



ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE

26 January 2009

Headmaster's Letter 01/2009

Dear Andean Community

Welcome back to the start of the 2009 academic year. I hope that you all return refreshed and ready to take up the challenges of the new year. The year has got off to a busy and exciting start. College is at its fullest for 30 years with more than 470 boys on the roll, of which 96 are in Grade 8, and some very talented boys have joined us in Grades 9, 10 and 11. I am struck by the number of boys who have come to the school from as far afield as Nigeria, Mozambique, Kenya and even Mexico, and this can only add to the richness of the College community.

Staff

A number of new staff have joined the school. To those parents new to the school, allow me to introduce myself. I was at King Edward VII in Johannesburg (KES) for many years where I was the Deputy Head, and then became the Headmaster of St David's Marist Inanda, in Johannesburg. I joined St Andrew's from the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS), in Johannesburg, where I was Director of Executive Education. I am an old Andean and it is a huge honour to return to St Andrew's as its 18th Headmaster.

Dr Mellony Graven joins us from the University of the Witwatersrand in the new position as Director of Mathematics. Dr Graven holds a DPhil from Wits and MPhil from Cambridge. At Wits she was Senior Lecturer in Education and Chief Editor for '*Learning and Teaching Mathematics*'. She has published regularly in top journals and is recognised nationally and internationally for her expertise in the field of Mathematics education, teacher development and teacher learning.

Also joining us in the Maths Department is **Mr Simon Holderness**. Mr Holderness holds a BCom from Rhodes, PDM from Wits Business School, and an HDE from Wits. He joins us from St David's Marist Inanda, in Johannesburg where he taught Mathematics and was a Housemaster. He also coached the 1st XV Rugby and the 1st XI Cricket.

Miss Amy Taylor holds a BA and PGCE and joins us as an English teacher. Miss Taylor was educated at St Cyprian's and at Rhodes. She has a keen interest in dramatics and this is her first teaching position.

Mr Ricci Brocco joins us in the History and Geography Departments and also as Deputy Housemaster in Mullins. Mr Brocco holds a BA and a PGCE from Rhodes, and he was schooled at St David's Marist Inanda, in Johannesburg. He is well known amongst the boys as he has been a Student Tutor at St Andrew's. He is a keen sportsman and actively involved in the coaching of cricket and rugby.

Mrs Louise Hopkins joins us in the Mathematics Department as part time teacher. She holds a BSc (Hons) from the University of Fort Hare and has taught Maths at Stanford Lake College in Mpumalanga. Most recently she has worked in the hospitality industry.

Mrs Gill Maree, who is no stranger to College, joins us as the Matron in Merriman and it is clear that she has already made a significant difference in Merriman House.

In the Grounds and Maintenance Department **Mr Bevan Hare** joins us as the Assistant Maintenance Manager. Mr Hare comes from Somerset West.

Dr Tim Nuttall

Our congratulations go to Dr Tim Nuttall, the Deputy Head at College, who has been appointed as the Founding Headmaster of a new co-educational school to be established in Tsavo, Kenya. Dr Nuttall is an Andean to the core, and he has served the school with distinction for the past seven years. We wish him and his family well as he takes up this new, exciting appointment. He will leave us at the end of the first term.

2008 Matric Results

The 2008 matric results were very pleasing with 81 candidates achieving 92 subject distinctions; 80 candidates qualified for university entry. This represents a 98.8% university entrance compared to 95% last year. A number of individuals excelled with Gareth Glyn, Cameron Mackenzie and Grant Pollock achieving seven Level 7's on the NSC rating scale, (a Level 7 = above 80%, the equivalent of a distinction), whilst Wesley Bell, James Boyd-Moss and Sheldon Maze achieved six Level 7's. Jack Wale achieved five.

There were some excellent results in various subject areas with thirteen 7's in English out of 81 candidates, and 19 in Mathematics out of 57 candidates. We congratulate both the staff and the 2008 matriculants.

My major theme for the year is a focus on teaching and learning, and I am urging both the staff and the boys to improve upon their previous best.

Extra-Curricular Activities

I am struck by the range of activities on offer to the boys, and the school has been very busy since the start of January with a successful Prefects' Camp, the Grahamstown Schools' Cricket Festival, basketball, rowing and water polo camps, and a New Boys' Walk from Kariega River Mouth to Kasouga. All of these require a high level of teacher and pupil involvement and the activities are testimony to the positive attitude that prevails at the school.


My first impressions ...

- Thank you to David Wylde. He has left me a happy school with a committed staff.
- College is a melting pot of races, cultures and nationalities. How different it is from the dark days of the 1970's. In 1970 there were no black children and very few Afrikaners. There were two "non-whites" in the school, both Chinese. Malcolm Kim-Sing (Mullins 68-72), was an excellent sportsman who went on to study medicine at Wits, and Lindsay "Odd Job" Ah Now, (Mullins 65-70), ran a general dealer's store from his study. You could buy anything from fire-works to a live canary!
- The boys are open and friendly but need to smarten up.
- The co-ordinate model with the DSG presents tremendous possibilities.
- Grahamstown is a good place for young men to spend their adolescent years. It allows boys to have access to town in a safe environment, yet it also exposes them to the socio-economic realities of South Africa.
- "Cops" can no longer buy 20 Lucky Strike from Mam Trollip in the tuck shop. (This is a good thing!)

- David Wylde, the 150th Jubilee and Marguerite Poland's book, *'The Boy in You'*, have raised the profile of College enormously. We must keep this profile high in South Africa, Africa and abroad.
- The stands on Lower were disintegrating in 1970; they have now disintegrated. *Pasop* for splinters!
- The boys still play awful music at full volume but Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin and Jethro Tull have been replaced by rap, R&B, hip hop etc.
- The "weather" in Grahamstown still defies the Met Office and climatologists. A protracted period of drought was ended by torrential rain last night.
- Some "white" College boys still speak better Xhosa than English.
- The "Canterbury Gardens" are a misnomer.
- The Chapel couldn't hold the whole school and staff in 1970, and at the start of 2009 it is once again too small.
- This school has a wonderful spirit and offers something for everyone. If your son is bored, then there is something wrong with him.

I look forward to meeting you and your sons over the course of the year.

Yours sincerely



PAUL EDEY
HEADMASTER

Attachments:

1. ***2010 Term dates***
Below please see the Term Dates for 2010. You will notice that these mark a radical departure from the normal three term format. This is to accommodate the 2010 World Cup.
2. ***Concussion Testing*** – *Please see the separate attachment.*

2010 Term Dates
FINAL

St Andrew's College, Prep and the Diocesan School for Girls

Term 1 Thursday 14 January to Thursday 25 March 2010

Wed 13 January Boarders return by 18h00

Thurs 14 January Classes begin

(Half Term: 12h00 on Thursday 25 February to 18h00 on Monday 1 March)

Thurs 25 March Final Assembly at 11h15

Term 2 Tuesday 13 April to Wednesday 9 June 2010

Mon 12 April Boarders return by 18h00

Tues 13 April Classes begin

(No Half Term)

Wed 9 June Final Assembly at 11h15

Term 3 Tuesday 13 July to Thursday 19 August 2010
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Mon 12 July Boarders return by 18h00

Tues 13 July Classes begin

(No Half Term)

Thurs 19 Aug Examinations End and Final Assembly at 11h15

Term 4 Wednesday 8 September to Thursday 2 December 2010

Tuesday 7 Sept Boarders return by 18h00

Wed 8 Sept Classes begin

(Balloon Week 18-21 October)

(Half Term: After Relay Athletics Prize Giving (13h00) on Thursday 21 October to 18h00 on Monday 25 October)

Thurs 2 December Final Assembly (compulsory attendance) at 08h30