



# Collegiate Girls' High School

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## END OF TERM NEWSLETTER – 27 MARCH 2026



Dear Collegiate Community

As we come to the end of the summer term, there is a quiet but noticeable shift taking place. The long, warm days begin to soften. Mornings carry a sharper edge. And across the school, the rhythm of our days starts to change.

The high energy of the summer season – the excitement of the water polo, the vibrancy and intensity of the musical, the full and often fast pace of the term – begins to give way to something different. Already, hockey and netball teams have taken to the courts and fields, representing Collegiate with commitment and pride at early-season tournaments. Soon, the familiar rhythm of the winter derbies will be upon us, moments that call for grit, teamwork, and resilience.

There is something important in this seasonal shift. It reminds us that a school year, like the year itself, is not lived at a single pace. There are times of high energy and outward performance, and there are times that call for endurance, discipline, and steady commitment.

This speaks directly to our theme for the year: *Living our Values; Building our Future.*

In our sesquicentenary year, Grey High School gifted Collegiate a lamp post: a symbolic gesture that continues to resonate. It speaks not only to a shared history, but to the enduring connection between our schools, and to the sense of belonging that extends beyond our own campus. The lamp post points in five directions, each representing one of our core values: good work ethic, respect, responsibility, compassion, and integrity. It is a quiet but powerful reminder that these values are to guide us wherever we are, and in

whatever we do.

As I reflect on the term that has been, I see these values being lived out in very real ways.

We have seen **good work ethic** in the academic commitment of our learners, reflected in strong reports and in the consistent effort shown in classrooms each day.

We have seen **responsibility** in the way many of our girls have approached their work and their commitments, and we now look ahead to the examination term, where this value will be tested further, requiring discipline and focus.

We continue to teach, and expect, **respect** – in our interactions, in the way we treat our shared spaces, and in how we respond when we fall short of what is expected.

We are reminded, too, of the importance of **compassion**, recognising that each learner carries her own story, her own pressures, and her own challenges. A school must be a place where we hold one another with understanding, even as we hold one another accountable.

And perhaps most importantly, we continue to grow in **integrity**: not in being perfect, but in having the courage to acknowledge when we are not, to take responsibility, and to choose to do better.

Belonging at Collegiate is not something we simply receive – it is something we build. It is built in the way we treat one another, in the contribution we make to the life of the school, and in the responsibility we take

for our actions.

Our learners are, and always will be, a work in progress. There are moments when mistakes are made: sometimes small, sometimes more significant. Yet it is in these moments that the real work of a school is done: guiding, correcting, and supporting our girls to grow into young women who lead with character, grounded in values and shaped by a strong sense of belonging and a willingness to contribute.

As we draw towards the holiday, this is also a time of significance for many within our community. For those who celebrate Easter, it is a time of reflection, renewal, and hope – a reminder of grace and of the opportunity to begin again. We also extend our warmest wishes to those who recently celebrated Eid, marking the end of Ramadan: a time of faith, generosity, and community.

As we move into the next term, with its different pace and new demands, I encourage each of our learners to continue to reflect:

Where am I contributing positively to this community?  
Where am I strengthening the sense of belonging for others?

And where do I still need to grow?

I wish all our Collegiate families a restful and restorative holiday. May it be a time of renewal, of family, and of simple moments of joy. And as we return, may we continue, in both small and significant ways, to live out what we believe in, *facta non verba*, in all that we do.

Warm regards,

**MRS L ERASMUS**

**PRINCIPAL**



## PARENT TEACHER MEETING

We are pleased with the academic progress made by our learners. Please review your daughter's report with her and discuss her progress. If there are areas of concern in certain subjects, we encourage you to discuss these concerns with the particular subject teacher. There is an opportunity to do so, in person, on the evening of Thursday, 9 April between 16h30 and 18h30.

You will need to book a time slot with the teacher(s) you wish to see. Consultations are limited to five minutes with five minutes between slots. Please find the link to the booking form and instructions on how to make the bookings:

<https://www.collegiatehigh.co.za/teacher-booking>

You will need to know the name(s) of your daughter's teacher(s) of the particular subject(s).

As time-slots are limited, you might not be able to see a particular teacher if all slots have already been booked. You are then encouraged to contact the teacher via email to set up a meeting or telephone call during the week.

We will not be able to accommodate you on the evening without pre-booking.

Only available time slots for that teacher will show. If no time slots are visible, it means that that teacher is fully booked. You will receive a confirmation email at the email address you specified with all the details of your booking.

