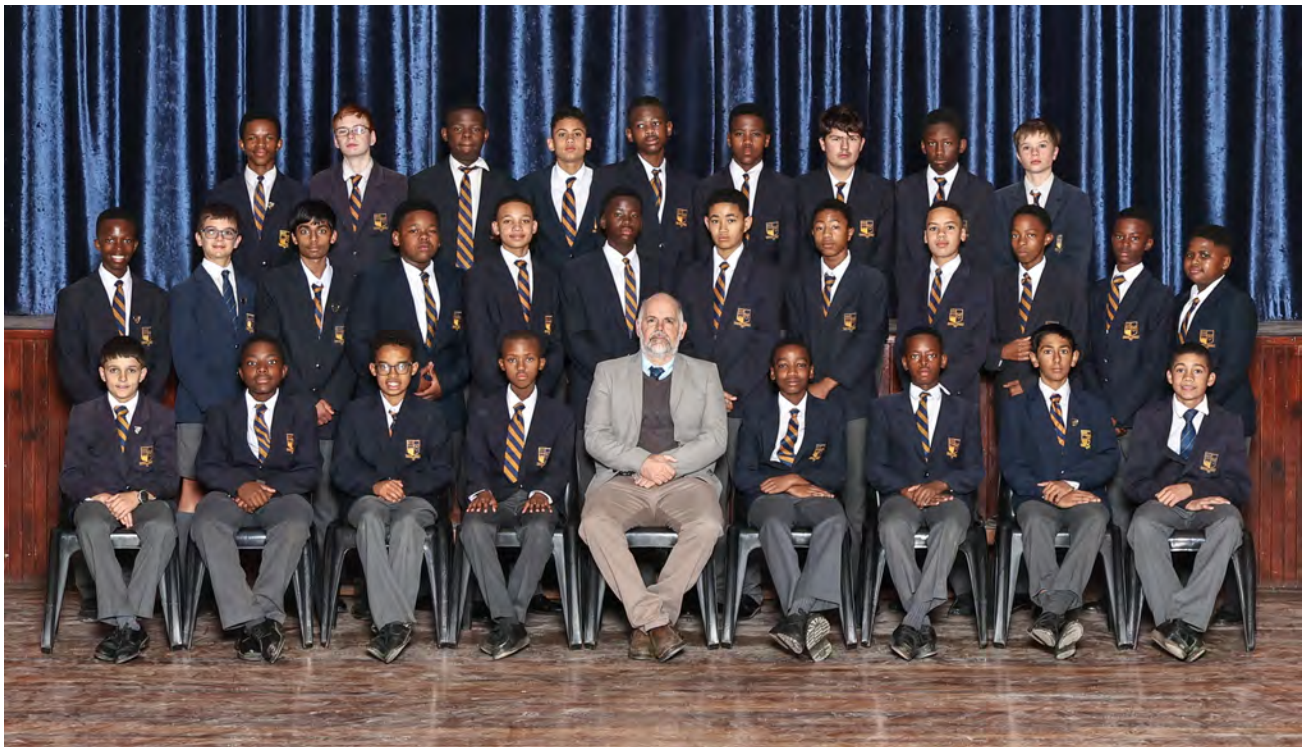










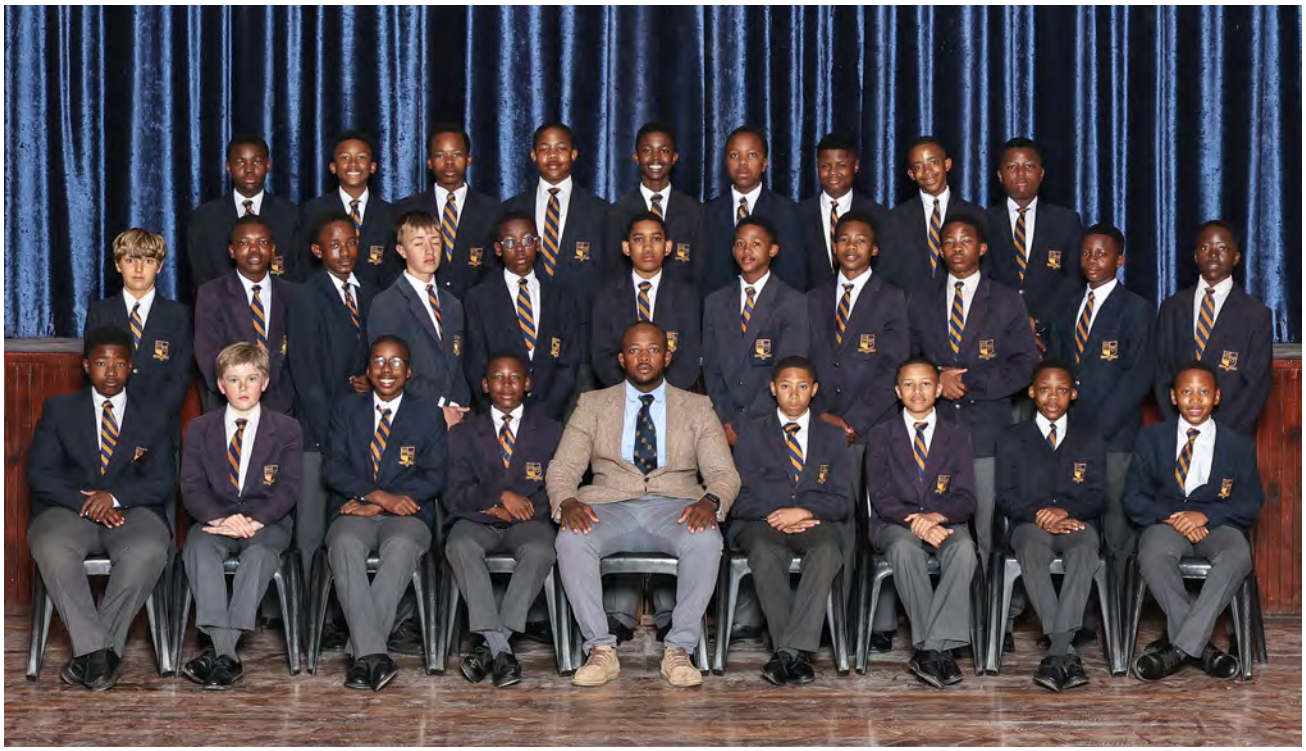


GRADE 7AS

Back: Othandwayo Booi, Tristan Killian, Kungawo Kalashe, Eushjean September, Ntlakanipho Bamla, Liyema Mali, Chad Amos, Kamva Mayalo, Julian Boy

Middle: Lunje Manyati, Morne Bodenstein, Hamza Muhammad, Zozi Skweyiya, Carlon Brown, Owethu Faltein, Mason Sias, Maphelo Matyholweni, Kyan van Vught, Lihlumile Masa, Luniko Plaatjie, Miyanda Lombo

Seated: Gabriel Danilatos, Iyanda Nodolwana, Joel Chitsike, Iminathi Mancam, Mr Andrew Swift, Alupheli Dondashe, Lingomso Sisusa, Uthmaan Motara, Mason de Vos



GRADE 7OX

Back: Isenam Maswana, Qamisa Matshaya, Kholo Sam, Bumnandi Tonjeni, Ukhanye Ndanda, Bombethu Radu, Imange Kiti, Samanga Bulana, Mihle Songca.

Middle: Leo Malamis, Odwa Ndlazi, Lihlonele Kulati, Joshua Banfield, Kungawo Nqumama, Cameron Peterson, Aaron Langley, Qhamokuhle Picane, Ngabo Mngxuma, Lunathi Gxowa, Hlangokuhle Jongile.

Seated: Lindokuhle Mtana, Eric Griffin, Onothando Mbanzi, Bukhobenkosi Yolani, Mr Odwa Xonxa, Sergio Peters, Callum Cox, Banathi-Landa Bikitsha, Semelwe Mbuyaphi.

Grade 6 report

~ Mr Dylan Schneigansz

The grade 6 group embraced another exciting year filled with new challenges, new expectations, and new teachers. This wonderful bunch of learners approached every obstacle with maturity, enthusiasm, and a readiness to grow from the very first day. Their positive attitude and willingness to work hard made them an absolute pleasure to teach.

Academically, the grade 6 learners showed exceptional dedication, particularly in mathematics. A large number of learners consistently operated in the 90% range, a testament to their discipline and determination.

Special congratulations must go to Ben Shaw, who achieved a remarkable 100% for Mathematics in term 2, and Gustav Jordaan, who matched this outstanding feat with 100% in term 3. These outstanding results were earned despite the pressure from a strong group of high achievers such as Baxter Robertson, Alexander Goldschagg, and Callen Steele, whose hard work set a high standard in the classroom. We also celebrate Oliver Hart, who achieved an exceptional 100% for Afrikaans, a truly commendable accomplishment.

Academics reached further heights this year when Ben Shaw represented Graeme College at the Regional Science Expo held at Rhodes University. In an outstanding achievement for a grade 6 learner, Ben received both the WESSA Prize for the Best Junior Environmental Project and the Chemistry Prize for the Top Junior Project. His commitment to scientific inquiry and environmental awareness made these accolades thoroughly well deserved.

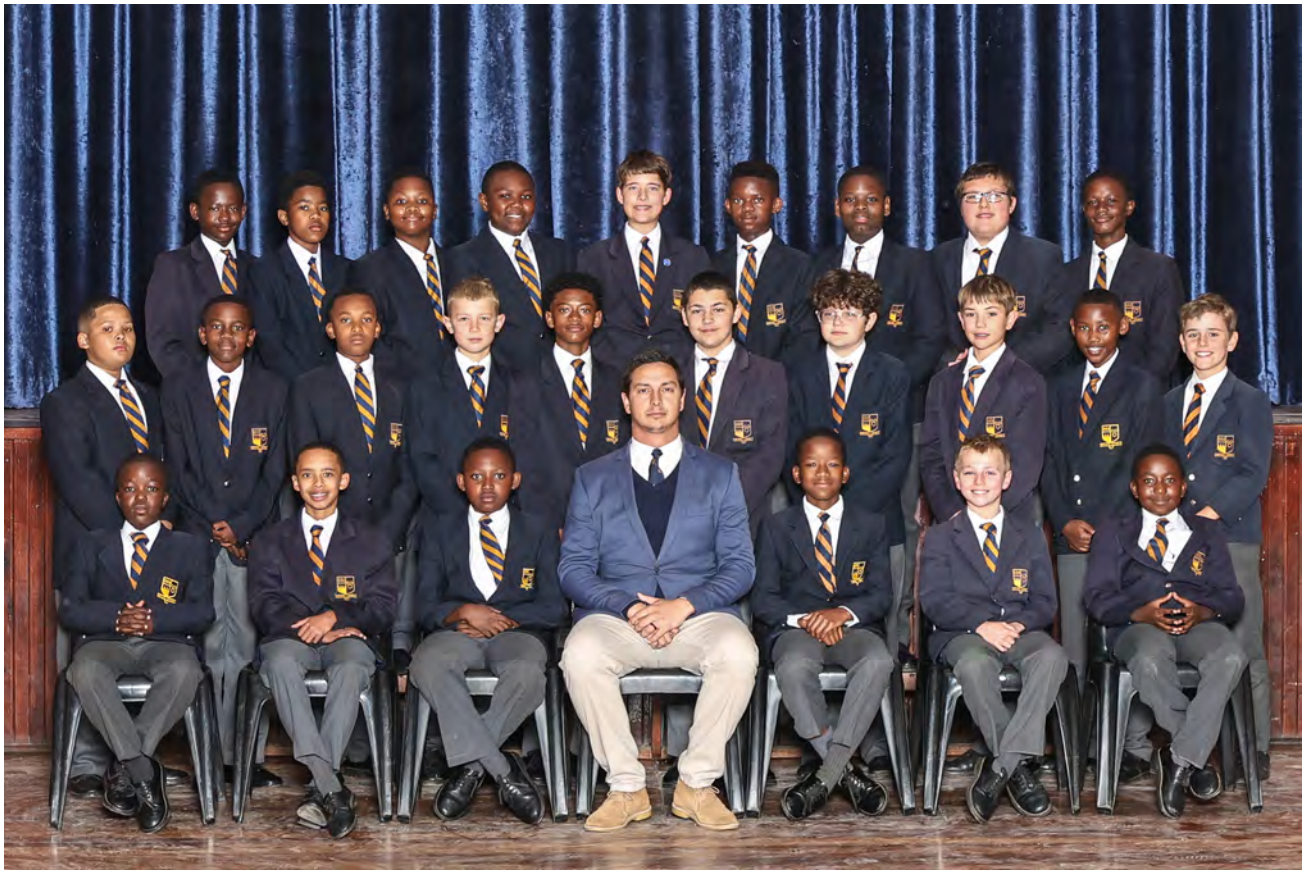
The Best Speakers' competition remains a firm favourite among the language enthusiasts, and this year's performances certainly did not disappoint. Congratulations to: Ben Shaw(English); Linathi Ntabeni (isiXhosa); and Liam Viedge (Afrikaans). Their composure and mastery of language made them worthy winners.

In the cultural and creative arts sphere, a number of grade 6 boys excelled. At the annual Johan Carinus Art Exhibition. Gerrit Cloete received a Gold Award, Thato Molefe a Silver Award, and Gustav Jordaan a Bronze Award, showcasing the artistic talent within the group. Another highlight was the marimba band, with Kazimla Kili, Kunaishe Magadza, and Botle Molefe bringing energy and rhythm to every performance. Assemblies were often enriched by the musical brilliance of Ben Shaw and Liam Viedge on the piano, joined by fellow instrumentalists Tyler Terblanche, Keanu Goliath, Kazimla Kili, and Buyolo Mhasele.

The sporting arena was equally impressive, with the grade 6 learners stepping up confidently in the demanding under 13 age groups, across multiple disciplines:
Rugby: Daniel Coetsee, Miyolo Baliso, and Amzo Gongqobe earned selection for the under 13A rugby team, demonstrating strength, determination, and skill on the field.
Cricket: The under 13A cricket side included Daniel Coetsee, Linathi Ntabeni, and Christian Kemp, who represented the school with pride. A special mention must be made of Amzo Gongqobe, who had an outstanding season for the under 13B cricket team, scoring an impressive 338 runs, including two 40 (not out) innings*, one 50, and a thrilling century.
Tennis: The under 13A tennis team featured committed grade 6 players such as Gustav Jordaan and Amzo Gongqobe.
Squash: The under13A squash team proudly included Daniel Coetsee, Ongi Nongauza, and Oliver Hart.
Hockey: The under13A hockey side benefited from the efforts of Christian Titus, Tayo Ndulelisa, Keanu Goliath, Ongezile Nongauza, and Oliver Hart, all of whom contributed positively throughout the season.

One of the major highlights of the year was the annual Big Walk for grades 6 and 7; a gruelling 21 km challenge that is certainly not for the faint-hearted. The boys embraced the demanding route with enthusiasm, camaraderie, and resilience, turning a tough challenge into a day filled with fun, friendship, and unforgettable memories.

Overall, 2025 has been a truly rewarding year. Watching these young learners grow in confidence, skill, and character has been a privilege. The grade 6 group has shown that they are capable, resilient, and ready to take on the challenges of grade 7 and beyond. We look forward to their continued success in the years ahead.



GRADE 6DS

Back: Linathi Ntabeni, Kazimla Kili,Libhongo Kom, Kunaishe Magadza, Ben Shaw, Mibongo Mbaba, Kungawo Makaula, Alexander Goldschagg, Amzolele Gongqobe

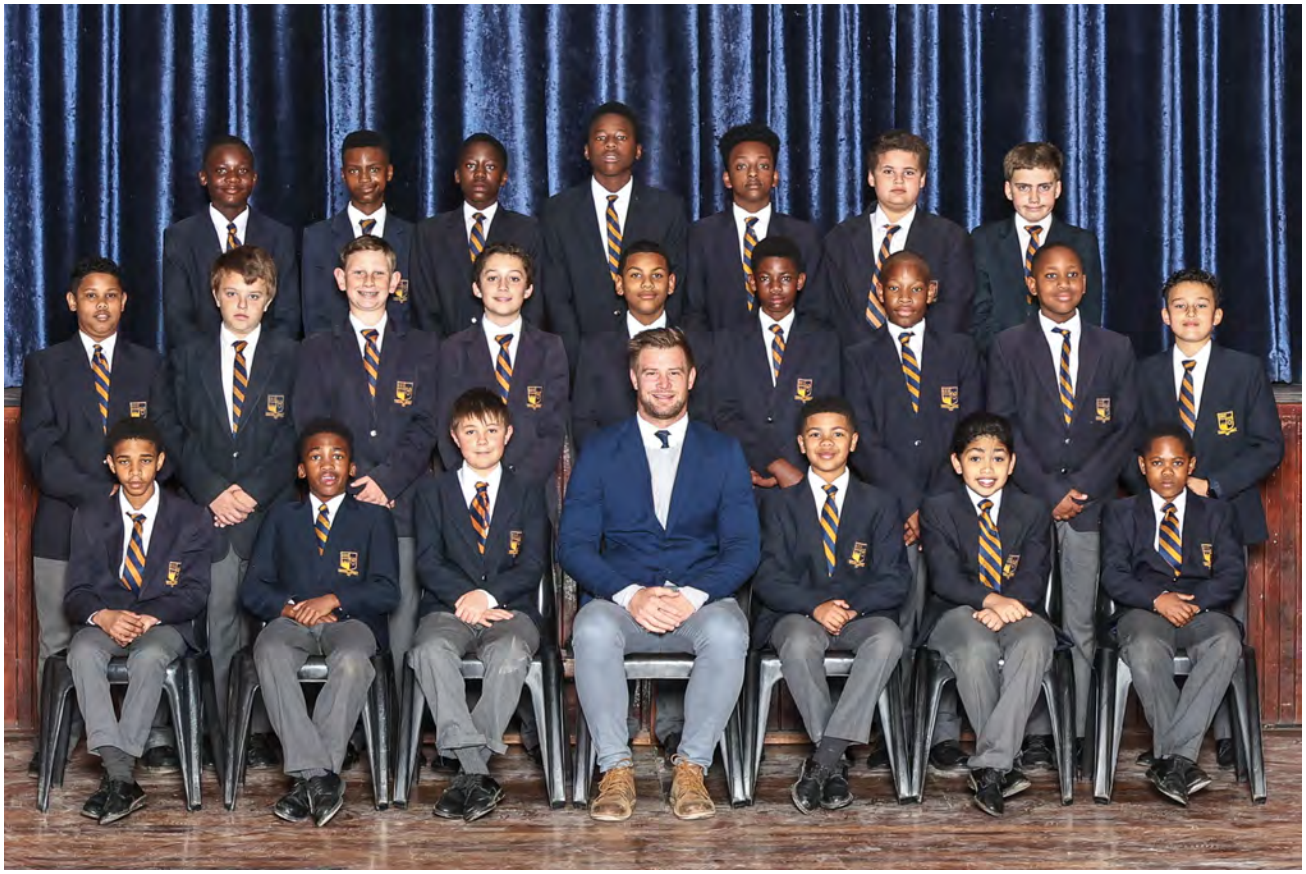
Middle: Ezlin Swartz, Thato Molefe, Kamogelo, Gerrit Cloete, Tayo Ndulelisa, Tyler Terblanche, Baxter Robertson, Daniel Coetsee, Iviwe Sitsila, Gustav Jordaan

Seated: Songo Ngqoyiya, Keanu Goliath, Abongwe Cekiso, Mr Dylan Schneigansz, Ongezile Nonguaza, Oliver Hart, Botle Molefe









GRADE 6KF

Back:Buyolo Mhasle; Sithaba Mathibe; Amkele Mqubuli; Miyolo Baliso; Jonathan Kebede; Clifford Gunkel; Christiaan Havenga.

Middle: Paden Nosib; Michael Van der berg; Christian Kemp; Callen Steele; Damon Isaacs; Mtombothando; Makeba; Liso Notyeke; Inam Mzimba; Christian Titus.

Seated: Liam Roberts; Alunamida Makeba; Liam Viedge; Mr Keagan Fischer; Cee-Jay Marais, Connor Mollor; Oluthando Magopeni.









GRADE 5

Grade 5 report

~ Mr Johannes Bodenstein

It has been an exciting and busy year for our grade 5 learners. From academics to sports, and everything in between, the grade 5s have truly made us proud in 2025.

Academic achievements
Several boys excelled in their studies this year. Congratulations to our top 3 academic achievers: Daniel Loest, Josh Potts, and Live Solani. Well done, boys, on your outstanding commitment and hard work.

