



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE



WELCOME TO GAUDY DAY

13 JULY 2019



## I HISTORY OF ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

St John's College was established in 1898 as a parish school of St Mary's Anglican Church, located in Eloff Street in downtown Johannesburg. The founding fathers of the school were the Rev John Darragh, the rector of St Mary's Church, and the Rev Joseph Hodgson, who was the first headmaster.

The school opened its doors on 1 August 1898 in a villa situated in Plein Street. On that day, only six boys enrolled. The school grew rapidly, though: by the end of the first term of 1899, more than a hundred boys were enrolled at St John's. However, while the school was devising plans for the acquisition of more commodious accommodation, the South African War (Second Anglo-Boer War) broke out in October 1899. Many civilians evacuated Paul Kruger's Transvaal Republic, and the number of boys in the school dwindled. In May 1900, when there was nobody left to teach the remaining boys, it became necessary to bow to the inevitable and close the school.

Over the next few years the policies introduced by Lord Alfred Milner's colonial administration caused the College's enrolment to plummet. In the face of stiff competition from better-resourced state schools, maintaining the College proved to be beyond the resources of the Diocesan purse, and the school's closure seemed imminent. As a measure of last resort, the Archdeacon of Johannesburg, the Venerable Michael Furse, requested the Community of the Resurrection (an Anglo-Catholic order of missionary priests and lay brothers based at Mirfield in Yorkshire) to assume control of the College.

In April 1901, with Johannesburg under British control, Hodgson resuscitated St John's College. By the beginning of 1902, about 120 boys were enrolled at the school. With as many as 180 boys clamouring for admission by mid-year, the villa in Plein Street became inadequate. New accommodation was found in the "Tin Temple", a corrugated iron structure in King George Street.

The new headmaster, Father James Okey Nash CR, assumed office in January 1906. He envisaged a school along the lines of the great English public schools. He decided to relocate St John's to the rustic northern outskirts of the city. He chose a site on Houghton Ridge, which the school was able to purchase through the generosity of diamond magnate Sir Thomas Cullinan, who donated £5 000, and Johannesburg Consolidated Investments, which sold the land to St John's at half its market value.

Herbert Baker was commissioned to design the new school buildings. He conjured up a blueprint of much of what was to materialise on the site over the ensuing decades. While Baker had a hand in designing some of the original buildings, his partner, Frank Fleming, did the bulk of the architectural work. With limited funds at Nash's disposal the construction process was protracted and piecemeal. But even at times when it seemed that the blueprint might never become reality, Nash and his successors from the Community of the Resurrection retained faith and, "for the love of God alone, rendered service which made possible the survival and extension" of the College.

The Community of the Resurrection handed back charge of St John's College to the Diocese of Johannesburg in 1934. The Rev SH Clarke was appointed the next headmaster, a position which he occupied for two decades until he was succeeded by Deane Yates, the first headmaster of the College who was not an ordained priest. Through his appreciation of the changing demands of changing times, Yates led St John's from 1955 until 1970, expanding the school's buildings to enable it to remain a leading educational institution. He also initiated the endowment of Foundation Scholarships, which, over ensuing decades, have made St John's accessible to boys who might never otherwise have been able to enrol at the school. This continues to this day.

## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OLD JOHANNIAN ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Old Johannian Association Governing Committee, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all Old Johannians and their families to today's festivities. We especially welcome our latest recipient of the Golden Eagle award Professor Revil Mason (Nash, 1955) and his family as well as Mr Stephan McGown (Nash, 1992) who delivered the address at our Annual Dinner last night.

Gaudy Day remains a highlight on the Old Johannian and school calendar. It presents the opportunity for our old boys and girls to reconnect with one another and to celebrate the continued success of St John's College. We express our thanks and recognition to the teaching and administrative staff of the school. We are mindful of the responsibility held in these roles and you have our support.

To ensure that St John's College retains its standard as a world-class Christian, African School we need your support in a more formalised and regular way. I ask you to consider joining your reunion year in signing up to contribute to the Old Johannian Scholarship Fund. At a cost of just R260 per month by at least 80 Old Johannians over five years will fund a bursary for one boy to attend St John's College. Imagine what we can do if each year group joins forces and commits to the next generation of Johannians. For more information on this initiative, please visit [www.oja.co.za](http://www.oja.co.za). To this end, renewed and determined efforts to interact with OJs locally and internationally will form an important part of the school's strategy as we look towards our 125th anniversary in 2023.