This evening is a wonderful opportunity for parents and teachers to engage regarding interventions and progress.

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

We hosted the Algoa CMC Academic Performance Celebrations of the Department of Education. The Education Department recognised all the principals in the Algoa CMC for their hard work and dedication to educating the youth. Mrs Erasmus accepted the award for our 100% pass rate and 99.3% bachelor passes. She said, "This is for the hard work of our girls and the passion of our staff".

We also attended the Department of Education District Awards recognising excellence in the National Senior Certificate examinations. We were recognised for our excellent marks in Geography, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Computer Application Technology, Consumer Studies and English Home Language, and

were also recognised for being the only school in the district to attain a 100% pass rate for five consecutive years.

Collegiate was also honoured with a Premier Award in recognition of our school attaining the highest Bachelor pass rate.

Well done to our Principal, Subject Heads, Subject Teachers and the wonderful Class of 2025.

We might have collected the awards, but these awards belong to every parent, learner, staff member and greater community. In addition, we congratulate our fellow schools for their achievements and awards.



## STEAM WEEK

During the first week of March, we celebrated STEAM Week. This gave our learners the opportunity to explore the exciting connections between Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics.

The week kicked off on Monday with an inspiring assembly presentation from Jendamark. Learners heard about how AI can be used as a tool to support jobs, improve efficiency, and create new opportunities in the workplace.

We hosted a Mathematics Competition, where learners tested their problem-solving skills.

On Tuesday and Thursday, learners took part in a two-day robotics workshop, where they built and programmed LEGO robots before racing them against each other.

Creativity was also on display through art posters that explored the fascinating relationship between Mathematics and Art.

Our Physical Sciences learners were treated to exciting live experiments presented by Nelson Mandela

University lecturers on Tuesday and Wednesday, bringing science concepts to life.

On Tuesday, we also enjoyed a Mathematics and Science collaboration with St James Senior Secondary School for Girls, giving learners the chance to work and learn alongside peers from another school.

The week ended on a high note with the Collegiate Console Clash, our very own eSport event, highlighting the strategic thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills that gaming can develop. Learners competed in various tournaments, with one of our own, Raphaela Blu Miller, coming first in the Tekken 8 Tournament.

The annual Trash to Fashion Assembly saw inter-class rivalry at its best, with each class tasked with creating a Cosplay themed fashion statement by recycling items. Congratulations to the models on their walk of fame, and well done to the register classes who were awarded a Civvies Day for being selected as the winners.

STEAM Week was a fantastic celebration of curiosity, creativity, and innovation, and we are proud of all the learners who participated.



## JAMF MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

In order to create a focused and productive learning environment, it is essential that learners are not distracted by unnecessary screen activity during the school day. Devices and online platforms offer incredible opportunities for learning, but they also present many temptations from social media, games, messaging, and other applications that can easily derail concentration. When learners' attention is divided, their academic progress, classroom engagement, and overall wellbeing are negatively affected. We therefore appeal to families to help reinforce the importance of responsible device use at school.

To support a distraction-free learning environment, all learners are required to have the compulsory **Jamf management system** installed and active on their iPads. Jamf enables the school to ensure that devices are used responsibly, that learning apps function correctly, and that inappropriate or distracting content is restricted during school hours. This system is not only a school requirement but a vital safeguard that helps teachers maintain a productive classroom while helping learners develop good habits in using technology.

We also ask for your partnership in discouraging any attempts to bypass the management system. Activities



such as changing the date and time on the device, installing a VPN, or seeking other loopholes undermine the school's efforts. It also demonstrates dishonesty and a disregard for the rules designed to help learners succeed. These behaviours should be actively discouraged as they set a poor precedent for personal integrity and respect for the learning environment.

Your support and adherence are deeply appreciated. By working together—parents, learners, and teachers—we can ensure that technology remains a powerful tool for learning rather than a source of distraction. Thank you for helping us maintain a focused and meaningful educational experience for every learner.

Learners who are not Jamf compliant will be placed on a Saturday Detention.

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## TRILINGUAL COMPETITION

On 16 February, the annual Trilingual Speech Competition took place in the Stevenson Hall. The three adjudicators were Mr Neil Anderson from VP for English, Ms Jani Gerber from Pearson for Afrikaans and Ms Pamela Ndovela from our own Geography department for Xhosa.

The junior selection was depleted by illness, however, brave speakers stood up and did their best.