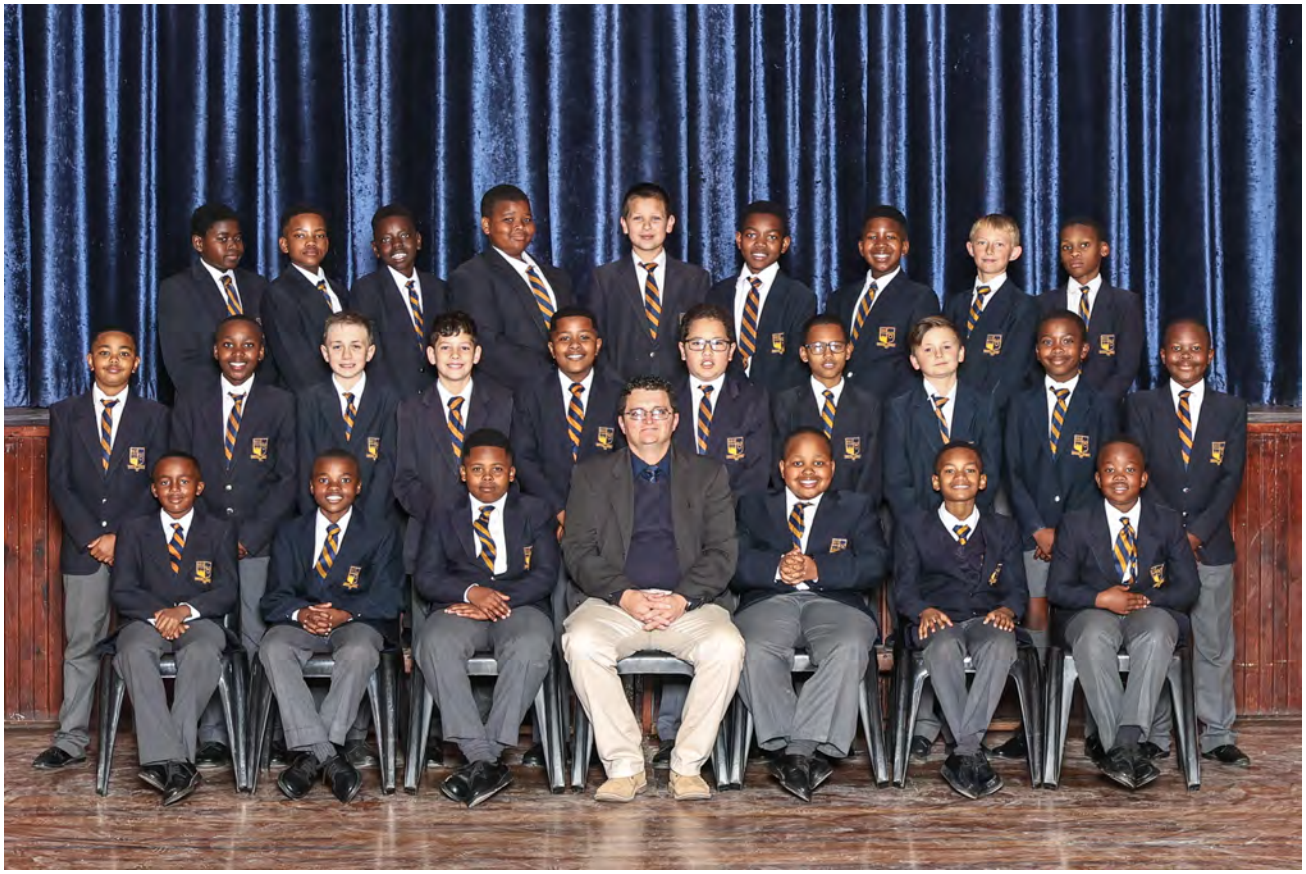
Best Speakers' competition
Every year, we host the much-anticipated Best Speakers' Competition. Congratulations to the following winners: Bilaal Motara (English), Roland Roux (Afrikaans), and Liyakhanya Ntabeni (isiXhosa). Your confidence and eloquence shone brightly—well done to all participants!

Sporting successes
The grade 5 learners were very active on the sports front this year.
Cricket: Congratulations to Daniel Burger and Liam Brooks, who were both selected for the under 11A EP team – a fantastic achievement!
Horse riding: Patrick Bosman-Wisch impressed everyone in his first year of competitions.
Fishing and tennis: Josh Potts showcased his talent by performing exceptionally well in both fishing and tennis events.
Swimming and lifesaving: Ben Fox had a busy and successful swimming and lifesaving season, participating in numerous galas and earning several medals.
Well done to all our sportsmen for their dedication and effort throughout the year!

Camps and outings
Our annual camp at Beggars Bush was, once again, a highlight of the year. The learners had a fantastic time enjoying outdoor adventures and team-building activities. We were also fortunate to be invited to the Amakhala Game Reserve for their annual Rhino Awareness Day. The boys learned a great deal about wildlife conservation while having plenty of fun.

It has truly been a memorable year, filled with learning, laughter, and achievement. Well done, grade 5 boys – you made 2025 a year to remember!





GRADE 5JB

Back: Onelani Dick(Toll), Luniko Kolisi, Tine Mususa, Swazi Sodo, JP Van Der Walt, Efosa Mabumbulu, Phawo Blaauw, Daniel Loest, Lina Mbhadeko.

Middle: Liam Brooks, Sima Mtsishe, Patrick Bosman-Wisch, Ben Fox, Avu Sideba, Ty Cannon, Maureez Prince, Alex Czeredrecki-Schmidt, Etha Makeba, Live Solani.

Seated: Bathi Kate, Ayola Moko, Siphe Magopeni, Mr Johannes Bodenstein, Bulumko Nxele, Amo Kulati, Lubambo Matshaya.

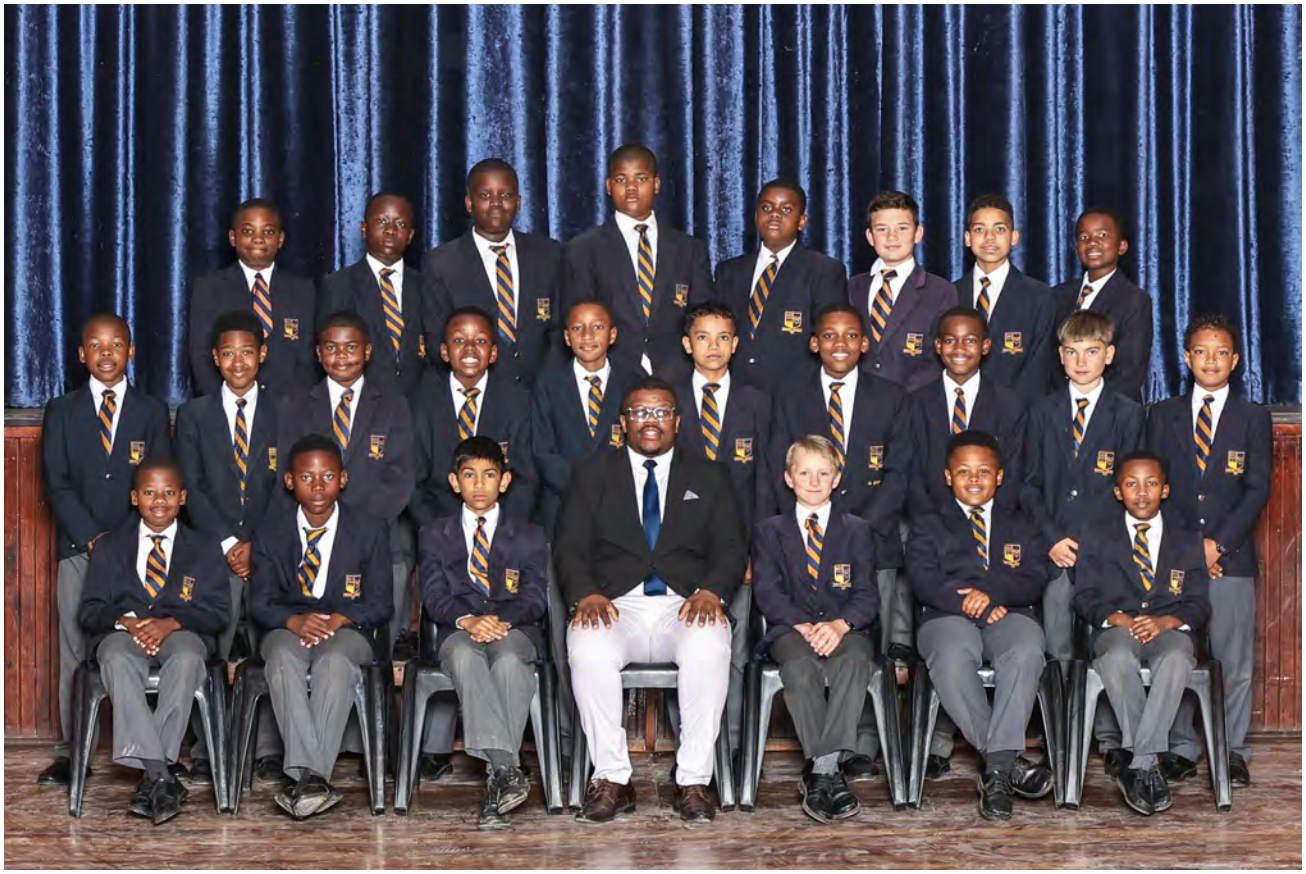












GRADE 5LM

Back: Onalerona Vundisa, Likuwe Muluse, Liqhame Xauka, Sonwabise-Sonke Tonjeni, Azola Jadezweni, Jadon Byren, Daniel Burger, Luphumlo Makhalima

Middle: Othandwayo Peter, Zukhanyo Sopotela, Esihle Flack, Lubambo Mabini, Usiphile Mantla, Laik Santos-Osman, Alulutho Bonga, Liwa Maxhaulana, Josh Potts, Ciarin Du Plessis

Seated: Qhayiyalethu Khalipa, Ibanetaru Khelekhethe, Bilaal Motara, Mr Liyema Mafane, James Catto, Liyakhanya Ntabeni, Lulo-Babalo-Lwenkosi Mbambo











Grade 4 report

~ Mrs Mariska Greyling and Mrs Naomi Danilatos

A large group of enthusiastic learners from various schools joined us in 2025, and they quickly became part of the Graeme College family. It was especially pleasing to see how many pupils participated in extramural activities throughout the year.

This year we focused a lot on reading, and completed four set-work books. One of the highlights was *The Hundred-Mile-an-Hour Dog* by Jeremy Strong, which the boys especially enjoyed because of its sense of humour. We also read *Ace and Babe* by Dick King-Smith and later watched the movie, *Babe*, to compare the book and the film. In addition, we read *My Family and Other Animals* by Gerald Durrell, which gave us plenty to discuss and explore. Altogether, our reading journey this year was fun, engaging, and full of variety.

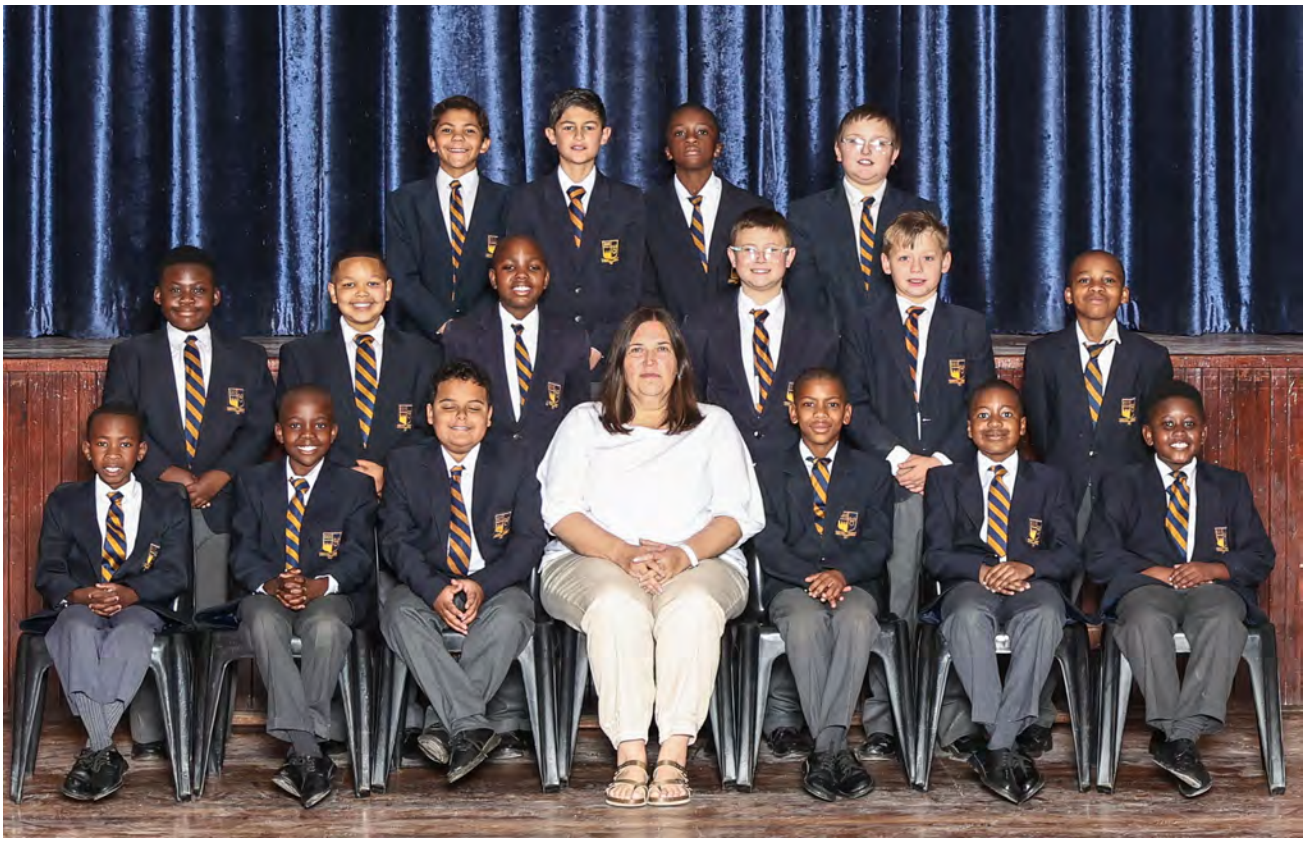
The grade 4 learners enjoyed an exciting outing to Amakhala Game Reserve, where we were fortunate to see many animals up close. The outing turned out to be one of the highlights of the year. The learners were filled with excitement as we set off on the game drive, eager to spot as many animals as possible. The rangers shared fascinating facts about the wildlife and the reserve, keeping everyone engaged and curious. We were lucky to see a wide variety of animals–zebras grazing peacefully, elephants, giraffes stretching high into the treetops and herds of antelope moving gracefully through the grasslands. We even saw lions! The boys' faces lit up with amazement each time a new animal appeared. For many, it was their first time seeing some of these creatures in their natural habitat. The outing was not only educational but also a memorable adventure that brought the learners even closer together. It is a day that they will remember for years to come.

In technology, we explored a variety of creative and hands-on projects. We began by making clay creatures, which helped us learn about shaping, structure, and design. We then folded origami whales, practising precision and patience while working with paper. We also conducted a balloon experiment that introduced us to basic scientific principles in a fun and interactive way. We wrapped up the year by creating a planet mobile, combining art and science to represent the solar system in a colourful, dynamic display. Overall, the projects made the year both educational and enjoyable.

In the final weeks of the term, the grade 4s embraced the Christmas spirit with great enthusiasm. We listened to and sang along with Christmas carols while decorating our class Christmas tree. The learners created beautiful, crafty decorations and cards.

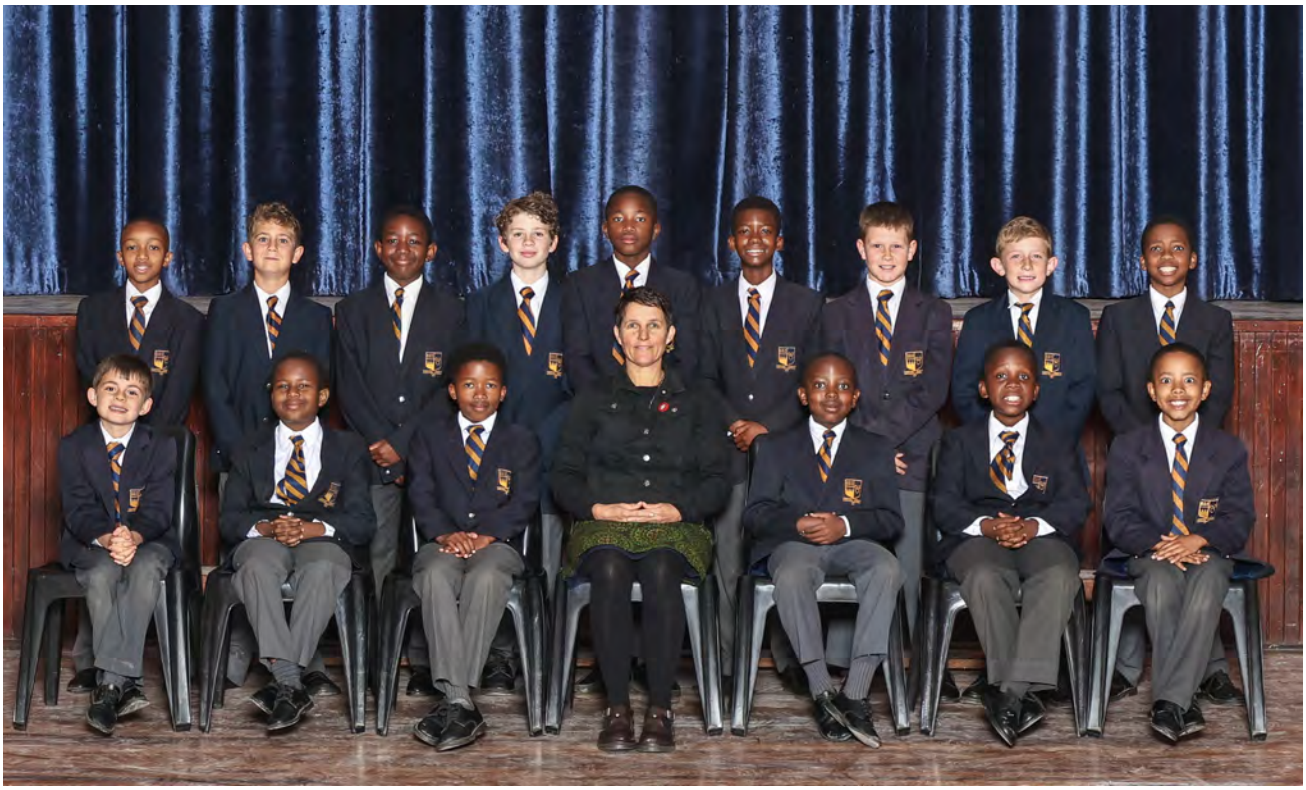
We are truly going to miss this wonderful group of boys! We hope they will visit us often as they continue their school journey.





GRADE 4MG

Back: Frederik Tladi, Owen O'linsky, Tine Muzah, Lyall Goldschagg
Middle: Landa Nqebe, Oswald le Roux, Tendai Nyakotyo, Tion Coetzee, Mason Richter, Hlela Qalaka
Seated: Kulungile Matshoba, Isiphile Gadu, Luka Greyling, Mrs Mariska Greyling, Luminathi Mkalipi, Tavonga Madimu, Ongako Budaza



GRADE 4ND

Back: Busanda Nelana, Troy Smith, Uyiyonke Kwatsha, Evan Brauteseth, Alunambaliso Msimeko, Lunabile Manyati, Matthew Weber, Arno Cloete, Uminathi Deu
Seated: Leo Labuschagne, Ande Madikida, Luyakha Matshaya, Mrs Naomi Danilatos, Miyolo Pango, Indiphile Vara, Darian Smuts

Grade 4 Library

~ Mrs Candice Tidbury

Grade 4 library classes consisted of some fun brain breaks and ice-breakers like the concentration chant and hand-clapping game, bilateral hand and finger challenges, and the toes-in game. These are valuable tools to help reset the brain, improve focus and concentration, reduce stress and create a relaxed atmosphere so that children are comfortable and ready to learn and proceed to the next activity. During our library classes, the grade 4s had some silent reading sessions, as well as read-alouds. Sometimes we took advantage of the beautiful weather and gathered outdoors to enjoy our books. On other days the learners chose educational and strategy games to play, such as chess, card games, Cluedo and IQ games, or relaxing activities such as building blocks, writing and drawing.

Grade 4ND's read-aloud was *Fantastic Mr Fox* by Roald Dahl. Before the book was revealed, a game of Hangman was played to guess the title. The learners attended each library lesson with curiosity to hear what plans the three farmers had devised, and what Mr Fox, his family, and friends would do next. Some also volunteered to read to their classmates and formulated their own ideas as to what would happen next.

Several grade 4MG boys were keen to take turns to read a few pages of *Esio Trot* by Roald Dahl to their peers. Interactive and thoughtful discussions took place, and each learner had the opportunity to write and read the special tortoise poem backwards, and draw their very own tortoise.

