



TRINITY TERM 2026

From the
Senior Deputy Head

Every term at St John's College tells a story, and this edition reflects one marked by opportunity, achievement and community. As you read these pages, you will see the many ways in which our students and staff continue to embrace challenges, pursue excellence and make the most of the opportunities presented to them.

Johannians have distinguished themselves on national and international stages. From representing South Africa in Mathematics, Physics and Rowing to participating in prestigious global programmes such as Yale Young Global Scholars, our students have demonstrated not only exceptional talent but also the curiosity, resilience and determination that define a St John's education. Their achievements remind us that excellence is the result of commitment, perseverance and a willingness to step beyond one's comfort zone.

Alongside these achievements, we were reminded of the strength of our community as we mourned the passing of Mrs Sandy Frewen, who devoted 23 years to St John's Pre-Preparatory. Although she taught our youngest boys, her influence extended far beyond the Pre-Preparatory. Many of our current College students and Old Johannians began their St John's journey in her classroom, where her kindness, warmth and care left a lasting impression. We remember her with gratitude and honour the legacy she leaves within the St John's family.

I hope you will take pride in all that has been achieved and appreciate the spirit that continues to define St John's College. Thank you to our students, staff, parents and Old Johannians for the part each of you plays in making this such a vibrant and caring community.

Please note that this edition includes events and celebrations up to 7 August 2026.

Enjoy this edition of *College Life*.

Kind Regards
Peter Wright



Photo: Rod Maconald, HOD Physical Sciences

Honouring Our Heritage, Embracing Our Future



The centenary of the St John's College War Memorial Chapel and the licensing of Executive Headmaster Mr Dale Jackson marked a defining moment in the life of the College, celebrating a century of faith, tradition and service while looking confidently to the future.

On 4 June, the St John's College community gathered in the War Memorial Chapel to commemorate 100 years since its dedication and to witness the licensing of Mr Jackson as the College's 17th Executive Headmaster by the Bishop of Johannesburg, The Right Revd Dr Sepadi Moruthane.

The service united generations of Johannians, staff, parents and distinguished guests in celebrating one of the College's most treasured landmarks while embracing a new chapter of leadership. The occasion reflected both the enduring values upon which St John's was founded and the vision that continues to guide the College into its next century.

Dedicated on 31 May 1926, the War Memorial Chapel stands at the heart of College life. Described by F. J. Milne in the 1958 *Johannian* as the "great central spur" of the College, it has long been a place of worship, remembrance and reflection for generations of Johannians. Its centenary provided an opportunity to honour the Chapel's rich history and the countless lives shaped within its walls.

As the College reflected on a century of faith and service, it also looked to the future with the licensing of Mr Jackson. His appointment marks the beginning of a new era of leadership, building on St John's proud traditions while continuing to prepare young men of character, purpose and compassion.

These two significant milestones captured the essence of St John's College: honouring a remarkable heritage while embracing the opportunities and responsibilities of the future.

[Read more](#) about the Memorial Chapel.

2026 Gaudy Day

"That all true Johannians go forth from its gate, equipped well to serve Thee in Church and in State."

The gates opened, and the Old Johannian community came home for Gaudy Day 2026. The day began with coffee and rusks in David Quad, followed by the Old Johannian Mass in the Memorial Chapel, featuring performances by the magnificent Old Johannian and College Choirs, as well as the presentation of the Golden Eagle Award and Peter Raney Cup.

The morning of Gaudy Day brought opportunities to reconnect with the College through tours of the old and the new, visits to the Museum, and friendly competitions between Old Johannians and current students in debating, chess, tennis and basketball. The Pre-Prep Dads and Lads game added to the spirit of community and connection.

Lunch was served on Long Walk overlooking Burger Field, where the Pink Derby against St Stithians continued, including an Old Johannian 7s match against Old Stithians, with the main fixtures delivering exciting contests.

The very first Gaudy Day was held on Ascension Day, 16 May 1912. Fr Nash suggested the name "Gaudy", borrowed from the Oxford commemorations, from *gaudeo*, meaning "rejoice".

More than a century later, Johannians continue to gather in that same spirit of fellowship, gratitude and celebration.



GOLDEN EAGLE AWARD

The 2026 Golden Eagle Award recognised two Old Johannians for their valued and lasting contributions in their fields and communities. The recipients were the late Prof Anthony M Meyers (Hill 1950 | Sixth Form 1951), awarded posthumously, and Richard Mayer (Hill 1984).

[Read more](#)



PETER RANEY CUP

The Peter Raney Cup for 2026 was awarded to Adam Haselau. Adam is the epitome of a true team man. A committed rugby player and a keen cricketer throughout his College career, he has consistently placed the needs of the team above his own, serving his peers with humility, commitment and integrity. He has worked tirelessly to improve his individual skills while representing St John's College with honour, courtesy, and an immense sense of pride.

[Read more](#)



30 Hours of Service at Golden Eagle Camp



From 27 April to 1 May, students and staff attended the Golden Eagle Camp at Hadedra Creek in Parys, dedicating five days to service and community engagement. They completed 30 hours of service across several local communities, preparing meals, baking bread, painting buildings, installing exercise stations for the elderly, creating play equipment from recycled materials, participating in an environmental clean-up, and supporting sports development in Tumahole.

The camp fostered compassion, teamwork and leadership while allowing students to make a meaningful impact. Special thanks go to co-coordinator Mrs Sarah Welton-Blake for her dedication in making the camp possible.

