

NEWSLETTER

Address: 40 Peter Place
Lyme Park

December, 2025

Sandton

Email:secretary@oldstithian.org

2191

MESSAGE FROM OLD STITHIAN CHAIRMAN: ISRAEL SKOSANA



Dear Old Stithians,

As we close out 2025, I am struck by how the story of St Stithians continues to intertwine with the broader story of South Africa one of resilience, renewal, and a deep sense of coming home.

This year, more than ever, I have felt an overwhelming gratitude for our Saints community, for the legacy we share, and for the privilege of witnessing the momentum building not only on our campus, but across our country. One of the most significant trends of the past two years confirmed by immigration consultants, property trends, and private wealth movements is the meaningful number of South Africans choosing to return home, with a 70% increase in South Africans abroad seeking to return home according to DNA Employer of Record.

Families are coming back from the UK, Australia, the UAE, and the US for one core reason:

South Africa feels like home in a way no other country can.

Why South Africans Are Returning

- Economic opportunity is rising again, with Johannesburg regaining its position as Africa's financial capital.
- A strengthening rand and moderating inflation have improved medium-term confidence.
- Lower cost of high-quality living vs global metros (schools, domestic support, lifestyle).
- A renewed belief in shaping the future of our country, not simply observing it from afar.
- The G20 spotlight, positioning South Africa as a global economic and geopolitical leader.
- And most importantly: a yearning for belonging, for community, for the warmth of home.

And when South Africans return with their families, do you know what they look for first? A school that represents excellence, values, and a sense of home.

A school like St Stithians.

2025 was the year South Africa hosted the G20 a first for Africa and a generational milestone that will be remembered for decades. I was privileged to be involved in engagements around banking and finance, representing a proudly South African institution in global conversations about economic transformation. It was a reminder that our country is not on the sidelines of global leadership we are at the table.

And as delegates from across the world visited Johannesburg, one message echoed strongly: **South Africa is rising!**

The skyline is telling a story, anyone driving through Rosebank or Sandton right now cannot miss the forest of cranes across the skyline.

This is not random construction it is economic evidence:

- multinational companies expanding head offices
- new mixed-use precincts attracting global investors
- residential developments for returning expatriates
- infrastructure projects signaling confidence in long-term growth

This construction boom is the clearest visible sign that South Africa is moving forward.

And at the heart of this renewed confidence lies a simple truth:

People believe again.

People want to be here again.







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When South Africans return home, they don't simply choose a city they choose a community. And more often than not, they choose the Saints community.

Why? Because St Stithians offers a rare combination:

- World-class academics
- Unmatched sporting and cultural excellence
- A values-based education anchored in Honour and Service
- A family of schools that nurtures confidence, leadership, and empathy
- A campus that feels like a village, a sanctuary, a home

As our Girls' College celebrated 30 years of excellence, as our Boys' College achieved national accolades in sport, academics, and arts, and as our matrics once again stepped proudly into the OSA, our school demonstrated why it continues to be one of the finest institutions in the country.

When families return to South Africa, they want the best for their children and Saints has become the natural destination for that choice. One of my most treasured moments of the year happened not at a formal event, but during a Springbok match watched at Higher Ground. As the final whistle blew and the Boks delivered yet another historic win, I looked around at the sea of Saints old boys and old girls, arms around one another, singing, celebrating, feeling every heartbeat together. In that moment, beneath the warm lights of Higher Ground and overlooking our beautiful campus, I realised:

This is what it means to be a Saint.

This is why people come home.

This is why this community endures.

Higher Ground has become our shared living room our place of memories, stories, victories, and reconnections. To each member of the OSA Committee thank you for your dedication, your time, your wisdom, and your unwavering commitment to serving our alumni and our school. Your volunteerism sets the example for what Honour and Service truly mean.

You are custodians of our past and architects of our future.

As we enter 2026, I invite each of you to:

- reconnect with the school that shaped you
- send your children to Saints, encourage others to do so
- mentor, volunteer, speak, support, participate
- tell the Saints story wherever you are in the world
- and continue building the legacy we were privileged to inherit

Saints is not just a school. It is a lifelong community. A launching pad. A home.

A family of Schools and A School for Families!

And it remains one of the finest gifts we can give the next generation.

May this festive season bring rest, joy, and peace to you and your families. May the new year renew our sense of purpose, gratitude, and connection.

Once a Saint, always a Saint.

Yours in Honour and Service,

Israel Skosana Chairman Old Stithian Association





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MESSAGE FROM GIRLS' COLLEGE HEAD: DR SALLY JAMES



As I prepare my final OSA report as Head of the Girls' College, I find myself pausing with deep emotion and immense gratitude. Looking back on my years at St Stithians, I am filled with fondness and treasured memories. What an extraordinary privilege it has been to lead the Girls' College for the past eight and a half years, a community that has shaped me as deeply as I hope I have shaped it.