The junior winners were:

isiXhosa – **Emihle Mazantsana** on the topic: Umbelelo

Afrikaans – **Mika Ramnath** on the topic: Dankbaarheid

English – **Harshita Kaswa** on the topic: Gratitude

The senior competition was fierce and some mature and thought-provoking speeches were delivered. As there could only be one winner, the judges' decisions were final.

The senior winners were:

isiXhosa – **Sanelisiwe Mbabana** on the topic: Ikamva

Afrikaans – **Mirelle Koen** on the topic: Maar hoekom?

English – **Olivia Freercks** on the topic: But why?

This tradition is one that we hope will endure for many years as seeing the talent the girls have for public speaking is always a privilege.



## LEADERSHIP

The Representative Council of Learners (RCL) was elected on 28 January, and we extend our congratulations to all learners who were chosen to serve in this important role.

The Executive Committee, elected by the learners, comprises Mieke Wessels, Olivia Freerks, Katherine Wilson, Aminah Ismail, and Shiloh Searle. We are confident that they will lead with dedication and integrity.

We would also like to acknowledge the SGB representatives for 2026: Mieke Wessels, Olivia Freerks, and Aminah Ismail. We wish them well as they represent the voice of our learners at the SGB level.

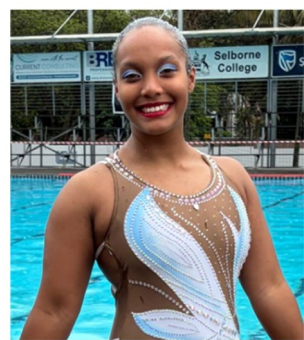
Several RCL members also had the opportunity to attend a leadership workshop hosted by Westering High School on 6 March. This valuable experience allowed them to develop their leadership skills and connect with fellow young leaders from other schools.



## SPORT

As Term One draws to a close and we transition into our winter programme, we reflect on what has been a vibrant and demanding sporting season. While we continue to pursue excellence, our true measure of success lies in the growth of our athletes as we nurture them to become the best versions of themselves.

The real value of sport extends far beyond results. It is in the life lessons learned — the development of a strong work ethic and commitment, and the cultivation of responsibility, respect, compassion, and integrity — all of which are fundamental to our sports programme.



## ARTISTIC SWIMMING

Artistic Swimming has had a good start to the year. We are privileged to have the coaching skills and talents of Old Girl Mrs Moira Norden, an internationally recognised coach and judge who recently judged at Masters in Singapore.

Courtney Musson perform one of her routines. Courtney has represented South Africa at numerous international events and has now turned her efforts to judging. She is currently the only Gold Tech Controller in South Africa and one of only two in South Africa. Collegiate hosted the Eastern Cape School Championships where our learners achieved excellent results.

At Aquatics Day, we had the privilege of displaying some routines from our seniors, as well as one from our beginners. We were also privileged to have Old Girl

We would like to congratulate Aneesah Lindoor and Kim Dell-Robertson on being selected to represent Eastern Cape Aquatics at the South African National Artistic Swimming Championship in Cape Town.

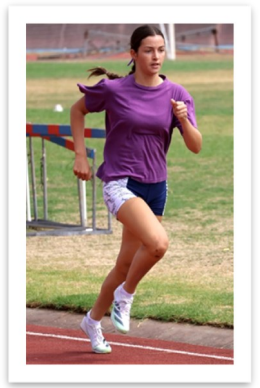
## ATHLETICS

The athletics season commenced with our Inter-House Athletics Day, which showcased a number of outstanding performances. Notably, Sophia Jansen broke the U15 records in the 800m and 1500m events, while Milla Delpoort set a new U19 javelin record.

Our athletes continued to excel at the zonal meeting, where forty athletes represented the school with distinction. Of these, thirty progressed to the PEHS

meeting, and thirteen ultimately qualified for the Metro Championships.

We are proud of the commitment and achievements displayed throughout the season and look forward to building on this momentum.



## CRICKET

We are proud to have two cricket teams competing in the A-League, while continuing to develop our 3<sup>rd</sup> team in preparation for future fixtures. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> team delivered a number of impressive performances, securing notable victories against 1<sup>st</sup> teams such as Victoria Park and DF Malherbe. The 1<sup>st</sup> team recorded a solid league campaign, winning two matches, drawing one, and losing one.

A highlight of the season for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI is always the Cape Town tour in February to compete in the Reddam Festival. Facing two Cape Town teams and two teams from the UK, the players gained valuable experience and exposure at a high level of competition.

