

Collegiate Girls' High School

Facta non Verba - Deeds not Words

PROSPECTUS



good work ethic compassion responsibility respect integrity

A note from our Principal, Mrs L Erasmus



Welcome to Collegiate Girls' High School, one of the oldest girls' schools in the country, with a rich heritage of excellence, community involvement and leadership.

The prestigious Collegiate Schools started in 1874 in a private house in Western Road. The founding fathers recognised a need for a first-class education for the daughters of the settlers who had come to Port Elizabeth. The very first Lady Principal, Miss Isitt, came all the way from England to Collegiate and I am sure that she would swell with pride were she to see the school today.

More importantly, in our diverse country, is the second founding, thirty-one years ago. In 1991, Collegiate grasped the opportunity to open the doors to all children of South Africa, to act with integrity, one of our core values, and to start the journey to becoming a united school of all races and creeds where all are comfortable in their skins.

The commitment to excellence established in the 1800s has become a proud tradition and is certainly reflected in our Grade Twelve results each year. Not only do we achieve between 94% and 100% bachelor (university degree entrance) passes, but we also have girls who have eight, seven, six and five distinctions each. Every year we average

around three distinctions per Grade Twelve learner, and almost all subject averages are above 70%. In addition, about 60% of the grade achieve aggregates above 70% with about 25% of the grade achieving A-aggregates. The overall Grade average in 2025 was a phenomenal 71%.

Excellence is also evident on the sports fields and the stage, where each year there are learners in all sporting codes and musical pursuits who represent the province and even the country. However, it is the involvement of so many in physical and cultural activities, be it Netball, Hockey or Pilates, Music, Debating or Drama, that is to be celebrated and is part of our holistic education.

Whilst we stand firm in our academic, sporting and cultural tradition, it is the values that we espouse that make Collegiate special. Rooted in our motto *Facta non Verba* - Deeds not Words - are the values of integrity, compassion, responsibility, respect and good work ethic. At Collegiate we do not pay lip service to these values; rather, our learners work hard and show those in less fortunate circumstances compassion by working alongside various charitable organisations. In this way our learners take their responsibility to uplift society and the community most seriously.

But Collegiate is not only about intellectual pursuits, values, service and sport. It is also a place where friendships are formed, memories carved and a collegial spirit developed. One only has to listen to the rousing strains of spontaneous singing of our school song by the girls at sporting fixtures to know that there is something deeply meaningful to being a "Collegiate girl". This will stay with our learners well into their mature years and it will keep them returning to the school on Founders' Day to celebrate afresh, their having been moulded into well-rounded, strong and confident individuals by this educational institution of excellence.

I urge you, as parents of potential "Girls of the College," to discover what Collegiate has to offer and to make a carefully considered choice for your daughter's high school career. May wisdom and insight accompany this most important decision.

Campus life

Collegiate has always been a place where women have learned more than just how to pass an examination. It is a place where young minds are served with sincerity and enthusiasm, and where traditional values provide the basis for the building of an ethos which aids the development of self-reliance, individuality and the ability to succeed in a dynamic, often complex society.

The School's campus, in Parsons Hill, is well-equipped with large classrooms, and specialised venues for Music, Physical Sciences, Art, Consumer Studies, Life Sciences and Dramatic Arts. There are also computer facilities, a resource centre and an e-book library, a cafeteria and a fitness centre. The campus has controlled Wi-Fi and learners bring iPads to school to use in lessons. Recently, we opened The Games Club, a multi-purpose venue to receive and host visitors, staff and parents for social engagements and to enjoy a cup of coffee. Collegiate is a safe campus with security guards on duty 24 hours.



A tradition of academic excellence

From its inception in 1874, Collegiate has progressed unerringly in its commitment to excellence, a proud tradition handed down by those who served the school. From our earliest days, learners have found their place in the world through the diligent work ethic instilled in them by the school's ethos which continues to serve the present generation.



To this day our learners achieve not only at school, but also in the world at large, pursuing medical, engineering, accounting, legal careers as well as the creative industries.

There are over fifty academic staff, five classes per grade, and a wide range of FET Grade Ten to Twelve subjects. Learners in Grades Ten to Twelve are given an open choice when selecting their subjects, which allows them to choose both scientific and creative subjects and not be bound by traditional subject groupings.

In Grades Eight and Nine, learners take the following subjects:

English Home Language, Afrikaans First Additional Language or isiXhosa First Additional Language, French Second Additional Language or isiXhosa Second Additional Language, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Economic Management Sciences, Social Sciences, Digital Technology, Life Orientation, Computer Literacy and Creative Arts: choice of two from Drama, Visual Arts and Music.

In Grades Ten to Twelve learners choose the following:

Compulsory Subjects: English, Afrikaans First Additional Language or isiXhosa First Additional Language, Life Orientation and Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy

Three elective subjects from: Accounting, Computer Applications Technology, Consumer Studies, Dramatic Arts including Film Studies, French Second Additional Language, Geography, History, Information Technology, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Music, Visual Arts. In addition, girls can do Further Studies English, Further Studies Mathematics and Dance Studies as an eighth and/or ninth subject.

To assist learners, tutoring is offered to our learners in many subjects. Collegiate subscribes to Elevate Education study skills programme and introduced Project Based Learning in Grade Eight in 2021 as well as 'The Study Sisterhood' where senior girls tutor other girls in subjects where they need assistance.