Golden Eagle Residential Project Badge in recognition of outstanding service was awarded to Nicholas Band (LV Fleming), Oliver Batley (LV Clayton), Luca Blount (LIV Clarke), Raphael Blount (LV Clarke), Alexandra Bourtsouklis (LVI Runge), Holly Cairns (LVI Runge), Sayuri Cernat, Lienka Colyn (Sixth Form), Michael Costa (LV Fleming), Matteo Cullinan (UV Nash), Beth Curtis (Sixth Form), Andile Dube (UV Hodgson), Tobi Gbadebo (Sixth Form), Joshua Heeger (UV Clayton), Abeku Hinson (LV Nash), Queen Karuhanga, Mutamba Kaunda (Sixth Form), Finn Li (UIV Clayton), Jayden Li (UIV Clarke), Xiaoyuan Li (UIV Alston), Francesca Logan (Sixth Form), Yonga Mabizela (LV Hodgson), Makwande Makhathini (UV Hill), Haseeb Malik

(LV Clarke), Sechaba Masithela (UIV Thomson), Botaki Matsoku (LV Hodgson), Maita Mazhande (UIV Nash), Nicholas Miller (LV Clayton), William Miller (LV Clayton), Rorisang Modiselle (UIV Thomson), Lelo Mofokeng (LV Clayton), Malaika Mukami (Sixth Form), Ben Nagel (UV Hodgson), Nevan Naidoo (LV Fleming), Manqoba Ndlovu (LV Hodgson), Frances Newman (Sixth Form), Lwazilwenkosi Ngwenya (UIV Hodgson), Sakhile Nhlapo (LV Nash), Max Pitman (UV Hodgson), Katleho Ramatsoso (UIV Thomson), Alex Robinson (Sixth Form), Nik Roos (Sixth Form), Kimaya Shah-Naidoo (Sixth Form), Ginter Shakantu (LV Hodgson), Oskar Stahljans (UV Nash), Ethan Taylor-Smith (UV Fleming) and Michael Tindall (LV Hill).

Growth and Adventure at Wilderness School

Our LIV boys returned from an unforgettable Wilderness Camp in the Drakensberg, which took place from 11 July to 5 August.

Camp life required the boys to hike, build shelters, cook their own meals, wash their own clothes and discover what they are truly capable of.

They took part in activities designed to build confidence, resilience, teamwork and leadership. From navigating unfamiliar terrain and tackling physical challenges to working together to solve problems, each experience encouraged them to step beyond their comfort zones and discover new strengths.

Away from the distractions of everyday life, the boys had valuable opportunities to connect with nature, strengthen friendships, and to develop greater independence and responsibility. Whether sharing stories around the campfire, supporting one another through demanding moments, or taking in the beauty of the Drakensberg, the boys demonstrated courage, perseverance and camaraderie.

Wilderness Camp is about far more than adventure. It is a transformative experience that challenges young men to grow in character, resilience, and self-belief, leaving them with lessons and memories that will last a lifetime.



News



IsiZulu

Our students achieved excellent results in the National IsiZulu Olympiad, with 12 of them earning aggregate scores of 85% or higher. Kuhlekonke Mdakane (Remove Nash), Neo Maefo (LIV Alston), Lulibo Mjajubana (UIV Hodgson), Lwazilwenkosi Ngwenya (UIV Hodgson), Michael Costa (LV Fleming), Mhlali Cotshana (LV Nash), Tshimega Magakgala (LV Hodgson), Lungile Kekana (LV Hodgson), Sakhile Zondo (LV Nash), Raphael Blount (LV Clarke), Abeku Hinson (LV Nash), Elias Mahlangu (UIV Thomson) and Mekgalo Mashigo (LV Nash).

Special congratulations to Nevan Naidoo (LV Fleming) and Zizi Kheswa (LV Fleming), who both achieved scores of over 90% and were ranked among the Top 10 students nationally in their respective grades.

These results reflect the boys' commitment to developing their isiZulu proficiency and achieving at a national level.



Trinity College London Music Examination Results

Ten music students earned commendable results in the Trinity College London Music Examinations, an international exam board whose graded qualifications in performance and theory are recognised worldwide.

They are:

Aidan Jacobs (UIV Clarke), David Mulenga (UIV Thomson), Frank Shen Yu (LVI Runge), Gui-Nam Chen (UV Fleming), James Papperitz (LVI Runge), Jayden-Lee Pugh (LV Clarke), Oliver Rousseau (LIV Fleming), Ntsako Chauke (UV Nash), Suleiman Cassimjee (UIV Alston) and Zachariah Mtine (LV Alston).

National Gravity Racing Competition



Benjamin Lee (LIV Fleming), Alexandre Lyle (LIV Hill), Jason Shi (LVI Runge) and Benjamin Anderson (LIV Nash) took first place at the National Gravity Racing Competition, held at Alma Mater International School in Krugersdorp on 3 and 4 July. Benjamin Lee drove, while Alexandre, Jason and Benjamin shared the engineering, logistics and pit crew

responsibilities.

Eight schools entered the competition, which challenged students to design and build their own gravity car before racing it. Much of the work took place long before they reached the start line. Well done to these STEM students on a superb result.

Tour de Maths

We continued our strong performance in the Tour de Maths competition, with teams achieving second- and third-place finishes across three recent rounds.

At the third round, hosted by Redhill School, Alexandre Lyle (LIV Hill) and Benjamin Anderson (LIV Nash) were part of the team that placed second. At the fourth round,

hosted by Brescia House, Daniel du Toit (UIV Thomson) and Qihang Zhang (LIV Hill) were part of the team that placed second.

At the Dainfern College round, Qihang Zhang and Christiaan Lochner (Remove Clayton) were part of the team that placed second, while Thor Tipping (UIV Alston) and Kevin Yang (UIV Alston) were part of the team that placed third.



International Honours for Xiaoyuan Li



Xiaoyuan Li (LVI Runge) represented South Africa at the 67th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) in Shanghai, China. Competing against the world's leading young Mathematicians, he earned an Honourable Mention, awarded to contestants who achieve a full score on at least one of the Olympiad's six exceptionally challenging problems. South Africa finished 57th out of 116 nations this year, which is not as good as in 2025. That said, we remain the top-ranked African team, and tied with Argentina, New Zealand and Ireland, while beating the Netherlands and Belgium. Xiaoyuan is congratulated for his valuable contribution to the South African team's performance.