## TENNIS

Term One has been an especially busy term for tennis, with over 70 learners participating in the tennis programme. Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday all seven courts are a hive of activity from social to team tennis players, thriving through the coaching efforts of Coach William and Coach Daniel.

Teams one through to three played several matches during the term with some good league results overall.

During the month of January, our 1<sup>st</sup> team travelled to East London to participate in the Merrifield Tournament, where they finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in their pool behind Stirling and DSG.

The Valentine's Mixed Doubles Festival with Grey High took place over one of our Open Days. Heart covered balloons, delicious cupcakes and fabulous tennis in rather blustery conditions.

Over the Valentine's weekend, our 1<sup>st</sup> team set off for East London yet again to participate in the Selborne Clarendon Mixed Doubles Tournament. Together with the Grey boys, we reached the finals which were sadly rained out.

At the end of February, we hosted the Kingswood U15A and 1<sup>st</sup> teams in a derby. At the end of an entertaining afternoon of singles and doubles, our U15A team emerged victorious whilst our 1<sup>st</sup> team were subdued by a powerful Kingswood 1<sup>st</sup> team.



## SWIMMING

Our Annual Inter-House Swimming Gala, held on campus, was a resounding success, with House Mary narrowly edging out House Victoria in a closely contested event. Madison Higgs delivered an outstanding performance, breaking the U16 100m Backstroke record. In addition, the U19 Boda Relay “Bomb Squad” team - Michaela White, Zandri Knoetze, Lise-Marié Kruger, Lara Heny, and Brigid Guest — set new benchmarks by breaking both the U19 Individual Medley Relay and Freestyle Relay records.

The Collegiate Swimming team, selected from the Inter-House Gala combined forces with Grey to secure an impressive first place finish at the Pearson Prestige Gala.

Sienna Gous and April Jooman proudly represented the Eastern Cape Open Water team at the SA National Open Water Championships. We wish all our swimmers the very best as they compete in the SA National Junior

Age Group Championships this week.

A special mention must go to all those who committed to the Learn-to-Swim programme. The progress has been exceptional, thanks to the dedication and quality coaching of our Blu-Academy Learn-to-Swim instructors.



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## WATER POLO

### 1<sup>st</sup> Team Season:

With a fresh bunch of players ready to make a name for themselves, the 1<sup>st</sup> Team began the season with a solid pre-season training block.

They took on some of the nation's most prestigious water polo schools in their first test at the Brian Baker Tournament. The team had to swiftly get into a rhythm as a fresh combination. They showed tenacity and resolve throughout the competition, placing 17th out of 20 teams.



### U14 Season:

The U14 Water Polo team campaign began in February at the Jason Murray Tournament, where they competed with confidence and finished an encouraging 5th out of 9 teams. The team was able to form combinations and gain momentum thanks to this early exposure to competitive match play.

Later, the squad went to Cape Town to compete in Reddam Constantia's very contested Dave Pitcairn Tournament. Throughout the event, the U14s faced fierce competition from some of the best teams in the area. Despite the difficult outcome—13th out of 16 teams—the experience was priceless. The players improved steadily, strengthened team unity, and learned valuable lessons that will help them throughout the rest of the season.



### U15 Season:

Strong performances and steady improvement characterised the U15 Water Polo team's successful first half of the season.

They showed outstanding technique, discipline, and teamwork in the pool at the Alex Festival to start their season. They finished the event undefeated, a testament to their teamwork and preparation.

Building on this achievement, the squad went to Johannesburg to participate in the esteemed Shaun Fuchs U15 Tournament, which brings together several of the nation's best U15 teams. The team kept up their excellent play, giving each game their all. They finished an impressive 6<sup>th</sup> out of 24 teams, narrowly missing a semi-final spot. The team's quality and capacity to compete at a high national level are demonstrated by this outcome.

### U14B / U15B / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Teams:

With the remaining teams enthusiastically taking part in the weekly Tuesday League matches, the larger water polo program continued to flourish. These games offered regular chances for growth and sport delight. Players of all skill levels were able to obtain crucial match experience as the teams faced off against Pearson, St Dominic's Priory, Alexander Road, Collegiate Junior, and Grey Junior.



## HOCKEY

Term One has been a busy term for hockey. At the end of 2025, the Hockey Program commenced with a larger pre-season approach encompassing a broader group of hockey players from U14 through to seniors. Our resident biokineticist prepared training programmes for each group and these were followed during the holidays. The season kicked off with pre-season testing, High Performance groups and trials.

