



Collegiate Girls' High School

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END OF TERM THREE NEWSLETTER – 3 OCTOBER 2025



"Our motto, *facta non verba*, reminds us that what we do each day reveals who we truly are."

Dear Collegiate Community

Facta non Verba — Our Living Heritage

As I write on Heritage Day, after watching our learners celebrate our diverse community during our Heritage Day Assembly on 23 September, I am reminded of our school crest and its motto: *facta non verba* — deeds, not words. This ancient Roman sentiment, handed down through the centuries, reminds us that actions reveal true character, build trust, and carry the power to inspire change.

This has always been Collegiate's heritage: not grand speeches, but purposeful action. This term, our girls have shown this truth in abundance — from excelling on the sports fields in hockey, water polo, netball, mountain biking, artistic swimming and more, to raising their voices in debating, public speaking, poetry, and music festivals; from shining academically in the South African Mathematics Competition, the Royal Society of South Africa Science Competition, and *English Alive*, to giving of themselves through outreach, charity projects, and service. Each of these deeds speaks more loudly than words of who we are and what we value.

Our actions must always strive to better the lives of others. Whether through Mandela Day blankets, or the "Once upon a Time" Charity Bazaar, which provided significant support to Project Flamingo's renovation of

the breast cancer ward at Livingstone Hospital, or the unity of our Heritage Day assembly, each act carries the quiet weight of integrity and compassion. Words may promise, but it is through action that we live our motto, build our character, and shape the future.

As we close this busy term, with our Spring Sports Festival, may we continue to live *facta non verba* — not just in what we say, but in how we choose to act — as together we keep living our values and building our future.

May the holiday week be a rejuvenating one and when we meet again in Term Four, *deeds, not words*, will continue to tell the Collegiate story.

Warm regards,

Mrs Louise Erasmus
Principal

STAFF MATTERS

This term, we bid farewell to two exceptional staff members whose dedication and passion have left a mark on our school community.

Mrs Liska Mey, who joined us on 1 January 2014, is embarking on a new chapter of her life as she joins her husband in Australia. Throughout her time with us, Mrs Mey has been an outstanding educator—her expertise in music, from technical mastery to subject teaching, coupled with her leadership in the SASMT, has enriched our school immensely. We wish her all the success and happiness in her new homeland.



Mr Jacques Batista, who has been an integral member of our staff since 1 October 2017, is also moving on to new opportunities. His creative spirit and flair for the Dramatic Arts have brought many memorable productions—from *As the Rain Washed Over Her* to a modern adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*. His innovative vision and dedication have inspired our learners and enriched our school's cultural landscape. We are grateful for his contributions and wish him well in his future career.

WELCOME

On 1 September we welcomed **Mrs Mari Grobler** to our finance office. Born and bred in Gqeberha and having studied BCom Accounting at NMU, she fits right in with our community. Mrs Grobler, a wife and mother of two Collegiate Junior girls, has been appointed as our Assistant Bursar and we are delighted to have her join our staff.



MUSIC AT COLLEGIATE

Music continues to flourish at Collegiate, offering our learners rich opportunities to grow in skill, confidence, and expression. Whether performing in formal competitions, community concerts, or collaborative festivals, our ensembles and soloists have brought pride to the school through their dedication and artistry. What follows is a glimpse into some of the highlights from this vibrant term in our Music Department.

South African Society of Music Teachers Competition

At the annual SASMT Music Competition, Collegiate Girls' High School learners once again did us proud. We celebrate all the girls who participated, showing both courage and confidence as they stepped onto the stage.

We extend our congratulations to the following learners on their achievements:

- **Medium/Large Ensemble:** *Winner – C of Saxes*
- **D1 Section (Grades 4–6):** *1st place – Avethandwa Goboza (Saxophone)*
- **D1 Section (Grades 4–6):** *2nd place – Asemahle Nomnganga (Saxophone)*
- **D2 Section (Grade 7 and higher):** *2nd place – Aisha Mxokozeli (Voice)*

Musical Moments

The annual *Musical Moments* concert, held in August, was a special occasion as we bid farewell to our Grade Twelve learners. We are deeply grateful for their contribution to the Music Department and for the beautiful memories they created with their peers and staff alike. The evening showcased performances from all our ensembles and groups, each producing work of the highest standard. We are privileged to have dedicated Music staff who continue to share their expertise and passion with our learners.

