



Dear Parents

An exciting decision was taken at the final Council meeting of the year under the chairmanship of Mr Michael Spicer. The Council has decided unanimously to embark on a major building project for St John's College starting in March 2008, which consists of:



- a new teaching centre consisting of thirteen classrooms for English and Geography, with appropriate staff common rooms and offices for these subjects
- a hall seating 800, which will be used for a variety of purposes including exams, exhibitions, assemblies, parent/teacher meetings, choir festivals and other functions
- a new boarding house with fifty beds, including accommodation for the Housemaster and two Assistant Housemasters, and a common room. This will enable us to reconstitute Hill House as a boarding house and meet the growing demand for boarding.

This new building will be situated adjacent to the Deane Yates Centre on the western side. Two houses will be demolished to allow room for the building, which will also allow us to redirect St David Road behind the new building and the Deane Yates Centre. This means that the section of St David Road in front of the new building and the Deane Yates Centre can be pedestrianised.

This project will cost in the region of R55 million. Funding has been made possible through the saving of development levies over the past few years and prudent use of the pension surplus. Mrs Rene England has also generously given to St John's College a further R5 million to fund the building of the new school hall. It will be known as the Rene England Hall.

A very important result of this new development will be that Nash House and Hodgson House boarding accommodation will be renovated. Once the new boarding is completed the space will be used to accommodate the present boarders so that renovation can begin. The model we are using allows for rooms of four beds for juniors and rooms of either two beds or one bed for seniors. Each grade will have ten boarders per house, thus catering for 150 College boys in boarding. The Sixth Form will continue as they are in their present accommodation, with a total of fifty boarders.

The additional classrooms in the new building will also:

- give us the space to improve the common rooms and provide adequate locker space and more secure kit-bag storage in 'Old School'
- provide space for Drama, a new academic subject in the College, which will be accommodated in Room 70 and Big School

New change rooms and toilets will be built with a common room for Clarke House on the ground floor of the present English classrooms. Big School and the surrounding area will then become the venue for Drama. The staff common room/dining room will be extended into Room 57.

It is important to note that the Council of St John's has no intention of growing the school beyond its present numbers of 700 boys in the College. This means that there will be 135 – 140 boys in each grade, consisting of approximately 23 boys in six classes per grade.

One of the major challenges besides the financial challenge of securing funding for the new building has been to secure permission from the Johannesburg Municipality and the National Monuments Commission for the right to demolish; to build, and to redirect the road. Almost all the agencies have granted permission



and we hope to have a provisional go ahead in early 2008.

Another very exciting development for 2008 is the donation by Colliers of a new water polo pool and pavilion. Mr Ricky Fertig, CEO of Colliers and OJ, Clayton 1980, has agreed to sponsor this development. The planning is to start at the end of March and finished by the start of the water polo season in September. The present pool needs to be completely renovated as it leaks badly. It is also too small to host national tournaments, and lacks proper change-rooms and toilets. We are very grateful to Mr Fertig for his generosity.

I do want to thank the staff for all their hard work and wish Mr Hansel Stevenson and Mr Franklin Human all the best for the future as they leave us. I also thank Sister Jacinta Roos for her service to the boys. Her love and care has made many a sick child happier. We have also said farewell to Dr Steve Cotterell, our school doctor, who for the last fourteen years has seen to the needs of St John's boys. He has been a loyal and committed doctor who has given of his expertise and served the needs of this community. We also wish him all the best for the future.

Finally, I wish to thank you for your support for St John's during what has been an excellent year. I do wish you and your families a very blessed Christmas, and we can no doubt look forward to an exciting 2008. Have a wonderful holiday.

Roger Cameron
Headmaster

MICHAEL SPICER

Michael became Chairman of St John's College Council at the beginning of 2001. At that time he had the unique distinction of having been educated at St John's, then after a degree in History at Rhodes University where he achieved an MA with distinction, returning to teach at St John's for a brief period. Later both his sons, Nicholas and Simon were enrolled at St John's and matriculated with academic honours and many other accolades. So Michael was also a parent at St John's, and for the past six years he has served St John's College as Chairman of Council. I think it can be said that he knew and experienced St John's from many different angles.