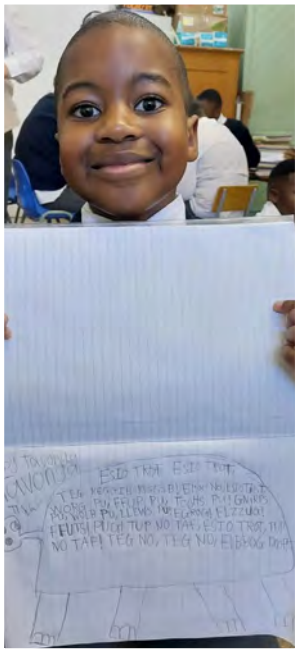
The last read-aloud for the year was *The Butterfly Lion* by Michael Morpurgo. The story intrigued the learners as they discovered what school was like for children in boarding school in England, and they imagined what people went through during the First World War. This book provided lessons on bravery, friendship, loyalty and animals.











Grade 4s take on Amakhala Game Reserve: What a wild adventure!

The grade 4 learners had an absolutely thrilling day exploring Amakhala Game Reserve. It was non-stop adventure from the moment they arrived. They spotted majestic elephants, powerful rhinos and a variety of other fascinating wildlife that had everyone wide-eyed with excitement. The day was packed with unforgettable moments, a picnic in the great outdoors, exciting activities at the Conservation Centre, and even a guided bush walk where they learned all about the wonders of the wild up close. This was more than just a school outing; it was a day of discovery, connection with nature, and pure adventure. What an epic way to learn outside the classroom!









Computer Literacy

~ Ms Jacqui de Jonge

Computer literacy is a broad subject taught from grade 1 to grade 9, but a common theme throughout is learning skills necessary for modern life and academics, while still having fun as we go!

The grade 1s started learning the basics: how to sign in and use a mouse to draw in Microsoft Paint. By the end of the year, they were able to navigate the internet and play educational games as directed.

Grade 2 and grade 3 build on what they learned in grade 1, but with the inclusion of typing skills. By grade 4, learners earn a certificate for typing. Well done to all those who successfully completed their certificate. The grade 4s also receive a Graeme College email address and practice using it. Parents may start receiving emails from their sons during class time at this stage.

Grades 5 and 6 focus on skills required for class projects, like internet research, Canva designs, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft PowerPoint.

Grade 7s focus mainly on high school preparation skills in the Microsoft Office Suite. Grade 8 and grade 9 continue with this, alongside basic coding. The highlight of 2025 was the grade 7 t-shirt design competition. Learners use Canva to create their designs, and the winner from each class receives a shirt with their design on it.



Grade 7 t-shirt design winners: Owethu Faltain (left), Bombethu Radu (right).





There is a dark side to modern technology: AI plagiarism; scammers, cyberbullying, and the risk of an unsupervised minor on the internet. Whilst all effort has been made to explain these issues at an age appropriate level in class, I would strongly advise parents to keep an eye on what their children are doing when on the laptop or phone at home. A recent example of this is the dangers of AI advice and risk of interaction with strangers on Roblox. Please be careful.

Some safe sites for little ones:
https://www.typing.com/
https://www.roomrecess.com/
https://www.friv4school.com/



Music

The Junior School Music Department is alive with the sound of creativity, collaboration, and growing passion. From the first tentative notes in the classroom to confident performances on stage, our young musicians are discovering the joy and power of making music – both together and on their own.

Over the past year, the department has seen remarkable enthusiasm for performance, with students embracing every opportunity to share their talents, both in the classroom and out. The choir and the marimba bands have flourished this year. Notable performances for the choir include: Junior Assembly with a rendition of *Siyahamba*; a community music concert at which Mr Pretorius introduced them as "the baby bomb squad" where they performed with gusto to match that glowing title; and the Carols Concert at Victoria Primary School where the choir was honoured to share the stage with our sister school.

Both marimba bands entertained parents at the junior prizegiving, and we certainly hope to see more of their enthusiasm in 2026.

Solo performers have stepped into the spotlight with confidence, developing not only their technical skills but also their sense of self-expression and stage presence. Joel Chitsike and Benjamin Shaw performed at the junior prizegiving, receiving tremendous applause for their hard work and excellent presentation. Many other learners have performed at various assemblies, including our pianists, Bilaal Motara, Zukhanyo Sopotela, Troy Smith, and Mapelo Matyholweni, as well as Samanga Bulana on the clarinet, and a wonderful performance from Luca Greyling on the snare drum accompanying our own Mr Pretorius on the trumpet.



Grit the Leopard was presented to the Junior Choir in recognition of their outstanding performance at the community music concert in August in Templeton Hall at Graeme College.

Four new musicians shone at the junior school prizegiving: Willem Olivier and Jack Tidbury on piano; Fynn Trauernicht on guitar; and Samila Dyantyi who wowed the crowd with his vocal skills.

What has been truly inspiring has been seeing how the learners encourage one another. Whether performing in a large ensemble or tackling a solo piece for the first time, there has been a real sense of community and pride in every performance. The music department has been constantly alive with students popping in for a quick rehearsal at break times, and ever curious minds looking for new outlets and experiences. Music classes have been just as loud and passionate with various assignments where groups could showcase their fun-tastic beats, create dramatic reenactments of African short stories, play solo prepared works or just get the class started with a favorite song of the week, singing with such confidence, excitement, and energy.

The future of music at Graeme College looks bright. Plans are already underway to expand performance opportunities, from intimate recitals to interschool festivals. With such growing enthusiasm, it's clear that music will continue to play a vital role in shaping confident, creative learners who understand the value of harmony – both in music and in life. As the department looks ahead, one thing is certain: the sound of our students' passion will keep ringing out for years to come.

















JUNIOR SPORT

CRICKET

Junior Cricket report

~ Mr Sean Kilian

The junior cricket teams enjoyed a successful season in 2025. The A and B teams played matches every Saturday and the C and D teams played on Mondays and Wednesdays. The majority of the under 13A and six of the under 11A team attended the Albany cricket trials hosted in the Graeme College Indoor Sports Centre.

Graeme College fielded nine teams that played hardball cricket from under 9 to under 13, and continued with the ever-successful Mini Cricket – the Leopard's cricket program. Leopard's cricket has made massive strides and, with all of the cricketers practicing on Saturdays, they have become used to committing themselves to playing over weekends. The program also introduced the grade Rs to cricket in term 4, which was a worthwhile venture enjoyed by all who attended

Nine cricketers in the primary school represented Eastern Province in 2025: Odwa Ndlazi and Qhama Picane (under 13A), Bukho Yolani (under 13B), Aaron Langley, Julian Boy and Linathi Ntabeni (under 13C), Matthew Weber and Liam Brooks (under 11A), and Daniel Burger (under 11B).

The under 11A EP red team won the provincial week hosted in Gauteng. Well done to Liam Brooks and Matthew Weber for their contributions at the week

Mr Kilian and Mr Schneigansz were instrumental in Albany and EP cricket trials as under 11 and under 13 selectors, and served the Albany district with integrity, ensuring all players had a fair chance at representing their district and province.

For 2025, Odwa Ndlazi was awarded Most Promising Cricketer in the primary school, Qhama Picane was recognised as Player of the Year, and Mathew Weber received the under 11 Cricketer of the Year award.

The under 9A cricket team remained undefeated in 2025. The team played brilliantly across the province, developing their skills, and gaining exposure. Mini tours to Queenstown and Graaff-Reniet were enjoyed by the team. Noteable wins were recorded against St Andrew's Preparatory, Queen's College and Selborne College. Players who stood out were Blaine Horne, Zac van der Merwe, Jaundre Knoetze, Corné van Rooyen, and Jack Tidbury. The most improved player of 2025 was Cody Oerson

The under 11A team had a successful season and ended their campaign strongly winning all of their matches in the third and fourth terms. The highlight of the fourth term was the knock of 150 not out scored by Frederik Tladi vs Hangklip Primary School on Junor B. Matthew Weber and Josh Potts were consistent with bat and ball, and should commended on an excellent year. Well done also to Liam Brooks and Daniel Burger who represented Albany and EP in 2025.



The under 11B side also had a centurion in Dean Venter, who scored 110 not out vs Muir College. Dean was assisted by Lunabile Manyati who scored 91 in the same match, and the two enjoyed a 212-run partnership. Liya Ntebeni took six wickets in the one-sided affair on Junor. Massive strides were made by the under 11C and D teams in 2025. The coaches and players showed great determination and patience and enjoyed victories over strong opposition. Ayavuya Geelbooi was a shining light who scored 56 runs in a win over Grahamstown Primary under 11A in the last match of the season.

The under 13A team enjoyed their annual tour to the Knysna Cricket Festival and gained valuable experience in this pre-season festival. Three matches were played at the festival. This festival provides players with an opportunity to compete against schools from the Western Cape, predominantly from Cape Town and Somerset West.

Graeme College welcomed The Ridge from Johannesburg for their annual trip to Makhanda. Our cricketers enjoyed this fixture, and it provided good competition, and the opportunity to show-case their skills against different opposition. A new addition to the cricket calendar was a fixture against Hangklip Primary School from Komani.

The under 13B side, coached Mr Cekiso, enjoyed a healthy win rate of 80%. The highlight was a century scored by Amzo Gonqobe in the final match of the season against Herbert Hurd.

The under 13C team, coached with enthusiasm by Mr Dettmer, provided depth, and achievd some excellent results playing against A teams in the Albany area. Graeme College would like to thank Grahamstown Primary School, Oatlands Preparatory, and Port Alfred Junior School for bringing under 13 teams to play on Junor Field.

The grade 7 Legacy Project and the Graeme College coaching and estate staff have put a lot of effort into improving the Junor cricket fields. The new irrigation system on Junor A field is testament to the hard work, and fundraising towards this has been a monumental task. The irrigation system is up and running on Junor A and further expansion to Junor B and Junor C can be expected in 2026.

We would like to thank the Graeme College junior cricket parents for their support and efforts at the Junor fields. The grade 7 legacy project has contributed positively to the Junor facility, and teams can now enjoy their new Home and Away changing rooms, and new bathroom facilities.

Mr Lensley has been the driving force behind Leopard's cricket on Fridays and Saturdays, and we thank him for all that he does to help these Leopard cubs improve.

We wish all of the under 13 cricketers well, and hope they continue to enjoy the game and progress positively as they move to under 14.




GRAEME COLLEGE





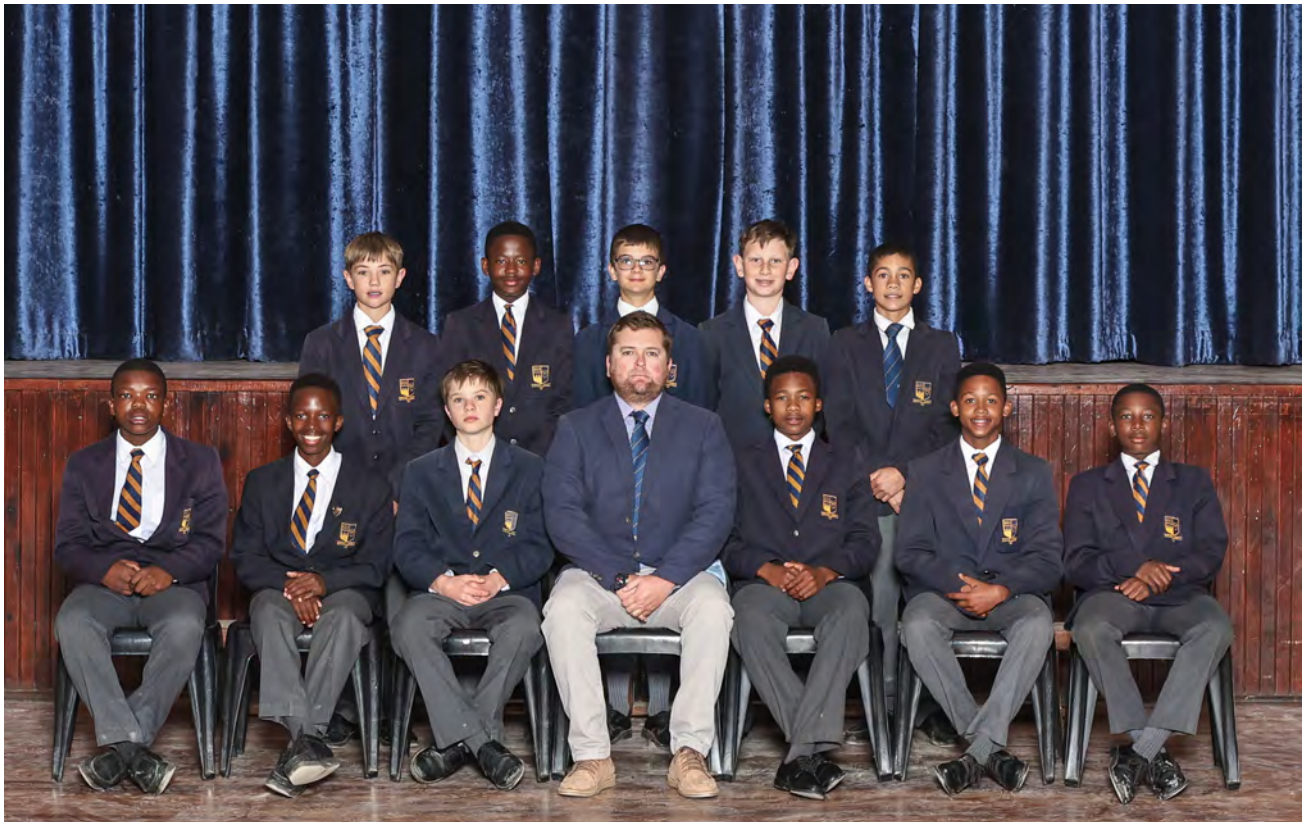

GRAEME COLLEGE
NAARTJIE


COLLEGE



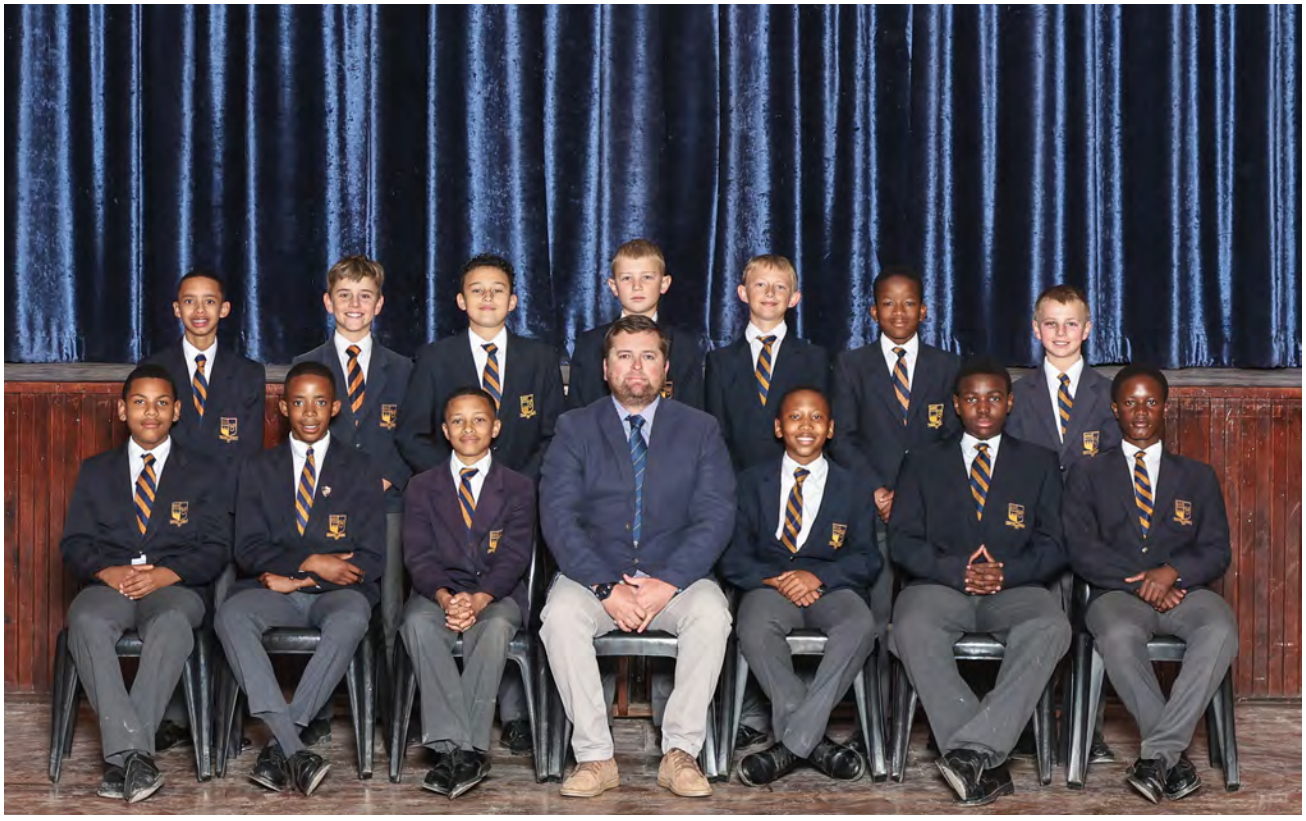






UNDER 13A CRICKET

Back: Daniel Coetsee, Linathi Ntabeni, Morne Bodenstein, Christian Kemp, Mason de Vos
Seated: Odwa Ndlazi, Lunje Manyati, Julian Boy (c), Mr Sean Kilian, Qhama Picane, Aaron Langley, Bukho Yolani



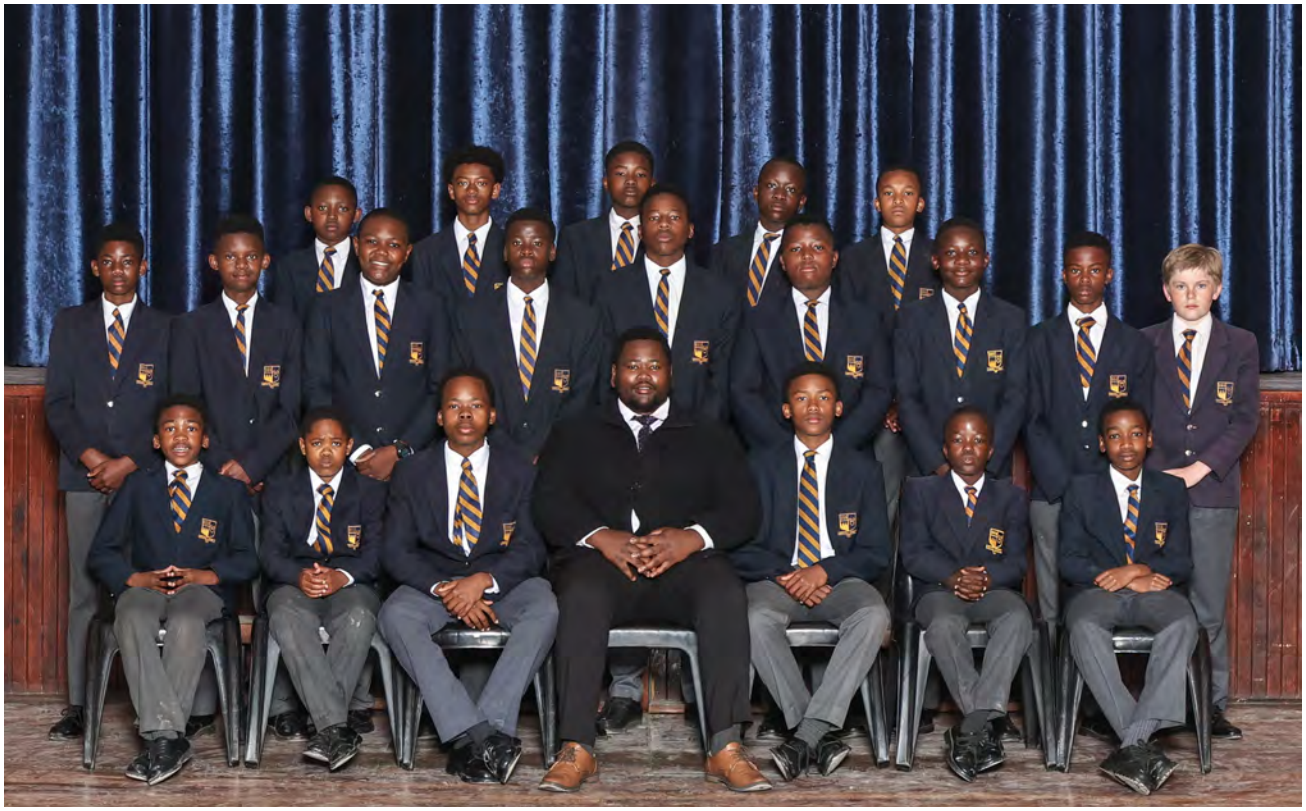
UNDER 13B CRICKET

Back: Keanu Goliath, Gustav Jordaan, Christian Titus,Gerrit Cloete, Ongezile Nongauza, Oliver Hart
Seated: Damon Isaacs, Samanga Bulana, Callum Cox, Mr Sean Kilian, Simelwe Mbuyephi, Isenam Maswana, Amzo Gongqobe

Under 13C Cricket

~ Mr Nicholas Dettmer

The under 13C cricket team enjoyed an incredible season marked by growth, commitment and genuine fun. Remaining unbeaten was a testament to the dedication of every player and their determination to improve. Each training session showed a team eager to learn, support one another and embrace challenges. Their energy, sportsmanship and resilience shone throughout the year, making coaching them a genuine pleasure. This group should be proud of a memorable, undefeated season that sets a strong foundation for future success. Their positive attitude and willingness to work hard ensured they improved constantly and enjoyed every moment of the journey together.



