



23 February 2017

Dear Saints Family

I write this letter at the start of the half-term break, and as I reflect over the past six weeks the variety and richness of our educational offering is remarkable and impressive. It is indeed a privilege and stretching responsibility to have executive oversight of our College of seven schools as we inspire excellence and make a world of difference. I am impressed on a daily basis by the ways in which we live out our strategic intent and our core values, each with their challenge to excel, to reflect and review.

In this letter I address a number of administrative and calendar matters. I am preparing a more substantial Rector's Newsletter which will be published on the website during March.

The following are addressed below:

1. Half-term ICT network upgrade and implications, 24 – 27 February
2. Three dates to diarise: Rector's Campus Action Day (4 March), Rector Connect (8 March), Founders' Day (3 June)
3. Emergency Medical Services Cover charge in the March accounts
4. Car windscreen stickers 2017 to be displayed by 17 March
5. Campus Security
6. Warriner Centre for High Performance – a new-look gym and public access

1. Half-term ICT network upgrade and implications, 24 – 27 February

The growth of our Mobile eLearning and Teaching (MeLT) programmes, and the general expansion of IT requirements, will be enhanced by a major network upgrade which is taking place over the half-term weekend, beginning tomorrow. All ICT systems, with the exception of cloud-based email, will be 'down' while this upgrade takes place. This will include the College's VOIP telephone system. I apologise for any inconvenience caused by this necessary increase in the capacity and architecture of our ICT facilities.

2. Three dates to diarise: Rector's Campus Action Day (4 March), Rector Connect (8 March), Founders' Day (3 June)

On Saturday 4 March the main focus of the Rector's Campus Action Day will be to plant trees in the river area from the Peter Place Entrance to the Bird Sanctuary. This tree-planting will advance our Campus Landscape Plan, leave a legacy, and contribute to our long-term plan to plant thousands of indigenous trees. Please bring a spade for this task.

On Wednesday 8 March, I will host my termly Rector Connect with parents and staff. This will take place in the GLT (Girl's Lecture Theatre) at the Girls' Preparatory at 18h00. More details will follow in a further communication.

We look forward to an impressive and memorable Founders' Day event on Saturday 3 June.

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE. MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

3. Emergency Medical Services Cover charge in the March fee accounts

During 2016, the College contracted with Infomed to provide a comprehensive programme of emergency medical services cover for incidents both on and off the campus, including online access to emergency contact and medical information. The benefits of this programme have resulted in a renewal for 2017. The costs of this cover are funded through an allocation in the annual budget and a once-off annual 'additional fee' charge, as indicated in the Additional Fees Booklet. This additional fee will be billed in the March accounts.

4. Car windscreen stickers 2017 to be displayed by 17 March

Please will all car users make sure that the 2017 stickers are displayed on the car windscreen (right hand side).

From 17 March, car users without the 2017 sticker displayed will be stopped and scanned in at the access gates.

All users who have captured their vehicle's information on the secure portal for a car sticker will be able, until 31 March, to collect their stickers from the relevant school reception areas. From 1 April, all outstanding stickers will only be available for collection from the Operations Building behind the One & All Clubhouse (Higher Ground Restaurant). On behalf of the Operations Department, I apologise for inconvenience caused by delays in distribution of car stickers. We have experienced a very high demand.

Any car sticker queries are to be directed to Deanne Schnaier in the Operations department via email: dschnaier@stithian.com or 011 577 6000.

5. Campus Security

St Stithians is a large campus and school community with four access gates. We understand that, during the day, we are a semi-public space, with the potential for opportunist individuals (including some posing as well-dressed parents) to enter the campus. At peak times of drop-off and collection, or at large sports events, we lift the booms at the access gates, as we cannot back up traffic on the arterial roads which border the campus. At other times, visitors who do not have the St Stithians sticker are stopped at the gates and scanned in. We have an extensive CCTV system, as well as security guards stationed in high-traffic spaces. We also have lockers, both large ones and smaller ones for valuables such as cell phones and tablets: and we urge our students to use these.

In recent months, there have been a number of worrying incidents of theft. We request that all incidents are reported immediately, so that direct follow-up can happen. On many occasions, items reported stolen are identified by our security guards who discover these items left lying in public spaces. I request all parents to speak with your children about taking good care of their personal possessions.

We continually seek to improve our security provision, given that the campus is a semi-public space at certain times of the day. We are considering whether to close certain access gates for specified times during the day, as a further step to increase safety and security on campus.

6. Warriner Centre for High Performance – a new-look gym and public access

The Warriner Centre was opened in 2008, after being built through the generosity of an alumnus donor. It was envisaged from the outset that the Centre would be used by Boys' College athletes. During 2016 a major review of the Warriner Centre resulted in a re-scoping and re-branding initiative in order to create a premier strength and conditioning facility, with associated support and wellness services. This review was led by the Campus Head of Sport Science, Robin van Ginkel, and the Director

of Sport in the Boys' College, Ian Rickleton. The Head of the Boys' College and the Rector were also directly involved.

As part of this process, a formal tender procedure was conducted and the tender was awarded to the Inside Active Group (www.insideactive.co.za). The business model is that Inside Active will equip the facility, will allocate dedicated hours each weekday to run a professional strength and conditioning programme for Boys' College athletes at no extra charge, and will at other designated times be open to fee-paying users who will pay Inside Active directly (students, staff, alumni, parents and other community members).

The Warriner Centre (and the associated medical facility situated on the opposite side of the Baytopp field) will be staffed with qualified professionals, including a sports scientist, a biokineticist, a physiotherapist, a dietician and a nurse.

The redesigned Warriner Centre opened its doors for use by Boys' College athletes in January, and this dedicated programme is now up and running. The new Rowing Ergo room is attached to the Warriner Centre, and rowers have use of the gym facility by arrangement. The next step is to launch the Centre for use by fee-payers on 1 March 2017. A promotional flyer will be distributed next week. In the meantime, those interested in signing up to use the gym facility can contact Inside Active on warrinercentre@insideactive.co.za and on 084 851 9064.

The Warriner Centre, and associated services which will include screening of functional movement patterns of students in the Preps and the Colleges of St Stithians, is planned as a component of a comprehensive Long Term Athletic Development Plan for all our students and across all our sporting codes, physical education and wellness activities. We are busy with developing an overall St Stithians Sports and Wellness Philosophy as part of our holistic educational offering.

Yours sincerely

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.

Dr T A Nuttall
Rector