



Collegiate Girls' High School

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END OF TERM NEWSLETTER – 28 MARCH 2025



Dear Collegiate Community,

As we approach the close of our first term, I find myself reflecting on how we are indeed Living our Values; Building our Future. This year's theme is not merely a slogan but a call to action that echoes in the hallways, classrooms, sports fields, and all the many spaces where learning and growth happen at Collegiate.

Our brother school, Grey High School, presented us with a special gift in November last year in honour of our sesquicentennial year: a lamp post, with each of our five values pointing in different directions — Good Work Ethic, Responsibility, Respect, Compassion, and Integrity. What a fitting symbol it is, reminding us daily that our values are the guiding lights that show us the way forward.

Good Work Ethic has been firmly established for the year, as I have seen in the excellent results reflected in the reports that I have been reading. Many of our girls have demonstrated responsibility by working diligently, an effort that must be

carried forward as we prepare for the rigours of the second term, which will culminate in formal June examinations.

However, as schools are not just institutions of learning but places where character is formed, we are also teaching our girls to live their values and build their futures. Sometimes, when respect is not shown, it becomes our role to guide and correct, to help them develop the social graces and empathy that will serve them well when they step into the adult world beyond the protected confines of our school. When integrity and responsibility are evident, it is then when we celebrate our well-rounded girls.

Underlying every educator's interactions with the girls in their charge must be compassion. Navigating adolescence is no easy task, especially in a world that bombards our girls with often unsavoury or shallow messages of what they should be. Social media, with its polished illusions, can cast shadows over real-life interactions.

Add to this the challenges some face at home, be it hardships or the illness of loved ones. Yet, even while teaching calculus, the contours of the land, or how to conjugate verbs in French, we strive to approach our learners with compassion and help them manage their struggles.

We also commend our Wellbeing Department for the invaluable support they provide. Our psychologist, Mrs Kelly, and our social worker, Ms Hayward, have invested deeply in the wellbeing of many of our girls. While we bade farewell to Ms Hayward at the end of February, we will welcome a returning Collegiate Counsellor, Ms Jacqui van Rooyen, in the new term. We know that many will grow in resilience and confidence from both her and Mrs Kelly's guidance as they navigate the challenges from the world surrounding us.

Integrity remains our final and perhaps most challenging value. Mistakes will be made. However, what defines a person is not the error but their willingness to own up, admit the fault, accept corrective measures, and move forward with greater wisdom. In this, we teach them that

integrity is not about perfection but about the courage to strive for better, again and again.

As we prepare to take a break, let us reflect on the values we have embraced this term and the future we are collectively building. May the lamp post, gifted so thoughtfully by Grey High School, continue to be a beacon of inspiration as we enter the campus, reminding us daily of our five values and that the journey of living our values is ongoing and essential to our growth.

I wish you all a restful, rejuvenating break. To those who will be travelling, may you have journey mercies. For those engaged in sports tours, may you experience camaraderie and healthy competition. I look forward to our continued journey together in Term Two.

Warm regards,



MRS L ERASMUS
PRINCIPAL

STAFF FAREWELLS

MRS LEANA RODRIGUES

Mrs Leana Rodrigues has been at Collegiate for a short time, having started at Collegiate in January this year. Having moved to Gqeberha during 2023 from the Paarl area, the Rodrigues family settled down intending to spend many happy years here. However, life does not always proceed according to plan and the journey from Paarl has become a return journey.



In the short time that Mrs Rodrigues has been at Collegiate, she has immersed herself fully into all her roles and responsibilities at Collegiate, while still having to cope with two young sons on her own.

We thank Mrs Rodrigues for giving us this term. It has been a pleasure to witness her commitment, hard work and care, and we know that the next school at which she teaches, will be a fortunate school indeed.

MRS TIMMY VINCENT

Mrs Vincent joined the staff of Collegiate Girls' High School in January 2001 as a Physical Education teacher, and here we are, almost twenty-five years later, finding ourselves in the difficult position of saying farewell to someone who has been such a constant and valued presence. Looking back, it's incredible to think of all that Mrs Vincent has contributed to Collegiate over these years.

Those early years were filled with tennis practices, hockey coaching, and Physical Education lessons (and Maths) – with Mrs Vincent based in the Sports Office, where her tireless dedication and efficiency were immediately evident. For many years she not only organised and managed the school's tennis programme but also coached the teams with skill, care and success. An exceptional hockey player herself, Mrs Vincent coached the U16A Hockey team for quite some time and even led a Collegiate hockey tour to the Netherlands in 2006.