I do wish to thank him as he retires from this position and Mr Vuyo Kahla takes over.

Reflecting on Michael's six years of leadership, I am grateful for his clear vision and his ability to think strategically for the future of the school. His understanding of the South African and the world context has enabled St John's to position itself according to its strategic vision of a world class Christian school in Africa. Several strategic planning meetings were held during his Chairmanship, which culminated in the 2020 Conference with participants drawn from the Old Boys, teachers, council, pupils, parents and the church. From this conference came a clear identification of the need for financial sustainability, academic excellence, a commitment to our heritage of Christian faith and values, and a challenge to be representative of the full spectrum of a young South African democracy.

To achieve the above, Michael, with the help of a very able Council and School Executive has re-invigorated the St John's College Foundation as an organisation that seeks to source additional financial support from parents and Old Boys. Its theme of *'giving back to St John's as an expression of gratitude'* aims to capitalise on the community of Johannians and their good will.

The major building programme which the school is about to embark on is the culmination of astute and prudent financial management. The strategic needs of the school for updated, larger teaching venues; new and renovated boarding facilities; a renovated Pre-Prep to include additional music and Upper 1; an upgrade of the Music Department; and the development of a Sports Centre will be met over the next 5 years. This will build on the wonderful heritage we have as a trust for future generations of Johannians.

Finally, the endorsement by Council of the need for bursaries and scholarships to allow talented young men to benefit from an education at St John's has been critical to the vision that emerged from the 2020 Conference.



At a personal level, I have been very grateful to Michael for his support and wisdom. When consulting on any crisis or challenge, his insightful assessment was always invaluable. Often challenging and demanding, Michael has expected excellence from St John's College and never allowed mediocrity. I think it is difficult for someone outside of the leadership of St John's to realise how much time Michael has devoted to this significant role as Chairman of Council. Often twice, three times a week, he has made himself available for meetings and consultations. He also, despite the demands of his own work environment, made the time to attend many sporting fixtures and school functions.

I do thank him for his crucial role and acknowledge that St John's is in a strong position as he steps down as Chairman of Council. In conversation he has remarked that his period of chairmanship of St John's has been one of the highlights of his career. With an involvement over so many years and in so many different capacities, I am confident that Michael will continue to be supportive of this wonderful institution, and that there will be new opportunities for St John's to benefit from his wisdom.

Roger Cameron

MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL SPICER regarding school finances

These are healthy, though as I have repeatedly remarked that the margin for error in the operating budget remains very thin. Our operating budget for 2008 is just over R80m, 9 percent up on our 2007 budget, on which we project to record a small surplus.

Two significant financial developments in 2007 were the registration of the school and its activities in terms of VAT, which will be a net positive for the school finances going forward, and the resolution of the pension fund surplus issue with the Financial Services Board. This has allowed the Council to divide the surplus between staff and pensioners, who have enjoyed a material pension enhancement, and the school which will be able to take a pension fund holiday for the next five years. The consequent saving in expenditure will be accrued to the capital development programme of the school, to which I will return shortly.

Against this background and the continuing desire of the Council to balance the policy of enhancing teacher remuneration with the need to ensure long term financial sustainability which most importantly includes affordability to the broadest possible spread of parents, the Council has agreed, to a 9,0 percent fee increase for 2008, allowing for a 9 percent increase in teachers' salaries. Notwithstanding the long overdue increase in public sector teacher salaries this year, the package offered by St John's to its staff remains highly competitive. I should also add that the fee increase which is higher than we would all like, compares very favourably with our peers, many of whom have opted for double digit and even high double digit increases.

Two notable features of the 2008 budget is the deliberate increase in the provision for scholarships and bursaries. This will help advance the goal of ensuring that St John's attracts the best and most deserving candidates from all South African communities. Diversity in the pupil body, as well as staff and leadership, is a key component of the transformation agenda of the school, one of my priorities during the past six years, and which is aimed at ensuring that the school is a fully contributing member of the broader South African society, aligned to its developmental goals and ensuring that its significant resources benefit others in the community.