UNDER 13C CRICKET

Back: Abongwe Cekiso, Tayo Nduleyisa, Lindokuhle Mtana, Likuwe Muluse, Komegele Makawu

Middle: Mtombo Makebe, Mibongo Mbaba, Kunashe Magadza, Owethu Faltein, Miyolo Baliso, Mihle Songca, Buyolo Mhasele, Luniko Plaatjie, Erik Griffon

Seated: Alunamida Makeba, Oluthando Magopeni, Kholo Sam, Mr Lubabalo Tshongweni, Qamisa Matshaya, Songo Ngqoyiya, Alupheli Dondashe

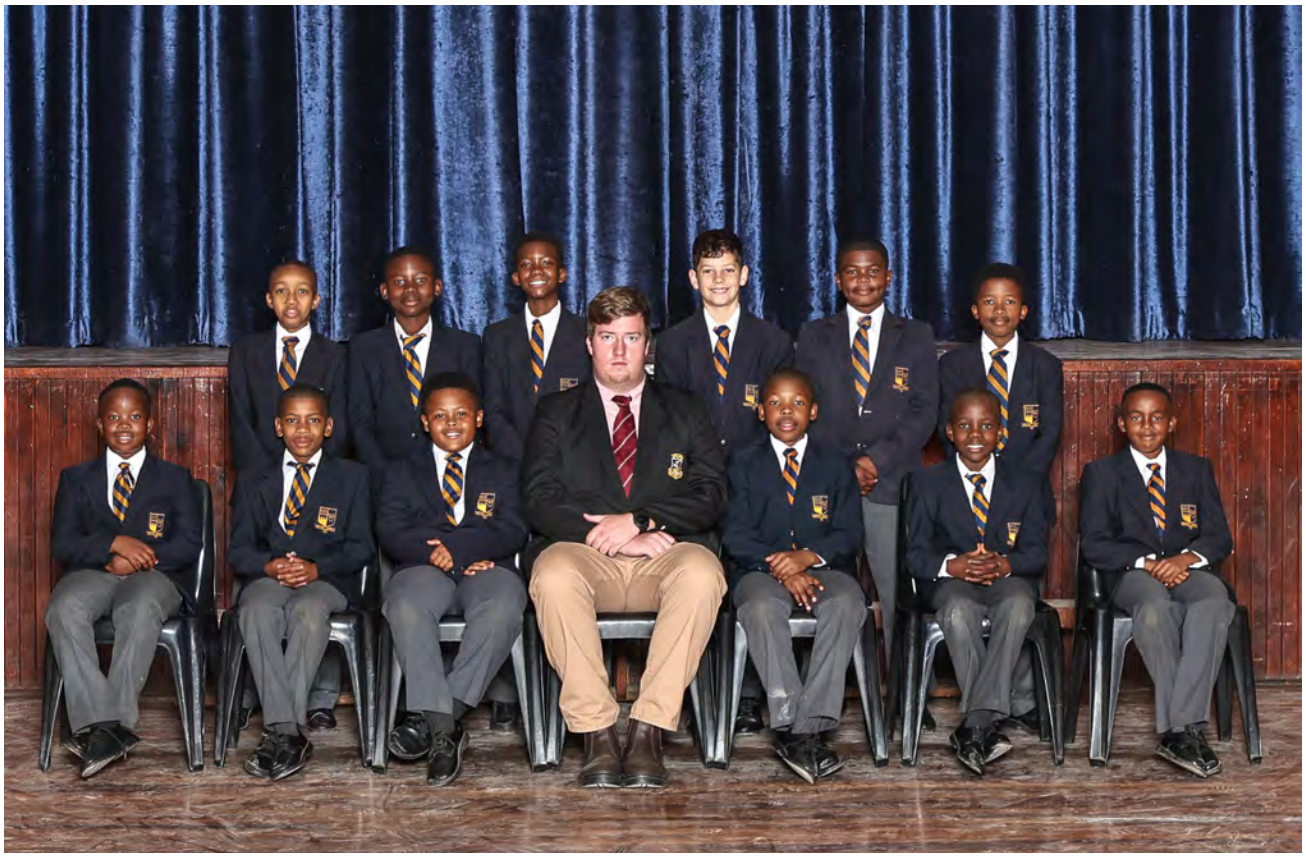
Todd
BRANDED CLOTHING & GIFTS
082 904 9802
toddclothing@gmail.com

THE GRAEME SHOP



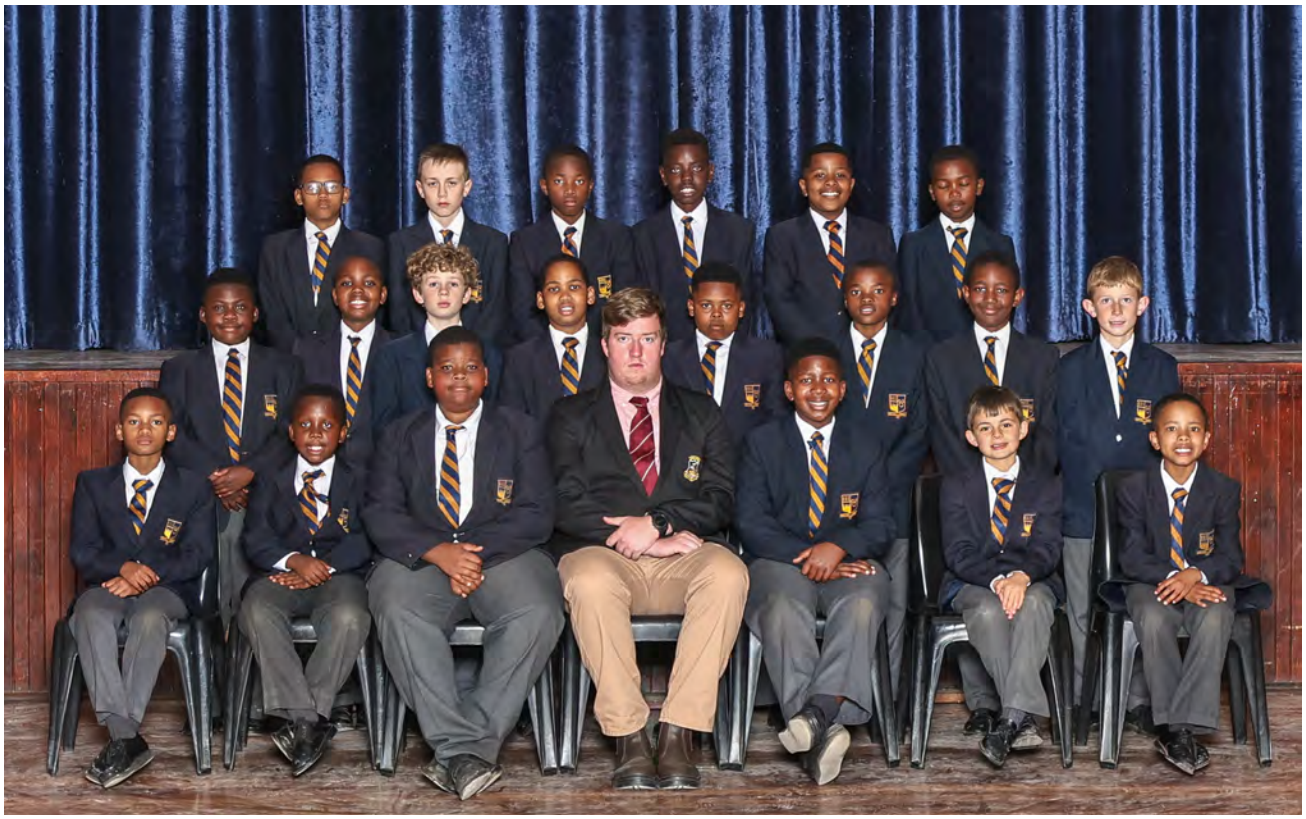
UNDER 11A CRICKET

Back: Frederik Tladi, Jadon Byron, Daniel Burger, Lubambo Mabini, Live Solani.
Seated: James Catto, Matthew Weber, Josh Potts, Mr Keagan Fischer, Liam Brooks, Troy Smith, Lulo Mbambo



UNDER 11B CRICKET

Back: Busanda Nelana, Iba Khelekethe, Lunje Manyathi, Benjamin Fox, Neo Flack, Luyakha Matshaya
Seated: Lubambo Matshaya, Luminati Mkalipi, Liya Ntabeni, Mr Kelson Barber, Otha Peter, Isiphile Gadu, Bathi Kate

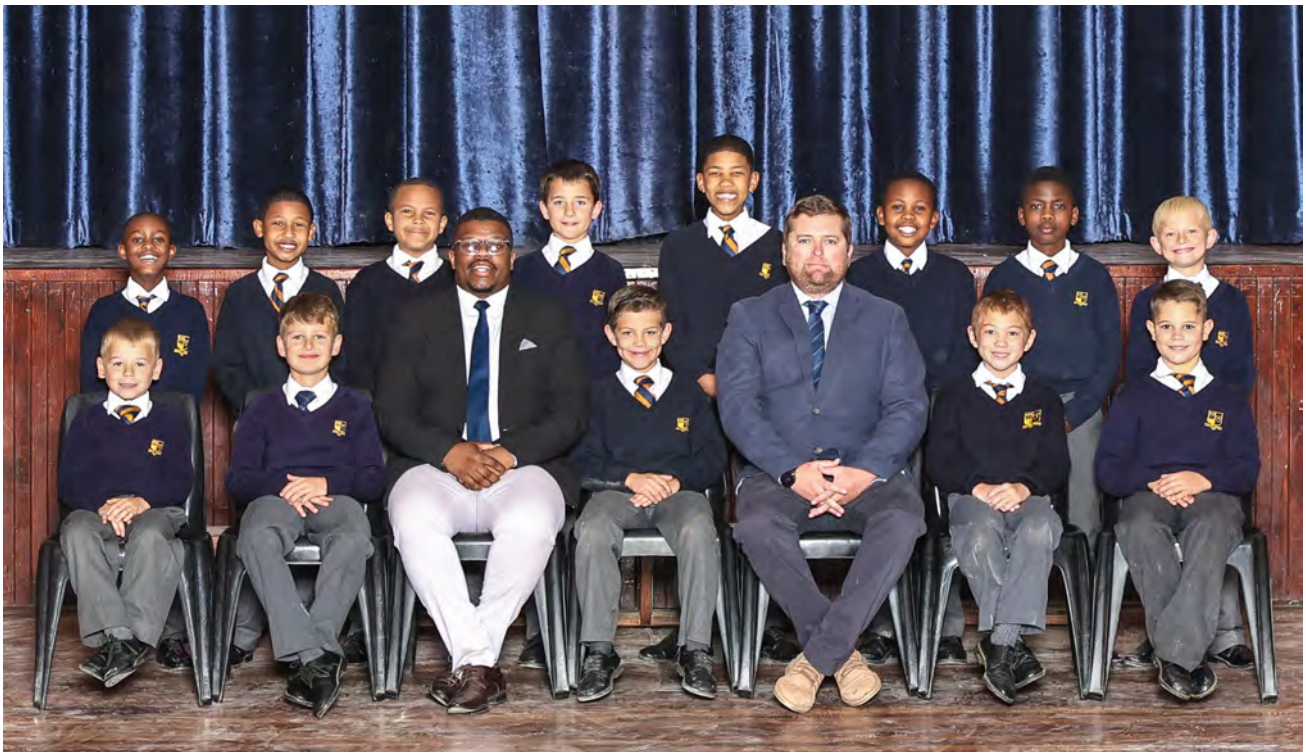


UNDER 11C and D CRICKET

Back: Calvenio Prince, Patrick Bosman-Wisch, Alunambaliso Msimeko, Tinevimbo Mususa, Avuyile Sideba, Ethandwa Makeba,

Middle: Landa Nqebe, Tendai Nyakotyo, Evan Brauteseth, Liqhawe Jamela, Sipenathi Magopeni, Azola Jadezweni, Uyiyonke Kwatsha, Arno Cloete

Seated: Amogelang Kulati, Indiphile Vara, Swazi Sodo, Mr Kelson Barber, Phawokuhle Blaauw, Leo Labuschagne, Darian Smuts



UNDER 9 CRICKET

Back: Chwetha Madinda, Cody Oerson, Aaron O'Brien, Tim Shaw, Miguel Featherstone, Samila Dyantyi, Amahle Manyati; Grayson Loest

Seated: Corné Van Rooyen, Zac van der Merwe, Mr Liyema Mafane, Blaine Horne (c), Mr Sean Kilian, Jack Tidbury, Juandre Knoetze

HOCKEY

Junior Hockey report

~ Mr Keagan Fischer

Hockey at Graeme College Junior experienced more remarkable growth in 2025, making significant strides both in participation and performance. The sport has expanded to include more than 70 boys, enabling the formation of under 11A, B, C, and under 13A, B, and C teams. All have shown consistent commitment to training and have competed confidently against several prominent schools.

2025 marked an important milestone as it was the first time Graeme College hockey teams travelled out of town to face some strong opponents. Fixtures included matches against Selborne Junior and Stirling Primary in East London, as well as Westering High School and Herbert Hurd in Gqeberha. Our players rose to the challenge and proved highly competitive.

The under 11A team had standout contributions from Josh Potts and Lubambo Mbini, both of whom demonstrated exceptional dedication, discipline, and a strong work ethic throughout the season.

The under 13A side faced a demanding campaign but showed resilience and determination. Despite some tough results, the team consistently gave their best. Noteworthy performances included a narrow 3–4 loss to Stirling High School, and a fiercely contested match against Queen's High School, where Graeme College were edged out 1–0.

Graeme College hockey is in an exciting and promising phase, rich in talent and enthusiasm. With the solid foundation built this season, the teams are well positioned to grow from strength to strength. We look forward to an even more successful 2026.




GRAEME COLLEGE













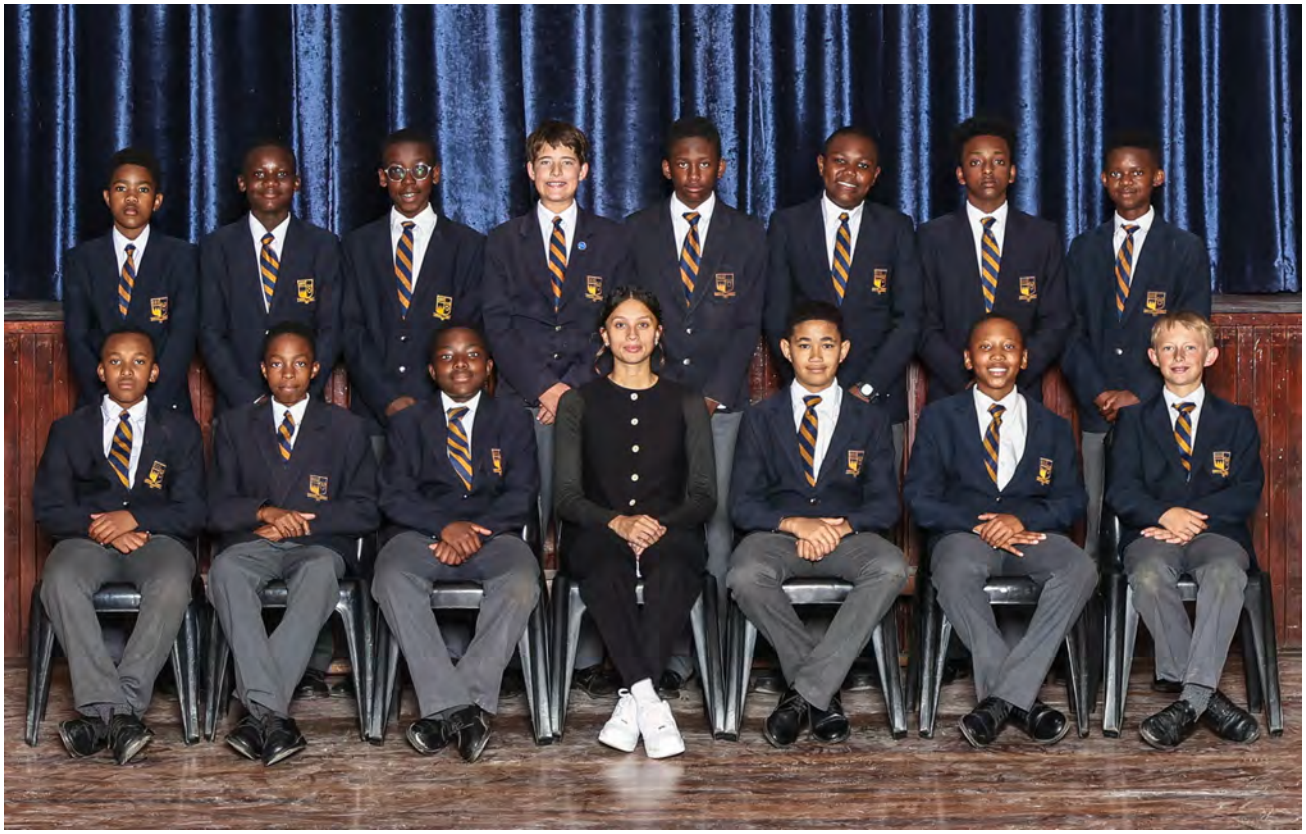




UNDER 13A HOCKEY

Back: Callum Cox, Christian Titus, Tayo Ndulelisa, Omega Tonjeni, Nalo Ndanda, Mila Matshaya, Mason de Vos, Alupheli Dondashe

Seated: Keanu Goliath, Ongezile Nongauza, Lunje Manyati, Mr Keagan Fischer' Ngabo Mngxuma, Gabriel Danilatos, Oliver Hart



UNDER 13B HOCKEY

Back: Kazimla Kili, Buyolo Mahsele, Kungawo Nqumama, Benjamin Shaw, Kamva Mayalo, Kunaishe Magadza, Jonathan Kebede, Mibongo Mbaba

Seated: Kamogelo Makawu, Lihlumile Masa, Iyanda Nodolwana, Miss T Titus, Mason Sias, Simelwe Mbuyephi, Daniel Loest



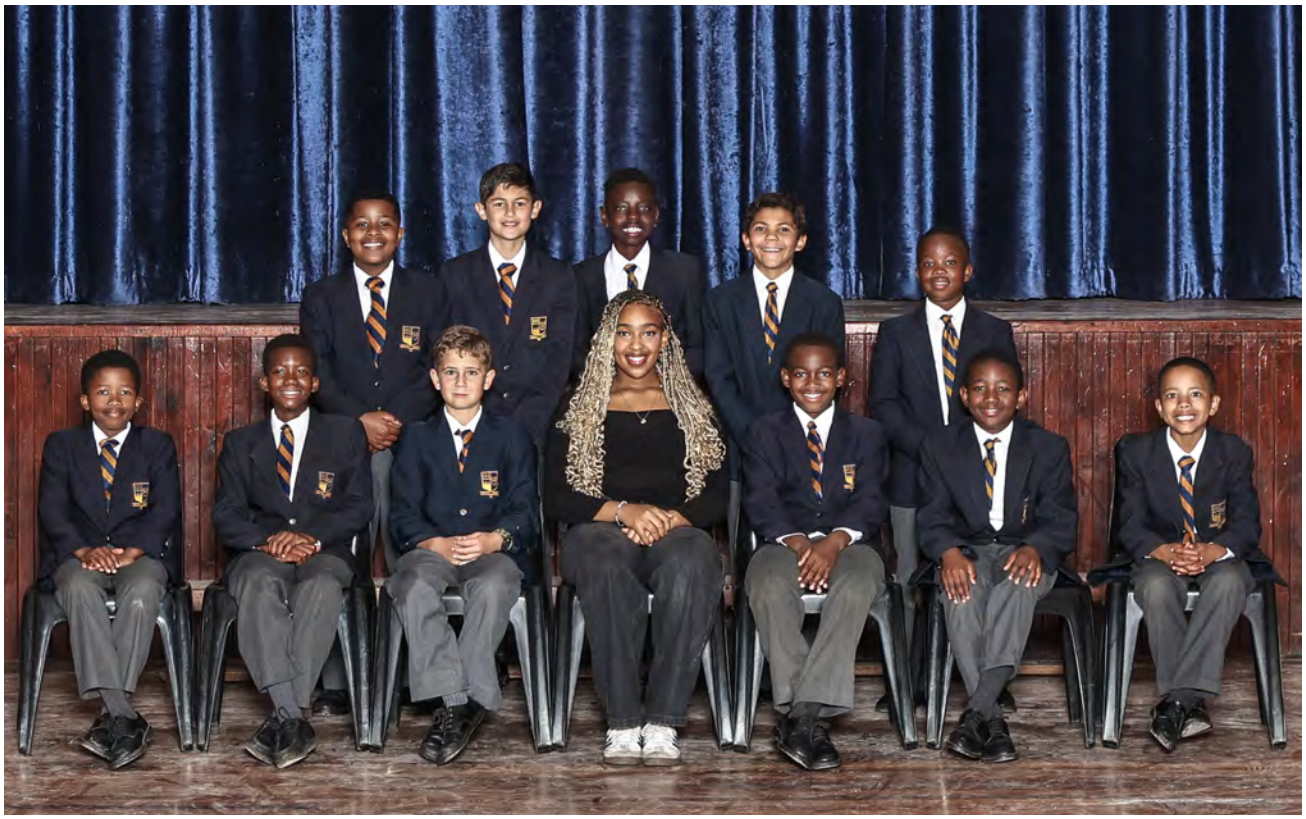
UNDER 13C HOCKEY

Back: Gerrit Cloete; KungawoMakaula; Kungawo Kalashe; Bombethu Radu; Chad Amos; Inam Mzimba
Seated: Connor Mollor: Cee-Jay Marias; Gustav Jordaan; Miss J Frans; Linathi Ntabeni; Alunamida Makeba; Bottle Molefe.