Mrs Vincent's strengths extended well beyond the sports field. As the years went by, her focus shifted from the Sports Office and Phys Ed to Room 269, where she is a beloved Maths teacher and, since 2016, Head of Mathematical Literacy. Mrs Vincent's high school teaching career began at Riebeek College back in the 1980s. These words from one of her former students, who is now a teacher on our staff must be shared: "Mrs Vincent was everything we wanted to be when we grew up. We hung on to her every word in Guidance classes because she was vibrant, active, calm, and so understanding. She inspired and motivated us."

25 years of service. A tenure of passion, dedication and energy that never waned. We will forever count ourselves fortunate to have had such an exceptional educator grace our corridors.

PARENT TEACHER MEETING

Once you have reviewed your daughter's report, we trust that you will discuss her progress with her. We are pleased with the academic progress that our learners have made with many excelling in various subjects. However, if there are areas of concern in certain subjects, we encourage you to discuss these concerns with the particular subject teacher. There is an opportunity to do so, in person, on the evening of **Wednesday 9 April 2025** between 16h30 and 18h30.

You will need to book a time slot with the teacher(s) you wish to see. Consultations are limited to five minutes with five minutes between slots. Please find the link to the booking form and instructions on how to make the bookings here. You will need to know the name(s) of your daughter's teacher(s) of the particular subject(s) about which you are concerned. Please note, that as time-slots are limited, you might not be able to see a particular teacher if all slots have already been booked. You are then encouraged to contact the teacher via email to set up a meeting or telephone call

during the week.

We will not be able to accommodate you on the evening without a pre-booking.

Please click on the following link:

<https://www.collegiatehigh.co.za/teacher-booking>

Only available time slots for that teacher will show. If no time slots are visible, it means that that teacher is fully booked. You will receive a confirmation email at the email address you specified with all the details of your booking.

We are partners in your daughter's education and value the opportunity to engage with you regarding any intervention necessary to ensure your daughter's academic progress and ultimate success.

DISTRICT AWARDS: CLASS OF 2024 NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

The Department of Education District Awards was a celebration of the Nelson Mandela Bay Schools, as well as our amazing Subject Heads and Teachers and every young lady of the Class of 2024. At the Department of Education District Awards, we were recognized for our 100% pass rate, placed second in the district on a range of criteria, and first in the district in English Home Language, Afrikaans First Additional Language, Physical Sciences, Consumer Studies, Computer Application Technology and Mathematical Literacy. We celebrate all with the courage to live by our five core values of Responsibility, Good Work Ethic, Respect, Compassion and Integrity.



STEAM WEEK

"All the world is a laboratory to the inquiring mind." - Martin Henry Fischer, Physician & Author

STEAM Week 2025 steamed ahead with creativity, problem-solving, and scientific exploration. The Science corridors showcased posters which highlighted the role of Mathematics in nature, Art, Music and various disciplines.

At the official launch assembly, Mrs Erasmus presented AI-generated poetry, Clarice Pieterse played the theme song from the television show, *Dragon Ball Z*, and guest speaker, Jeannie Serfontein, an industrial engineer encouraged learners to consider careers in fields where women remain underrepresented. Highlights of the week included:

- E-Sport Showcasing
- Talent Search Olympiad
- Nelson Mandela University lecturers visiting classes, their Robotics Department presenting an introduction to the Robotics League and their STEM in Action Team visiting classes and engaging our learners at break
- 3D printing workshop
- St James Secondary School collaboration
- STEM in Action Team from Nelson Mandela University
- Drone Coding Workshops and Coding Challenges
- Choir performance in the Quad

- Mathematics Circle Challenge

This week strengthened our commitment to our 2025 theme of *'living our values, building our future!'*



CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSES IN SPORT

We are thrilled to reflect on the remarkable achievements of our learners in various sports and activities. Their dedication, hard work, and passion were evident this term, and we are excited to share some of the highlights.

WATER POLO

U14 Season:

Our U14A Water Polo team enjoyed an impressive start to the season, achieving fantastic results at the Dave Pitcairn Tournament and the Jason Murray Tournament. The team secured the **Gold Medal** in a nail-biting final against Clarendon at the Jason Murray Tournament, winning in an exhilarating penalty shootout. The squad fought valiantly in the Dave Pitcairn Tournament, ultimately earning a **Silver Medal** after a fierce match against a well-prepared Reddam Constantia.



U15 Season:

The U15 teams demonstrated resilience and determination in their respective tournaments this term. The U15A team participated in the Shaun Fuchs Tournament in Johannesburg, ultimately finishing 16th out of 24 teams. Their journey was an invaluable learning experience against strong competitors. Meanwhile, the U15B Team excelled at the Chukka Festival in Knysna, despite competing against A teams. Special congratulations to **Katelyn Ellis**, who was named Collegiate's **Most Valuable Player** at the festival for her standout performances.