Cambridge Excellence



Kabir Budlender, Top in the World in A Level Geography and High Achievement in A Level Psychology

St John's Sixth Form was proud to celebrate a set of outstanding results in the 2025 Cambridge International Examinations. Three of our students earned top recognition across South Africa and on the global stage. Kabir Budlender (Runge 2025) earned the title of Top in the World in A Level Geography and a High Achievement in A Level Psychology. Lithalethu Tuku (UVI Runge) distinguished himself with a High Achievement in AS Level Drama. Queen Karuhanga (UVI Runge) was named Top in South Africa in AS Level History. These results speak to the hard work of our students and the strength of our Sixth Form programme.

Physics success for Ben Anderson



Ben Anderson (LIV Nash) placed second at the inaugural South African Young Physicists' Tournament in April, earning selection for the South African team heading to the International Young Physicists' Tournament in New Zealand in 2027. Often called the "Olympics of High School Physics", the tournament asks students to tackle complex, open-ended problems. Entrants submitted a video on one of eight set problems, and the top 15 advanced to interviews, from which three finalists were chosen. Ben reached the final with his research on the electromagnetic damping of a simple harmonic oscillating spring. In the closing "Physics Fight," he competed against Grade 11 students from Parklands College in Cape Town and Redhill School in Johannesburg, taking on the roles of reporter, opponent and reviewer before a panel of teachers and scientists. Dr Alistair Douglas, Physical Sciences Teacher, said: "Ben acquitted himself excellently and came second overall against very experienced students. We are very proud of his achievement and look forward to seeing what he will achieve in the future."

French DELF Examination Results



Photo: Alex Burmeister (LV Fleming)

Five of our students successfully passed the French DELF examinations in May, placing them a year ahead of their peers. Rohan Bray (UV Clarke), Shyaam Jogi (UV Hodgson) and Zhy Ravjee (UV Clarke) achieved the B1 level, and Oliver Bouilliant (Head of Clarke) and Stas Kandeke (LVI Runge) achieved the B2 level.



Photo: Ross Wiedemann (LV Nash)

Celebrating isiZulu Public Speaking

Our boys who competed in the isiZulu Public Speaking Competition at St David's Marist Inanda last term delivered outstanding performances in both poetry and prepared speech. Each wrote and delivered their own original poetry, as well as a prepared speech.

They are:

Lulibo Mjajubana (UIV Hodgson): 2nd place, Grade 10 Prepared Speech

Lwazi Ngwenya (UIV Hodgson): 2nd place, Grade 10 Poetry

Nevan Naidoo (LV Fleming): 2nd place, Grade 11 Prepared Speech

Lwazi Ncube (LV Hodgson): 3rd place, Grade 11 Prepared Speech

Mihlali Gotshana (LV Nash): 3rd place, Grade 11 Prepared Speech

From St John's College to Yale

Sechaba Masithela (LV Thomson) recently attended the prestigious Yale Young Global Scholars (YYGS) Programme at Yale University in the United States. The highly selective two-week programme brings together outstanding high school students from around the world for interdisciplinary lectures, seminars and collaborative projects.

One of the highlights for Sechaba was connecting with students from more than 100 countries. He was also selected to present a TED-style talk on his concept of *Liminality* during the Yale Speaker Series and was invited to DJ at the programme's closing celebration.

Working with students from Ghana, Colombia and the US on a Capstone Project exploring sustainable cooling systems for AI data centres gave Sechaba valuable insight into global collaboration and innovation.



Three Awards at FEDA 2026

Our performers and backstage crew across all three productions were truly remarkable at FEDA 2026, with RED making it all the way to the finals, finishing in the top 4 out of 64 plays.

St John's received nominations across all three productions: RED for Best Sound, Best Choreography, Best Chorus, Best Live Music, Best Actor in a Male Role: Lwazi Ngwenya (UIV Hodgson), Best Director: Thushaan Naidu (UIV Thomson) and Sisa Ncube (LV Clayton).

MAY THE BEST MAN WIN for Best Production Design, Best Costume, Best Comedy, Best Original Script, Best Clown: Litha Tuku (UVI Runge), Liyema Pike (UIV Clayton), Owen Jansen van Vuuren (Remove Thomson) and Ama Ntubane (Custos) and Best Actor in a Cameo Role: Lienka Colyn (LVI Runge).

PRAISE for Best Actor in a Male Role: Tyler Khumalo (UV Clayton).

We took home three awards on the night: Best Sound and Best Live Music for *Red*, and Best Comedy for *May the Best Man Win*.



Junior Debaters Crowned Champions



Photo: Matthew Midgley (LIV Alston)

Our debaters competed at the Best of Atheneum, the event that brings together the top teams from the three leagues to crown an overall winner.

Siva Ramanundh (LIV Clayton) and Joseph Moultrie (LIV Clayton) shared the Best Junior Speaker title.

The LIV team of Jaden Feshete (LIV Fleming), Joseph Moultrie (LIV Clayton) and Siva Ramanundh (LIV Clayton) finished as Best of Atheneum Junior Team. The Remove team of Adam Govender (Remove Thomson), Christian Liebenberg

(Remove Hill), Heath Prior (Remove Alston), and Nipho Tshabalala (Remove Fleming) were runners-up, with only 3.75 points separating the two teams. Both teams won all three rounds. The LIV team was invited to attend despite not originally qualifying.

Every one of our junior debaters placed in the Top 20 Best Speaker list:

Siva Ramanundh (1st), Joseph Moultrie (2nd), Adam Govender (4th), Christian Liebenberg (7th), Heath Prior (8th), Nipho

Tshabalala (9th) and Jaden Feshete (11th).

The senior team of Thyilelo Mabandla (UV Hill), Botaki Matsoku (LV Hodgson) and Sakhile Nhlapho (LV Nash) also performed brilliantly, winning all three rounds and finishing as runners-up to Jeppe Boys in the final standings.

In the Senior Top 20 Speaker list, Rebhone Rantloane (UVI Runge) placed 5th and Tawana Chinoruma (UVI Runge) placed 11th.

Roedean Music Competition



Our College musicians excelled at the Roedean School South Africa Music Competition's final on 5 June. Jay Pugh (LV Clarke), Manqoba Ndlovu (LV Hodgson) and Vuyo Remba (UV Alston) swept the Brass category, taking first, second and

third place, respectively. Tiri Pasipanodya (LV Nash) won the Vocal category, and Jerry Zheng (LIV Hodgson) and Dylan Price (LIV Fleming) finished first and third in Piano.

French Spelling Bee



Our French students brought their A-game to this year's Spelling Bee, mastering pronunciation, cracking the code between spoken and written French, and loving every moment: hard words, good fun, and a whole lot of learning.

The winners:

Francophone Section Winner: Alexander Lyle (LIV Hill)

LV: Botaki Matsoko (LV Hodgson), Nevan Naidoo (LV Fleming) and

Amaan Mohamed (LV Hodgson).

Upper IV: Hiyaw Beyin (UIV Clarke), Paul Tebeila (UIV Hill) and Boikanyo Moyo (UIV Clarke).

Lower IV: Kyalo Kasimu (LIV Clarke), Lwalo Okeyo (LIV Nash) and Sabelo Moyo (LIV Hodgson).

Remove: Luhlumile Ndwandwa (Remove Clayton), Mukundi Chiyangwa (Remove Clayton) and Blanco Sun (Remove Nash).

Félicitations à tous!

Events

The Legacy of Youth Day

As part of a series of commemorations marking the 50th anniversary of the Soweto Uprising, St John's College had the privilege of welcoming Old Johannian Mr Andisa Ntsubane (Nash 1993) as the guest speaker at our Youth Day assembly on 12 June 2026.

Mr Ntsubane was a particularly fitting choice this year, having been among the first Black students to attend St John's College. He joined the College in 1982, just six years after the June 16 protests, at the height of the apartheid era.

Through personal reflection, he shared what it was like to be the

only Black student in some classes and one of only a handful in each grade. He spoke honestly about the challenges he faced, many of which our young people may never encounter in the same way.

He also spoke about the role sports played in his life at St John's. At a time when he struggled to find his place, sports became a way to connect, to be accepted and to contribute. He spoke about the power of shared experience on the rugby field or athletics track, where difference mattered less than what you brought to the team. It is a message that resonated with many of our own students.

We thank Mr Ntsubane, a proud Old Johannian, father of Ama

Ntsubane (Custos) and self-proclaimed Afro-Optimist, for the generosity of his story. Quoting conservationist Nathan Gray, he shared his guiding principle: "I'm trying to create something worthy of emulation."

Mr Ntsubane reminded our students that whether we realise it or not, people are watching us, taking lessons from the choices we make and the actions we take. He challenged us all to be intentional about the lives we live and the impact we have on others.



Photo: Matthew Midgley (LIV Alston)

Mandela Day



Tutu Quad was a hive of activity from early morning on Friday, 17 July after Mandela Day. On one side, staff pulled on gloves, tucked their hair into nets, tied on aprons and gathered around the chopping boards to prepare vegetables for soup destined for shelters across our city. On the other, our Upper V parents, led by Mrs Melissa Mussett, assembled Matric Success Packs filled with stationery donated by our College and Sixth Form students for the Grade 12 students of Nghunghunyani Comprehensive School in Soweto.

As we mark the 50th anniversary of the Soweto Uprising this year, we are especially grateful to support a school in the Soweto community, honouring the legacy of the young people of 1976 while investing in today's matric students.

Giving back is a Mandela Day tradition we are proud to continue. Whether preparing meals or packing stationery, these simple acts of service remind us of the power of coming together to make a meaningful difference.

"Thanks to your efforts chopping the vegetables, the soup has been packed and is ready for delivery to the shelters. Your support and dedication to this initiative mean so much, and we're grateful for every helping hand. Thank you for such a wonderful contribution," said Ms Dudu Mashele, Deputy Head: Diversity and Transformation in the Prep.

Thank you to every family who donated stationery, to our Housemasters for co-ordinating the collection while our students were writing exams, to our Upper V matric moms and dads for championing the Matric Success Pack initiative, and to every staff member who gave their time to prepare soup for those in need.

Events

Africa Day

Ms Nyiko Khoza, speaker, moderator and Programme Head at the African Union Development Agency, addressed the students of St John's College for Africa Day, challenging them to reject narrow narratives about the continent and recognise Africa as a place of innovation and possibility, as well as their own roles in shaping its future.

"On the one side is the Africa that is often presented to the world, a continent that is waiting to be rescued, a continent that is defined only through crisis, through poverty, instability, and dependency. And for the most part, that narrative still exists. But on the other side, I have the extraordinary privilege of working within this very African Union system. And from that vantage point, I see a very different Africa. I see an Africa that is moving. I see an Africa that is vigorously negotiating its place in the world. I see an Africa that is building, an Africa that is innovating, and an Africa that is creating. I see Africans who are not waiting to be saved or rescued, but are taking things into their own hands."

[Read more...](#)



[Read more](#)

110th Commemoration Service of the Battle of Delville Wood



July marked 110 years since the Battle of Delville Wood in France, one of the costliest actions in South African military history during World War 1, and one in which St John's College boys and staff fought and died.

On 12 July, representatives from the College joined the Speaker of the City of Johannesburg, the South African Legion, the MOThs and the South African Delville Wood Commemorative Museum Trust to lay a wreath at the Anglo-Boer War Memorial in remembrance of those who fell.

The College's connection to the battle runs deep. Fr Eustace St Clair Hill served as chaplain at Delville Wood, ministering to the wounded and

dying under heavy fire, among them St John's boy Vernon Adams, whose final moments he recorded in his diaries. Hill was awarded the Military Cross and later lost his right arm at Butte de Warlencourt. He went on to become Headmaster of St John's from 1922 to 1930.

The College also holds one of only five surviving Delville Wood crosses in South Africa, entrusted to St John's at the request of Lt Col EF Thackeray. It stands today in the All Souls Chapel, where Senior Deputy Mr Peter Wright placed the wreath after the service.

Art Fest 2026



[Watch the video here](#)

Our 13th Art Fest was a day of pure creativity. The College Rock Bands and DJ Gomesy (Sam Gomes, UV Clayton) got everyone on their feet before students dived into 43 workshops with something to excite everyone: fashion design, sewing (a hugely popular new addition), tattoo artistry, printmaking, stage combat, Pilates, fly fishing, and so much more.

Whether learning a craft, getting active, or simply trying something completely new, students left every session energised and

often surprised by what they'd achieved. The day closed with two outstanding productions, Blood Orange and the St Alban's FEDA production of A Broken Place Called Home, both met with great applause.

"A huge thanks to the Music, Art, and Drama Departments and everyone behind the scenes who made it possible," said Mrs Fiona Kampmann, Art Fest Organiser.

Events

Pickwick Club Literary Evening



Watch the video here



Photo: Yonga Mabizela (LV Hodgson)

The Pickwick Club Literary Evening of Playful Poetry on 12 May welcomed guest speakers Ms Annè du Plessis, Head of St Stithians Girls' College and a devoted lover of language, and Ms Philippa Yaa De Villiers, a published poet and writer. Both shared their passion for verse and offered fresh perspectives on the artistry of writing.

More than 20 students, from Remove to the Sixth Form, took to the stage to share their original, playful poetry. From mischievous verses about "love letters" penned by mothers to stinky dogs and the perils of television, the poems were delivered with wit and passion to an appreciative crowd.

It was also a pleasure to host students from King Edward VII School and Kingsmead College, who joined our parents and the Friends of St John's for the occasion. After the performances, guests enjoyed delicious soups, artisanal breads, and cheeses prepared by our wonderful kitchen and functions team.

"Poetry: the best words in the best order."

— Samuel Taylor Coleridge

"We look forward to more Pickwick Literary events in 2027 as we continue to celebrate the rich literary traditions of our school," said Ms Heather Venables, organiser of the Pickwick Club Literary Evening.

Sunset Run



Photo: Prem Pillay (LV Clayton)

More than 250 runners and walkers of all ages turned out for the inaugural St John's College Sunset Run on 31 July.

The afternoon started with a warm-up on Mitchell Field before everyone set off around our magnificent heritage campus. The route ran along Rice Field, through the Prep Arch and into the Prep Quad, across Endean Field and down to Burger, C and D fields, then over the Bridge across Houghton Drive to Roedean, before making their way back to the High Performance Gym.

The timing could not have been more perfect, with runners crossing the finish line just as the sun set.

Prizes were awarded to the top three male and female finishers, with additional

competitions on the rowing machine and SkiErg adding to the excitement. The Old Johannesburg Club kept everyone warm with hot drinks, making it a wonderful social occasion.

"The St John's College Sunset Run was a fantastic evening, bringing together families and students of all ages to explore the beautiful grounds," said Kiara Muldoon, Gym Manager. "With a fantastic turnout, the event was a great opportunity to showcase the High Performance Gym."

It was a lovely afternoon for our community to come together as the sun went down. With a 2.5km and a 5km option, there was something for runners, joggers and walkers of every fitness level and speed. All proceeds go to the High Performance Gym.

Matric Dance and Sixth Form Invitations Unveiled

Excitement is building as preparations for the Matric Dance and Sixth Form Dance get underway.

The Upper V boys were surprised when they were called out of their House meetings and escorted by the Matric Dance Committee to a "first-class lounge". Dressed as airline pilots, the committee welcomed them aboard and presented each boy with a personalised boarding pass to Barcelona, revealing the theme of this year's Matric Dance. Complete with refreshments and plenty of excitement, the launch officially kicked off the countdown to one of the year's most anticipated events.

Meanwhile, Sixth Form students gathered in the garden outside Runge House to receive their invitations to the annual Sixth Form Dance. Each invitation included a mask, revealing this year's elegant Venetian Masked Ball theme. Accompanied by live string music, the afternoon offered a glimpse of the celebrations that lie ahead.



Photos: Lesego Makwane (LV Clayton) and Lerato Molobye (UVI Runge)



Trinity Term Awards

Academic Awards

Colours
Justin Schoeman (UV Alston)
Rayan Moodley (UV Clayton)
Matt Thompson (UV Clayton)

Hockey

Honours
Michael Stubbs (UV Alston)

Colours
Alan McFerren (LV Clayton)
Andrew Turck (UV Thomson)
Ben Nagel (UV Hodgson)
Connor Cooper (UV Hill)
Ethan Robinson (UV Thomson)
Kevin van Vught (LV Alston)
Khanya Lebina (LV Hodgson)
Max Pitman (UV Hodgson)
Scott Bray (UV Clarke)

Team Blazer
Christian Lotz (LV Alston)
Connor Ryan (UIV Clayton)
Justin Fairley (UIV Clayton)
Luke Anderson (LV Clarke)
Matthew Ireland (LV Clarke)
Motheo Mparutsa (UIV Hodgson)

Rugby

Honours
Allan Njanfang Patu (LV Nash)
Mako Mandizha (UV Hill)

Colours
Adam Haselau (UV Hodgson)
Alec Psillos (UV Fleming)
Cameron Coetzer (UV Nash)
David Ireland (UV Thomson)
Luke Scott (UV Fleming)
Lwandile Khupe (UV Hodgson)
Simon Mussett (Head of School)
Titus Mhlongo (LV Hodgson)

Team Blazer
Glenn Greyling (LV Clarke)
Liam Moseley (LV Hill)
Matthew Edmondson (UV Hill)
Mihlali Tabane (LV Hodgson)
Rupert Schonborn (LV Clarke)
Shane Dalton (LV Fleming)
Tumiso Motshegoa (LV Hill)

Squash

Honours
Michael Stubbs (UV Alston)
Rohan Bray (UV Clarke)

Colours
Jamie Morris (LV Hill)
Sechaba Masithela (LV Thomson)

Drama

For Performance

Honours
Thyilelo Mabandla (UV Hill)
Tumiso Motshegoa (LV Hill)
Tirivashe Pasipanodya (LV Nash)

Colours
Sam Slettevold (UV Clarke)
Ezra Mazhande (UV Hill)

Half Colours
Amaza Faber (UIV Fleming)
Regan Ross (UIV Clarke)
Ciko Gasennelwe (LVI Runge)
Wandisa Maepa (LVI Runge)
Lienka Colyn (UVI Runge)
Simba Katemauswa (LV Hill)
Stefan Kruger (UV Thomson)
Jason Shi (LVI Runge)
Mpendulo Buthelezi (UIV Alston)
Liyema Pike (UIV Clayton)

For Backstage

Honours
Ntsako Chauke (UV Nash)
Greg Hood (LV Hodgson)

Half Colours
Joshua Dendere (UIV Nash)
Liam Cooper (UIV Hill)

Media

Colours
Yonga Mabizela (LV Hodgson)
Lelo Mofokeng (LV Clayton)
Lesego Makwane (LV Clayton)
Prem Pillay (LV Clayton)
Sechaba Masithela (LV Thomson)
Sakhile Zondo (LV Nash)
Thami Kambule (LV Hill)

Half Colours
Ross Wiedemann (LV Nash)

Music

Honours
Dirk Jacobs (UV Hodgson)

Colours
James Papperitz (LVI Runge)
Jayden-Lee Pugh (LV Clarke)
Tai Lizamore (LV Clarke)
Manqoba Ndlovu (LV Hodgson)

Half Colours
Amaza Faber (UIV Fleming)
Lingfu Hu-Grobbelaar (UIV Thomson)
Aidan Jacobs (UIV Clarke)
Samuti Kikaya (UIV Hill)
Zhicheng Liu (UIV Hodgson)
Maita Mazhande (UIV Nash)
Katleho Motlonye (UIV Hill)
Nkosinathi Moyo (UIV Hodgson)
David Mulenga (UIV Thomson)
Regan Ross (UIV Clarke)
Matsoso Sibeko (UIV Clayton)
Thor Tipping (UIV Alston)
Nikhilan Vandeyar (UIV Clarke)
Henry Wang (UIV Alston)
Khanya Lebina (LV Hodgson)
Thami Kambule (LV Hill)
Prem Pillay (LV Clayton)
Sechaba Masithela (LV Thomson)
Yonga Mabizela (LV Hodgson)
Lehakoe Matlala (UV Nash)
Ntsako Chauke (UV Nash)
Gui-Nam Chen (UV Fleming)
Suleiman Cassimjee (UIV Alston)

Visual Arts

Honours
Luke Summerton (UV Hodgson)
Ryan Osler (UV Clayton)

Colours
Mihlali Cotshana (LV Nash)
David Webb (LV Hill)
Oliver Weber (LV Hill)
Tshiamo Maake (LV Nash)

Half Colours
Hayden Van Dijk (LV Thomson)
Lelo Mofokeng (LV Clayton)
Matthew Ireland (LV Clarke)

Public Relations

Colours
Tshegofatso Monobe (LV Alston)
Callum van Binsbergen (LV Clayton)
Haseeb Malik (LV Clarke)
Moatlegwa Masilela (LV Clarke)

Half Colours
Nevan Naidoo (LV Fleming)
Sisa Ncube (LV Hodgson)
Zizi Kheswa (LV Fleming)
Katleho Ramatsoso (LV Thomson)
Matthew Ireland (LV Clarke)
Junior Makwakwa (LV Thomson)
Lungile Mqoqi (LV Thomson)
Yonga Mabizela (LV Hodgson)
Manqoba Ndlovu (LV Hodgson)
Lelo Mofokeng (LV Clayton)
Ginter Shakantu (LV Hodgson)
Tshimega Magakgala (LV Hodgson)
Nhenha Mashimbye (LV Hodgson)
Richard Usen (LV Alston)

Communnity Service

Colours
Zach Sundayi (UV Nash)

Half Colours
Malaika Mukami (UVI Runge)
Manqoba Ndlovu (LV Hodgson)
Sisa Ncube (LV Clayton)
Sechaba Masithela (LV Thomson)
Nhenha Mashimbye (LV Hodgson)
Botaki Matsoku (LV Hodgson)
Michael Costa (LV Fleming)
Krish Vaswani (LV Fleming)
Zizi Kheswa (LV Fleming)
Beth Curtis (UVI Runge)

First Aid

Honours
Olufemi Nhlapo (LV Hill)
Lungile Kekana (LV Hodgson)
Nevan Naidoo (LV Fleming)

Colours
Yonga Mabizela (LV Hodgson)
Tshegofatso Monobe (LV Alston)

Half Colours
Haseeb Malik (LV Clarke)
Nicholas Band (LV Fleming)
Simba Katemauswa (LV Hill)
Costa Makwaza (LV Hodgson)
William Miller (LV Clayton)
Beth Curtis (UVI Runge)

Tie
Khotsofalo Mokoka (LV Clarke)

Bensusan Award

The Bensusan Award was introduced by Mr Dale Jackson this year. It commemorates Ralph Bensusan, Head of Alston and College Prefect in 1934, whose integrity, courage and unwavering commitment to serving others left a lasting legacy. The award recognises boys who quietly demonstrate honour, selflessness and service without seeking recognition

Recipients
Chris O'Brien (UIV Fleming)
Aadhavan Kallan (UV Thomson)
Heath Prior (Remove Alston)
 Luke Scott (UV Fleming)
Haseeb Malik (LV Clarke)
Ginter Shakantu (LV Hodgson)
Sakhile Nhlapo (LV Nash)
Apostoli Aposteleris (UV Hodgson)
Oliver Bouilliart (Head of Clarke)
Jake Taylor (LV Clayton)
Josua Wilkins (UV Alston)
Travis Stewart (UV Fleming)

President’s Award

Gold
Fu-nam Chen (UV Fleming)
Gui-nam Chen (UV Fleming)

Silver
Nevan Naidoo (LV Fleming)



First Aid Awards

Easter Rugby Festival

The 29th St John's Easter Rugby Festival, brought to you by Standard Bank, was yet another one to remember, featuring games that will stick in the memory, record crowds, and the added drama of night rugby on two of the three days.