The second feature is also relevant to this broad objective. In order to assist in the national drive to raise the number of Maths and Science matriculants and to enhance the teaching of these subjects as well as of English, the Council has agreed to support an initiative of the School Executive to set up the St John's College Academy. This will have a small dedicated staff, supported by the participation of the existing St John's staff and will provide afternoon schooling for up to 75 promising boys in grades 10, 11 and 12 drawn from Hillbrow, Yeoville and surrounding areas, as well as opportunities for teacher training in these disciplines for teachers in the area. The school will support the establishment of the Academy but plans to attract sufficient sponsorship to ensure that it is self-funding within three years.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

In the 1990s St John's College outsourced the service function to Supercare. However, many of the St John's service staff who had been employed by St John's continued to serve the school under Supercare. At the final assembly we honoured nine members of staff who collectively have served St John's for 214 years.

We thank them for their service and St John's College acknowledges their loyalty and commitment.

Name	Started	Years Service
Dixon Buthelezi	1976	31
Ananias Mashimaite	1976	30
Gedifile Mtungwa	1983	24
Isabella Ndzeru	1983	24
Gladys Mashifane	1984	22
Morris Bila	1986	21
Percy Mpharalala	1986	21
Ezekial Dikotla	1986	21
Sinah Dikotla	1987	20

ART NEWS

INTERSCHOOLS IEB MATRIC ART EXHIBITION

The St John's art department once again organised this important event in the art calendar. This was the fourth of its kind, and this time, instead of using the Sandton Art Gallery, we were invited to hold the exhibition at Citivarsity, Newtown, from the 20th to the 30th September. Each IEB school in Gauteng is invited to exhibit 6 works, and as usual about 20 schools exhibited their best matric art works. Our guest speaker was Gordon Fraud, a well-known South African artist. The St John's boys whose work was chosen for the exhibition were Myles Day, Dominic Gordon-Grant, Peter du Plessis, Guy Munton, Robert Hu, Mieszko Ogonowski and Keegan Ziady. Gordon was very impressed with the standard of work, and said that he would never have believed it was done by school pupils. We were very proud when he judged an exquisite charcoal triptych of Keegan Ziady's to be the joint winner of "best work on exhibition" along with work by a pupil from Redhill. Congratulations to all the exhibitors, and in particular, to Keegan.



Keegan Ziady and Gordon Fraud



Lorna Culwick, Prof William Kentridge
and Shelagh Scholes

ST JOHN'S MAJOR ANNUAL MATRIC EXHIBITION

Our major annual Matric Art Exhibition was held in Big School from the 24th - 26th October, as usual opening at 6pm with cocktails. We were extremely proud to have international artist William Kentridge as our guest speaker. He gave an inspiring, humorous and encouraging talk, commenting on the excellence of skill and concept evident in our boys' work. He particularly commended the boys on their drawing skills, and advised them to look at the drawings of the 19th century Romantic artist, Ingres, when next in Paris. He gave special mention to many boys for varying strengths, saying how hard it was to have to judge only two as best works/artists on exhibition. Those given special mention were Keegan Ziady, Piers Cooper, Mohamed Moti, Dominic Gordon-Grant, Mark Pengelly, Mieszko Ogonowski, Christopher Icely, Ayanda Siqebengu, Peter du Plessis, Matthew Hewitson and Myles Day. Finally, he announced the two best artists on exhibition: Robert Hu and Simon Bosman.



ART FOR MATRIC

Because the number of junior art lessons in the school time-table has had to diminish due to the OBE requirements of drama and music as part of the arts and culture programme, we have decided to offer extra lessons to those juniors who wish to do Art as a matric subject (or who are thinking of doing so). These lessons will take place during the activities programme (2.10 - 3.10), and there will be an opportunity for boys to choose a day that suits them. The cost of these lessons which will be in small groups will be R100 per hour, and should be taken once a week. Boys can find out about this next year during the "activities sign-up" afternoon.

ENGLISH ALIVE

Four writers from St John's have had work published in the 2007 edition of *English Alive*. One is Sven Glietenberg, now and Old Johannian. Melvyn Lubega, Jonathan Singh and Errol Lai each received a copy of the publication at the final assembly this term.