Last night the 112th Old Johannian Annual Dinner was hosted in the Rene England Auditorium. OJ's came back to St John's to reconnect with friends, classmates, and staff. We hosted 300 Old Johannians and their partners and our thanks are extended to the members of the executive committee and school who worked hard to provide a dinner that celebrates our substantial heritage. We have had a number of reunions taking place over the weekend with some members travelling from overseas as well as distant parts of the country to be with their reunion groups. Thank you to all who have attended and also to the reunion organisers for their efforts.

May I ask that all Old Johannians make use of our Alumnet portal to update your details. It is critical that we have up-to-date member information to enable us to remain a relevant and cohesive community. The address is [ojaalumnet.co.za](http://ojaalumnet.co.za)

Lastly, I'd like to thank Executive Headmaster Mr Paul Edey and the school for hosting us today. Paul has been a great supporter of the OJA and as our President, together with the Governing Committee, continues to ensure a strong and relevant alumni community.

**Damian Boyce**  
Chairman - Old Johannian Association

## WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEADMASTER

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all Old Johannians to Gaudy Day 2019. A special word of welcome to the Eagle Award winner, Professor Revil Mason (Thomson, 1946), the renowned archaeologist, whose greatest legacy is his unearthing of the history of Johannesburg, long before the discovery of gold and making it easily accessible to those outside academia.

It has been a great honour to be the 15th Headmaster of St John's College and I am mindful of the rich heritage and the great traditions that go with this school. As one looks around St John's, one sees evidence of the generosity and love that many Old Johannians have for their school, and the sacrifices that many OJ's have made in building up the school to where it stands today, as one of Africa's pre-eminent schools. The first gathering, known as the Gaudy, fell on Ascension Day in 1912. The programme for the day has since then continued throughout the years, apparently with little change. Gaudy Day is an opportunity for Old Johannians to gather together in celebration of a shared love for St John's. It is also a time to reminisce on days gone by. Time spent reflecting on the past.

As St John's celebrates its 121st anniversary it is a time to look back with gratitude to what has been achieved and to reflect on the contribution made by those who have gone before us. We remember with gratitude the extraordinary contribution made by The Community of The Resurrection, who worked selflessly for the love of God in ensuring that St John's not only survived, but thrived. Our school motto, Lux Vita Caritas (Light, Life and Love), needs to be the touchstone for the school as it engages with the issues facing our school and our country. As a transforming African school, we need to go forward in faith and with the courage that has characterised our illustrious past. We have an exciting vision for our 125th anniversary in 2023, and it is imperative that we continue to forge strong links between the school and our alumni, who play such a key role in the long term sustainability of the school.

I hope that Gaudy Day is everything that you want it to be; a celebration of good fellowship, a re-connection with those people who meant much to you, and old-fashioned fun on the sports field. I wish you a splendid day together and trust that the Old Johannian Association goes forward in faith and that Old Johannians continue to make their mark throughout the world, rightly trained in body, mind and character.

**Paul Edey**  
Executive Headmaster - St John's College

# I PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

<b>08h00</b>	Welcome Coffee and Rusks	David Quadrangle	
<b>08h45</b>	Old Johannian Mass	Memorial Chapel	Old Johannian and College Choirs + Golden Eagle Award Presentation
<b>10h15</b>	High Tea	Pelican Quad	Join us for tea and cake
	Jazz Band	Pelican Quad	Will play for the duration of the morning
<b>10h30</b>	Basketball	Basketball courts	Old Johannians vs St John's College First Team
	Chess	David Quadrangle	Old Johannians vs St John's College First Team
	Hockey	Astro	Staff XI vs St John's College 3 <sup>rd</sup> XI
	Squash	Barrow Squash Complex	Old Johannians vs St John's College First Team
	Tennis	Tennis courts	Old Johannians vs St John's College First Team
	Historical Tour with St John's College students	Pelican Quadrangle	A historic walk through the College (Museum will be open from 10h00 until 12h00)
	Drama Production "125: The Journey"	Big School	This year's major production on the big screen throughout the morning. Written and performed by the boys.
<b>10h30</b>	Rugby	Burger Field	Nick Rowe Inter-House Rugby Sevens Finals
<b>11h00</b>	Naming Ceremony	Owen Nkumane Rugby Terraces	The terraces above Burger Field
<b>11h15</b>	Debating	Amphitheatre	Old Johannians vs St John's College
	Inter-House Rowing	Gymnasium	House participants
	Rugby	Burger Field	Old Johannians vs Old Eds Tens (OJA Floating trophy)
<b>11h30</b>	Hockey	Astro	Old Johannian 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI vs St John's College 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI
	Art Exhibition	Cloisters and surrounds	College Art display
	Football	Mitchell Field A Mitchell Field B	Old Johannians A vs St John's Prep 1 <sup>st</sup> XI Old Johannians B vs St John's Prep 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI
	Historic Tour with Dr Daniel Pretorius	Pelican Quad	Informative walk through the College (Museum open from 10h00 until 12h00)
<b>11h45</b>	Naming Ceremony	Gnodde Cricket Centre	Gnodde Cricket Centre next to Mitchell Field
<b>12h15</b>	Rugby	Burger Field	Leavers XV vs Stayers XV (Peter Raney Trophy)
<b>12h30</b>	Hockey	Astro	Old Johannian 1 <sup>st</sup> XI vs St John's College 1 <sup>st</sup> XI
	Lunch	Marquee on Burger Field for OJs, parents and staff  Henry Bennett Pavilion for students	A carvery selection with rolls, salads and sides and bar service available.