This year's festival was truly international, with St Joseph's Nudgee College travelling from Australia and Westlake Boys' High School making the journey from New Zealand to join an outstanding group of South African schools. Westlake brought something extra with them — a Haka before each of their games that brought the crowds to a standstill and added to an atmosphere that built throughout the weekend.

[Read more...](#)



[Read more](#)



Rugby

Our rugby teams have enjoyed a competitive winter season, highlighted by memorable victories over St Andrew's School, Pretoria Boys High School, St Benedict's College and St David's Marist Inanda. The teams also took on strong opposition, including Michaelhouse and Jeppe High School for Boys, before concluding the campaign with a hard-fought 21–21 draw against St Stithians College on 20 June.

The season also included the annual St John's College Rugby Festival and an overseas tour to Italy and France, providing valuable opportunities for the team to test itself against quality opposition. Throughout the campaign, the players demonstrated resilience, commitment and steady improvement.

The rugby programme finished strongly at the Independent Schools Rugby Festival during the June half-term break, where the U17, U15 and U14 teams won seven of their nine matches. The U17 side completed the tournament unbeaten.

The season also brought representative honours. Mako Mandizha (UV Hill) was selected for the Golden Lions Craven Week team, Allan Patu (LV Nash) for Academy Week, and Titus Mhlongo (LV Hodgson) for the Golden Lions U17 Welpies.



Sports

Cricket



Our College cricketers received regional and national recognition following the cricket season. Juan de Villiers (LV Hill) and Tapiwa Chikwava (LV Clayton) were selected for the Cricket South Africa

U17 Regional Camp, held in Pretoria on 8 and 9 May. Nkosana Sibiba (UV Hill) continued his outstanding season after being selected for the South African U19 23-man squad. He was subsequently named in the South

Africa U19 starting XI for the opening Youth One-Day International against England during the England Outbound Tour 2026.

Rowing



Our rowing students continued to achieve at the highest level, with Matthew Keus (LV Clayton) earning national recognition after being selected for the South African Junior Men's Quad team and awarded his Protea blazer ahead of the World Rowing Under 19 Championships in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, from 6 to 9 August.

Matthew and Finn Backes (UIV Thomson) were both involved in the Rowing South Africa High Performance pathway, reflecting their commitment and dedication to the sport. Matthew's selection for the national U19 team marks a significant milestone in his rowing journey.

Soccer



The 1st XI soccer team made an impressive start to the season with a 4-1 victory over St Alban's College on 18 July.

The team now heads into a short but demanding fixture list, beginning with a home match against St Benedict's, followed by fixtures against Springs Boys' High School and CBC Boksburg.

The First team ended as runners-up at the St David's Marist Inanda Challenge Cup, held from 7 to 9 August. They opened the tournament with a 3-2 win over St Andrew's College and a 1-1 draw with St Peter's before going on to face St Stithians in their final pool game. In the final, St John's went down 0-2 to St Benedict's after conceding twice early in the first half. Despite creating a number of good attacking opportunities, the team could not get past the St Benedict's defence.

The Challenge Cup followed a strong run of results for the College's soccer teams. Against St Benedict's, St John's won four of six matches, with the 1st XI winning 3-0, the 2nd team 3-1 and the U16A 3-2. The U14B also won 4-2, while the U16B lost 2-3 and the U14A went down 0-1.

The 1st team also recorded a 1-0 win against Springs Boys' High School before facing Christian Brothers' College Boksburg, where the schools shared the honours, with four wins each across the eight matches. The 1st team lost 0-2 in their fixture.

Earlier pre-tournament wins included a 4-1 victory over St Alban's and a 3-0 win over St Benedict's.

Sports

Hockey



The College 1st XI hockey team concluded an outstanding winter season with a thrilling 4–4 draw against St Stithians Boys’ at the Pink Derby on 20 June. In a fiercely contested match, the lead changed hands throughout before St Stithians equalised late in the final quarter. St John’s held firm to deny a final penalty corner and secure the draw.

The 1st XI finished the season with nine wins, four draws and four losses from 17 matches. Head of Hockey, Mr Anthony Woodhouse, described the campaign as the College’s strongest since before the Covid-19 interruption, reflecting the significant progress made over the past two seasons.

Across the age groups, St John’s enjoyed a memorable season. The 1st XI, U16A and U15 teams all finished on the podium at the three major Southern Gauteng tournaments. The 1st XI claimed bronze in the Aitken Cup, the U16A side won silver in the Alan Monk Tournament, and the U15 team secured silver in the Boden Trophy. It marked the first time St John’s had won medals in all three Southern Gauteng tournaments.

The season also saw 15 St John’s players selected to represent the Southern Gauteng Hockey Association at interprovincial tournaments. Among them was Justin Fairley, who was chosen for the prestigious Southern Gauteng U16A team to compete at the National U16 Week at Hilton College, while Jared Gilmore (UIV Thomson) was selected for the Southern Gauteng Boys U16B team.

