

Collegiate Girls' High School

15 
Years of Excellence
1874 - 2024

P O Box 27870 | Greenacres | Gqeberha | 6057 | Tel: +27413737705 | Fax: +27413742817 | collegia@cghs.co.za | www.collegiatehigh.co.za

END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER – 8 DECEMBER 2023



Dear Collegiate Community

There is a nostalgia in the air as our learners complete their examinations and we bid them farewell. The school becomes quieter, especially when the markers of the Marking Centre, are in their marking sessions, and we feel an incredible sense of endings and new beginnings. It is especially poignant when the Grade Twelves write their last examination. It reminds me of the words of *Walking Away* by Cecil Day Lewis:

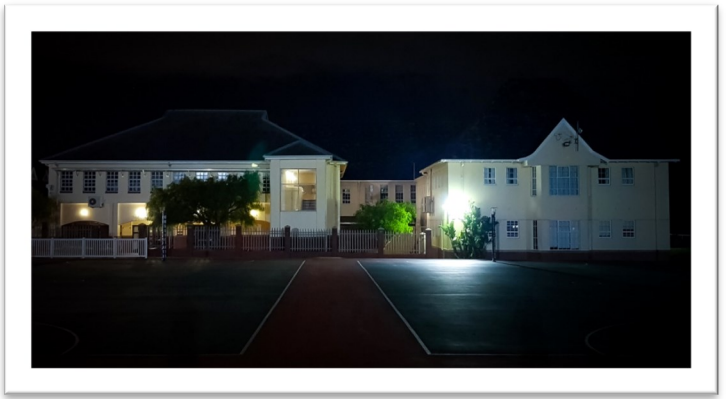
*“How selfhood begins with a walking away,
And love is proved in the letting go.”*

To the girls that are leaving Collegiate at the end of the year, we wish you all the best in a new school or in the world of tertiary study or work; may you be happy and reach your full potential. We thank each one for the contribution to this school. In particular, I wish to thank the Class of 2023 for the way they made the most of their high school career, even though the middle years were interrupted by the pandemic. This class was a

special group: they were called upon to exercise maturity and act with integrity as we reframed certain events during the year, and they rose to the occasion. Now they are ready for new adventures, and we anticipate that they will make their mark in the world in the same way that they did at their school.

As we let go of 2023, and walk towards 2024, we are filled with much excitement for the 150 Jubilee celebrations. But the celebrations next year would not be possible without the preparations of many this year. I am proud of the teamwork of the staff in the various 150 working groups, grateful for the commitment of the SGB to the various projects that are happening on campus, and proud of the passion of the girls. Whether they are rehearsing for the upcoming Musical Production, designing the 150 Jubilee Recipe Book, or renovating the library at St Augustine's Primary School, they are doing so eagerly.

Perhaps the eagerness was sparked by the guest



speaker at Prize-giving, Dr Adriana Marais, encouraging them to reach for Mars. Perhaps when raising their voices on the night of Collegiate Carols, they grasped a sense of being inter-connected through shared experiences and experienced the fulfilment that comes from uplifting others.

After this year of many achievements and milestones; I do hope that we can all take some time to rest and ready ourselves for the next year. In reading the academic reports of this term, I realise that the value of good work ethic is there in so many of our girls who have walked the path to academic success.

I would like to express my appreciation to the staff of this magnificent school, who walk beside our learners and work tirelessly in the pursuit of leading each child in our care towards a moment where they too can walk away to new adventures, filled with the self-confidence that a Collegiate education develops in them.

Our Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl messages in the Valedictory video reminded us of the value of a Collegiate Education:

14 years, 168 months, 728 weeks, 5110 days of growth. Growing from the little seedling to the bright and beautiful flower that walks the school

corridors for the very last time. A school, my school that has provided me with opportunities for 14 years and allowed me to grow into the person I am today. The life that CGHS granted me with is one I wish to never let go, I cannot express my gratitude for this place where I discovered my capabilities and potential. The corridors that are filled with other growing flowers of different kinds is what makes this big garden, our school, so magnificent. One year, 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days of unforgettable memories. The hardships, the friendships, the fellowship took us on this big ship in an ocean that is so unpredictable. These are the moments that are meant to be valued so that one day you have the privilege of speaking about these memories.