C of Saxes and Claribelles

This has been a highly successful term for both the Claribelles and the C of Saxes ensembles, with August proving to be their busiest month yet.

The term began on a high note when both groups were awarded Diplomas at the Pearson Praeludium. The adjudicator praised the Claribelles with these special words:

“Goosebumps...! This is how an ensemble should sound,” and commended C of Saxes with “Bravo! Excellent and polished ensemble work in every way!”

Both groups also made their debut at the *Musical Moments* concert in the Stevenson Hall, captivating the audience with challenging programmes that ranged from Paso doble to Ragtime. Just two weeks later, they performed again at the annual SASMT Competition at the University, where C of Saxes proudly secured first place in the ensemble category.

At our Queen Elizabeth House Day, the girls marked two years of growth and achievement in their ensembles by receiving the very first ensemble scrolls for Claribelles and C of Saxes. As we bid farewell to our Matrics and welcome new members, we look forward to 2026 with enthusiasm and strong team spirit.

String Ensemble

The Collegiate String Ensemble, conducted by Mrs Mey, had the privilege of performing at the Grey High School Strings Festival on 27 July. A highlight of the evening was joining the mass orchestra for the 'African Suite for String Orchestra', performed on the brand-new Bergman Auditorium stage. We extend our thanks to Mrs Range for accompanying the ensemble.

The following week, the group presented a varied programme at the Pearson Praeludium Music Festival, where they earned a Gold certificate. Many of our string players also auditioned for the Eastern Cape String Orchestra, and we eagerly await the outcome of their auditions.

Concert Band

The Concert Band has enjoyed a busy and rewarding term. Following their outstanding performance at *Musical Moments*, they were honoured with an invitation to perform at the prestigious Bands' Festival, hosted by Grey High School. Sharing the stage with ensembles from Alexander Road, Victoria Park and Pearson, the evening was a true celebration of Gqeberha's finest wind bands.

The band is well prepared for their tour to George during the next three days, where they will participate in the Symphonia National Orchestra and Band Festival. This national platform will see them perform alongside other top school bands and we wish them every success as they showcase their talent.



Choir

The school choir never fails to impress when they step onto the stage. At the annual Pearson Praeludium, they performed with passion and energy, earning a well-deserved Double Gold. Their beautiful singing continued to shine at the Alexander Road High School Choir Festival.

We extend our thanks to Mrs Range for her excellent piano accompaniment and to Mrs Agenbag for her unwavering dedication. A particularly moving moment came during the *Musical Moments* concert hosted at Collegiate, where our Grade Twelve learners shared the stage for the last time. We are deeply grateful for their commitment over the past five years, and they will be missed dearly.

Liesl Stoltz Concert

Six of our flute learners had the privilege of attending the internationally renowned *Mosaic Trio* concert, hosted by the Music Society of Port Elizabeth. The trio, consisting of flute, viola and guitar, toured Europe earlier this year, and our learners were able to experience their artistry at close range.

Liesl Stoltz, flautist from Cape Town, was delighted to meet the girls. Eden Oliver, a Grade Eleven Music learner, had the special honour of receiving a masterclass with Liesl, where she gained many valuable insights and techniques to enrich her playing.

Laubscher Park Outreach

A group of our Music learners and staff visited Laubscher Park West Retirement Village to bring joy at their monthly birthday celebration. They presented a memorable programme featuring old-time favourites such as *Summertime*, *Let's Call the Whole Thing Off*, and *The Entertainer*. It was truly heart-warming to see the residents join in song, filling the occasion with shared music and delight.

Closing Note

We are immensely proud of the achievements of our Music learners and grateful to our dedicated staff who guide and inspire them. Together, they remind us that music is not only about performance, but also about connection, growth and joy. May the notes struck this term continue to resonate in the hearts of our girls and their audiences alike.



