



# OLD STITHIAN ASSOCIATION

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Address: 40 Peter Place

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## NEWSLETTER

August, 2025

### MESSAGE FROM OLD STITHIAN CHAIRMAN: ISRAEL SKOSANA



#### Women's Day Month Special Edition

*Celebrating Women in Our Committee & Alumnae*

Dear One & All,

August is Women's Month a time when we pause to honour and celebrate the extraordinary women who shape our Old Stithian Association and the broader Saints community.

This special edition shines a light on the women whose leadership, resilience, and vision enrich our Association every day from committee members who steer our activities with passion and purpose, to alumnae whose achievements inspire and uplift the next generation. Whether through service, mentorship, motherhood, or professional excellence, their stories remind us of the power of values-driven leadership to change lives and strengthen communities.

The past month has given us plenty to celebrate. We've seen our committee women lead boldly, our alumnae make waves in diverse fields, and our community come together at reunions, milestone anniversaries, and events that reaffirm the bonds of our Saints family. These moments whether it's the Girls' College 30th anniversary, the Class of 2015 reunions, or the inspiring connections between past and present Saints women are a living testament to the values we cherish: integrity, excellence, community, and lifelong learning.

We're thrilled to share that over the past month, we've been actively seeking a new OSA Treasurer and an Investment Committee member and the response has been incredible! It's been truly inspiring to see so many alumni eager to give back to the College, offering their time, skills, and energy to support our community. Thank you to everyone who has applied and shown such strong commitment to the future of the OSA

#### *We cherish:*

- Unity and Respect: Celebrating our diversity while honoring our shared history.
- Excellence in all endeavors: Encouraging every member to pursue their highest potential.
- Lifelong engagement: Maintaining bonds that endure well beyond our school days.
- Commitment to the long term sustainability of St Stithians College.

As we honor the women of the OSA this month, we recommit to these values that guide us forward.

As you read through the pages of this newsletter, I encourage you to reflect on the women in your own life those who have shaped you, stood by you, and inspired you to reach higher. Let's not only celebrate them this month, but commit to creating an environment where future leaders male and female can flourish. Together, One & All, we honor our past, live our values in the present, and invest in the future of St Stithians College.

Yours in the Saints spirit,  
Israel Skosana

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### WOMEN LEADING THE WAY ON OUR COMMITTEE

#### Lara Stockigt (*Class of 2013*)

I serve on the OSA Committee as the Head of Events and the Girls' College Representative. I believe events are a special and powerful means of bringing together people, different and like-minded, to celebrate, network and inspire relationships between alumni and the school at large. Events also provide exciting opportunities for alumni to reconnect with their Alma mater and to give back to such. It is a privilege to be a part of making these opportunities possible and to watch how they unfold. In my professional capacity I am a Geography Lecturer at the University of Johannesburg and for fun play the alto saxophone in a big band called the Phoenix Big Band. I have always loved St Stithians and had a great time at school. The OSA was a wonderful way for me to stay involved and to actively contribute to the society.



#### Simphiwe Mashego (*Class of 2007*)

As a regular patron of Higher Ground and a Crusaders Mom, I have been OSA adjacent since 2022 but I officially joined the Committee in June 2024. Due to my background in governance, law and investments I am excited to take on the role of Secretary and to contribute to the overall well-functioning of the Association. I am a dedicated wife and mother, with a broad view of St Stithians, having attended the Girls College and now my two children attend the Girls' Prep and Boys' Prep respectively. I am committed to community development and participate in various empowerment initiatives, in my personal capacity. I hope to contribute to the rich St Stithians landscape through my professional expertise, dedicated involvement and passion for the church, mentorship and, most importantly, young people.

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### Caitlyn Loneon

*Alumni Relations Manager*

I've had the privilege of being part of this amazing committee since 2017. As a parent of two boys who now attend the Junior Prep and Boys' Prep, being involved in the Saints community is both a personal and professional joy. I truly love my role connecting with our alumni, hearing their inspiring stories, and helping them stay connected to this wonderful community. It's an honor to give back to a place that means so much to my family and me. One of the special places on our campus is Higher Ground Restaurant - fondly known as "the place to be." It boasts one of the most beautiful views overlooking our campus and the Sandton skyline.