As we enter the holiday season, my wish is for all to slow down, rest, spend time with friends and family, read a book and be kind to all.

May God bless you and keep you safe until we meet again in the new year.

Warm regards

MRS L ERASMUS
PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY FAREWELLS

An effective and efficient school requires a committed School Governing Body serving with integrity and sacrifice. We are grateful to the members of the SGB and appreciate their expertise and efforts.

Recently we bid farewell to **Mr Angus de Beer**, **Mrs Claire Coleman** and **Mrs Liesl Nienaber** whose children have matriculated this year. Mr de Beer has taken Collegiate's digital technology to the next level; Mrs Coleman brought expertise to Human Resources; and Mrs Nienaber has performed her Chairman role with integrity, wisdom and commitment. We salute all three.



STAFF FAREWELLS

The only thing that is constant; is change. That is not only true when it comes to life, but also when it comes to our staffing body. Opportunities arise and career paths changes. One thing is certain, we are always grateful to the staff that spent their time here, take the lessons we learn from them, rejoice in the friendships made, and wish them well.



Mrs Jenny Kingwill's presence in the Mathematics Department has been invaluable. Her dry sense of humour, keen eye for identifying and solving problems, and unwavering commitment to bringing out the best in her learners will be missed. We will miss her quiet presence at the squash courts and valuable input and support from the corner of the netball courts. I know that the Netball coaching staff will miss her Monday morning chat about the weekend matches and the notes taken from her evaluation of the game.

Her dedication and passion for teaching have been an inspiration to us all. As she prepares to embark on a new chapter in her journey, we want to express our deepest gratitude for her hard work, her wisdom, and her quiet unwavering support. Her absence will be felt by many, but we take solace in the knowledge that that once you are part of the Collegiate family, you remain a part of the Collegiate Family.



Mrs Bongji Majara started at Collegiate in 2021. Her dedication and hard work have not only benefited our learners at school but have also left a lasting mark on all whom she encountered. From the EMS Department to our Hostel, where she was a part-time assistant, Mrs Majara's commitment to excellence has been evident in all that she has done.

Beyond her professional attributes, it's the personal touch she brought to our school that we will miss the most. Mrs Majara's willingness to spare a compliment and a kind word and her positive attitude made her not just a colleague but a friend to many.

May her journey be filled with new opportunities and exciting challenges.



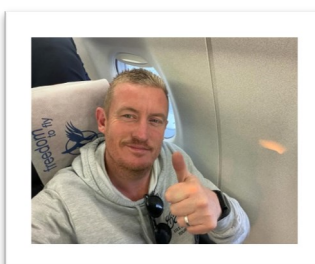
For the past seven years, **Mr Andrew Beynon** has been an integral part of our team at Collegiate, working tirelessly in the sports office, coaching, mentoring, and managing administrative tasks. His dedication and hard work have been invaluable, and we will certainly feel his absence.

In addition to his work in the sports office, Mr Beynon has played a significant role as a HOD serving on the School Management Team: he has re-established the PTA and organised PTA events, been a key figure in ensuring safety and security within our school and booking transport and accommodation for tours. From managing Hockey as the head of the sporting code to a being a passionate coach for many years, he also stepped up to head up Water Polo. This is testament to his commitment to going above and beyond in all that he does, and that is truly commendable.

Mr Beynon has always been a gentleman, someone you could rely on and trust, a true team player who consistently goes the extra mile for his colleagues and the girls. His passion for sport, particularly in supporting and advocating for the girls, has been truly inspiring, and his impact on so many lives cannot be overstated.

As Mr Beynon embarks on this new chapter in his career, we want to wish him all the best at our brother school and express our deepest gratitude for his friendship, his incredible dedication as a colleague, his willingness always to lend an ear and provide sound advice, and simply for being a good human being. It's rare to find someone who embodies the qualities that he does, and we will undoubtedly miss his presence at Collegiate.

We wish him well in his future endeavours, and we know that he will continue to inspire and uplift those he encounters.



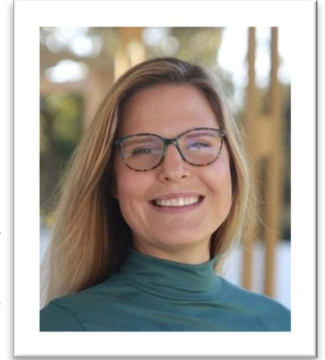
JOINING THE STAFF IN 2024

In the Wellbeing Department:

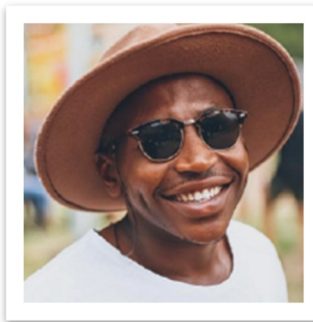
Mrs Melissa Kelly is a **Counselling Psychologist** and has also completed her Post Graduate Certificate in Education. She has been one of Alexander Road High School's Psychologists since 2020. Prior to this she was employed at the school as an FET Educator, teaching English Home Language.

Mrs Kelly provided psychotherapeutic support to students dealing with trauma, loss, anxiety, depression, academic difficulties and provided guidance to those in need of career counselling. She was also responsible for the processing of subject choice changes as well as co-ordinating concession applications and accommodations at the school. Mrs Kelly facilitated psycho-education classes across various grades, and taught Life Orientation.

Mrs Kelly will bring great expertise as a Counselling Psychologist and will be a valuable asset to the Wellbeing Department.

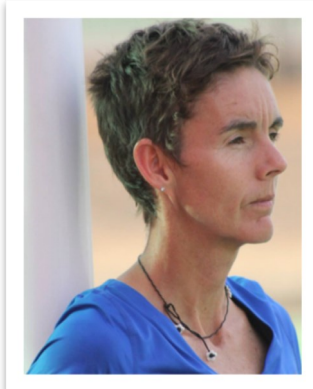


In the Sports Department:



It gives us great pleasure to announce that **Mr Seko Zondani** who has been coaching Water Polo at Collegiate since 2021, will join the staff compliment in January as a part-time sports administrator and **Head of Water Polo**.

In his current role as 1st team coach, Mr Zondani has brought a consistent and energetic approach to the programme and we are delighted to have his expertise next to the pool and have our learners benefit from this well-respected coach and mentor. Water Polo at Collegiate is most certainly on the move and we are grateful to have a national and provincial coach on board.



We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Mrs Melissa Gillies** as **Head of Hockey and Specialist Coach** at Collegiate at the start of 2024. Mrs Gillies has a wealth of knowledge and experience at a high-performance level and is a FIH Level 2 Hockey Coach, and awaiting final assessment of FIH Level 3.

Mrs Gillies has been an integral part of Namibian Hockey throughout the last decade of her coaching. She has coached at all levels ranging from u11 all the way through to the Senior Ladies side. It is a major coup to have one of the finest coaches in the country lead our programme in the next chapter of Collegiate hockey.

We wish Mrs Gillies well in her new role at Collegiate and we know that her appointment will bring huge excitement and quality coaching to the hockey teams.

In the Mathematics Department:

Next year we welcome experienced Mathematics teacher, **Mrs Desireé Scholtz**, to Collegiate.

Mrs Scholtz has taught at Westerford High School, Grey High School, Pretoria High School for Girls and Pretoria Boys' High School. Since moving back to Port Elizabeth, she has taught Mathematics at Pearson High School. In the past, she has been involved in setting up an Academic Support Department in English and Mathematics, and ran Master Maths Newton Park for over ten years

We are looking forward to having a teacher of Mrs Scholtz's calibre as part of our dynamic team and are confident that she will bring out the best in our learners.





COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The 111th Carol Service was held on 10 November 2023 and was a beautiful event with the school building framing the learners as they sang. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all who supported this special event on our calendar and all who assisted in making it possible.

Selwyn Willis, Chief Executive Officer at Community Chest of the Eastern Cape, visited us on Friday 27 November to receive the proceeds: R 67 062-00!

Please follow this link to watch and enjoy our full Carol Service:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmRijOfqje0>

If you still wish to make a donation you can do so via the following link:

<https://www.cchestpe.org.za/donate>

The non-Carol learners visited the Algoa Bay Council for the Aged to learn to crochet and knit. A very skilled and dedicated group of elderly ladies showed the girls how to start a project and shared a few tips and stitches whilst enjoying a cup of tea and biscuits.