COMING IN 2026—A NEW HOME FOR MUSIC

Plans are underway for the building of the new Music Centre, to be situated alongside and behind the Gym Hall, between the tennis and squash courts. The centre will house:

- a Band rehearsal room
- a Choir rehearsal room
- Ensemble rehearsal rooms
- Six Individual teaching rooms
- a Class teaching venue

To contribute to this project and leave your legacy, contact Sam Marriner: marriner.s@cghs.co.za



ACADEMICS

'English Alive' Publication

We are proud of Amy Heukelman, Isabella Hendricks, Emily Ball and Raphaella Blu Miller on being published in this year's celebratory 70th edition of 'English Alive', a high school anthology of creative writing. Many well-known figures in South African literature were once published in 'English Alive'. What a thrill for these budding writers to be published!

Science Essay Competition

Congratulations to Jade van Tonder who won First Prize for her excellent essay in the 'AI' Category of the Royal Society of South Africa: Science Essay Competition. The markers this year, all professors at various tertiary institutions in South Africa, commented that Jade's essay was: "Original, balanced and well-written. Good bibliography. Very good presentation".

English Olympiad

Ten learners took part in the English Olympiad and we are immensely proud of our top achievers:

Gold awards: Emily Ball, Katherine Wilson, Michaela McKerr, Jade van Tonder

Silver awards: Jessica Hill, Jennifer de Kock, Sisipho Konza, Eleni Kyazze

Bronze award: Vandyie Makolo

Merit award: Holly Tudhope

Katherine Wilson came 41st in the Olympiad. She has been awarded a scholarship by Rhodes University that covers her academic fees for her first year of study if she chooses to study at Rhodes. Candidates who place in the top 50 of the Olympiad qualify for this bursary.

SACEE

We are thrilled to announce that Aisha Mxokezeli and Holly Tudhope participated in the SACEE (South African Council for English Education) Public Speaking Challenge and have qualified to participate in the final round. They presented prepared and impromptu speeches. Well done to Aisha and Holly for performing well under pressure!

Herald Youth Day Supplement

Congratulations to our learners whose poetry, writing and art appeared in The Herald Youth Supplement:

Poetry 2nd Runner Up – Aqhama Poyana

Articles 2nd Runner Up – Ainy Munir and Rania Yon

Art Finalist: Kristen Botha

Art Winner – Emma Jack

Poetry Evening

One is truly fortunate if one is impacted by the beauty of poetry during one's high school career, and this was certainly evident at the annual Poetry Evening. Like-minded individuals gathered in the Resource Centre to share a little of their souls. We thank Isabella Hendricks for being a vibrant MC. We also thank Mr Batista for being the guest speaker. His depth of insight, humour and ease in front of an audience make him unforgettable.



AdMaths

In preparation for the Further Studies Mathematics Examination that will be written in October, the top learners received their certificates for Consistent Hard Work. Two of our Grade Twelve learners achieved 90%+ in Term Two. Congratulations, Maria Freercks and Jennifer Friskin.

Afrikaans Olimpiade

Certificates were awarded to the following learners for their participation in the ATKV Afrikaans Olimpiade:

Clarice Pieterse

Chloe Strydom

Mieke Wessels

MATHEMATICS

On 13 September, four of our learners proudly represented Collegiate at the annual South African Mathematics Team Competition (SAMTC), hosted at St Dominic's Priory. The top 20 junior and senior learners in Nelson Mandela Bay were selected, based on their Round Two Mathematics Olympiad results, to form the district's teams. Under the guidance of Dr Govender, the learners attended online training before the competition.

Four Nelson Mandela Bay teams were entered. Holly Tudhope and Josephine Brown were part of the junior section, while Olivia Freercks and Jennifer Friskin took part in the senior section.

The two senior teams placed 10th and 24th out of 80 teams

and the junior teams ranked 19th and 24th out of 88 teams. A special congratulations goes to Jennifer Friskin, who placed first in the senior individual section in Nelson Mandela Bay. We are extremely proud of our girls for their outstanding achievements and effort.



VISUAL ARTS

Art Exhibition Showcase

Our learners recently had the opportunity to participate in the Grey High School Inter-Schools Exhibition. This event was a wonderful chance for our learners to exhibit their art and engage with the wider creative community. We are incredibly proud of all the girls who had their work displayed.