MATHS

South African Mathematics Olympiad

The following boys finished in the top 100 candidates in **Gauteng** in the Second Round of the Mathematics Olympiad:

Rowan Dalton
Frazer Watt
Johan Prinsloo
James Verhagen
Zain Patel
Julian Lap
James Williams
Findlay Matheson
Zahed Thokan

Awadi Rathugamage finished in the top 100 candidates in **South Africa**. He is awarded a bronze medal and certificate.

MUSIC

Congratulations to Jean-Emile Jamine on being awarded a distinction for Grade 8 Sax in the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music examination.

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music examination October results:

Findlay Matheson	Euphonium	Grade 7
Jean-Emile Jamine	Saxophone	Grade 8
Nikissi Serumaga (6th Form)	Piano	Grade 6

Trinity Guildhall London:

Abel Selaocoe	Cello	Grade 7	Reshard Kolabhai	Piano	Grade 8
Alek Gallo	Clarinet	Grade 6	Joshua Geffen	Piano	Grade 8
Andries Joubert	Clarinet	Grade 7	Travis Bradfield	Recorder	Grade 5
Stephen Haiden	Drum Kit	Grade 6	Benjamin Thomas	Saxophone	Grade 4
Julian Lap	Organ	Grade 3	Michael Cloete	Saxophone	Grade 4
Magnus Rowbotham	Clarinet	Grade 6	Shyam Venkatakrishnan	Saxophone	Grade 5
Paul Cresswell	Oboe	Grade 6	Michael Channon	Saxophone	Grade 7
Min-Hyoung Lee	Piano	Grade 3	Jon-Marco Maycock	Trombone	Grade 4
Andrew Petersen	Piano	Grade 7	Michael Kelly	Trumpet	Grade 6
Benjamin McGraw	Piano	Grade 7	Christian Sittmann	Clarinet	Grade 8
Kyle Hanck	Piano	Grade 7			

SPORTS NEWS

Le Sueur Trophy

Double Points

	Nash	Hill	Clayton	Thomson	Aston	Clarke	Hodgson	Fleming
Swimming	2	6	14	12	4	8	10	16
Music	12	2	4	10	6	14	8	16
Athletics	12	4	14	10	8	2	16	6
Tabloids	10	6	14	2	8	4	16	12
Cross Country	4	16	8	6	14	2	12	10
Academics	4	12	8	14	6	10	2	16

Normal Points

	Nash	Hill	Clayton	Thomson	Alston	Clarke	Hodgson	Fleming
Tennis	2	7	3	1	5.5	5.5	4	8
Squash	3	1	8	2	7	5	4	6
Water polo	1	7	6	4	2	3	8	5
Debating	1	4	2	6	7.5	7.5	4	4
Basketball	2	4	1	6	3	5	8	7
Hockey	7	2	5	1	4	6	3	8
Soccer	7	1	4	6	5	3	8	2
Chess	1	8	6	2	5	4	7	3
Spraakgilde	5	8	6	2	3.5	3.5	1	7
House Play	6	7.5	1	5	3	7.5	2	4
Rugby	6	7	3	5	4	1	8	2
Golf	4.5	7	8	6	4.5	2.5	1	2.5

Total	89.5	109.5	115	100	100	93.5	122	134.5
Position	8	4	3	5	5	7	2	1

Senior Trophy

Double Points

	Nash	Hill	Clayton	Thomson	Alston	Clarke	Hodgson	Fleming	Runge
Swimming	4	8	16	14	6	10	12	18	2
Music	14	2	4	12	6	16	10	18	8
Athletics	14	4	16	12	10	6	18	8	2
Tabloids	14	6	18	8	12	4	16	10	2
Cross Country	10	16	14	8	12	4	18	6	2

Normal Points

	Nash	Hill	Clayton	Thomson	Alston	Clarke	Hodgson	Fleming	Runge
Tennis	4	6	1	2	7	8	5	9	3
Squash	5	3	8	2	7	6	9	4.5	1
Water polo	1	8	7	5	2	4	9	6	3
Debating	2	4	5	7	6	9	8	1	3
Basketball	2	4	1	6	3	5	8	7	9
Hockey	9	1	8	2	4	6	7	5	3
Soccer	9	1	4	7	3	5	8	6	2
Chess									
Spraakgilde									
House Play	7	8.5	1	6	4	8.5	3	5	2
Rugby	8	7	1	5	2	3	9	4	6
Golf	4	8	9	7	5	6	3	2	1

Total	106.5	86.5	113	103	89	100.5	143	109.5	49
Position	4	8	2	5	7	6	1	3	9





In proud association with

First National Bank - a division of FirstRand Bank Limited.