This is *Facta Non Verba* at its best and our heart is for the community. Thank you to all of you for the funds that you have generated for Community Chest – through singing Carols or blessing the elderly with your time and efforts at the Algoa Bay Council for the Aged. The girls' altruistic service to the community is part of a tradition of 111 years and directly benefits the Gqeberha community through the funds raised.



OUR 111TH CAROL SERVICE



HISTORY OF OUR CAROL SERVICE

The first Carols service was held on the last day of the last term in 1913 – that was before the first world war!

Mrs Anderson, the Principal at the time, started the Carols in order to raise funds for cots that would bring comfort and rest to ill children at the Children's Hospital.

£12 was collected at the service in 1913.

The first Carols was held in the Stevenson Hall in the Old School in Bird Street, but it soon moved to the Feather Market Centre.

Grey boys would use the silver trophies to take a silver collection at the end of the service.

Only once since 1913 has Carols been cancelled – and that was in 1944 when South Africa was battling an epidemic of the poliomyelitis virus. However, in 2020 and 2021, the Covid pandemic could not stop us – we did a broadcast in 2020 and had an online carol service in 2021 where the community could donate online to the worthy cause that we support.

In 1979, the service was recorded for broadcast on SABS radio.

In 1981, it was filmed to be presented as a Christmas Eve

programme on television.

Between 1984 and 1985, the popular Collegiate Carols was moved back to the school, to its present location in Parsons Hill, as the Feather Market Centre was a potential fire risk.

A few years of Carols Performances followed at the then University of Port Elizabeth Sport Centre,

With the refurbishing of the new Feather Market Centre in 1994, Collegiate Carols returned to the then grand building.

We see how history repeats itself as the Feather Market Centre is again a safety risk with parts of the building and stage in disrepair. Hence, we had Carols in our beautiful quad for a second time around. Just as last year, we had nervous moments in the days leading up to Carols with regards to the weather but we were so blessed, yet again, when the prayers of many were answered – the wind was calm and the night was still and beautiful. From the opening strains of *Come Thou Fount of every blessing* to the closing strains of the *Benedictus* your voices soared and peace truly filled the quad.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

St Augustine's Outreach

Collegiate is in the process of building relationships with the St Augustine's Primary School learners and renovating their library. The goal is for this to be fully realised in 2024 when Collegiate celebrates its 150th birthday. This is a fitting way to celebrate the school's birthday, as it uplifts the community by recognizing the value of giving to others through creating enriching relationships and restoring an important space in any school, the library.

St Augustine's Primary School in Central, built in 1847, is the oldest primary school in the heart of Gqeberha. It is a government school with limited funding. The school believes in uplifting the next generation through holistic education and promoting the Gospel values of justice, love, truth and peace.

We are grateful for the generous donations of paint that we have received, as well as the book donations. Our learners and staff have been cleaning, varnishing and painting the library this holiday.

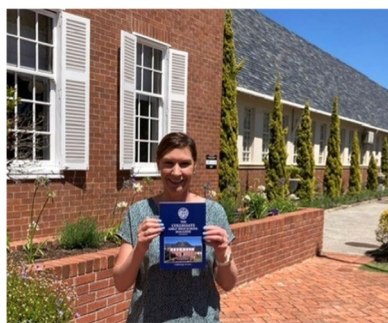


School Shoes and Socks

After the Class of 2023 had written their last National Senior Certificate examination, they generously donated shoes to those in need to walk their next mile.

School Magazine

Collegiate's school magazine, published annually, arrived just in time to hand out to Grade 12s last Friday. We hope that you and your daughters enjoy paging through this comprehensive record of a busy, successful and happy 2023. Thank you to Mrs Carter (editor), Mrs Van Dyk, (assistant editor) Mrs Shone (proofing) and Mr Greenway who took many of the wonderful photographs.



d6

LET'S GET CONNECTED IN 2024.

Download the d6 connect app from your app store.

Why download the d6 connect app?

- Get all the school communication: Newsletters, letters on Sport and Culture Tours and all other communication in one place.
- Manage your school finances: Review your school fees balance. Make payments for School fees, Sporting and Academic tours and any other school events.
- Keep up with your daughter's progress: keep track of your daughter's terms marks, discipline actions and absenteeism.
- Keep a close eye on the school calendar so you don't miss out on any 150 year celebrations.