Alan McFerren (LV Clayton), Kevin van Vught (LV Alston), Khanya Lebina (LV Hodgson), Justin Fairley (UIV Clayton), Motheo Mparutsa (UIV Hodgson), Mikhael Makwetla (UIV Thomson), Nicholas Roos (UIV Nash), Bryn Gilmour (UIV Thomson), Jack Locke (Remove Clayton), Eli Teper (Remove Alston), Spencer Bouwer (Remove Alston), Carter Blyth (Remove Clayton), Sebastien Ssali, James Kent (Remove Thomson) and Matthew Webber (Remove Thomson) all earned provincial selection across the U14, U16 and U18 age groups.

Squash



Our 1st squash team won the Gauteng Top Schools tournament for the second year running. They put in a clinical performance, winning all their matches against Jeppe, Parktown, KES, St Stithians, Northcliff and Helpmekaar en route to the title. All matches were won 6-0.

They will now participate in the National Top Schools

tournament in Pietermaritzburg in August.

Michael Lowe (Remove Clayton), Daniel Morris (LV Clarke), Ponatshago Molefe (LIV Clayton), Maxwell Erwin (UIV Thomson) and Sebastian Parry (UIV Clayton) were selected to represent Johannesburg Junior Squash at the IPTs during half term. The tournaments took place in various cities across the country.

Water Polo



James Simpson (UIV Hill) and Amaza Faber (UIV Fleming) represented South Africa at the World Aquatics U16 Water Polo Championships in Zagreb, Croatia, from 3 to 9 August. The boys were selected for the South African U16 team for the international tournament, which brought together

teams from around the world. Timothy Barbeau and Jonah Teeling-Smith were selected as non-travelling reserves.

Congratulations to all four boys on their selection and to James and Amaza on representing South Africa on the international stage.

Individual Achievements

National downhill title for Ethan Duvenage

At just 14, Ethan Duvenage (Remove Alston) has already won a national downhill mountain-biking series title, and believes the South African Championships are next.

In March he won the U14 age group in the Downhill South African Series, and he fancies his chances at the South African Championships later in the year. “I know who the main contenders are, and I’ve raced against them before,” Ethan said. “I think I could beat them.”

Downhill mountain biking is a two-and-a-half kilometre dash requiring great technical skill and plenty of courage. Ethan has been developing these skills since he was four years old, encouraged by his father Andrew, who is an Old Johannian and was a very good off-road cyclist himself, having completed the Cape Epic more than once.

Ethan is not sure where his courage comes from, apart from his love of competition. Last term he played for the U14B cricket team, and this term he is the scrumhalf for the U14A rugby team.

“I love playing team sports,” he said. “Getting to train and compete with my friends is special. Mountain biking is, however, my first love and, so far, the school has allowed me to do both.”

Ethan has clearly embraced the challenges that come with the busyness of the College, and is thriving.

He is someone to watch, and we look forward to doing so in the years to come.



Staff News

Remembering Mrs Sandy Frewen



The St John’s College community mourned the passing of Mrs Sandy Frewen, a much-loved teacher who dedicated 23 years to St John’s Pre-Preparatory. Over the course of her career, she welcomed countless boys into their first years of schooling, leaving a lasting impression through her kindness, warmth and unwavering commitment to her pupils. Mrs Frewen’s legacy will continue to live on in the generations of Johannians and families whose lives she touched. She will be deeply missed by the entire St John’s community. [Read more...](#)

Zimbabwe Junior Hockey Series



Mr Anthony Woodhouse, Head Coach of Hockey and Performance Analyst for the Southern Gauteng U18A team, was appointed Head Coach of the South African U16B team. He will lead the side at the Zimbabwe Junior Hockey Series in Harare from 13 to 17 August.

Coaches Earn SA Schools Honours



College Head of Rugby Katleho Lynch and Strength and Conditioning Coach Sihle Ndlovu are sporting their national blazers. Mr Lynch is the mentor to the SA Schools Girls team’s coaches and Mr Ndlovu is the Strength and Conditioning coach for the SA Schools A team.

Michael George Lyme 'Gus' Mills (1946 – 2026)



[Read more](#)

Old Johannian Gus Mills (Alston 1963) passed away on 12 July, leaving behind an extraordinary legacy in wildlife conservation. He was a dedicated and influential scientist and one of Africa's foremost experts on wild carnivores, as well as being a gifted

storyteller and an accomplished photographer. Dr Mills received the St John's College Golden Eagle Award in 2023 during the College's 125th anniversary celebrations for his contribution to South African conservation and wildlife. [Read his full tribute here...](#)

Tribute to Bruce Chalmers (Clayton 1986)



[Read more](#)

Bruce Chalmers – Water Polo and Lifesaving.

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Bruce Brammer Chalmers in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on 26 May.

A memorial service took place on 12 August in The Memorial Chapel. Read his full tribute here: [Read more...](#)

Cricket

Three Old Johannians were selected for South African representative teams competing in a 50-over triangular series against Bangladesh Emerging. Cole Francis (Nash 2024) was selected for the University Sport

South Africa XI, while Keagan Lion-Cachet (Fleming 2020) and JP King (Hill 2021) were selected for the South Africa Emerging team.

The series began on 30 July, with matches played in Pretoria and Centurion. Cole took 2/39 against

Bangladesh Emerging on 3 August, while Keagan scored 30 in South Africa Emerging's opening match against the USSA XI. The USSA XI faced Bangladesh Emerging again on 7 August, with Bangladesh winning by seven wickets.



Justin Walters Triumphs

Justin Walters (Nash 1988) became a Sunshine Tour champion once again, claiming his third Tour title at the SunBet Challenge at Humewood Golf Club in Gqeberha on 22 May.

Justin opened the three-round tournament with rounds of 65 and 64 to take a four-shot lead into the final day on 15 under par. The closing round brought some tense moments, with three bogeys in four holes on the front nine allowing the chasing pack to close the gap. However, Justin responded with birdies on the 15th and 16th holes to finish with a final-round 72 and secured victory by one shot.

It was Justin's first Sunshine Tour victory in 15 years, making the achievement even more memorable.