Grade Ten and Eleven Art Exhibition

Our Grade Ten and Eleven Visual Arts learners recently held their own exhibition to showcase their amazing work from the first half of the year. The girls produced fantastic pieces, and it was a great opportunity for them to experience exhibiting their work.



CONSUMER STUDIES

During the trial examinations, our Matric learners completed their final practical assessments in Food Production and Clothing Construction. These practicals form an integral part of their final assessment, and our learners excelled in demonstrating their skills, creativity, and technical ability. In addition, the Food and Clothing Department projects have drawn to a close. The outcomes of these projects have been



of a high calibre, reflecting both the learners' dedication and their teachers' guidance.



ASPIRE PROGRAMME

The annual Aspire Programme this year began a focused journey, one that asks not just how we *survive*, but how we *thrive*. No two people are the same. We all need different things to grow. And sometimes, even when things around us are not perfect, if what is *inside* us is strong, we can still thrive. The programme included many guest speakers and opportunities for our learners.

Our learners received bookmarks that remind them to aspire to thrive daily, and have written in their GLAD journals. Learners have also received seeds to plant.

Some of our brave learners rolled up their sleeves and donated blood — making a real difference and helping to save lives.

Simamele hosted a session as part of the programme on

"Building Power within and with each other".

Selected Grade Nine learners spent a day with St James collaborating and learning about teambuilding and leadership. Ms van Rooyen, our teacher counsellor, facilitated activities and talks to empower our future leaders.

We hope that the the ASPIRE to THRIVE seeds that have been planted will blossom into future success stories.



Agency (control and influence over self)

Safety

Positivity

Inclusion

Respect

Equity (happy culture of trust)

Togetherness

Harmony

Resilience

Inspiration

Value

Empowerment

Living our Values.

Building our Future.

SUBJECT FAIR

The Grade Eleven learners prepared displays and held the annual Subject Fair in the hall for the Grade Nines. With QR codes, prizes for subject quizzes, information and advice galore; we could not be prouder of our Grade Elevens.



SPORT

As we come to the end of Term Three, we reflect on yet another busy and successful sporting season. A heartfelt thank you goes to our parents for their continuous support and commitment to our sporting programme this year. It has been wonderful to see the growing number of parents, grandparents and siblings on the side-lines, cheering on our teams.

DERBY DAYS

This term's Derby Days included fixtures against Framesby, York, Oranje, Eunice and Clarendon Girls' High. A special thank you to all the families who opened their homes to host the Oranje learners. These derby encounters are about more than competition—they build friendships and memories that last a lifetime.

CHESS

Term Three is always one of the busiest for our chess girls, with Friday afternoons filled with focus, strategy, and team spirit.

- A Team League Matches: 3 wins, 1 draw, and 2 losses
- Derby Matches: Beat Oranje, drew against Clarendon

Congratulations to Aishwarya Ranjith, who represented the U16A Nelson Mandela Bay Chess team at the Eastern Cape Inter-Regional Championship in Alice during the June holidays. The team placed 1st overall (Gold), and Aishwarya has qualified to represent South Africa at the World Youth and African Youth Chess Tournaments. An incredible achievement!



HOCKEY

Many Collegiate girls represented Eastern Province in the various Inter-Provincial Tournaments in July, delivering outstanding performances:

EP U18A – finished 4th overall

- Congratulations to Cassidy Williams, selected for the SA U18B team.
- Taryn Peltenburg and Kerrin Gillies were named in the extended SA U17 squad.

EP U16A – finished 2nd overall

- Congratulations to Emihle Mazomba and Salome-Rose Oosthuizen, selected for the SA U16A team.
- Salome was also named Goalkeeper of the Tournament.
- Both players competed in the SA U16 International Series vs Zimbabwe in August.

EP U14A

Congratulations to Sophia Jansen, who was the top goalscorer of the tournament and named Best Midfielder.

Collegiate also qualified for all three Top 12 Schools Hockey Tournaments in August:

- 1st Team Super 12 – 7th overall
- U16 National Top 12 – 11th overall

U14 National Top 12 – 6th overall

Our combined SASCHOOLSPORT ranking of 5th in South Africa is an outstanding achievement, reflecting the depth and strength of our hockey programme. Congratulations to all our players, coaches and management for their hard work and dedication.