The 1<sup>st</sup> team and U14 team participated in the regional EP trials, whilst the U16 participated as individuals. We await word on which of our players have made it through to the final round of trials.

The U14B team participated in the Alex Festival, gaining some valuable experience against predominantly A sides. The U16B team participated in the Pearson Festival where they won the silver medal.



The 1<sup>st</sup> team participated in the annual Greg Beling Festival where they managed to win all four of their matches against Affies 7-0, St Anne's 2-0, Voortrekker 8-0, Witteberg 13-1.

The U16B team played in the Westering U16 Festival, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> teams participated in the Framesby Festival. The 1<sup>st</sup> team travelled to Johannesburg for the annual St Mary's Festival and the U16A team participated in Stellenbosch at the Annual Bloemhof Hockey Festival.



## NETBALL

Our netball season began with participation in various pre-season events during February and March.

The U14 A-C, U15 A-B, and U16 B-C teams kicked off the season at the annual Despatch Skommeltoernooi on 28 February.

This was followed by the Despatch Sports Festival on 7

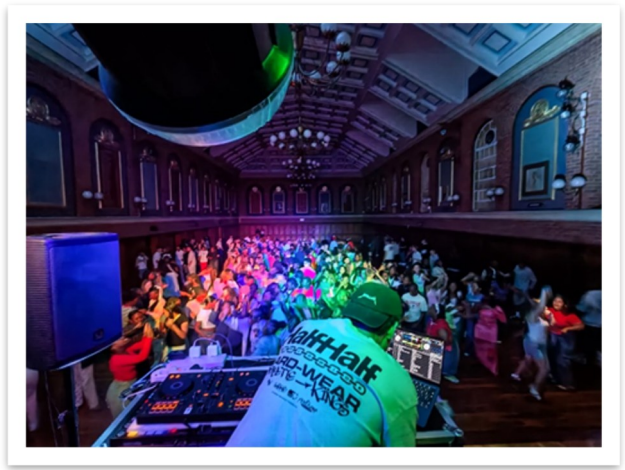
March, where our U14A, U16A, and 1st teams competed against local opposition.

These events played a key role in finalising the squads selected to tour to the Paarl Girls' High Tournament, held from 19-21 March.

With great anticipation, the U14A, U16A and 1<sup>st</sup> teams travelled to Paarl to compete against some of the top schools in the country. While not all results were in our favour, the players demonstrated resilience, determination, and growth throughout the tournament. Their performances have set a strong foundation, and we are excited for the winter season ahead.

## COLLEGIATE AND GREY MIXER

At our school, we emphasise the importance of balance—reminding our girls that working hard is equally matched by the value of taking time to enjoy and unwind. This term, our girls enjoyed an engaging evening filled with fun, camaraderie, and dancing at the Collegiate Grey Mixer for Grade 8 and 9 learners on 13 February. It was a wonderful opportunity for connection and relaxation, and we look forward to our senior mixer next term.



## MATRIC DANCE

Our matriculants enjoyed a memorable evening of elegance and celebration at their highly anticipated Matric Dance this term. The event brought together learners and staff, creating an atmosphere filled with laughter and lasting memories. Dressed in exquisite formal attire, the Class of 2026 exemplified poise, unity, and school pride, embodying the true spirit of the occasion.

The venue was beautifully decorated, complemented by lively music and an upbeat ambiance, providing an ideal setting for learners to commemorate this milestone of their schooling career.



## CHOIR

On 5 March, the choir had the privilege of performing at the screening of Rachel Kolisi's documentary, *Falling Forward*, at the Boardwalk. In a record time, the choir learnt, memorised and performed one of Rachel's favourite songs, *Rescue* by Lauren Daigle. We had the honor of performing the song with the up-and-coming artist, Anica Kiana. Not only did the choir make the school proud, but also those who worked with Rachel and Rachel herself.

We received an email addressed to Mrs Agenbag from Rachel Kolisi's Manager: *"We just wanted to take a moment to say thank you to you and the Collegiate School choir for the incredible job at the Gqeberha Falling Forward screening. It was such an honour to have the choir open the evening."*

*Their performance was so moving and set the tone for the night in such a powerful and beautiful way. Please also know how grateful we are to you for being at the forefront of it all, ensuring the choir was prepared, confident, and so wonderfully on point. Your leadership and care were so evident."*



## PROMS 'NEATH THE TOWER

On 15 March, the Concert Band had the honour of performing alongside Grey High School at the prestigious *Proms 'Neath the Tower* concert. The girls enjoyed the opportunity to listen to the Grey High School String Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Concert Band, while also sharing the stage with their brother school. The picnic-style concert made for a relaxed and enjoyable afternoon, and the girls performed exceptionally well under the baton of Miss Mbengashe. It was a memorable musical experience for all involved.

## MUSICAL: BRING IT ON

This term commenced with great enthusiasm as the girls and staff prepared for the 2026 musical: Bring It On! The production team comprised co-directors, Ms Scheepers and Mrs Hemmingway, with stage management by Ms Potgieter and choreography by Cheslyn Meyer.

Executing this show was no small feat, given the limited eight-week preparation period. Success was only achievable through the dedication and exceptional talent of the girls involved, both on stage and behind the scenes.

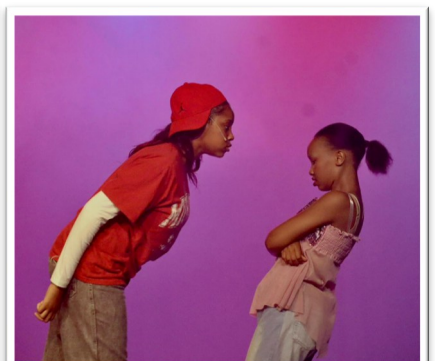
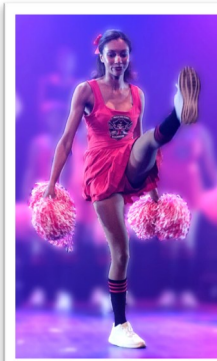
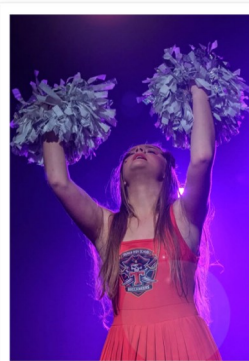
The cast was led by Avethandwa Goboza, portraying the spirited cheerleader Campbell, who transfers to a new school and finds herself navigating an unfamiliar world. Her rival-turned-best friend, Danielle, was masterfully portrayed by Aisha Mxokozeli. These two

outstanding actresses were supported by a talented group of students who brought humour, energy and cheerleading talent to the stage, including Iminathi Malusi, Cwenga Williams, Michaela McKerr, Omhle Manona, Katherine Wilson, and Sophia Wood.

We were privileged to have Grey High and Victoria Park boys take on challenging role to complete the principal cast: Jordan Saal, Oyintanda Zetu and Jabulani Doda.

The production was further enriched by our ensemble members, dancers and the male ensemble from Grey High, whose gravity-defying lifts and throws added to the excitement of the cheerleading routines, energising the audience.

The musical captivated audiences with moments of humour, sheer excitement, and awe-inspiring performances. Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone involved — their collective effort and dedication made



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our Interact Club has had a wonderful start to the year, embracing opportunities to serve our community. The sale of Valentine's cards raised an impressive R2 512.10, which was proudly donated to the SPCA Kariega.

We also hosted a Easter Egg collection, with donations being distributed to underprivileged schools and children's homes, spreading a little extra joy.

During register time, classes came together to prepare "love sandwiches," which were donated to Love Story, showing how small acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference.

Our Cookery Club enjoyed a special outreach visit to EP Children's Home, where learners spent time in one of the houses teaching children how to prepare a simple recipe. It was a heartwarming experience filled with learning, laughter and connection.

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch our annual 67 Blanket Challenge for Mandela Day. Blanket squares may be hand-knitted or crocheted and are due by 22 June. We encourage all members of our school community to get involved as we continue to live out our motto of making a difference through action.



The poster features a background of colorful knitted blanket squares in shades of purple, blue, and pink. In the top left corner is the school crest, a circular emblem with the motto 'FACTA NON VERBA' and 'FOUNDED 1874'. Two polaroid-style photos are overlaid on the right side: the top one shows hands knitting a square, and the bottom one shows a group of children sitting together, some wearing blankets. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with a mix of blue and purple colors.

# 67 BLANKETS CHALLENGE

In support of 67 minutes for  
Mandela Day

**WE NEED:**

-  Squares must be knitted in DOUBLE-Knit wool  
Any colour  
Use 4 mm Knitting Needles
-  Pattern: Cast on 30 stitches  
Knit 60 rows in plain or garter stitch  
Cast off
-  Crochet Squares: 15cm x 15cm

**Due Date:**  
22 June 2026

**NELSON  
MANDELA  
DAY**