### Lauren Urdang (Class of 2017)

I matriculated from Girls' College in 2017 and pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Law and Organisational Psychology at Wits. Following this, I completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Management at Wits Business School. Currently, I am the Team Lead for Learning & Development at VAT Reclaim, where I channel my passion for continuous growth and helping others reach their potential. In June 2024, I joined the OSA Committee to give back to the school and alumni community that profoundly shaped my brother and I. My late dad was a Saints' old boy who passionately dedicated his time to the school he loved. My goal is to serve in the same way. As the committee representative for Girls' Prep, I am committed to fostering connections and supporting educational excellence. Education has always been close to my heart, and I'm excited to contribute to the future of the school, its students and its alumni.

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### Lusanda “Lulu” Zuma (*Class of 2015*)

I find it poetic that I was lucky enough to have been an OSA rep in my matric year (2015) and now I've joined as committee member exactly 10 years later! Having joined in June 2025, I'm new to OSA but I already feel at home and welcome. Reminds me of the warm reception I received when I first attended Girls' College late in my high school years, Saints welcomed and treated me like family, and I intend on returning that loyalty and kindness through this service. Though I've never strayed too far from the College (or should I say, Higher Ground) - I'm excited to formally put my expertise to good use through mentorship, volunteer work and giving of my time to the school. I have a strong background in top-tier management consulting, technology and finance, having worked with a broad spectrum of institutions globally. I believe this, coupled with my passion for the School and original Jabulani spirit will hopefully create a long-lasting contribution which can be felt throughout the school and its alumni.



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### REUNIONS

#### GIRLS' COLLEGE CLASS OF 2015 REUNION

The Girls' College Class of 2015 marked their 10th Reunion last Friday, with a day full of nostalgia and school spirit. The celebrations began with a special assembly, where old friendships were rekindled, and memories came flooding back. The occasion was made even more memorable by alumna **Obakhe Bukula** (*Head Girl of 2015*), who addressed the student body. She reflected fondly on her time at St Stithians, sharing how much she valued Saints, and affirmed that the core values instilled in her a decade ago still hold strong in her life today.

This year also marked 10 years since the start of the beloved Jabulani Committee. The assembly came alive with school spirit—Saints stripes proudly painted on faces, alumnae raising their voices in spirited war cries, and the iconic “Members” song ringing out, just like in years past. We were honoured to have former Jabulani Heads join in the celebration, adding to the vibrant energy and deep sense of tradition that defined the day. The Girls' College Class of 2015 continued their 10th Reunion celebrations with a nostalgic visit to the Girls' Prep, where they were taken on a tour through various grades, reconnecting with the school's vibrant spirit and seeing how much has changed yet how the Saints sisterhood remains as strong as ever.



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### BOYS' COLLEGE CLASS OF 2015

TEN YEARS LATER... THE SAINTS SPIRIT STILL MARCHES ON

The Boys' College Class of 2015 returned home to Saints for their 10th Reunion, a day filled with shared memories, laughter, and timeless tradition.

What began as a group of 20 quickly swelled to nearly 30, as phones buzzed and classmates were called out of work (on a Friday!) to join the celebration. The walkabout through campus with Mr Stolk and Mr Khuluse was a highlight, with stops at familiar spaces that sparked old stories and new laughter.

There were goosebump moments too, like standing in the changerooms and seeing the national jerseys of their classmates displayed with pride or witnessing the 2015 War Cry Leader fire up the current boys with a spine-tingling rendition of the College war cry.

The morning culminated in a powerful address by Nic Archibald, 2015 Deputy Headboy and national radio presenter, who reminded us all of what it means to be a Saint: to lead with courage, humility, and heart.

The day ended, fittingly, with the buzz of the Pink Derby – Saints vs St John's – a chance for old boys to cheer on the current crop and relive the thrill of inter-school rivalry.

Old friendships rekindled, stories relived, and Saints spirit renewed.  
Once a Saint, always a Saint.



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### ST STITHIANS GIRLS' PREP 30<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

This year marked a significant milestone in the history of the Girls' Prep and Girls' College schools - their 30th anniversary. To commemorate three decades of excellence, community, and growth, the Girls' Prep hosted a joyful and memorable celebration that perfectly captured the spirit of school.

In true birthday style, the festivities kicked off with a lively celebration in the tree quad held just before the final night of the major production. All Girls' Prep students took part in the fun-filled afternoon, enjoying an array of activities and tasty treats. The atmosphere was filled with laughter and excitement as learners celebrated not only their school, but the memories, friendships and experiences that have shaped the Girls' Prep journey over the past 30 years.