NETBALL

During the July holidays, Collegiate hosted its Annual Netball Festival with eight teams participating. While we were unable to retain our 2024 title, our girls fought hard and secured silver medals.

Later in the term, we hosted a fun-filled End-of-Season Tournament for the lower teams against Linkside and Brylin, filled with energy and excitement.

Our Collegiate Invitational Netball Team excelled in the Fast 5's format:

- Silver at the Nico Malan Fast 5's Tournament
- Bronze at the Sunridge Fast 5's Tournament



SQUASH

Our 1st Team had the honour of competing at the South African Schools Squash Competition in August, finishing a commendable 7th place nationally.

Collegiate School Champs took place in September with Nina Mitchell winning the Senior Champs and Nuha Packery winning the Junior Champs.

SWIMMING

Congratulations to Jemmah Roman, Sienna Gous and Morgan Gous, who represented South Africa at the Africa Aquatics Zone IV Championships in Eswatini this September. We are exceptionally proud of these young swimmers.



TENNIS

Collegiate participated in the inaugural St Andrew's College and DSG Mixed Doubles Tournament, in partnership with Grey High School. Against tough opposition, our players excelled, finishing with a well-deserved silver medal.

Tennis Champs are currently underway and should be concluded by the end of the October.



Likholthemba Ndawo placed first and Megan Woolward placed second.

CROSS COUNTRY

Our Cross Country athletes competed consistently throughout the league season, ending with the prize giving taking place at Collegiate. Of the 18 schools that competed in the girls' division, the Collegiate Junior team placed second overall and the Collegiate Senior team placed fourth.

Jeandré Lodewyks place third in the U15 age group and third overall in the junior category. In the U14 age group,



WATER POLO

The First Team Water Polo season with the DSG Spring Festival in Makhanda, where our newly formed squad showed great promise, winning two of their four matches. Building on this, the team travelled to Cape Town for the prestigious Reddam Mackenzie Cup, where they gained invaluable experience, finishing 10th out of 16 teams. A promising start to what is set to be an exciting season!



INTER-HOUSE WINTER SPORTS RESULTS

- **Hockey** – Queen Victoria
- **Netball** – Queen Alexandra
- **Cross Country** – Queen Alexandra
- **Tennis** – Queen Alexandra
- **E-Sports** – Queen Victoria
- **Chess** – Queen Victoria
- **Squash** – St Michael and St George

Well done to all the houses for their spirited competition!



EVENTS OF THE TERM

Fairytale Follies

Fairytale Follies: A Magical Musical Revue, co-directed by Mrs Liske Hemingway and Ms Lara Potgieter, delighted audiences with its enchanting blend of beloved characters, toe-tapping songs, and dazzling performances on Monday, 18 August. From classic tales to modern twists, the production showcased the incredible talent and energy of our Musical Theatre learners on stage. With sparkling costumes, provided by the talented Leigh-Anne Du Toit, lively choreography by our very own Grade Eleven learner, Sophia Wood, and plenty of humour and heart, it was a show that brought joy to young and old alike. Thank you to everyone who supported this magical journey—we are so proud of our cast and crew!



Charity Bazaar

Despite the chilly, windswept weather, Collegiate's annual Charity Bazaar brought warmth, colour, and joy to our school grounds on Friday, 25 July. This year's enchanting theme, *Fairy Tales*, inspired stalls and activities that captured the imagination of learners and visitors alike.

Our RCLs led the way with excellent planning and creativity, ensuring that every detail was thoughtfully arranged. Each stall reflected a different fairy tale, with treats and activities that delighted everyone who visited. From delicious foods to exciting games and experiences, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The atmosphere was festive, with learners enthusiastically embracing the theme in both décor and participation.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the entire Collegiate community, parents, learners, staff, and friends, who braved the cold to support this special day. Thanks to your generosity, we raised an incredible R74 500.00 which will go toward supporting our chosen charities.

We extend our gratitude to the RCLs for their hard work, the teachers who supported them, and especially to Mrs Lotz and Mrs Vanderlinden for their dedication and behind-the-scenes organisation. This collective effort truly reflects our school motto: *Facta non Verba*—deeds not words.