UNDER 11A HOCKEY

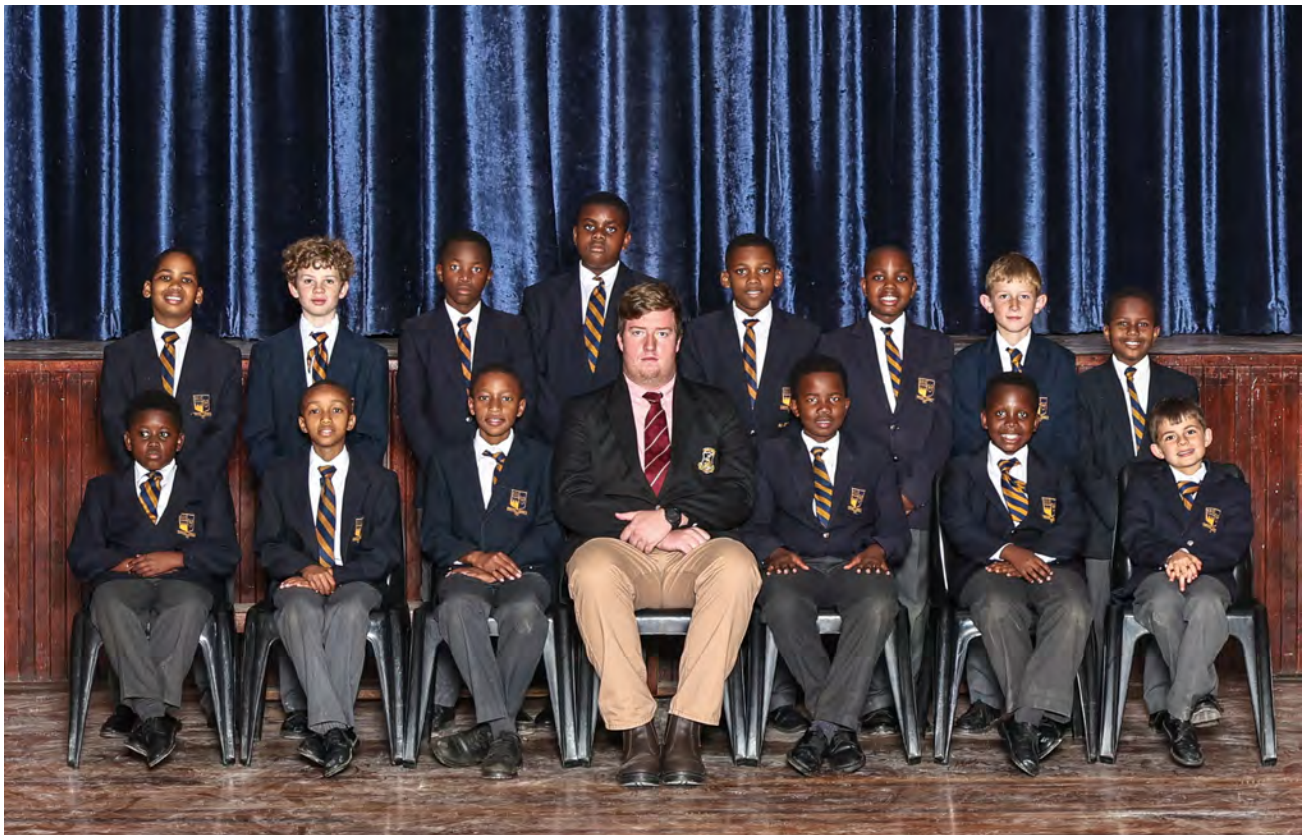
Back: Lubambo Mabini, Laik Santos-Osman, Soso Tonjeni, Benjamin Fox, James Catto
Seated: Matthew Weber, Josh Potts, Live Solani, Miss D Ngala, Daniel Burger, Neo Flack, Iba Khelekethe



UNDER 11B HOCKEY

Back: Avuyile Sideba. Owen O'Linsky. Tine Mususa. Frederik Tladi. Lubambo Matshaya

Seated: Luyakha Matshaya, Lunabile Manyati, Troy Smith; Miss D Ngala, Liwa Maxhaulana, Uyiyonke Kwatsha, Darian Smuts



UNDER 11C HOCKEY

Back: Liqhawe Jamela, Evan Brauteseth, Alunambaliso Msimeko, Azola Jadezweni, Alulutho Bonga, Tendai Nyakotyo, Arno Cloete, Ande Madikida

Seated: Ongako Budaza, Busanda Nelana, Usiphile Mantla, Mr Kelson Barber, Luphumlo Makalima, Indiphile Vara, Leo Labuschagne

Junior Rugby report

~ Mr Sean Kilian

The junior school rugby season started in March and the players hit the ground running with fixtures against local schools namely St Mary's and Oatlands. The under 13A side attended the Frans Erasmus festival hosted by Hoërskool PJ Olivier and finished the festival unbeaten with little preparation and without key players at their disposal. The importance of a preseason was noticeable at the start of the season. A 4–6-week rugby specific training regime would assist the players for the upcoming season. Our rugby players found themselves behind at the start of the season, but managed to find their feet and produce some brilliant results in the second and third terms. Graeme hosted a very successful under 13A rugby festival at the end of March with 20 schools attending and showcasing a high level of rugby. The Graeme College rugby festival is a significant event on the South African school's rugby calendar, and having under 13 teams and primary schools involved will only increase spectator numbers and grow the festival each year.

We welcomed Stirling Primary School as a new addition to our fixture list in 2025. The under 11A side attended the Clarendon Park rugby festival and enjoyed six matches while in Gqeberha. They produced some excellent results in this pre-season festival

Leopards rugby which is commonly known as mini rugby on a Saturday was enjoyed by spectators and players alike and, despite freezing weather on the odd occasion, the players attended these sessions with immense passion. Mr Lensley was the driving force behind this initiative and must be commended on his enthusiasm and passion. We would like to thank Mr Lensley for all of his help on Saturdays. The parents who assisted Mr Lensley were passionate and their contribution was much appreciated by players and spectators.

The under 13A team down to the under 13D team attended practices all season and maintained their enthusiasm throughout. The C and D teams often played against A teams in the Albany area and, although the results did not go their way, these teams still managed to play more than 15 matches in 2025

The under 13A side attended the Independent Schools under 13 Rugby Festival hosted by St Andrew's Preparatory. St Andrew's hosted this event to celebrate their 140th anniversary in 2025 and should be commended on a well-run event. Graeme College would like to thank Mr Fredericks for making this event possible and for inviting our under 13A team to this festival. The players produced some fine rugby at this festival which resulted in convincing victories over St David's Marist and St John's College. A draw against Water Kloof House on day 1 was a hard-fought battle, but both teams produced heavy intensity in defence .

The under 13B team had a fantastic season losing only one match in 2025. The B side recorded wins over Grey High School and Queens College which were the highlights of their season. The under 13C team toiled away, playing most of the Albany areas A teams and playing a record number of matches in 2025.

The under 11A team was a force in the Eastern Cape, playing excellent rugby in 2025. A brilliant victory over Queens College was one of the many highlights of the season. A closely contested match, on Marais field against Grey Junior was a thrilling game of rugby that saw the visitors win 10-5 in the dying moments of the game .

The under 11 age group also had four teams and were overall committed throughout the season and played regular matches on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The under 9A team had a mixed bag of results playing some excellent rugby along the way, but failed to build consistency at times. Victories over Queens Primary under 9A and St Andrew's Preparatory under 9A, as well a 19–19 draw against Selborne Primary were the highlights of a season that ended in a win percentage of 70%.

Graeme College first introduced an under 9B team in 2023 to introduce more learners to contact sessions and to streamline players into competitive rugby to potentially prepare them for the under 9A season in the following year. 2025 was the year of reaping the rewards of this initiative, and this led to a successful season.

The most promising rugby player award in the primary school was awarded to Qhama Picane and the under 11 player of the year was awarded to Sonwabise Tonjeni and Lubambo Mabini.



The primary school rugby teams played over 130 matches in 2025 and won most of these matches thanks largely to the under 13A, under 13B, under11A and under9A sides The under13B and under11B sides played a few of their games against A teams which makes their season even more noteworthy. The Graeme College C and D sides played local opposition who were also their schools respective A teams and, although these matches were tough, the players got the opportunity to represent their school on the rugby field

The Graeme College first aid program and first aiders generously gave their time on Wednesdays and Saturdays and their assistance at each match was wonderful to have. Thank you to all involved and special mention to Mrs Pretorius for her organisation.

The brand of rugby played across the board, by all teams, was entertaining to watch. The Marais fields proved to be a fortress for our learners who enjoyed playing at home, and the scoreboard reflected this in the brilliant results. Having parents on the sideline supporting made Saturdays even more enjoyable. The development of rugby in the primary school,especially with the focus on skills, was pivotal and the main goal for all of the coaches and players in 2025. The junior players compete against schools three or four times their size, and hold their own, generating good results. The juniors leave the primary school as well-rounded players who know the game, and know what is required from them. The game is played to the best of their ability and with integrity.

Graeme College would like to thank All Secure for their sponsorship of warm-up shirts for the under 13A team, and for their generous sponsorship of shirts for our junior school referees.

The tuckshop at the Marais fields once again ran like a well-oiled machine, thanks mainly to Miss White and her community outreach program. The impact they made was noticed by all becasue of their friendly and professional nature. Thank you to all involved

Rugby season is always exciting, with many ups and downs, and a lot emotion, but our coaches who referee, drive, support and give a lot of their time must be commended on their efforts . Travelling on a Saturday is no small feat, and when players and coaches are punctual and give of their best it makes every match day worthwhile and exciting.



UNDER 13A RUGBY

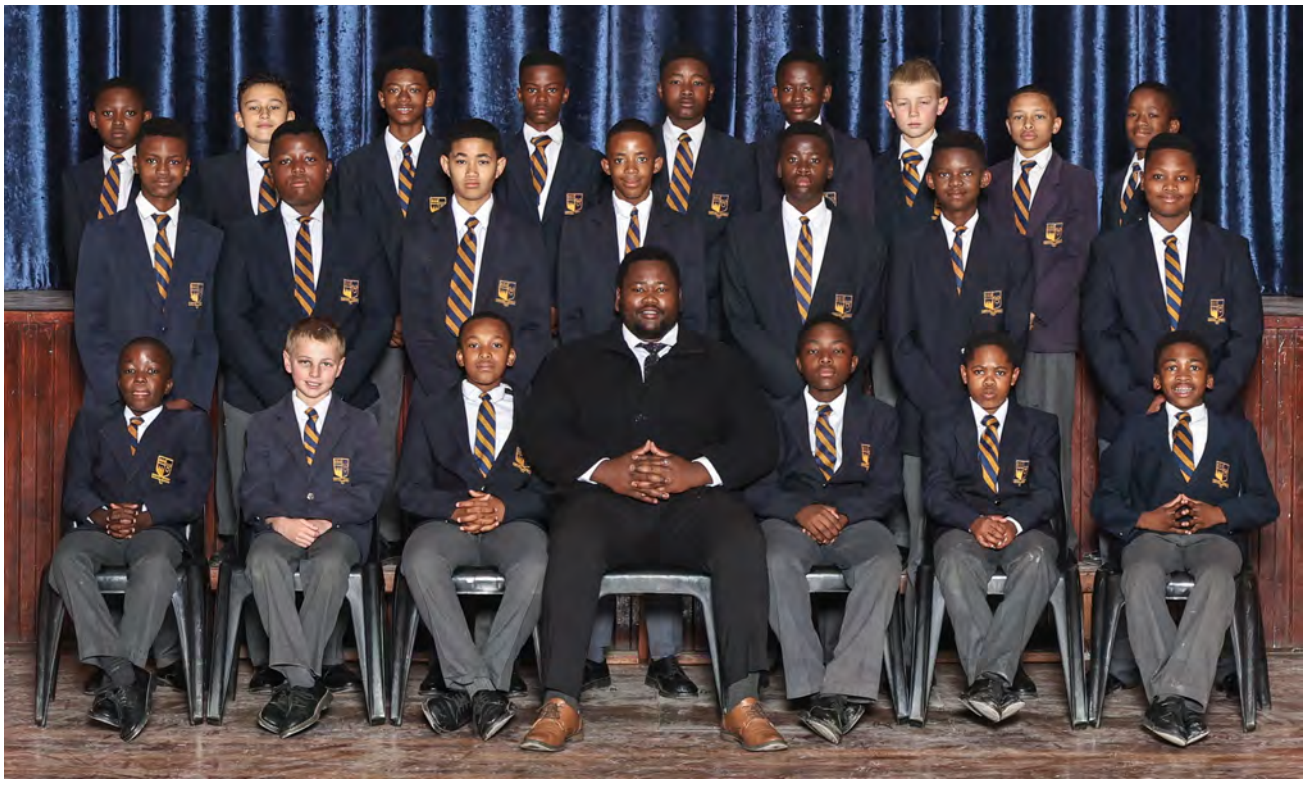
Back: Kholo Sam, Miyolo Baliso, Omega Tonjeni
Middle : Bukho Yolani, Josh Banfield, Othandwayo Booi, Qhamisa Matshaya, Isenam Maswana, Daniel Coetsee
Seated: Lunje Manyati, Qhama Picane, Ngabo Mngxuma (c), Mr Sean Kilian, Odwa Ndlazi (vc), Amzo Gongqobe, Aaron Langley





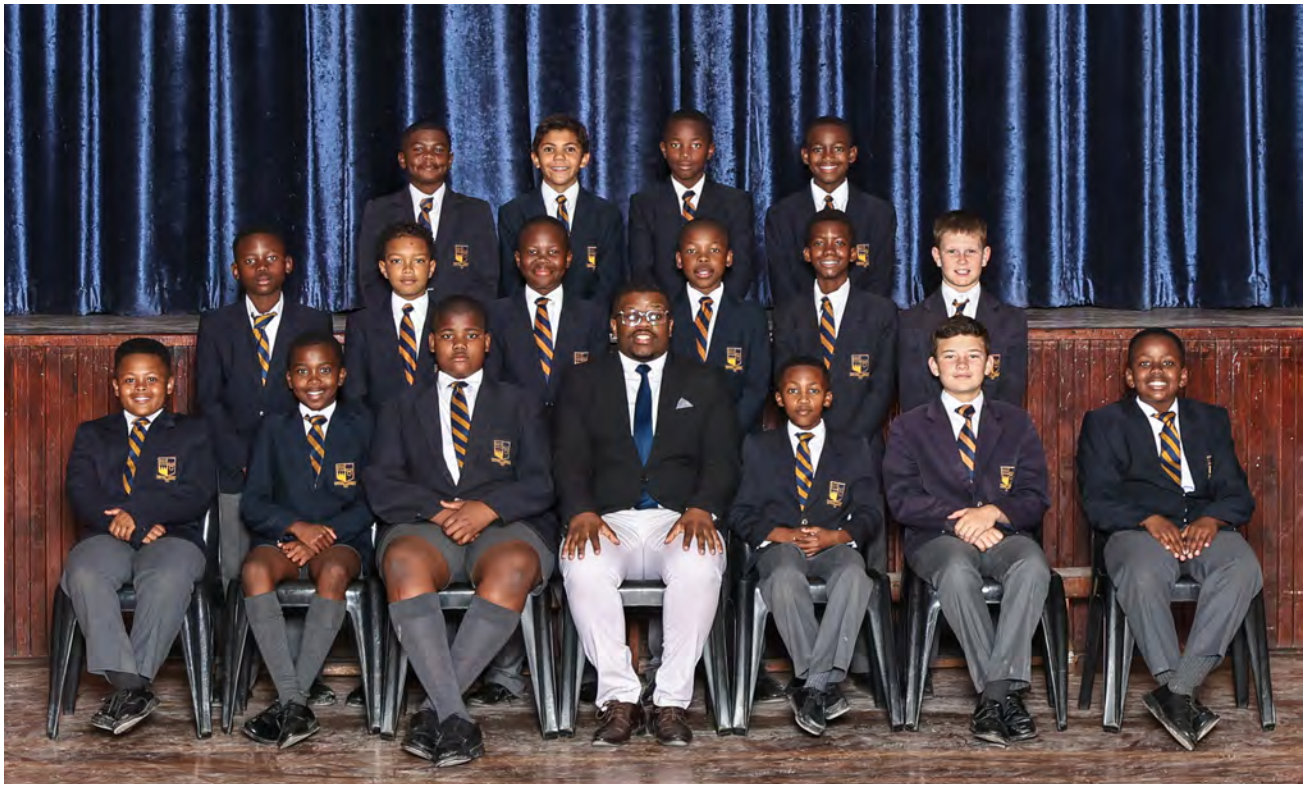
UNDER 13B RUGBY

Back: Aya Jili, Nalo Ndanda, Imange Kiti
Middle: Hlanga Jongile, Libhongo Kom, Lihlonele Kulati, Buyolo Mhasele, Amkele Mqubuli, Miyanda Lombo
Seated: Lingomso Sisusa, Mthombo Makeba, Damon Isaacs, Mr Sean Kilian, Zozibini Skweyiya, Christian Kemp, Iyanda Nodolwana



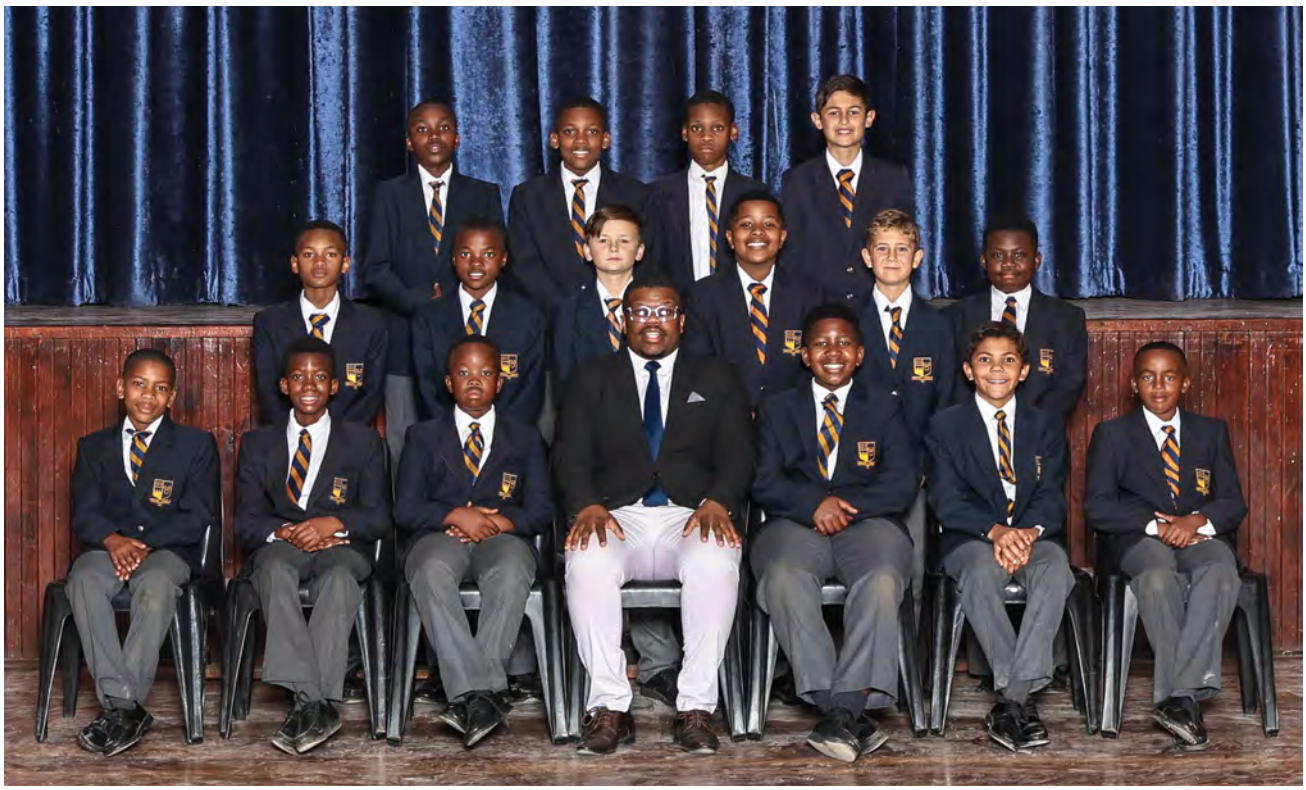
UNDER 13C RUGBY

Back: Abongwe Cekiso, Christian Titus, Tayo Ndulelisa, Luniko Plaatje, Lindo Ntana, Linathi Ntabeni, Gerrit Cloete, Callum Cox, Ongezile Nongauza
Middle: Sithaba Matibe, Mihle Songca, Mason Sias, Samanga Bulana, Owethu Faltein, Mibongo Mbaba, Libongo Kom
Seated: Songo Ngqoyiyo, Oliver Hart, Kamo Makawu, Mr Lubabalo Tshongweni, Iyanda Nodolwana, Oluthando Magopeni, Alunamida Makeba