2nd Team Season:

Our second team showcased impressive skills at the Chukka Festival, losing only two matches against Bloemhof and

Herschel Girls' High School. This reflects their grit and teamwork, and a special congratulations to **Amy Wilmot** for being selected as Collegiate's **Most Valuable Player** throughout the festival.



1st Team Season:

The 1st Team faced tough challenges at the Kingswood College Brian Baker Tournament and the Old Pets Tournament at St Peter's College. Finishing 16th and 15th respectively, the tournaments offered valuable experience against South Africa's top schools. Congratulations to all players, particularly our matric learners, for their dedication. We are eager to see how they continue to improve, with sincere gratitude to Investec for their ongoing support of our Water Polo programme.



SWIMMING

National All Girls' Aquatics Festival:

In January, our talented swimmers impressed at the National All Girls' Aquatics Festival, bringing home sixth podium medals. Their hard work is commendable. In February, our girls performed admirably, placing 2nd overall with 293 points at the Pearson Prestige Gala.

A huge congratulations to all participants.

The annual Aquatics Day was a resounding success, with the entire school community coming together to support our outstanding swimmers.

Record-Breaking Achievements:

Congratulations to **Jemmah Roman** for breaking the U14 50m Butterfly record and **Sienna Gous** for breaking the U16 100m Freestyle record.

Top Swimmers:

U14: Jemmah Roman (63 points), Morgan Gous (62 points)

U16: Sienna Gous (78 points), Zandri Knoetze (42 points)

U18: Jenna Coetzee (47 points), Madison Fourie (33 points)



ARTISTIC SWIMMING

Collegiate's Artistic Swimming team had a fantastic start to the year at the East Cape Schools Synchro Challenge, thanks to the guidance of our dedicated coach, Mrs Norden. Congratulations to all the girls for their outstanding achievements, and a special mention to **Aneesah Lindoor**, who made the Eastern Cape Artistic Swimming Team for the SA Junior Nationals in Durban.



CHESS



We welcomed our new chess coach, Neathan Peters, this term and our players have been actively preparing for their league matches. Congratulations to Grade Eight learner **Aishwarya Ranjith** for her impressive 2nd place at the Sarah Baartman District Chess Tournament and her selection to the U14 Female section of the SA Junior Closed Chess Championships.



SQUASH

Under the coaching of **Alan Stapleton**, our squash teams have shown great enthusiasm, with our lower-ranked players securing victories in a friendly match against Middelburg School during Grey's Open Day.

CRICKET

Cricket is thriving at Collegiate, with three teams now participating in the league. Despite some tough losses, our players are improving after two successful tours. We are proud of each team's progress and look forward to their ongoing development.

E-SPORTS

Our E-Sports Team concluded Term One ranked 64th out of 168 teams in the ASL Fortnite League. They are now gearing

up for the All Girls' Festival in various games, including Rocket League and FIFA 25.

ATHLETICS

The 2025 Athletics season took off with our annual Athletics Day held on 31 January at the Westbourne Oval. Our athletes shone brightly and the stands were filled with house spirit. Congratulations to Victoria House for clinching the top spot.

Following the Athletics Day, our athletes participated in the zonal meeting and the PEHS meeting, with all individuals pushing through to the top 8 in their events. We are pleased to announce that they brought home a total of 10 medals during the Metro Champs, including 5 gold, 1 silver, and 4 bronze. Special recognition goes to Sophia Jansen for qualifying for the Eastern Cape team.

TENNIS

Term One has proven to be an especially vibrant season for tennis at Collegiate. We saw a fantastic turnout of ladies on the courts, with our energetic coaches, William and Gareth Wickens, inspiring our players every step of the way. In January, our 1st team ventured to East London for the Merrifield Tournament, achieving commendable results against teams such as Stirling, Kingswood, and Ooskus, finishing 2nd in Pool A. Although they faced a tough loss in



the semi-finals against Cradock High, the squad fought valiantly, ultimately placing 4th out of 8 teams.

Later in the term, we hosted the Valentine's Mixed Doubles Festival with Grey High during our Open Days. This event was filled with fun, laughter, and a delightfully sweet touch—thanks to the Valentine cupcakes enjoyed by all.

Towards the end of February, our 1st team returned to East London for the Selborne Clarendon Mixed Doubles Tournament, where they, alongside the Grey boys, secured a remarkable 3rd place. The team narrowly missed the finals, losing by only one point but demonstrated excellent teamwork and skill.