Our sporting programme

We have an extensive sporting programme and field numerous teams in each sporting code:

Athletics
Chess
Cricket
Cross Country
E-Sport
Hockey
Netball

Pilates
Squash
Swimming
Synchronised swimming
Tennis
Water Polo

Collegiate hosts various league fixtures, tournaments, festivals and high-performance camps in our sporting codes during the course of the year. We are passionate about our sporting codes. We invest time and resources to ensure that our learners, not only gain maximum exposure, but also receive top quality coaching by our specialized coaches.

Our facilities include a newly renovated water-based hockey Astro turf, a mini-astro turf, a 25m swimming pool, a heated water polo pool, all-weather surface netball courts, tennis courts, squash courts, a cricket pitch, cricket nets, two grass hockey fields and the South Sure fitness centre.

All sporting codes participate in various festivals and tournaments throughout the year. Each year, Collegiate nurtures EP Representatives, and SA Representatives.



Our clubs and societies

Collegiate has an extensive extra-curricular programme of clubs and societies. Interests covered include cultural, scientific, outreach, literary, self-improvement and spiritual areas. The clubs and societies meet weekly and all the learners who involve themselves in what is on offer benefit greatly.

Art Enrichment

Ballroom Dancing

Bio-Science and Enviro Club

Brass Quintet

Choir

CATS (Drama)

Cookery Club

Concert Band

Debating Society

Environmental Society

First Aid

French Society

Interact Club

Literary Society

Muslim Student Association

Photography

President's Award

Quiz Society

Student Christian Association

String, Clarinet, Sax Ensembles

TECRU

Vocal Ensemble

Xhosa Cultural Society



A tradition of musical excellence

With six full time music teachers, a choir, a concert band, a jazz band as well as other ensembles, our school's commitment to music remains firm. Instruments taught include the piano, brass, strings, woodwind, percussion and voice. Besides practical work, music learners study Theory and History of Music and play *Royal Schools of Music* and *Trinity College of London* examinations. Many of our learners excel in these examinations and reach a high-grade level. Some even participate in the National Youth Orchestra each year.



Collegiate learners participate in the annual Collegiate Carols Performance, which dates back over 114 years.

The Collegiate Choir is exceptional and participates regularly in various national competitions and eisteddfods. Our Concert band has won national and international awards.

Collegiate in the information technology age

We are committed to keeping Collegiate in sync with the technological environment which is the reality of our learners' world. To this end we teach a comprehensive, integrated ICT curriculum in Grades Eight and Nine and offer Computer Applications Technology and Information Technology from Grade Ten, but we go way beyond that.

We make use of computer devices that range from PCs to visualizers, to big screen monitors, Apple TVs, to colour printers and 3D printers. We have Wi-Fi networks and a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy that has enabled the use of iPads, e-books, YouTube and You-name-it! We operate the miEbooks and ITSI platforms. We also make use of Microsoft Teams to share notes and resources. Our learning hub in the school is the De Wet-Gray Resource Centre: this state-of-the-art learning hub of the school combines a traditional library with a digital online library.



Waterfield House - a home from home

Collegiate offers boarding facilities to approximately 100 girls. Waterfield House, the School Hostel, is an elegant building with all the necessary amenities. It is attached to the main building of the School, making it accessible and safe.

The "Bodas", as they are fondly known, enjoy facilities such as music rooms, a newly renovated dining room, a comfortable and relaxed television and recreation room, a wi-fi computer network, a sickbay, a laundry, and a modern coffee room for Matrics. The dining room is sunny and inviting and provides three full meals per day. The garden is beautiful where the girls can relax.

The girls are well supervised in a loving and warm environment, and are encouraged to develop self-discipline, independence and tolerance, while committing themselves to helping others.



Collegiate in the community



At Collegiate we instil in the learners an ethos of care and community outreach. From knitting socks for the soldiers in the First World War to funding a Collegiate cot in the hospital in the early 1900s to the Annual Charity Bazaar which raises more than R60 000 for Christmas Cheer, it is clear that Collegiate learners follow their motto *Facta non Verba*. Furthermore, each House has an outreach programme to support through work throughout the year.

To this day the learners participate in the annual Carol Service, which has been part of the city's cultural heritage since 1913. The money raised from this supports the Community Chest of the Eastern Cape. Other charitable activities include: visiting and reading at Children's and Senior Citizen's Homes; the Rotary Interact Service Club; outreach programmes and drives to assist various less privileged schools. All these activities teach learners that there is great fulfilment and satisfaction to be gained in the service of others.



Each Club and Society will support an organisation of community outreach will engage with and support an organisation in the wider community, bringing to life our motto, *Facta non Verba*.

Once a Collegiate girl, always a Collegiate girl



All learners who matriculate from Collegiate become alumnae and may join the Old Collegiate Girls' Guild (OCGG) which has been in existence for over a hundred years. Every year during Founders' week, Old Girls from all over the world return to their alma mater and share their memories and their successes.

The OCGG offers bursaries for tertiary studies and also supports the development initiatives of the school. It is a means for Collegiate learners to stay in touch with their alma mater and to ensure the community spirit of Collegiate continues.

Come and be a part of the Collegiate family and enjoy a network of friends for life.



Join us in our Vision

To pursue excellence through holistic education



Contact us...

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Email: admissions@cghs.co.za

For more information, visit our website: www.collegiatehigh.co.za

For applications visit our website or scan the QR code.

Applications close on 20 March 2026