- Parking will be available on Rice Field off St David Road and C and D Fields off St Patrick Road.
- A regular shuttle service will be in operation between the Gate House Arch and Burger Field and between C Rugby Field and Burger Field from 10h30 to 14h30.
- Refreshments will be for sale throughout the day in the marquee on Burger Field.
- The School Shop will be open from 09h00 with a superb range of memorabilia available for purchase.
- The Johannian Club will be open from 07h00 and The Boar's Head will be open from 12h00.

Professor Revil Mason (Thomson, 1946), the recipient of the Golden Eagle Award, is a renowned archaeologist whose most significant legacy is the unearthing of the history of Johannesburg, long before the discovery of gold, and making it easily accessible to those outside academia.

The terraces above Burger Field have been named The Owen Nkumane Terraces. Owen Nkumane (Hill, 1994 - front row, third from left) was the first black African player to captain the St John's College First XV and the first black African player to be selected to play for the Springboks, an inspiring role model to subsequent generations of young black South Africans.

St John's College thanks and recognises Mr Dru Gnodde (Sixth Form, Thomson, 1946 - back row, third from left) as a benefactor and past Chairman of Council, and the Gnodde Family for their generous contribution to St John's College over the years with the naming of The Gnodde Cricket Centre.

# THE OLD JOHANNIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND



A cost of just R260 per month by 80 Old Johannians over five years will fund a bursary for one boy to attend St John's College. Imagine what we could do if each year group joins forces and commits to the next generation of Johannians.

The Old Johannian Association would like to play a more active role in creating the next generation of Johannians. We would like to activate the incredible power of the Old Johannian network and use this network to 'pay it forward' by being able to provide scholarships for young men to attend St John's College through the Old Johannian Scholarship Fund.

## REUNIONS AS A FORCE FOR GOOD

Reunions form the foundation of the Old Johannian network. The year group from 2008 celebrated their 10th anniversary by making a meaningful contribution to the school and society. The group raised funds to put a student through St John's College. The privilege many OJs have had in attending St John's College has played a meaningful role in building the foundations in their lives. What better way to acknowledge and celebrate this than by providing this opportunity to others?

## WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

In a massively unequal society such as South Africa's, St John's is a place of privilege. It is vital to embrace the responsibility that comes with privilege and proactively contribute to social change. Supporting and growing the Old Johannian Scholarship Fund represents a unique opportunity to do just that.

## THE IDEA

The Old Johannian Association, together with the St John's College Foundation, encourages year groups to commit to supporting the Old Johannian Scholarship Fund on the milestone of their reunion year. The programme will support one student for five years. The fund aims to get five reunion year groups on board (those celebrating their 10-, 20-, 25-, 30- and 40-year anniversaries) every year for the next five years until we have 25 year groups participating.

## AFTER FIVE YEARS

Old Johannian Scholarship Fund recipients come from disadvantaged backgrounds and once they matriculate, will in most cases not have the network we often take for granted. Here, our Old Johannians have the opportunity to mentor and support these young men as they make their way in the world. And hopefully, we will see these groups continuing to support the fund.

## MAKE YOUR DIFFERENCE

The Old Johannian Association invites our St John's alumni to come on board, embrace your year group and, together, work towards giving our future leaders the opportunities we had to write our future. Pay it forward. Help us make this happen.

For more information on the Old Johannian Association Scholarship Fund, visit [www.oja.co.za](http://www.oja.co.za)



**OLD JOHANNIAN ASSOCIATION**

A worldwide network of Old Johannians



**ST JOHN'S COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION**