...all in your pocket, available on demand, on your device.

SPORT

Top Ten Ranking in Sport

We are proud to announce that SA School Sports placed us in the number nine slot on the top Girls Sport Schools in SA placement list. To read the article, visit: <https://saschoolsports.co.za/the-top-girls-2023/>

Tennis

Congratulations to Nerissa Primo who was selected to represent the EP u19 Elephants Tennis team in January 2024.

Water Polo



The 1st Water Polo team travelled to Johannesburg to participate in the annual St Stithians College Water Polo Tournament. It was a fantastic opportunity to take on the top schools in the country. We are proud of the determination and fighting spirit of this young team and we look forward to seeing them grow during the season! The girls played some excellent Water Polo at times and placed 11th after edging Pearson in a penalty shoot out in their final match.

Horse Riding

Leah Killian and Moonflight recently competed in the Eastern Cape Showing Championship and obtained four first positions and four champion placements.



Indoor Hockey

Elizabeth Porter has been selected to the SA Ladies Indoor Hockey Team. They will take on Switzerland in a series in January 2024.

We wish our Indoor Hockey players well for the National Pro-Series Indoor Tournament in Cape Town in December during the holidays.



Artistic Swimming

Good luck to Rachel Taylor, Aneesah Lindoor, Kate Erasmus, Jordyn-Leigh Roman and Shanna du Plessis who will be competing in the South African National Artistic Swimming Age Group Championships in December. Thank you to coach Mrs Moira Norden, Old Girl of the school, for making this competition a reality.



Eastern Province Water Polo capping ceremony: The photograph includes Collegiate staff and learners that will represent EP at the upcoming Inter-provincial tournament to be hosted in Gqeberha.

Visit our Socs app for sporting information: <https://sport.collegiatehigh.co.za/>

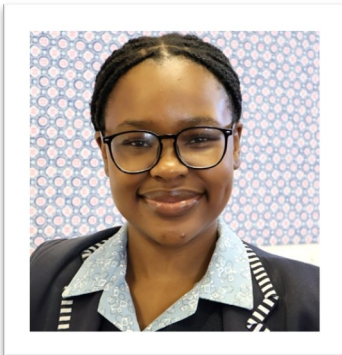
ACADEMIC

Natural Sciences Olympiad



We are proud of our Grade 8 and 9 learners who took part in the 2023 Natural Sciences Conquesta Olympiad and achieved wonderful results. Their collective effort earned our school a gold certificate (70 - 75%). Congratulations to Clarice Pieterse and Bronwyn Shone in Grade 9, and Olivia Freercks in Grade 8, who each received a platinum certificate (88 - 100%).

SA Junior History Olympiad



Well done to Lilitha Papu in Grade Nine for achieving the top position in the Eastern Cape round of the South African Junior History Olympiad 2023.

English Alive!

Congratulations to Rachel Taylor, Megan Kockott and Bronwyn Shone, who all had poetry published in the prestigious high school anthology of creative writing known as 'English Alive'. We are proud of these budding writers!



Trinity College London Examinations

The following learners completed their Trinity College London examinations and achieved distinctions in their respective instruments: Asemahle Nomnganga, Achuma Kelemana, Avethandwa Goboza and Sarah Douglas-Henry.

150TH CELEBRATIONS

The *sesquicentenary* of our school, the 150-year anniversary of the founding of Collegiate, arises from the **VISION** of **CELEBRATION** and **FUTURE LEGACY**. 2024 is a year of **CELEBRATION**:

- of all that Collegiate is
- of all who have been through the School
- of all its achievements
- of friendships and connections

We will reflect on the school's rich history, its tremendous growth and change over the decades; we

150
Years of Excellence
1874 - 2024



will share our pride in the long-standing traditions and in new innovations; and we will rejoice in the strong bonds of sisterhood that follow on from one generation to the next.

Join our celebrations as the Girls of the College lead on to a bright tomorrow. Let's celebrate excellence, and a school that is forever young.

To find out more about our special calendar and all the 150 sporting events for 2024, please visit our website and social media pages.