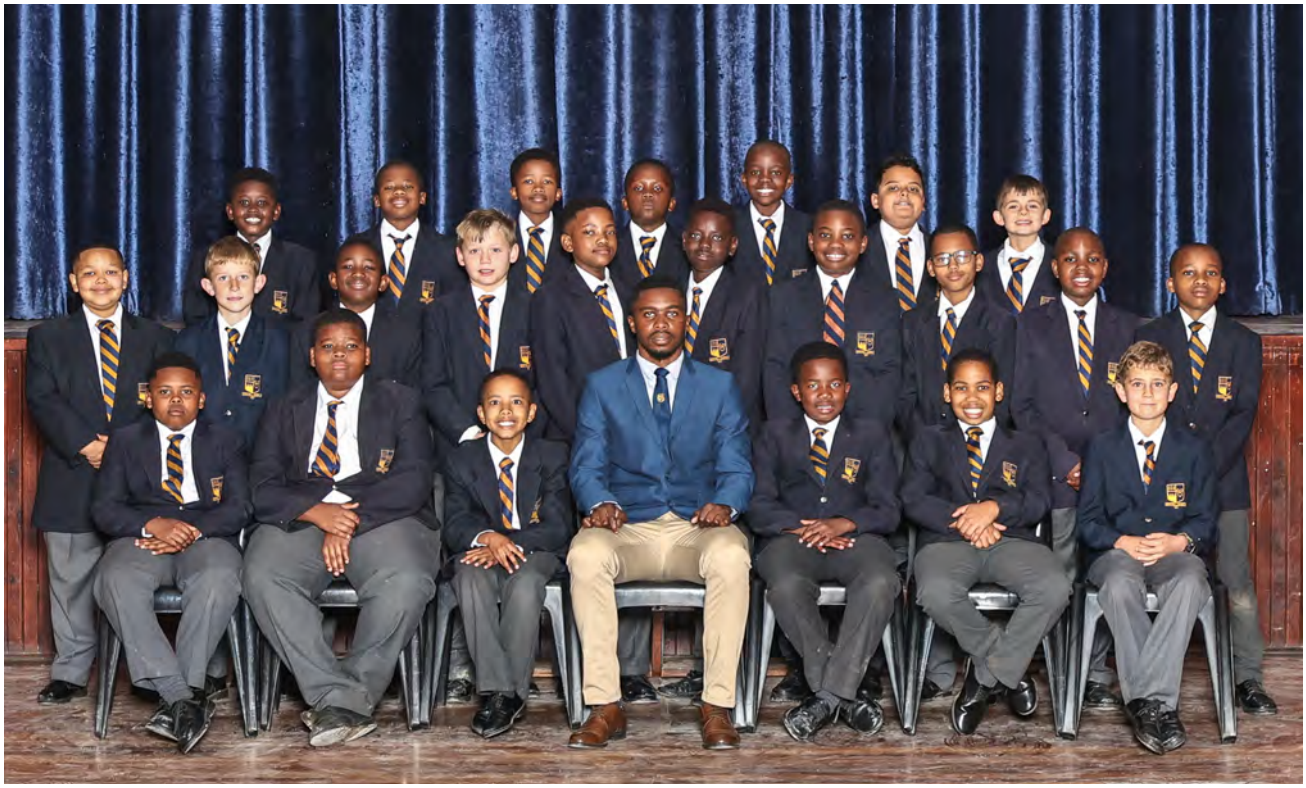
UNDER 11A RUGBY

Back: Esihle Flack; Fredrik Tladi; Alunambaliso Msimbeko; Liwa Maxhaulana
Middle: Ibanetaru Khelekhethe; Ciarin Du Plessis; Live Solani; Othandwayo Peter; Lunabile Manyati; Matthew Weber
Seated: Liyakhanya Ntabeni; Ethandwa Makeba; Sonwabise-Sonke Tonjeni; Mr Liyema Mafane; Lulo-Babalo-Lwenkosi Mbambo; Jadon Byren; Lubambo Mabini



UNDER 11B RUGBY

Back: Simamkele Mtishe, Alulutho Bonga, Linamandla Mbhadeko, Owen O' Linsky
Middle: Amogelang Kulati, Ayola Moko, Alex Czeredrecki-Schmidt, Avuyile Sideba; Troy Smith; Landa Nqebe
Front: Illuminati Mkhaliphi, Lunabile Manyati, Lubambo Matshaya, Mr Liyema Mafane, Phawokuhle Blaauw, Fredrik Tladi, Bathenkosi Kate



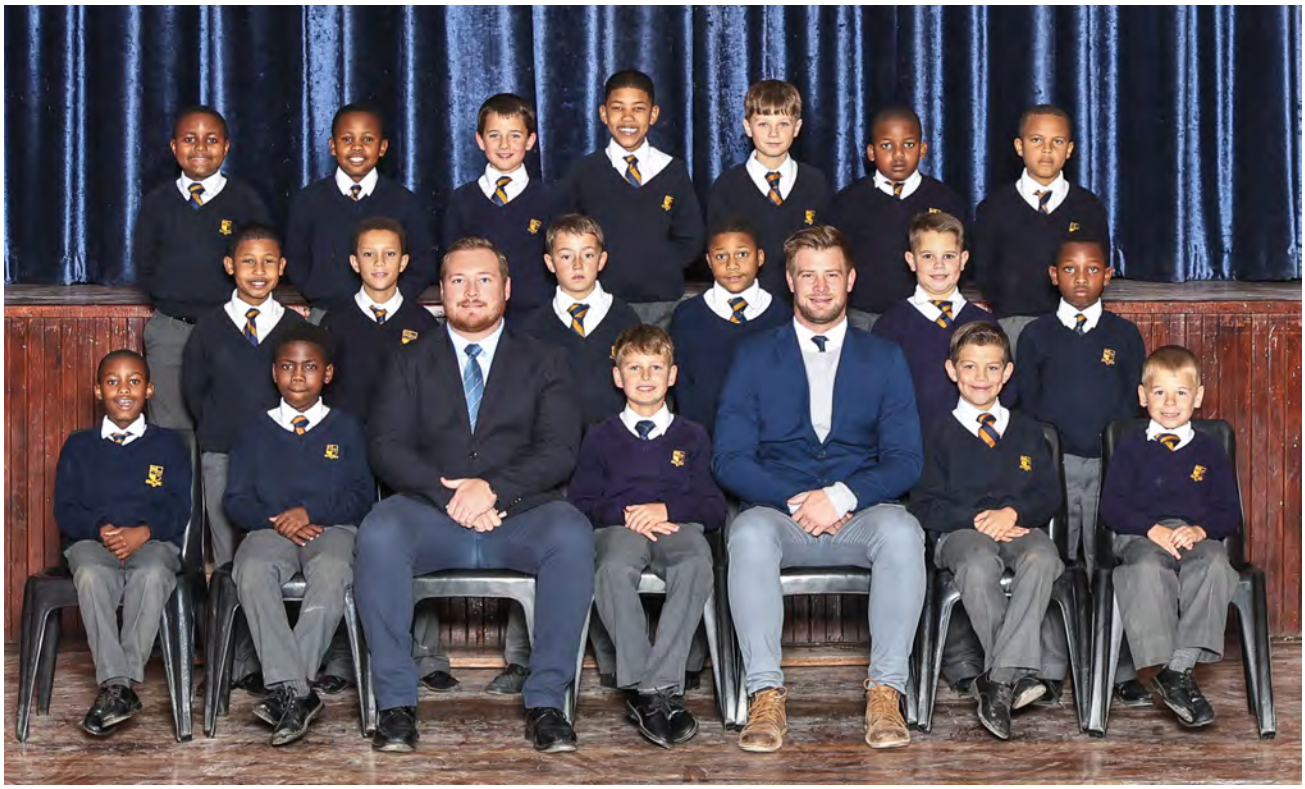
UNDER 11C RUGBY

Back: Ongako Budaza, Qhayiya Kalipa, Luyakha Matshaya, Indiphile Vara, Isiphile Gadu, Luka Greyling, Leo Labuschagne

Middle: Oswaldt le Roux, Arno Cloete, Uyiyonke Kwatsha, Mason Richter, Luniko Kolisi, Tinevimbo Mususa, Onalerona Vundisa, Maureez Prince, Tendai Nyakotyo, Hlela Qalaka

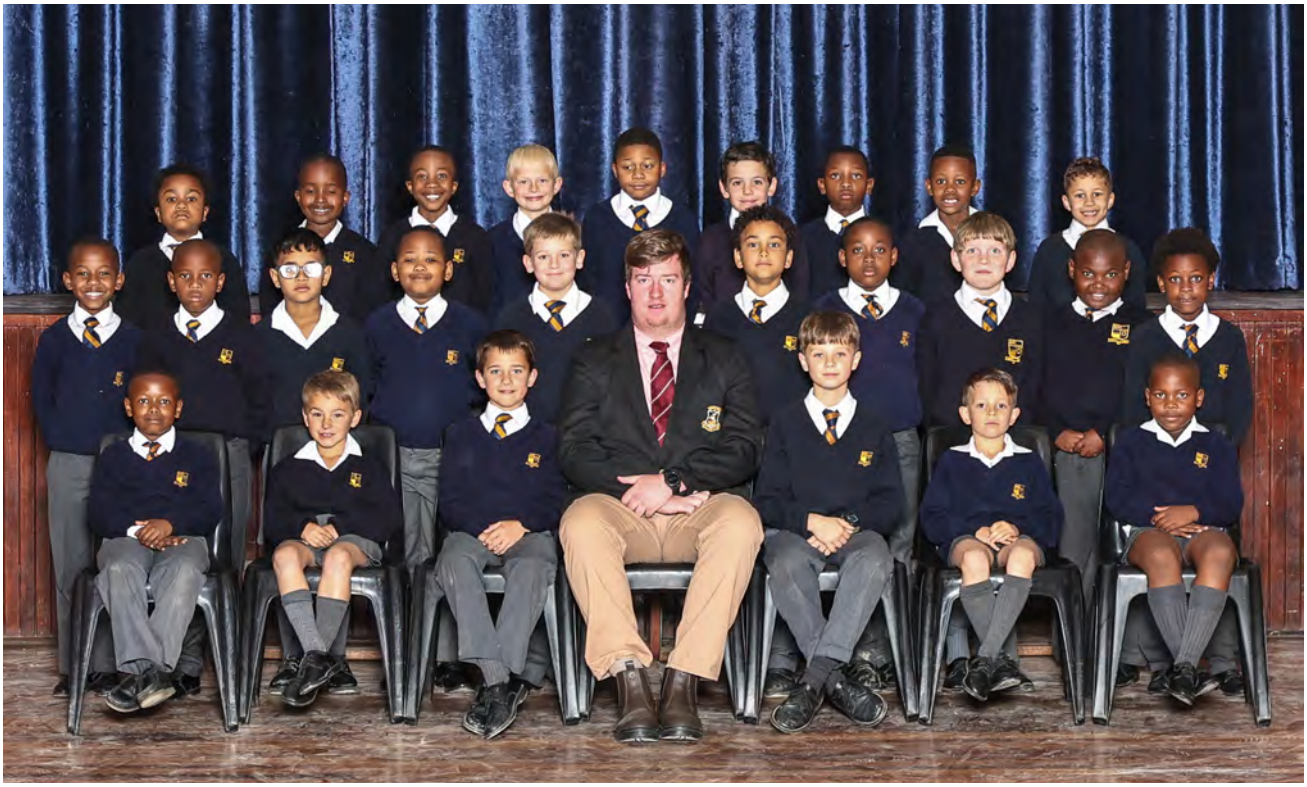
Seated: Siphenathi Magopeni, Swazi Sodo, Darian Smuts, Mr Lakhanya Sam, Luphumlo Makhalima, Liqhawe Jamela, Troy Smith





UNDER 9A RUGBY

Back: Alu Gila, Sammy Dyantyi, Tim Shaw, Miguel Featherstone, Fynn Trauernicht, Karabo Mabotja, Aaron O'brien
Middle: Cody Oerson, Karson Doyle, Schalk van der Schyf, Carter Potts-Gidana, Juandre Knoetze, Bizo Kesha
Seated: Chweta Madinda, Amahle Manyati (vc), Mr Ryan Rowe, Zac van der Merwe (c), Mr Keagan Fischer, Blaine Horne (vc), Corné van Rooyen



UNDER 9B RUGBY

Back: Zazi Skweyiya, Zimvo Ramokolo, Lethu Tyatyeka, Grayson Loest, Carter Potts-Gidana, Andre Crous, Bizo Kesa, Avuyile Ngoqo, Nicholas Rippon
Middle: Likuwe Sikina, Alunamda Khonza, Tyrese Frans, Liwa Xalabile, Leo Du Preez, Luca Cervati, Kuhle Mkhwane, Aiden Lockwood, Lulo Molefe-Dondashe, Rifumo Mokwena
Seated: Lingate Moerane, Luan van der Schyf, Timothy Shaw, Mr Kelson Barber, Fynn Trauernicht, Holden Horne, Othalive Tyhali

RUGBYTECH

SQUASH

Junior Squash report

~ Mr Johannes Bodenstein

Squash is one of those sports that stays with you for life. It teaches discipline, patience, focus, and sharpens ball skills in remarkable ways. This year our junior squash players truly embodied these values, delivering one of the most memorable seasons in recent years.

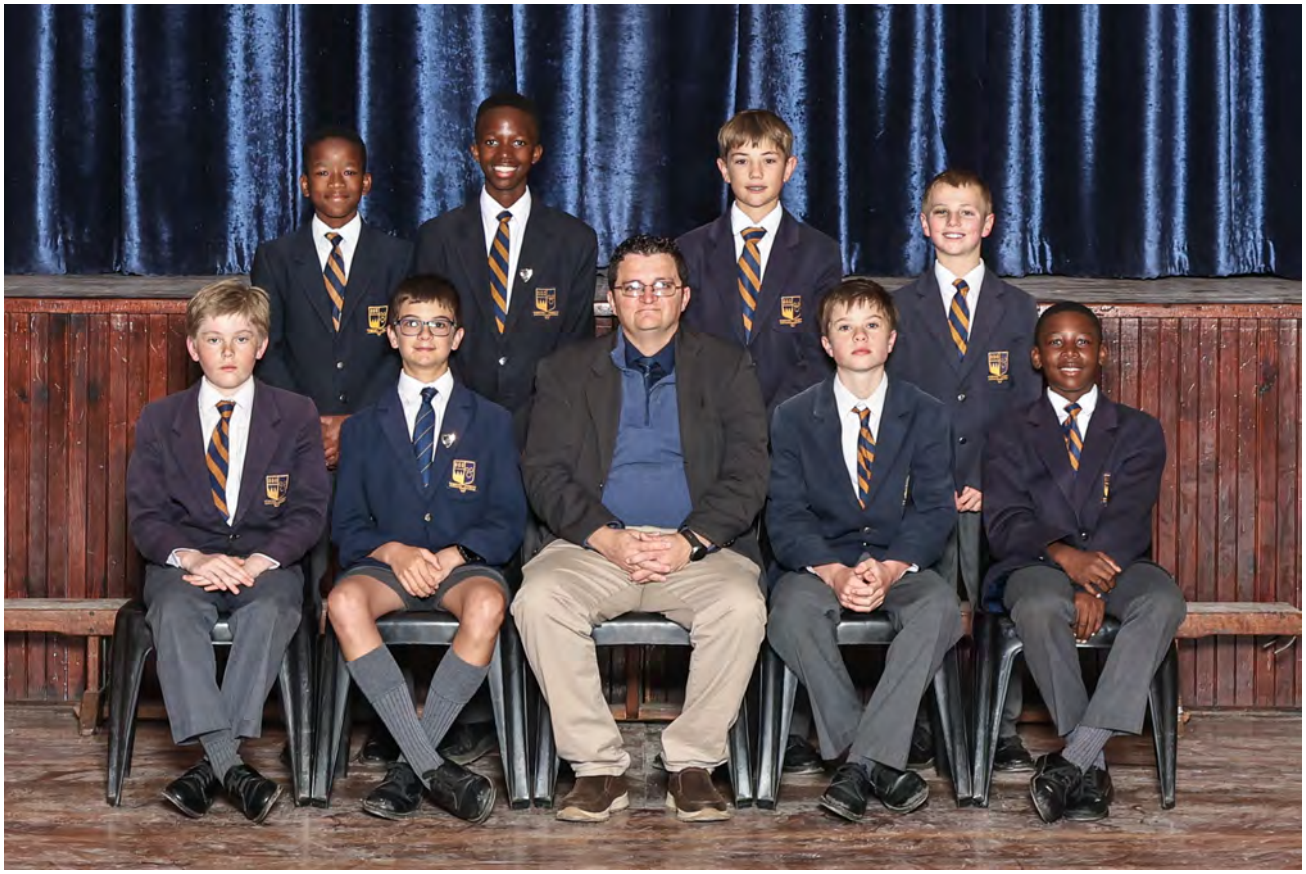
The 2025 season was packed with activity and achievement. The junior squash teams rose to every challenge, participating in a wide range of events, from local to inter-provincial tournaments. These included the Bloemfontein Squash Tour, Saints Tour, Makana League, KFC Open, and our very own Graeme College Squash Festival which reached a record 128 participants. Across all of these competitions, the Graeme College junior squash players performed exceptionally well, consistently demonstrating commitment, growth, and sportsmanship.

A highlight of the season was the outstanding performance of the under 11A team who went unbeaten throughout the entire year – an excellent achievement and testament to their determination and teamwork.

Congratulations to the following boys who were selected for Eastern Province squads:
Under 13A: Morné Bodenstein (EP number 1 and unofficially South Africa number 2 after the July SA tournament).
Under 13B: Eric Griffin, Ongi Nongauza, Christian Kemp
Under 11A: Matthew Weber (EP number 1 and went undefeated at the SA tournament in July).
Under 11B: Frederik Tladi
A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated junior school coaches, Mr Bodenstein and Mr De Lacy, and also Mr Burger and Mr Wilhelmi, for their time, guidance, and unwavering commitment to our squash players. Your passion for the sport and the development of each player is deeply appreciated. We look forward to another exciting year of squash in 2026.