Please diarize the dates for the 2008 Easter Rugby Festival:

20 to 24 March 2008

**Join us for a great weekend of fun and entertainment
for the whole family.**



STUDY SKILLS COURSE

Well-known educationist Myrna Silberman will be running a study skills course at the school each term during 2008. The course will run for four weeks, every Monday afternoon. This course specialises in teaching students how to simplify schoolwork and how to answer exam questions. The course includes:

- how to summarise information
- memory techniques
- time management
- exam technique

The classes will be kept small in order to give students the individual attention each requires, and allow them to apply the skills to their schoolwork. The cost of the course is R700. For more information call Myrna (011) 887-9233 or 082 357-4920.

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE/ROEDEAN TOASTMASTERS' CLUB



Mr Mike Stalley will be running another popular Toastmasters'/Gavel Club course commencing in January 2008.

The purpose of the course will be to provide tools and opportunities for the development of a number of important life skills:

- to improve its members' abilities to communicate effectively.
- to encourage hands-on experience in both preparation and delivery of effective speeches.
- to develop analytical reading and listening skills.
- to offer some basic leadership training.
- to assist members in overcoming stage-fright and to appear before audiences expressing ideas with credibility and confidence.
- to learn and apply the criteria of evaluating speeches.
- to accept positive criticism and to learn from one's mistakes.
- to assist members to think on their feet and to deliver effective impromptu speeches.
- to bring its members to an awareness of body language and how to read it.
- to prepare for the all-important oral component of examinations.
- to develop individual self-confidence.
- to indulge in situation role play.
- to organize public functions.
- and much more.

It is hoped that the popular mix of the girls of Roedean and the St John's boys over the last few years will be repeated. The course will consist of 12 two-hour sessions on alternate Tuesday evenings from 19h00 to 21h00 and will be spread over two terms, thus finishing in June/July. Scholars are encouraged to enrol for the course which differs a little from year to year. Preference will be given to boys and girls from Upper 1V (Grade 10) and Lower V (Grade 11). Those who will be in the matric class of 2008 and who were unable to be accommodated in 2007 are welcome to enrol as also are those from 2007 who have asked to repeat the course.

If there are sufficient numbers from each standard wishing to enrol, two separate mixed groups will operate on alternate Tuesday evenings. Numbers will be limited to a minimum of 16 and a maximum of 24 per mixed group. To avoid disappointment you are advised to submit your enrolment application form (attached or available from your school office) as soon as possible.

The year's course will conclude with a formal dinner, hosted by Club members, to which parents will be invited. Guests will be entertained by speeches of differing natures, delivered by some of the young toastmasters. Prizes will be awarded.

A minimal fee of R525.00 will be charged for the entire two-term course and will cover provision of various stationery requirements and refreshments each evening. Past toastmasters have spoken of the enormous benefit and enjoyment to be found in the course, which includes some challenging team work, which is always great fun. It is neither daunting nor in any way threatening to complete the course. We move at a relaxed pace suited to those who enrol. Once an application has been accepted, total commitment will be expected from each member.

In order to book a place in the 2008 course, or to ask for further information, would-be toastmasters are asked to contact Mr Stalley on (011) 783-1692 (leave a message with your contact number). Enrolment forms should be completed *as soon as possible* and returned together with a cheque or cash to either Mrs Pat Schaerer (SJC main office) or to Ms C Harrison, Deputy Head at Roedean. Enrolment will be more or less on a first-come first-served basis.

The Inaugural meeting is planned for 7pm at St John's on TUESDAY 5 FEBRUARY. All dates will be confirmed at the commencement of the new term.