The highlight of the celebration was a touching moment when the entire student body came together to sing a heartfelt rendition of "Happy Birthday" to the school. This special gesture showcased the unity, pride and love shared across every grade — a testament to the vibrant and connected school community that has developed over the past three decades.



Following the birthday celebration, the spotlight turned to the stage for the final performance of the school's major production, A Musical Medley Dream. The show was particularly meaningful, as it honoured the history of the Girls' schools with a special focus on the four houses: Stratton, Trewen, Kenwyn, and Camborne. The production wove together stories from the past, celebrated the present, and looked toward the future — a powerful reflection of the legacy of the school and the remarkable women it continues to nurture.

From the laughter of the birthday bash to the applause of a standing ovation, the 30th anniversary celebrations were a beautiful reminder of all that Girls' Prep stands for: tradition, creativity, community, and heart. Here's to the next 30 years of inspiring young minds and shaping tomorrow's leaders.



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### ST STITHIANS GIRLS' COLLEGE 30<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On the beautiful morning of the 2nd of August, Girls' College and Preparatory hosted a most special coming of age birthday celebration. With a colour code of red for alumni and past staff, blue for current pupils and staff and white for the invited Matric parents, the chapel was a sea of our bold Stithian colours. We were led in our Saints Honour Prayer by old Stithian, Lara Stockigt (2013) and privileged to be inspired by the musical talent of Veliswa Mehana (2012) who reminded our girls, and all of us, to be bold and to be brave and to fly high. Founding Headmistress Anne Van Zyl shared our story of the Girls' College starting with the first day of school walking a host of tiny girls in floral dresses to our beloved Chapel. Followed by an address from Mrs. Ivanka Acquisto who shared about her courage and role in stabilizing our college as it matured.

We were delighted to celebrate in the most beautiful words as Ruth Everson recited an original poem highlighting the divinely feminine journey of Saint Atain, the original Mother of the Stithian name and her courage that has translated into the school of fearless thinkers we see today. Dr. Sally James, our current Headmistress, was a most gracious host. The Girls' College and Prep musicians were an absolute delight, their remarkable talent reflecting the many hours of dedicated rehearsal.

Both during the chapel service and throughout the delightful family picnic hosted on the Girls' College lawns, a strong sense of community was felt. We were honoured to conclude with a prayer led by fellow Old Stithian and Saints mom, Simphiwe Mashego (Class of 2007).

The celebration continued with the cutting of the cake - a joyful moment marking this milestone birthday for our girls' schools. It was truly inspiring to witness the natural and insightful connections formed between some of our female alumnae and current students. As they engaged in meaningful conversations about the future and how it might be shaped together, they embodied everything we stand for as Saints girls. Standing in the shadow of servant leadership and illuminated by the glow of our 'Fruits of the Spirit' windows, we were all reminded of the strong women and leaders who came before us - those who paved the way for our current leaders and offer a vision of hope for the future leaders yet to come. We are grateful to our current parents and staff members for walking this journey with us and guiding our current girls to find their voices and strengths. The Seriti cast by the previous staff members and Old Stithians is a reminder that here our ship once anchored and here its course was set.

We cannot wait to see what the next 30 years have in store.