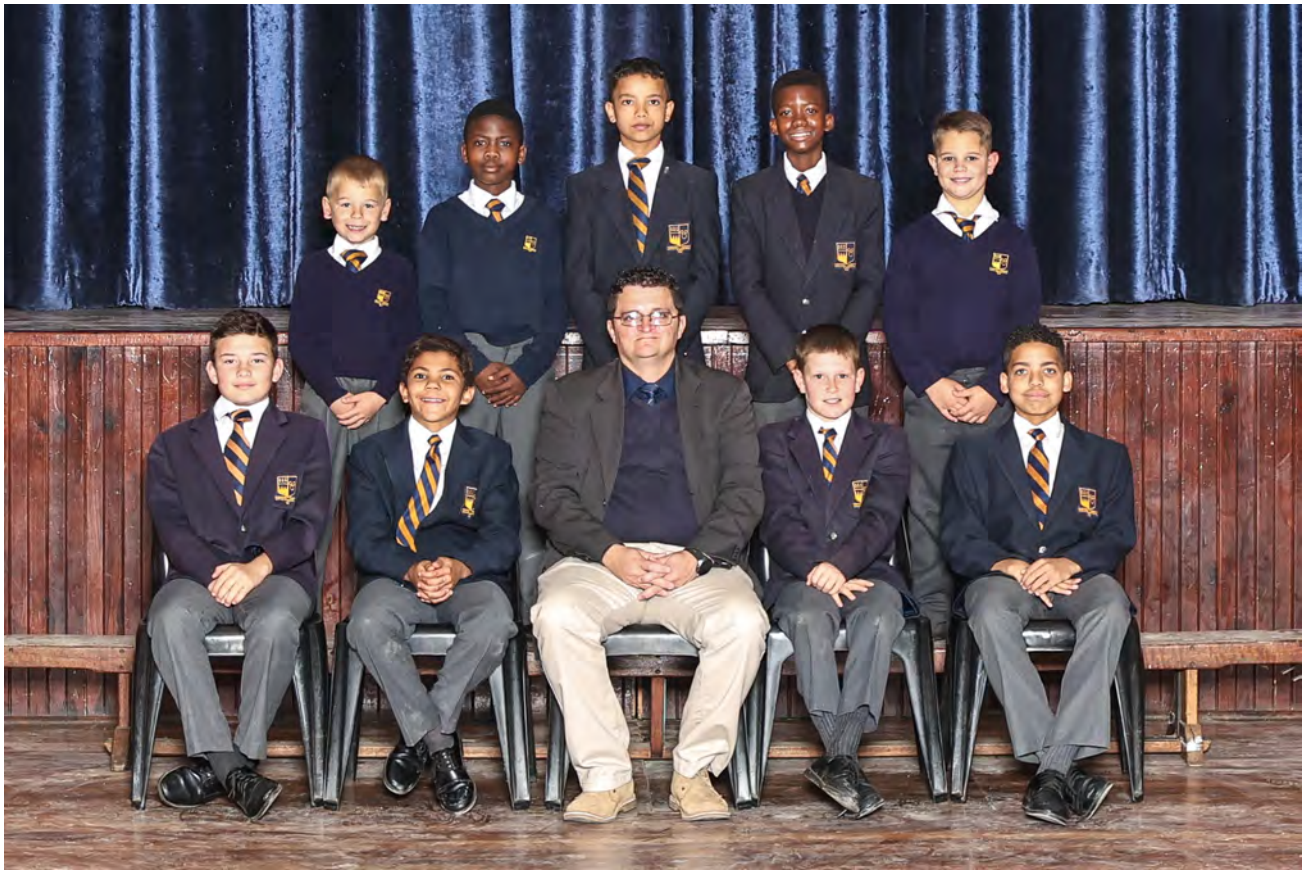
UNDER 13A SQUASH

Back: Ongi Nongauza, Lunje Manyati, Daniel Coetsee, Oliver Hart
Seated: Eric Griffin, Morne Bodenstein, Mr Johannes Bodenstein, Julian Boy, Bukho Yolani



UNDER 13B SQUASH

Back: Callen Steele, Hamza Muhammad, Libongo Kom, Linathi Ntabeni
Seated: Gerrit Cloete, Mr Johannes Bodenstein, Christian Kemp



UNDER 11A SQUASH

Back: Corne Van Rooyen, Amahle Manyati, Laik Santos-Osman, Luna Manyati, Juandre Knoetze
Seated: Jadon Byren, Frederik Tladi, Mr Johannes Bodenstein, Matthew Weber, Daniel Burger



UNDER 11B SQUASH

Back: Tim Shaw, Troy Smith, Arno Cloete
Seated: Finn Trauernicht, Mr Johannes Bodenstein, Zuki Sopotela

TENNIS

Junior Tennis report

~ Mr Johannes Bodenstein

The junior tennis programme continues to thrive, with many learners attending practices every Tuesday and Thursday. The courts are always a hub of activity during the afternoons, with enthusiastic play, development of skills, and strong friendships being formed.

In March, the under 13 team was invited to participate in the Queen's Primary School Tennis Festival in Queenstown. The team, Julian Boy, Morné Bodenstein, Bukho Yolani, Josh Potts, Eric Griffin, Travis Jackson, and Amzo Gongqobe, competed against Rondebosch Primary School, Selborne Junior School, Grey Junior School, Bishops, and Queen's Primary School. After a series of spirited fixtures, the Graeme College team finished fifth overall.

Our annual fixtures against St Andrew's Preparatory School and Port Alfred Junior once again proved to be highlights of the season. These encounters are always eagerly anticipated, fiercely contested, and thoroughly enjoyed by all players.

The School Championship Tournament, held during the third term, showcased impressive talent, determination, and sportsmanship. The following results were achieved:

Under 11
Singles winner: Josh Potts
Singles runner-up: Frederik Tladi
Doubles
winners: Josh Potts and James Catto
runners-up: Zac van der Merwe and Frederik Tladi
Under 13
Singles winner: Josh Potts
Singles runner-up: Bukho Yolani
Doubles
winners: Julian Boy and Bukho Yolani
runners-up: Gustav Jordaan and Amzo Gongqobe

Congratulations to all of the players on their hard work, commitment, and enthusiasm throughout the season.





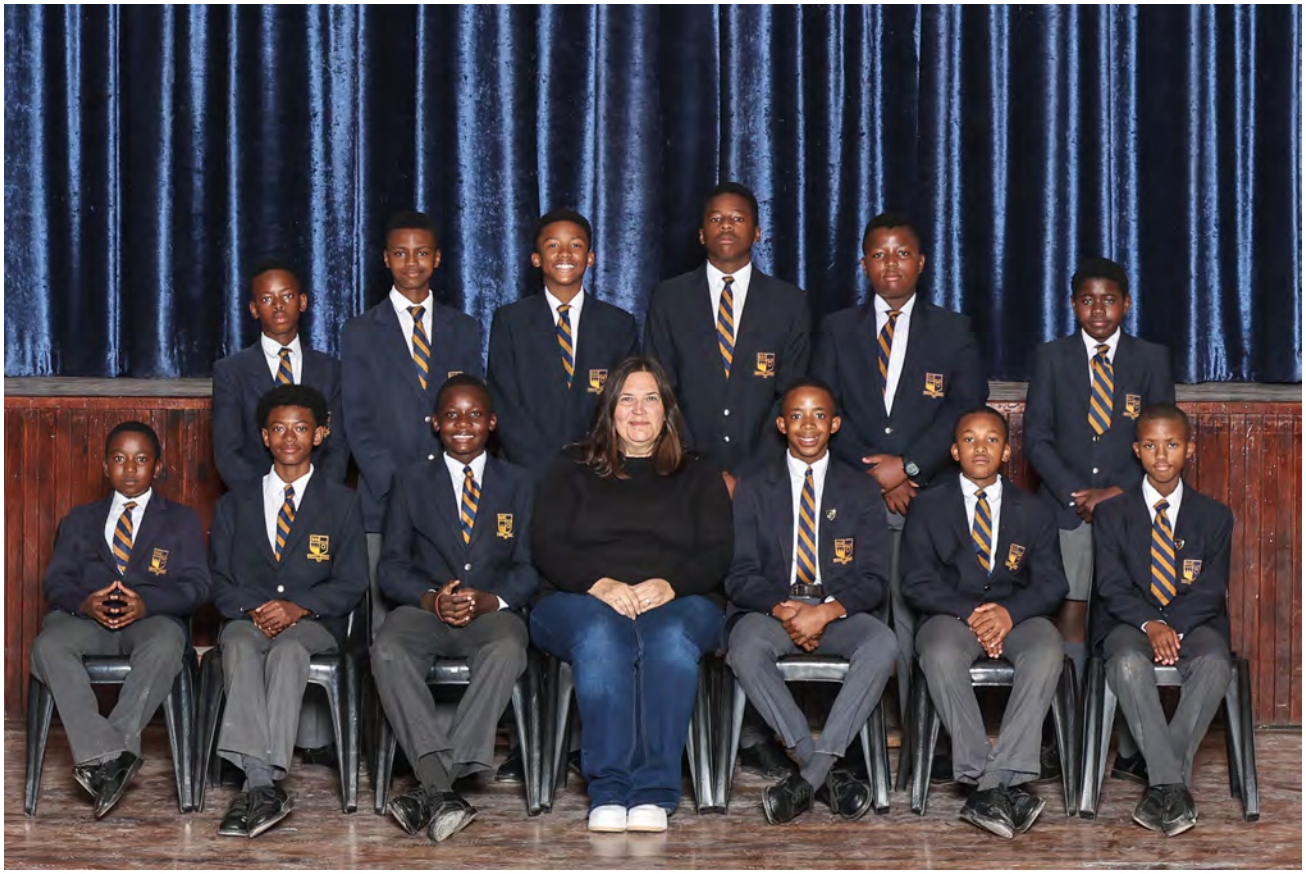
UNDER 13A TENNIS

Back: Eric Griffin, Amazon Gongqobe, Gustav Jordaan
Seated: Morne Bodenstein, Bukho Yolani, Mr Johannes Bodenstein, Josh Potts, Julian Boy, Travis Jackson (absent)



UNDER 11B TENNIS

Back: Uthmaan Motara, Sim Mbuyephi, Joel Chitsike
Seated: Mason De Vos, Daniel Loest, Mr Johannes Bodenstein, Thato Molefe, Joshua Banfield



UNDER 13C TENNIS

Back: Cwenga Sisusa, Sithaba Matibe, Mila Matshaya, Miyolo Baliso, Mihle Songca, Onelani Toll
Seated: Bottle Molefe, Tayo Ndulelisa, Buyolo Ahlasela, Mrs Mariska Greyling, Samanga Bulani, Kamogelo Makawu, Iminathi Mancam









SWIMMING



JUNIOR SWIMMING

Back: Leo Malamis, Benjamin Shaw, Liam Viedge
Seated: Laik Santos-Osman, Gustav Jordaan, Mr Lawrence Ferreira, Benjamin Fox, Troy Smith



















FOUNDATION PHASE

FOUNDATION PHASE LIBRARY

~ Mrs Candice Tidbury

Last year saw the beginning of upgrades to the Foundation Phase library to create a more modern, welcoming and functional space. The traditional library is perceived as an atmosphere where silent, solitary reading takes place. Today's modern libraries are evolving into interactive, inclusive environments where learning takes place in many forms. This is the type of environment which we aim to create. Although quiet reading areas and allotted times remain essential for reading books for enjoyment, the modern library also embraces a more holistic approach to education. Learners collaborate and discuss, interact with resources and each other, play games, have opportunities to be creative, participate in hands-on activities, learn rules, socialise, and learn valuable life skills along the way. Information can be accessed, absorbed and experienced in a fun and meaningful way. Flexible seating allows for children to choose to sit on a chair at a desk, sit or lie on the floor, or a comfortable couch. More flexible seating is envisaged in the future for a more joyful library experience.

"Play is the foundation of learning, creativity, self-expression, and constructive problem-solving. It's how children wrestle with life to make it meaningful." Susan Linn, Contemporary American psychiatrist

Children develop important cognitive, physical, social and emotional skills through play in a natural, engaging and fun way. Through exploration and experimentation, children build problem-solving skills, develop critical thinking skills and promote creativity and imagination. Play reduces anxiety, increases motivation, and allows for failure in a safe environment.

Library lessons have included play time in the form of block building, playing shop using play money, card games, board games and puzzles to solving challenging IQ games. Through these activities, children learn to grasp concepts like spatial awareness, balance and basic maths. Through play with peers, children learn important social skills like sharing, negotiating, taking turns, cooperating, and resolving conflicts. Play provides opportunities for children to practice and improve their language and communication skills. They increase their vocabulary by hearing and using new words, practice conversation, storytelling, and listening skills.

"Play, while it cannot change the external realities of children's lives, can be a vehicle for children to explore and enjoy their differences and similarities and to create, even for a brief time, a more just world where everyone is an equal and valued participant." Patricia G. Ramsey, Contemporary American educational psychologist.

At the start of the year, the grade 1 to 3 classes made their own library card with unique membership number. The learners were shown how to use shelf markers, where and how to correctly place books on the shelf, how to check out and check in books, when and where to return books, and how to take care of books. Other lessons during library classes were those on values. Values education is important in the Foundation Phase to help foster children's social, emotional and intellectual development. Children build character and a sense of community. They develop a strong sense of self, respect for others and positive social skills. Library classes this year consisted of teaching some core values such as respect, responsibility, honesty, and compassion.



Grade 1
We read a 'Life Lessons' story about the importance of not judging others based on how they look or how different they are from us. It's what's inside that counts. We did a butterfly craft activity to illustrate how we are unique and beautiful in our own way, no matter what we look like on the outside.

We also read a 'Value Tales' story about the importance of believing in yourself, like Louis Pasteur, the scientist who created the rabies vaccine and invented pasteurisation. We even found the word pasteurised on a milk carton and drank some delicious milk for hands-on learning experience.



Grade 2
We read a book from the 'Let's Talk About' series titled *Let's Talk About Being Rude*. The story reminded us about the importance of having good manners and treating people with respect. We discussed how our words and actions can impact others. It ended with a recurring statement in each book in the series: "Treat others the way you would like to be treated."

We also watched a reading of the book *Love Monster*, about a monster searching for love and friendship. The learners wrote their own messages to the Love Monster, most offering their sweet friendship.



Grade 3
SCOOT! One of our favourites!
This fun and engaging activity involved an indoor lesson on distinguishing between fiction and non-fiction books. Armed with a worksheet in hand, the boys continued the lesson outdoors to find cards with pictures of books. They then applied their knowledge and marked off on their worksheet whether the book was fiction or non-fiction.



GRADE 3

Grade 3 report

~ Mrs Robynne Dewing

What an exciting and memorable year it has been for the grade 3 class. The boys started their year with Mrs Johnson as their teacher and, along the way experienced some big changes and wonderful achievements. One of the biggest changes for the learners was welcoming a new teacher, Mrs Dewing, halfway through the year. Although change can sometimes feel a little scary, the grade 3s showed incredible resilience and adaptability.

Throughout the year, the learners tackled many new skills: from improving their reading and writing to mastering more challenging maths concepts. They explored new topics in Life Skills, worked hard on expanding their Afrikaans vocabularies and enjoyed creating artworks that let their imaginations shine.

2025 also brought exciting opportunities outside the classroom. Now that the grade 3s were part of the under 9 age group, they were able to take part in cricket and rugby fixtures. This was done with great excitement and pride.

After an unforgettable year filled with hard work, extracurricular fun, interhouse competition and personal growth, the grade 3s can proudly say that they are ready for the Intermediate Phase.



GRADE 3

Back: Ms Abigail Benn, Alunamda Gila, Liwa Xalabile, Blaine Horne, Tyler Robertson, Aaron O'Brien, Samila Dyantyi, Jaundré Knoetze, Karsan Doyle, Cody Oerson, Mrs Robynne Dewing

Middle: Kuhle Mkhwane, Iwan Cordier, Timothy Shaw, Luca Cervati, Fynn Trauernicht, Danté Brand, Anganathi Tyhali, Zac van der Merwe, Zinam Butana, Amahle Manyati, Karabo Mabotja

Seated: Matthew Catto, Corné van Rooyen, Lusanele Botile, Jack Tidbury, Bizo Kesa, Likuwe Sikina, Teagan Hassim, Joel Bezuidenhout, Luke Lamont


Reading Groups
WILDLIFE PARK












KFC
ALL DAY
EVERY DAY

Grade 2 report

~ Mrs Amy De Lacy

The busy bees of grade 2 truly lived up to their name this year, buzzing with kindness, confidence, and joy from the very first day! Our classroom was always filled with excitement, from creative orals, colourful puppet shows, fun team projects, outdoor learning, art activities, and lots of celebrations, both big and small. Every learner shone in his own special way, making our hive a place of constant growth and happy memories.

One of our favourite moments was when Mrs De Lacy led the weekly junior assembly and read the story *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* The learners heard about Bucket Fillers – people who show love and kindness; and Bucket Dippers – people who take away good feelings. The idea that everyone carries an invisible bucket filled with positive thoughts really stuck with us. The grade 2 learners took this message to heart and made it their mission to stay bucket fillers all year long, and spread kindness wherever they went.

The big hearts of the grade 2s sparkled again on Valentine's Day when they were asked a simple but beautiful question: What is love? Their sweet answers lit up the morning. To them, love means sharing, giving flowers to your mom, being kind, helping with chores, hugging your teacher, and- as one boy said, "the BEST thing in the world!" Their words reminded us all how naturally children understand the magic of caring for others.

There was plenty of excitement outside the classroom too, especially during the Foundation Phase Splash Gala. The grade 2 learners were amazing as they showed off their growing water confidence and new swimming skills, making their teachers and coaches incredibly proud.

In the first term, the grade 2s showed kindness in action by becoming the Community Outreach champions! They eagerly sorted through their cupboards at home and donated clothes, toys, books, bedding, sports equipment, and more to help those in need. As a thank you for their wonderful generosity, Ms White surprised them with a well-earned pizza party in celebration of their big hearts and teamwork.

Our grade 2 hive also had a special surprise planned – a birthday celebration for Mrs De Lacy, whose birthday falls during the holidays. With help from our wonderful parents, the boys created a joyful celebration that truly made her day.

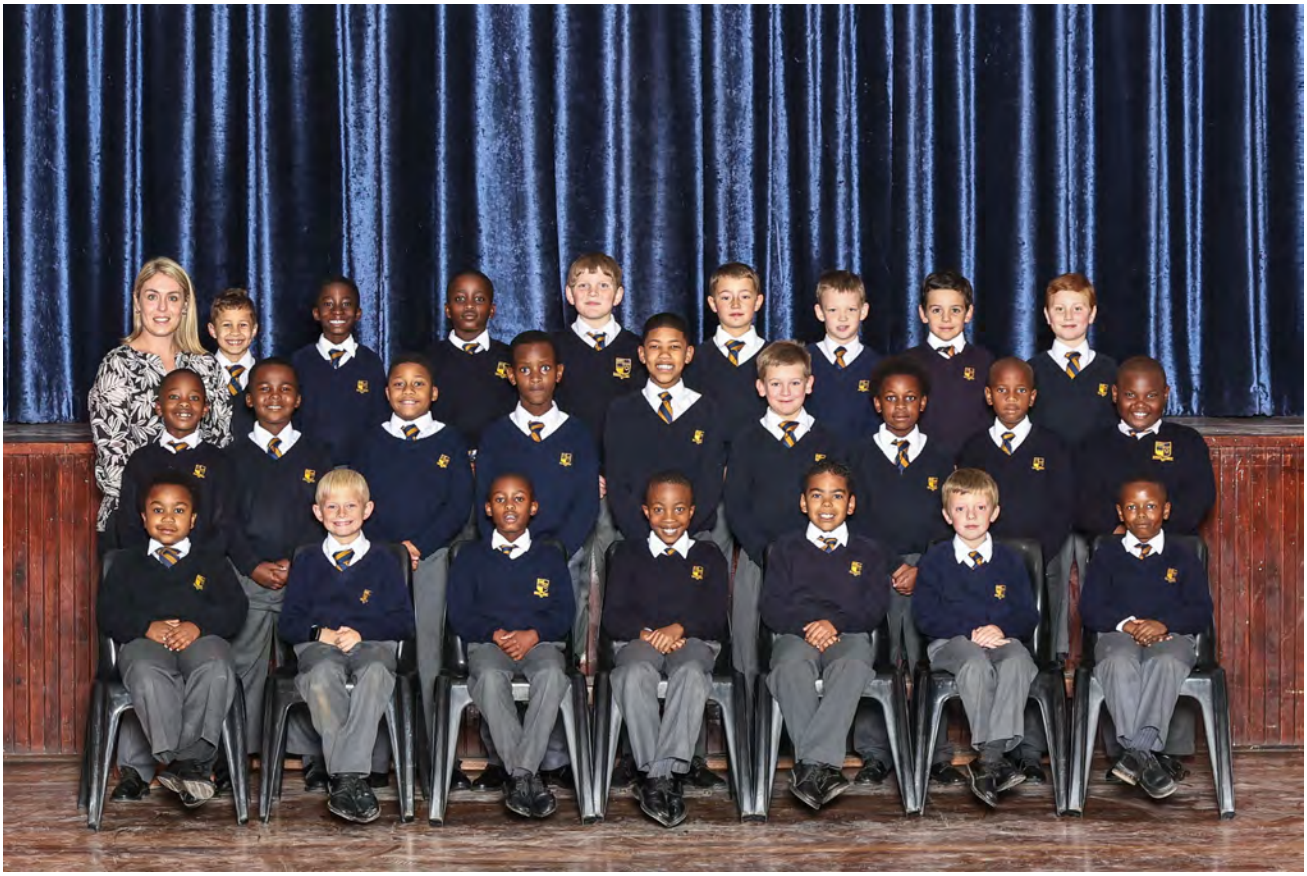
Rugby season brought even more excitement! The grade 2s played with great sportsmanship and team spirit, and Saturday mornings were always a thrill.

In the third term we welcomed Miss Cannon into our classroom to do her teaching practical. Miss Cannon is busy studying at Rhodes University to be a teacher. She fitted in beautifully, and the learners loved having her in the classroom. We all learned so much from her.

Adding to the joy, the school proudly announced that Mrs De Lacy was one of only three teachers shortlisted for the Excellence in Foundation Phase Teaching Award – a moment the class celebrated together.