NETBALL

The 2025 Netball season started off with impressive showings at the pre-season competitions starting in early March. Our U14 A, B, and C along with the U16B and C teams, participated in the Despatch Skommeltoernooi, achieving an impressive 15 out of 19 wins.

In the Despatch Sports Festival on 8 March, our 1st, 2nd, 17A, and 16A teams also delivered strong performances, with the 1st Team securing 3 wins out of 4.

The U14 B team continued their winning streak at the Alex U14 Festival from March 14-15, playing 7 matches and losing only one against A teams. Lastly, the 1st team faced tough competition from Western Cape schools at the annual Netball tournament at Paarl Girls' High from 20 to 23 March.

As we celebrate a successful first term, we want to express immense gratitude to our coaches, staff, and parents for your unwavering support. We would also like to thank our

HOCKEY

In what remains a summer sports term, our Hockey teams have been busy preparing and honing their skills. The High Performance (HP) group of 40 dedicated ladies continued to train vigorously, participating in conditioning sessions, pilates, and gym programmes.

This term we saw a strong turnout for trials, leading to the formation of 4 senior teams, 6 U16 teams, and 3 U14 teams.

Festival Participation

U14 Teams: Both the A and B teams showcased their strength at the Alex Festival, remaining unbeaten.

U16 Teams: The A side finished 5th in the A Section at the Pearson Festival while the B side secured 2nd place in the B Section.

1st Team Success: The 1st team had a stellar performance at the annual Greg Beling Festival, winning all four of their matches.



Netball Sponsors, Tavcor Suzuki, for their invaluable support. Together, we create a vibrant and supportive community for our girls to thrive. We look forward to what the rest of the year will bring. We wish all our Netball teams well when they travel to Gauteng and the Western Cape for top tier sporting tournaments.



CULTURE AND SOCIETY

We proud of the accomplishments of our learners who continue to shine in the cultural spheres. At Collegiate, we believe in nurturing, not just academic excellence, but also artistic expression and personal growth.

STRING ORCHESTRA SUCCESS

We are thrilled to announce that several of our outstanding violinists have been selected to participate in the Eastern Cape String Orchestra Senior Course: Caitlin de Souza, Cailin Louw, Omhle Manona, Unako Nondlazi and Cwenga Williams.

These talented learners join string players from across the Eastern Cape, showcasing their dedication and passion as they prepare for this opportunity. During the recent combined ECWO-ECSCO concert, our violinists managed their challenging parts with grace and confidence, truly representing Collegiate with pride.

JUNIOR STRING ORCHESTRA RECOGNITION

In addition, Mishall Wesley has been selected for the Eastern Cape Junior String Orchestra. This exciting course will run from 27 to 30 March, culminating in a concert on Sunday at Summerwood Primary School. We would like to congratulate Grade Eight learner Abbygail de Lange (percussion) for being selected for the Eastern Cape Junior Wind Orchestra.

DARE2DANCE SELECTION

We are delighted to announce the selection of our Collegiate Ballroom Dancers for the Dare2Dance Dance Squad for 2025: Sasha-Belle Bonner, Morgan Guest and Jordan Pierpoint.

The Dare2Dance Studio's Dance Squad consists of the finest dancers from high schools across Gqeberha, and we are thrilled that these girls have earned their place among such talented peers.

ROMEO AND JULIET



At Collegiate, we champion the arts as a vital component of holistic education. We recognize that the expression of creativity fosters critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and teamwork. This production not only showcases the talents of our learners but also underscores our belief that education extends far beyond the walls of a classroom. It is about nurturing young minds to think, feel, and create.

How fitting it is that we presented *Romeo and Juliet*, a work that has resonated with audiences for nearly 429 years, in our own school that proudly celebrates 151 remarkable years this year. The enduring nature of this play serves as a testament to the themes of love, conflict, and the timeless human experience—reminders that some stories and lessons never fade; they remain relevant and poignant across generations, just as our school does. We saw our talented performers breathe new life into Shakespeare's words, we appreciated not only the artistry on stage but also the hard work, perseverance, and passion that each learner poured into this production.



As we wrap up this incredibly busy term, we reflect on the myriad events and celebrations that have filled our days with joy and purpose. From the elegance of the Matric Dance to the meaningful rites of passage, we have witnessed moments that mark significant milestones in our learners' lives. The House Day awards, RCL elections, and the excitement of electing our cheerleaders have all contributed to a vibrant school community. Our successful

Open Day showcased the incredible talents and passion of our learners, while the Collegiate Grey Mixer and the fun-filled grade fun days brought everyone together in laughter and camaraderie. Each event has enriched our experience, reminding us of the importance of connection and celebration. We are profoundly grateful for every moment we get to share, and we look forward to creating even more cherished memories in the days to come.