Here are some of the other highlights:

Literary Festival

Collegiate prides itself on a cultivating a culture of reading. We are, therefore, very excited about the interactive Literary Festival week, which includes activities such as a Readathon, character dress-up and a creative writing competition. Old Girls, Jo-Anne Richards and Dianne Stewart are both published writers, who will be giving presentations in the week. We will also enjoy presentations from spoken word poet, Olwethu Mxolisi and previous Penguin Marketing Manager, Izak De Vries. Penguin Random House will have books on sale too!



Recipe Book

Exciting news! Keep an eye out for our upcoming Collegiate recipe book launch to celebrate Collegiate's 150th jubilee. Families will have the chance to sponsor a recipe. Stay tuned for more details in 2024.

Something magical on a stage near you!

Ticket sales open on 22 January 2024:




Save the date for exciting workshops on 13th and 14th June for parents and learners.

Should you be an educator, a member of a school management team or in health services, consider registering: <https://forms.gle/XRZTmVfjUUzhyz2g7>

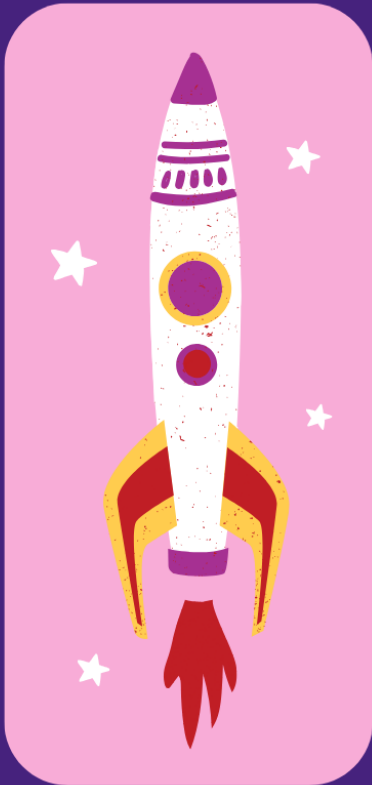
We look forward to collaborating with businesses for sponsorship and involvement at our Wellbeing Expo. To discuss the areas where you could be involved, contact Mrs Penny Stephenson at pennys@cghs.co.za or 041 3737705. Alternatively, complete this form: <https://forms.gle/3ezzrJD4kP5xMpG49>

150 Who will be featured next? *Past Teachers*



Look out for this banner on our Facebook page to see who will be featured next in our Old Girl's stories and news of past staff members.

150 Who will be featured next? *Old Girls' Stories*



COLLEGIATE GIRLS'
HIGH SCHOOL
PRESENTS:



FULL STEAM AHEAD

science, technology, engineering, art, mathematics

*Advancing Women in Sustainability, STEAM
and Success*

7 MARCH 2024

COLLEGIATE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, KESTELL ST., PARSONS HILL

CAREER POPUP

Information sessions by Collegiate parents
on their particular STEAM career

IVY LEAF

15.00 - 16.30

Entrance is free

SPEECH NIGHT

Special guest - Opening address

Prof. Jonas - SKA & MeerKAT radio telescopes

Mr Naidoo - Jendamark (Africa Tech Week Winner 2023)

STEVENSON HALL

19.00 - 21.00

Entrance is R30 via Quicket

EXPO

Various local science, technology, engineering, art,
and mathematics industries displaying their products/ services

GYM HALL

15.00 - 19.00

Entrance is free



For more information, please email us at zandrig@cghs.co.za

Collegiate Girls' High School

15 
Years of Excellence
1874 - 2024

With our Jubilee Celebrations, please support COLLEGIA TRUST, a trust that drives our development and legacy goals.

R150 for 150 Years

Be part of ensuring the future for those of tomorrow, because together we can make a difference!

It's a quick and easy process where you can either

1

Make a **once-off donation** to a project of your choice
Open the camera on your mobile phone and scan this QR code

or



2

Set up a **stop order** directly with your bank
Bank Details: Collegia Trust, Standard Bank, Savings Account No. 083504923
Trust No. IT 247/2012

Thank you

Visit us at www.collegiatehigh.co.za to find out more about our exciting plans for the next 150 years.

Contact Heather Dutton | (041) 3737705 | 082 7777 078 | heatherd@cghs.co.za