Prizegiving was a special and emotional occasion, honouring every boy's progress, effort, and personal growth.

Although Mrs De Lacy is moving on, her Graemians will always hold a very special place in her heart. This year has been filled with love, learning, laughter, and countless treasured moments – proof that even the smallest bees can make the sweetest honey.



GRADE 2 ADL

Back: Mrs Amy De Lacy, Nicholas Rippon, Junior Akpeng, Akum Pama, Aiden Lockwood, Schalk van der Schyf, Ross Kapp, Andre Crous, Willem Olivier

Middle: Alophela Jabavu, Olumiyo Vambe, Carter Potts-Gidana, Lihlonele Kuselo, Miguel Featherstone, Leo du Preez, Rifumo Mokwena, Alunamda Khonza, Lulo Molefe-Dondashe

Seated: Zazi Skweyiya, Grayson Loest, Chwetha Madinda, Lethu Tyatyeka, Haydn Elie, Michael Berriman, Lingate Moerane



GRADE 1

A year of growth and discovery in grade 1

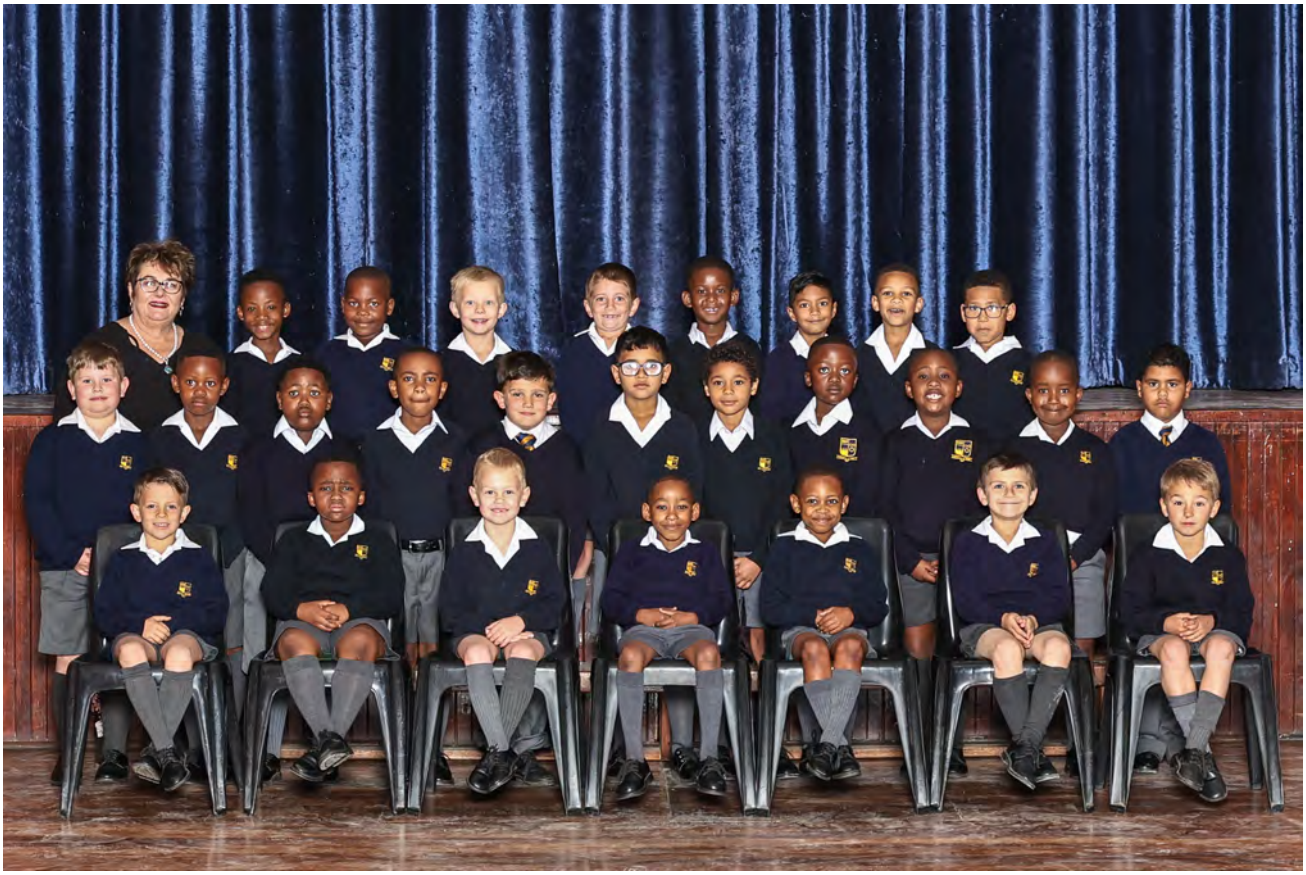
~ Mrs Henriette Nel

The grade one class embarked on an exciting journey of firsts throughout 2025. From stepping into the hall for the first time and singing the *Sons of the Leopard*, to experiencing homework and assessments.

The grade one learners demonstrated great growth, academically, socially, and emotionally. The learners adjusted well to classroom routines, developed confidence in their learning abilities, and showed enthusiasm across all subjects. The classroom environment remained positive, cooperative, and supportive, with learners steadily becoming more independent in their daily tasks.

Many milestones were achieved during this year: enjoying first school swimming lessons – such a useful life lesson; for some, first sport matches where learners learnt the importance of sportsmanship; athletics day where each boy gave it their all for their house; and first prizegiving where parents could watch as their sons ended their first year of big school with pride.

The little leopards embraced these experiences wholeheartedly and laid the foundation for their future. We look forward to witnessing their future growth in their years to come at Graeme College.



GRADE 1

Back: Mrs Henriette Nel, Botle Moerane, Othavile Tyhali, Llewellyn Wepener, Wihan Benn, Libuboni Zenani, Rahul Govender, Eli Cox, Jaeden Johannes

Middle: Adym Rasmussen, Avuyile Ngoqo, Lunabile Kula, Siviwe Jakavula, Oliver Gildenhuys, Tyrese Frans, Jaden Helliker, Lumimjalo Madyibi, Lulibo Matthews, Zimvo Ramokolo, Zack Butters

Seated: Holden Horne, Ayabonga Nkanyana, CJ van Rooyen, Thuso Hlwempu, Liqhawe Gidana, Kade Crous, Luan van der Schyf




Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday


Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday




10 ways to become a better reader:


Monday
Tuesday
10 ways to become a better reader:

Foundation Phase Splash Gala

The Foundation Phase Splash Gala showcased the much-improved water confidence and skills amongst these young Graemians. The teachers and coaches are proud of how much progress the learners have made during the swimming season.





















PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL

AN EVENTFUL YEAR FOR LEOPARD CUBS

~ Ms Lana Pretorius

From the Little Big Walk to nativity play, the young Leopards of Graeme College truly excelled in 2025.

The pre-primary learners enjoyed an outstanding year filled with growth, discovery and memorable experiences. Right from the beginning of the first term, the pre-primary school settled confidently into classroom routines, and the learners embraced each week's theme with enthusiasm and curiosity. Their days were enriched by creative activities designed to spark learning, build confidence, and encourage exploration.

A major highlight early in the year was the ever-popular annual Little Big Walk fundraiser which was, once again, a resounding success. Fun Fridays, held twice a month, added extra excitement as the learners eagerly participated in a variety of enjoyable themed activities.

The second term brought a joyful return as we welcomed Mrs Michaela Lister back into the grade R class after her extended medical leave. With both Miss Caitlin Craigie and Mrs Lister in the classroom, the learners benefited greatly from the support of two dedicated teachers.

The second term also featured our much-loved annual family events, Muffins with Mom, and Donuts with Dad, where the learners celebrated the special adults in their lives.

The third term overflowed with energy as the preschool took part in a mini athletics day. Their enthusiasm, sportsmanship and teamwork were wonderful to witness.

The final term for 2025 ended the year on a festive high. The learners worked diligently to prepare for our nativity play, The Christmas Star, which formed part of the annual Farmer Brown's Christmas Picnic. Their performance was a delightful culmination of a year filled with hard work and imagination.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our pre-primary parents for their consistent support throughout the year. Your involvement and encouragement play a vital role in creating the warm, nurturing, and engaging environment we strive to provide for our Leopard Cubs.







SOUTH AFRICA

SPIDERMAN




SPOTLIGHT ON GRADE R

Recycling robots



Crazy hair day



SPOTLIGHT ON GRADE 00

Settling in at Graeme College



Pyjama Day



Farmer Brown's Christmas Picnic




























1873


SPUR
THIRSTI
5
2


7


SPUR


THIRSTI


THIRSTI

Graeme College Rugby Festival













GRAEME COLLEGE RUGBY FESTIVAL

A Festival for Makhanda

~ Mr Gregg van Molendorff

The Graeme College Rugby Festival has long since become more than a school sporting event. For one weekend each year it becomes a celebration of rugby, community, and regional pride that extends far beyond the boundaries of the school itself. As schools began arriving in Makhanda during the days leading up to the 2025 festival, there was a noticeable sense of anticipation throughout the city. Team buses, school colours and visiting supporters became familiar sights around town as accommodation establishments, restaurants, coffee shops, and local businesses prepared for one of the busiest sporting weekends of the year. By the time the opening fixtures kicked off on Thursday morning, the city was ready.

From the very first match on day one, supporters lined the touchlines at Somerset and Marais fields. Families set up camp chairs under the trees, Old Boys renewed friendships formed decades earlier, and rugby enthusiasts moved between fields to ensure they missed none of the action. The atmosphere throughout the opening day reflected the excitement that has become synonymous with the Graeme College Rugby Festival. The rugby itself immediately justified the anticipation.

Traditional rugby rivals from across South Africa battled for early-season bragging rights, producing a series of fiercely contested encounters. The opening day featured several high-quality fixtures, with schools such as Queen's College, Selborne College, St Andrew's College, Pearson High School, Grey High School, and hosts, Graeme College, all taking to the field. Spectators were treated to fast-paced rugby, physical encounters, and moments of individual brilliance that set the tone for the remainder of the weekend.

As day one drew to a close, the crowd gathered around Somerset Field for Graeme College's opening fixture. Under the late-afternoon Makhanda sun, the home side produced an encouraging performance and gave supporters plenty to cheer about. The strong attendance and festive atmosphere provided an early indication that the 2025 festival would be one of the most successful in recent years.

Friday's fixtures saw the festival move into another gear. Following overnight rain, the fields presented a slightly different challenge, but this did little to dampen either the quality of the rugby or the enthusiasm of the supporters. If anything, the growing crowds and increasingly competitive fixtures added further intensity to the occasion.

One of the most pleasing aspects of day two was the prominent involvement of local schools. Hoërskool P.J. Olivier opened with a convincing 22–5 victory over Mzansi Academy from Gqeberha. The Makhanda side established a 10-0 halftime lead before producing a composed second-half display to secure the win. The result was celebrated by local supporters and highlighted the important role of the festival in providing opportunities for schools from the region to participate in a major sporting event.

Mary Waters High School also represented the city with distinction in a thrilling encounter against Woodridge College. Despite fighting back to take the lead during the second half, they were edged out 15-14 in one of the closest contests of the day. The fixtures reinforced one of the festival's defining characteristics. While elite first XV rugby attracts much of the attention, the event remains firmly rooted in community participation and youth development. Local teams are afforded the opportunity to compete alongside some of South Africa's most recognised rugby schools, creating memorable experiences for players and supporters.

As Friday progressed, the crowds continued to grow. The hospitality areas were full, the food stalls were busy, and the touchlines remained packed throughout the afternoon. Conversations about standout players, controversial referee decisions and Saturday's upcoming fixtures could be heard across the campus.

By Saturday morning, the festival had reached its peak. The final day traditionally attracts the largest crowds of the weekend, and 2025 was no exception. Visitors arrived early, determined to secure the best viewing spots around Somerset and Marais fields. Old Boys gathered in large numbers, families filled the embankments, and spectators moved between the various playing venues as they attempted to take in as much rugby as possible.

The junior fixtures produced several impressive performances. Queen's College defeated Muir College 52–5, Union High School overcame St Andrew's 52–5, Selborne defeated Sunridge 39–12 and Hangklip recorded a convincing 38-0 victory over Herbert Hurd. The Graeme College U13A side narrowly lost 8–5 to Gill College in a highly

competitive encounter that could easily have gone either way.

The senior matches delivered equally compelling rugby. Cambridge edged Otto du Plessis 24–21 in a thrilling contest, Pearson defeated Stirling 38–26, Queen's overcame Brandwag 29–15 and St Andrew's produced a dominant 46–17 victory over Framesby. Muir College's impressive 50–7 win over Gill College further highlighted the quality of rugby on display throughout the festival.

As the afternoon progressed, attention turned towards the final fixture. By the time Graeme College and St John's College took to Somerset Field, the atmosphere was electric. Hundreds of spectators lined the field, and many more filled the surrounding embankments. It was one of the largest crowds of the festival, and provided a fitting backdrop for the final match of the weekend. The home side rose magnificently to the occasion. Playing with confidence and determination, Graeme College produced one of their strongest performances of the season to defeat St John's College 39–24. As the final whistle sounded, players and supporters celebrated a victory that provided the perfect conclusion to a remarkable weekend of rugby.

The festival's true success extended far beyond results on the scoreboard. For three days, Makhanda became the centre of schoolboy rugby in the Eastern Cape. The festival showcased not only outstanding rugby, but also the values that underpin both the school and the broader community: service, friendship, sportsmanship, excellence, and pride. Thousands of visitors passed through the city, local businesses benefited from increased trade, and schools from across South Africa experienced the hospitality for which Graeme College and Makhanda have become known. As teams departed and the fields gradually fell silent once more, there was a collective sense that another successful chapter had been written in the history of the Graeme College Rugby Festival. It remains one of the city's most significant annual events and a powerful reminder of the ability of sport to bring communities together.







Matric Farewell Dance

The matric class of 2025 enjoyed their Farewell Dance on Friday 26 September. This long-anticipated event was moved because of the preliminary examinations. The grade 12s arrived dressed to the nines, accompanied by their elegant dates. Each matric learner made their own unique entrance, with various vehicles and vintage motor cars being brought out for the occasion. As they entered a much-altered school hall, the theme of The Orient was revealed. All of the surfaces of the hall were covered with black, red and gold, and the hall was beautifully lit with Chinese lanterns and fairy lights. Motifs of peach blossom, Chinese dragons, fans, and coins abounded.

The message for the evening was: "In Chinese culture dragons are symbolic of power, strength and good fortune. This is our hope for you as you emerge into your exciting new futures. Similarly, the image of the peach blossom has been used. This symbol represents love, romance, longevity, good luck and prosperity. Everyone wants the best for you, and school has prepared you well for fighting the battles of life. You now need to use these skills to forge your own path. Remember that, at the core of your being, you have the strength to do anything. Do not accept second-best by not working hard for what you want. The world is waiting for you to make a success of your life."

We trust that the grade 12s enjoyed their farewell dance and would like to thank all of the people who made it possible: staff, caterers and the grade 11 waiters. Most of all, we would like to thank the parents of the matric learners for the support shown to their sons.

It was a truly magical evening.























FOUNDERS' WEEKEND: CELEBRATING 152 YEARS

~ Mr Gregg van Molendorff

The annual Founders' Weekend remains one of the most significant occasions on the Graeme College calendar. It is a time when generations of Graemians return to their school, reconnect with lifelong friends, celebrate shared memories, and reaffirm the bonds that have united Old Boys across more than a century and a half.

In 2025 Graeme College celebrated 152 years since its establishment in 1873, welcoming Old Boys, parents, staff, supporters and current learners back to campus for a memorable weekend of reflection, fellowship and celebration. The programme included the traditional Founders' Day Memorial Service, sporting fixtures, school tours, the Old Graemian Union AGM, social gatherings and reunion events.

The centrepiece of the weekend was undoubtedly the Founders' Day Memorial Service, held on Somerset Field. While Founders' Weekend is rightly a celebration of our rich heritage, the Memorial Service reminds us that our history has also been shaped by sacrifice. Gathering beneath the trees on a warm Makhanda morning, the Graeme College community paused to honour those Old Graemians who gave their lives in service of their country and in the pursuit of freedom, democracy and peace, both in South Africa and across the world. Many of those remembered were once boys sitting where today's learners now sit. They walked the same corridors, played on the same fields and dreamed the same dreams. Their sacrifice serves as a powerful reminder that the privileges we enjoy today have often come at a great cost.

A moving aspect of the service was the laying of wreaths by representatives of the groups that make up the Graeme family. Wreaths were laid on behalf of Old Boys by Old Graemian Union President, Isak Smuts; on behalf of past and present staff by headmaster, Mr Kevin Watson; on behalf of current learners by head prefect, Jesse McConnachie; and on behalf of parents and the School Governing Body by chairman, Cameron McConnachie. Members of the Memorable Order of Tin Hats (MOTHS) also laid a wreath in honour of servicemen and women, adding further significance to the occasion.

One of the highlights of every Founders' Weekend is the opportunity to recognise reunion groups who return to campus. This year it was particularly special to welcome members of the Class of 1975 as they celebrated their 50-year reunion. Even more remarkable was the presence of members of the Class of 1955, celebrating an extraordinary 70 years since leaving Graeme College. Led by Alan Thompson, these gentlemen received a warm welcome and heartfelt applause from all in attendance. Their continued commitment to returning to their alma mater decades after leaving stands as a powerful testament to the enduring impact of a Graeme College education and the lifelong bonds formed here.

For current learners, seeing Old Boys return after fifty, sixty, and even seventy years, provides a tangible reminder that being a Graemian is not simply something one is for five years at school, it is a lifelong identity.

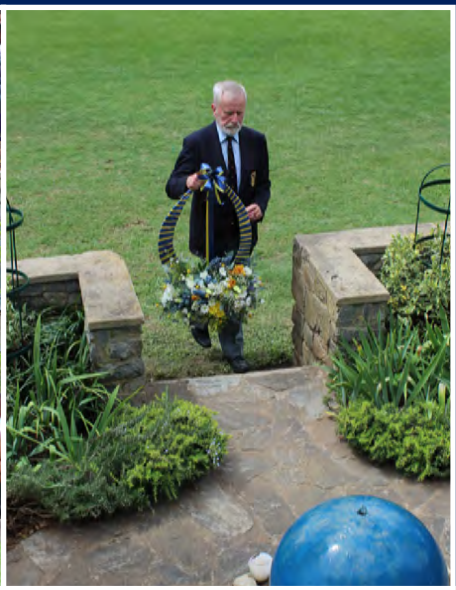
Throughout the weekend, campus was alive with activity as Old Boys donned the black and gold in a variety of sporting fixtures. Tennis, squash and cricket matches provided opportunities for former pupils to renew old rivalries and demonstrate that Graemian competitive spirit never truly fades. Laughter, storytelling and good-natured banter were evident around every field and court as generations connected through sport. Saturday's programme included cricket fixtures, school tours and the ever-popular Old Graemian Union Golf Day, while the Graemian Centre remained a hub of activity and fellowship throughout the weekend.

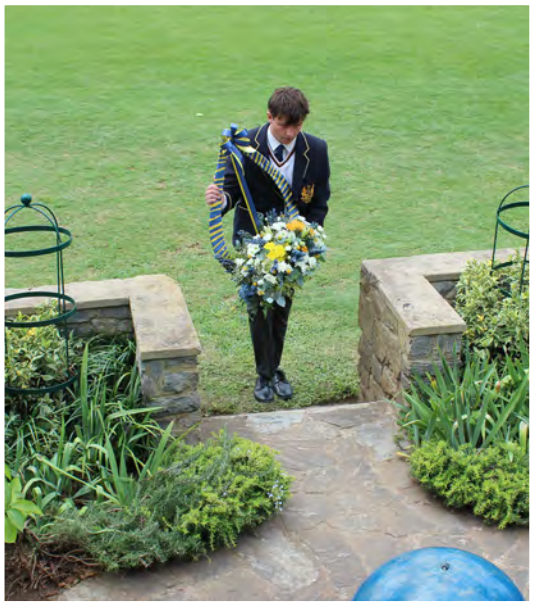
The Old Graemian Union Annual General Meeting provided an important opportunity to reflect on the ongoing work of the Union in supporting the school and strengthening connections between Old Boys around the world. The partnership between Graeme College and the Old Graemian Union continues to play a vital role in preserving the traditions and values of the institution while helping to ensure its future success.

As Graeme College looks to its 153rd year, Founders' Weekend once again demonstrated the unique strength of the Graemian brotherhood. Few schools can call upon generations of former pupils who return year after year, not out of obligation, but out of genuine affection for the institution that helped shape their lives. The weekend was a celebration of our past, an appreciation of our present, and a reminder of our responsibility to those who will follow in our footsteps. It highlighted the values that have sustained Graeme College since 1873—service, loyalty, friendship, courage and pride.

Long may these traditions continue.












VIRTUTE ET OPERA
Est. 1873







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