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### OSA APP

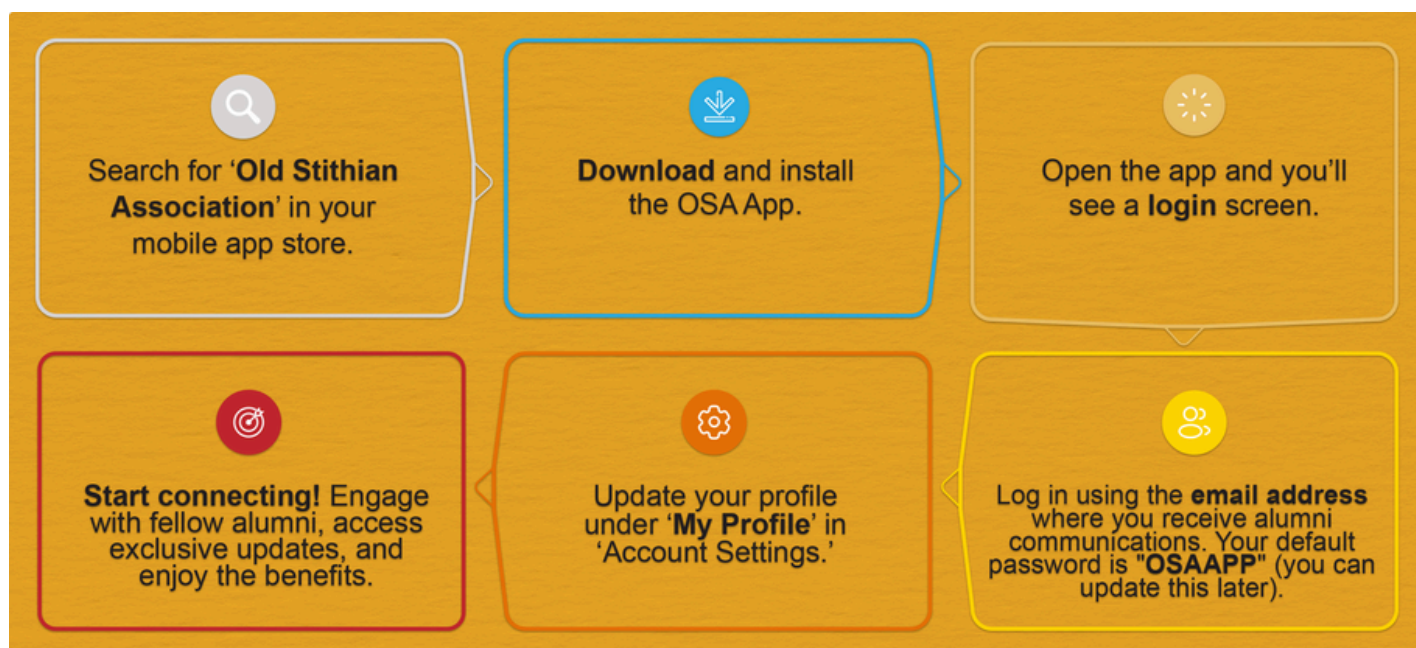
## Exciting News! Introducing the OSA App

Earlier this year we launched a game-changing addition to our alumni community: **the OSA Alumni App!**

This innovative platform has been specifically designed to connect, support, and empower St Stithians alumni across the globe, offering a seamless way to stay engaged and involved.

More than just an app, this will be your go-to hub for all things OSA. Whether it's reconnecting with old friends, attending reunions, staying updated on sports events, discovering career opportunities, or accessing exclusive alumni perks, the app provides all the tools you need to stay connected—no matter where you are in the world.

### HOW TO DOWNLOAD THE APP



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## OSA APP

### HOW TO LIST YOUR BUSINESS ON THE OSA APP

#### 1. Complete the Form

Fill out a separate form for each business you wish to list.



Click [here](#) to fill out the form

#### 2. Provide Business Details

Enter your business name, contact details, and a brief description of your goods or services.

#### 3. Confirm VAT Compliance

Your business must be VAT registered and compliant. VAT-exempt businesses also qualify.

#### 4. Submit Proof of Payment

A one-year listing (March 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026) costs R1200.

#### Terms & Conditions Apply

- The OSA reserves the right to approve listings and may decline businesses that do not align with community values.
- No businesses selling inappropriate products or services will be considered.
- The OSA holds final discretion over business listings.



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### ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT

## FIONA AND ZANELE NZAU LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

### Celebrating Leadership and Legacy: Introducing Maka Chauke to Fiona & Zanele Nzau

On a crisp morning on 5th August 2025, a special breakfast to introduce Maka Chauke, the newest recipient of the Fiona and Zanele Nzau Leadership Scholarship at St Stithians Girls' College, to alumnae Fiona (Class of 2015) and Zanele (Class of 2019) Nzau.

This breakfast brought together Fiona and Zanele Nzau, whose passion for leadership development continues to make an impact on the lives of young women at the College. Joining them at the breakfast were Dr Sally James, Head of the Girls' College; Julia Phipps from the Advancement Office; and Tebogo Manelli (Acting Deputy Head), who has played a key role in the scholarship's coordination and selection. Maka Chauke, currently in Grade 9, was warmly welcomed as the latest young leader to benefit from this scholarship. She was joined by Maite Hamese (currently in matric and Chair of the Spirituality Committee), the previous recipient of the award, who shared her journey and reflections, offering insight and encouragement to Maka.

The morning was rich with storytelling, shared memories about Fiona and Zanele's time at school, and joyful conversation as bonds were formed. Laughter rang out across the table as Fiona and Zanele connected with the students and staff, reinforcing the personal touch and intention behind their generous investment in the future of young leaders.

