



8 September 2016

Dear Saints Family

Welcome to Term 3.

Walking around the campus yesterday, there was a lovely sense of the energy that young people bring – the excited sounds of the new term expressed in the voices of boys and girls, the higher pitches of the little ones and the lower pitches and more measured conversations of the older ones. In the afternoon and evening, all our sports facilities were abuzz with activity, and sounds of music practice created layered ambience. We have jumped right in to Term 3, no hesitation. With our five schools back in session, I marvel at the opportunities of St Stithians and give thanks for the investment of our parents in a Saints education: Inspiring Excellence and Making a World of Difference.

On Monday, the staff of all the schools and departments gathered in chapel for Holy Communion. We listened in appreciation to our visiting preacher, Rev Nokulunga Songca, minister in the Fourways Circuit. I took the opportunity to speak about the ecology of our values at St Stithians and to advance our campaign of saying No to Racism and Sexism. It is right that we talk openly, critically and deeply about these topics, about what is core to the College's identity and practice, and about what needs to be changed in the light of our transforming school which seeks to embrace *Ubuntu*, to be a place of dignity and welcome for One and All. I will write at more length about these themes in a longer newsletter soon to be published.

After the Chapel Service, the staff of each school experienced a day-long workshop of staff development. There was a rich menu of conversation and sharing in these meetings, creating a fertile soil in which to grow and learn. For two days last week, the College Executive met to advance Budget 2017 and review Strategy 2025.

Our Matrics enter their final season at St Stithians. It's a time a mixed emotion: ready to leave, there is the race of final exams to run. We push together towards the finishing line, and we mark this final lap with memorable moments of reflection and thanksgiving.

Rector's Campus Action Day, Saturday 17 September

I invite all interested students, staff and parents to gather at the dam at 09:00 on the 17th to continue our project of clearing alien trees and weeds, as well as picking up litter in the forest and grassland area. We made good progress and enjoyed ourselves at a similar event last term. We will be providing a mid-morning snack and lunch, ending by 12:30. Please rsvp to kriley@stithian.com by Thursday 15 October for catering and organising purposes. Please bring the following equipment: thick gardening gloves, spades, forks, garden loppers and tree poppers.

Good wishes

Dr T A Nuttall
Rector

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE. MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE