



18 February 2016

Dear Saints Family

Half-Term

As I reflect back on the past six weeks, I am mindful of the vibrant and significant education offered at St Stithians, our College of seven schools. Like the beautiful chapel windows, there are so many angles of light and colour. Educational quality is about fulfilling and stretching each individual's unique talents. Some of the fruits of these educational encounters are seen and measurable; others run deeper in the quality of our relationships, our sense of community, and the nurturing of values. The daily life of school occurs in a national context of economic and political uncertainty, reinforcing our challenge to be a place of hope.

I take this opportunity to thank all who contribute to what we strive to achieve at St Stithians: our students, staff, parents, and alumni. I am conscious daily of the energy, commitment and passion that inspires so much.

Charles Somlayi

We mourn the death this week, due to illness, of Charles Somlayi, known affectionately as Charlie to many generations of Old Stithians. Charlie has been employed by the OSA since 1986 and has been hospitable host at the One & All clubhouse all these years. We thank him for his loyal service and commitment to our community. Our thoughts and prayers are with Charlie's wife, Zama, and their children Hlela, Hlamla and Zingce. A memorial service for Charles will be held at the St Stithians Chapel at 15:30 on Friday, 4 March 2016.

Save the Date

I take the opportunity to highlight the following events:

Rector Connect on Wednesday 2 March at 18:00, One & All (Higher Ground) conference room.

Rector's Campus Action Day on Saturday 19 March at 09:00. This is a new initiative, and will take place once a term. On this day, there will be an open invitation to students, staff, parents and alumni to join work parties on campus. This term's focus will be on removal of alien plants and on litter clean ups in our streams, forests and grasslands. More details will be distributed nearer to the event.

Founders' Day on Saturday 4 June 2016.

First Aid and Emergency Medical Cover

We have concluded a six-month review of provision of first aid and emergency medical cover for our students. The outcome of negotiations with service providers is an improved service and cover for onsite campus injuries and accidents, as well as for off-campus sporting fixtures, trips, tours and camps.

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE. MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

In outline, the new arrangements, to be effective from 1 March, include:

Increased onsite first aid, paramedic and emergency care to be managed by Special Ops 99

A team of paramedics will be available on campus daily to cover our multiple sporting practices and matches, backed up by an onsite ambulance and mobile medical centre. There will be better co-ordination of our first aid provision across the schools, as well as medical input into our health and safety practices.

An online medical data management system

Infomed is to be contracted as the supplier of online medical data that will connect the school, parents and medical services. Online access via mobile devices to medical information and contact details will be available to designated medical personnel and school staff in charge of activities on and off campus. This will ensure rapid response and communication in case of emergency.

ER24 Safe Scholar Programme

All students will be covered by this programme which includes emergency medical transport and hospital admission for stabilisation, during school activities on and off campus. The Safe Scholar Programme includes a 24-hour help line.

The improved service outlined above is not covered in full by the provision in the 2016 College operating budget for first aid and emergency medical services, as the review did not coincide with the preparation of the 2016 budget. The 2016 Fees Booklet refers to the possibility of additional charges under this line item. The College Executive has decided that there are many benefits and assurances in these improved services and that, after deliberation, an additional R80 will be charged to each student's fees for this year. This amount will be billed in the March statements, and I am hopeful that our parents will understand and accept this decision.

St Stithians Easter Sports Festival



As mentioned in my last letter we are gearing up for an exciting Easter Sports Festival, both the Prep Festival from 18-20 March and the College Festival from 24-28 March.

Please look at the Event App on events.stithian.com for all the details.

Festival ticket booklets will be distributed on 23 February 2016 to the eldest child attending Saints. Please sell or donate these tickets to everyone you know that loves a great festival; we appreciate your support. The booklet is valued at R480.

If you do not wish to keep the booklet, please return the full booklet to your relevant school reception and sign the register. The deadline for return of booklets is Tuesday, 22 March 2016. If you choose to keep the booklet and to sell or donate the tickets, R480 will be charged to your school account. Should you have any queries, please email festivaltickets@stithian.com

St Stithians Car Windscreen Stickers

In closing I remind all our parents that, after half term, cars which do not display the 2016 sticker will be stopped for scanning at our entrance gates. Parents who have not yet entered their car details in the Secure Portal are requested to do so urgently, and to obtain their stickers from the Operations Department. If you have any queries, please contact Deanne Schnaier on 011 577 6381.

Good wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Nuttall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent horizontal stroke at the beginning of the word "Tim".

Dr T A Nuttall
Rector