Heritage Day Assembly

On Tuesday, 23 September, we celebrated Heritage Day by holding a special assembly to celebrate the diverse cultures in South Africa as well as our shared heritage.

Heritage is about remembering the past and shaping the future and the Grade Eleven Diversity, Inclusivity and Transformation Committee, the Society and Service Area Committees and other volunteers worked hard to make South African's rich heritage come alive on stage and made sure to honour the traditions, cultures and histories that shape who we are as South Africans from our language to our customs.

Our guest speaker, wife, mother and clinical psychologist, Mrs Siphesihle Metuge, gave an inspiring address on our identities as South Africans.

It was special to remember Heritage Day and to recognise the rich and vibrant cultures that make South Africa the place we call home.



Collegiate Golf Day

On 4 September, we proudly hosted our annual Golf Day, a fantastic event filled with camaraderie, laughter, and some impressive golf skills. The day culminated in a lovely prize giving ceremony that celebrated our wonderful community spirit.

This memorable event was made possible thanks to the generous support of our main sponsors, Skullies, along

with all the other companies that provided prizes and sponsored the t-boxes. We are truly grateful for their support.

A special thank you goes to our dedicated PTA and Stefan from *Steammevents*, whose hard work and dedication played a crucial role in making this day a success.

We look forward to our next event and to continuing to bring our school community together in fulfilled and meaningful ways!



Geography Tour

The Grade Eleven Geography learners embarked on a journey inland to Graaff-Reinet and Nieu-Bathesda to study the beautiful landscapes, establishment and continued success of these settlements. Great fun was had by all as they learned about the discovery of dinosaur fossils in South Africa, pondered the artworks of the Owl House and marvelled at the grandeur of the Valley of Desolation. Nothing brings about a good appreciation of what South Africa has to offer, culturally, creatively and environmentally like a trip to the Karoo.



Life Sciences Excursion

The Grade Eleven outing to Van Stadens Wildflower Reserve took place on 29 September. They researched the impact of alien species on biodiversity and completed a Veld Assessment.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Events in the next few days

We look forward to seeing you on campus and supporting our girls. Visit us on campus and join us for some exciting sporting fixtures at our annual Spring Sports Festival Powered by Old Mutual.



Collegiate Girls High School

Public Lecture - Social Media & AI



Crucial Public Lecture

EMMA SADLEIR BERKOWITZ

South Africa's leading expert on social media law

**THE LEGAL, DISCIPLINARY, PARENTING
AND REPUTATIONAL RISKS OF
SOCIAL MEDIA AND AI**

Date: Wednesday, 15 October 2025
Time: 17:30 for 18:00
**Venue: Collegiate Girls' High School,
Stevenson Hall**

**FREE ENTRANCE,
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For more information, contact Bronwyn Brooks @ brooks.b@cghs.co.za.



Collegiate

Spring Sports Festival 2025

POWERED BY



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ANNOUNCEMENT OF PREFECTS



We are thrilled to announce that Collegiate Girls' High School has elected leaders to serve on the Prefect Body of 2026. We are incredibly proud of these young leaders and excited to see the positive impact they will make in the year ahead. A heartfelt congratulations to the School Prefects, Hostel Prefects and their families for this well-deserved honour.

The elected School Prefects are Nina Mitchell, Sophia Wood, Clarice Pieterse, Cwenga Williams, Cordé Adams, Bronwyn Shone, Lilitha Papu, Kelly Legg, Madison Everts, Sophie Brannigan, Oluhle Ntengu, Mikaela Caliste, Lilian Krige, Mieke Wessels, Kungawo Spire, Jenna Coetzee,

Liskhanya Gqunta, Chloë Strydom. (On tour: Nina Mitchell, Clarice Pieterse, Cwenga Williams, Bronwyn Shone)

The Hostel Prefects are Lilian Krige, Kungawo Spire, Kelly Legg, Nina Mitchell, Giana Pretorius, Lea Vermaak.

We are also excited to share that the Prefect Induction will take place on 13 October 2025, where the Office Bearers will be announced. We look forward to this special occasion and to celebrating the future leaders of Collegiate Girls' High School.