**The Fiona and Zanele Nzau Leadership Scholarship, which is a part of the St Stithians Endowment Fund,** continues to empower young women with strong potential and character, supporting their education and nurturing their growth. Moments like this breakfast serve as a reminder of the importance of community, mentorship, and the legacy of giving back.



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### OLD STITHIAN DINNER CELEBRATION

We are delighted to invite all Old Stithians to our Annual Reunion Day on Friday, 19th September. The day will begin with a morning tour of the Boys' College at 8:00 AM, followed by a Chapel Service at 9:30, offering a chance to reconnect with the school and reflect on our shared journey.

In the evening, join us for the Old Stithian Reunion Dinner at 6:30 PM at the Higher Ground Restaurant, One & All Club, where alumni from across the years will gather for a memorable night of celebration, connection, and camaraderie.

Whether you left recently or decades ago, we look forward to welcoming you back



## Old Stithian Association Dinner Celebration

Enjoy a 3 Course dinner with Old Stithians on the beautiful St Stithians College Campus at Higher Ground Restaurant.

All Old Stithians are welcome!

We look forward to welcoming all the reunion groups!

Please RSVP on the link provided

**FRIDAY  
SEP, 19TH**

**Time: 6pm**  
**Cost: R500pp**  
**R385 for under 30s**

**Dress Code: Smart**

**Higher Ground Restaurant,  
One & All Club,  
St Stithians College**

**BOOK NOW**



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### OLD STITHIAN INTERNATIONAL REUNIONS - JUNE 2025

**This June, the Saints spirit shone across the globe as Old Stithians reunited in four incredible cities Dallas, Toronto, New York, and London.**

#### Dallas – 17 June

Our first-ever Dallas Reunion was one to remember! A huge thank you to our amazing Texas Alumni for showing up and making the night so special full of laughs, stories, and unforgettable memories.

It was a joy to reconnect with One & All and relive the Saints spirit deep in the heart of Texas. Special thanks to Rob Lewis, Class of 1988, for his generous donation towards the US reunions.



#### Toronto – 17 June

Another exciting first for the OSA our inaugural Canada Reunion in Toronto! With warm conversations and new connections made, we're excited to see the Saints network grow in North America. Thank you to Julia Phipps, Director of Stakeholder Relations at St Stithians College, for hosting this special evening.



#### New York – 19 June

The energy at our New York Reunion keeps growing each year! Old Stithians gathered once again in the Big Apple to share memories, laughs, and plans for the future. We look forward to expanding the NYC Old Stithian Association chapter in the coming years. Special thanks to Ed Parkinson (Class of 1999) for hosting us in his beautiful office space with an incredible view! With thanks to Head of College David du Toit and OSA Chair Israel Skosana for attending and leading the way along with our Advancement office, Alistair Stewart and Julia Phipps.



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### London – Thursday 26 June 2025

Our final stop – and our biggest reunion to date!

London has proudly hosted Old Stithians for close to 7 years now, and 2025 saw a record turnout of over 130 alumni. A night full of memories, networking and joyful reconnections it was a fitting finale to a fantastic international tour. This year we hosted the function at The Wandle in Earlsfield, Wimbledon which was a great location for most of our alumni and South Africans living in London!

Thank you to our UK-based alumni for your hospitality and continued support.

Together, One & All across countries and continents we celebrate the power of connection and the enduring legacy of St Stithians College.

Stay connected year-round with the Old Stithian App - your hub for events, news, networking, and more. Download it today and keep the Saints spirit strong, wherever you are in the world.



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### THE HOME OF THE OSA: HIGHER GROUND RESTAURANT

**Located** on the beautiful grounds of St Stithians College, is the **Higher Ground Restaurant** which has unbeatable views of the Sandton skyline.

This extraordinary venue is the ideal setting for any occasion, from a leisurely Sunday brunch to an elegant evening event.

The restaurant delights guests with a delectable menu featuring breakfast, lunch, and dinner options that are sure to impress. It's no surprise that Higher Ground has become a favorite destination for hosting everything from social gatherings to corporate functions.

The Old Stithian Association (OSA) regularly hosts events at this breathtaking location, including the popular LAST Thursdays Draws.

### HIGHER GROUND DISCOUNT OFFER 🎉 Get 10% OFF your meal at Higher Ground!

Here's how to claim it:

1. Download the Old Stithian Association App
2. Tap the "OSA Discounts" button
3. Show the promo code image to your waiter



Enjoy the savings here!



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