This year, our community felt the sorrow of bidding farewell to a life lost far too soon. In August, we mourned the passing of Bongi Dhlomo (Class of 2018), who left us peacefully after a long battle with cancer. Bongi will be remembered as gentle, kind, respectful, and wonderfully humorous. Her contributions to the Visual and Performing Arts Pillar of the Girls' College left a lasting mark on our school.

Her courage and resilience continue to inspire us all. At our annual College Remembrance Service on 31 October, Bongi's parents led the recessional procession, carrying a beautiful floral wreath later placed in our Campus Garden of Remembrance an enduring tribute to a beloved daughter of the Girls' College.



Our school has become more people-centred than ever before: a place where girls, staff, and parents are truly at the heart of our mission. The relationships of trust, respect, and shared purpose are what I will miss most deeply. One of our proudest staffing achievements this year has been fulfilling all requirements to become a Microsoft Showcase School, joining a global network of pioneering institutions committed to digital transformation. Under the expert leadership of our Digital Learning Coach, Mrs Runé Nieuwenhuizen, our staff have worked diligently to grow their skills in leveraging the power of Microsoft technologies to enhance learning and administration across the College.



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Academically, we celebrate excellent Preliminary Examination results from Grade 12 Class of 2025. Thirty-one students, representing 30% of the cohort achieved Academic Honours with an average of 85% or higher, a truly remarkable accomplishment. Equally inspiring are those students who, diagnosed despite learning demonstrated exceptional resilience growth. Their courage reflects the heart of our College's ethos, perseverance, purpose, and belonging. The Class of 2025 completes their final IEB NSC examinations on 26 November. We look forward to the results release on 12 January 2026.

One of our most loved opportunities is inviting our Gr 9 parents back to school for a day of shared learning alongside their daughters as they navigate subject choices. Whether joining science experiments or creative arts lessons, parents have embraced the experience wholeheartedly—though break time on the lawns, with coffee from Saints Brew or hot chips from the Saints Café, remains the undisputed highlight!

Our Career Speed Dating event, now in its 12th year under the leadership of Mrs Sharon McGorian continues to be a highlight on the annual calendar. Each year, alumnae from a wide range of professions return to share their insight, wisdom, and lived experience with our Grade 11s. We are deeply grateful for their time and generosity. Please continue to give back, GC OSA - you have no idea how powerful your influence is on the next generation.



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At the outset of term, we hosted our annual GC Leadership Conference. Our students were privileged to hear from Hatim Eltayeb, CEO of the African Leadership Academy, who spoke compellingly on "Leadership as Responsibility." Sarah Clayton, Founder of The Global Empathy Project, challenged our girls to embrace empathy as a superpower, while alumna Tamryn Ross (Class of 2006) offered valuable insights into one's online presence and social media responsibility.

In October, we celebrated our Grade 11s at their annual Dinner Dance as they officially received the leadership keys from the Class of 2025, stepping confidently

into their roles as the new seniors of the school.

Heritage Day has grown into a joyful and vibrant campus celebration. Our heartfelt thanks go to GC alumna Veliswa Mehana (Class of 2013), whose ongoing musical contributions elevate this special event each year. The day was a colourful feast of food, craft, dance, and storytelling culminating in a spectacular Fashion Show featuring students, parents, and staff from across our richly diverse College family.



The Visual and Performing Arts continue to flourish as a dynamic and integral part of life at the Girls' College. This vibrant pillar, led by passionate teachers and energised by the remarkable creativity of our students, offers not only excellence in performance but also a space of joy, expression, and belonging. Our annual Night of the Stars event was a dazzling celebration of music, drama, dance, and visual art. Our joint art exhibition with the Girls' Prep showcased work from Grade 5 through to Grade 12, an inspiring reminder of the arts' power to bridge generations and nurture empathy. As this pillar continues to grow, the need for improved performance and exhibition spaces becomes increasingly urgent. Establishing a state-of-the-art Visual and Performing Arts Centre remains a strategic priority, and we are profoundly grateful to our dedicated parent committee for championing this vision. I refer you to the fundraising video which details our GC Performing Arts Centre Dream. Fundraising donations can be made via our Girls' College Giving Page. Please support our dreams in becoming a reality!

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The GC Choir, now with well over 100 voices under the direction of Mrs Jaline Oelofse. continues to thrive. Their performances this term were exceptional, final ensemble concert Rosebank Union Church standing out as a celebration of musical excellence. Our Matric Art Exhibition was another highlight —an extraordinarily strong group whose final practical results are eagerly anticipated.



Term 3 is a short and busy summer sports season. Highlights included our water polo First Team winning the Saints Invitational Tournament; Jenna Kirk securing two gold medals at the annual SANESA Equestrian event; and the annual Chloé Nel (Class of 2022) Tennis Tournament, where Gabrielle Steytler (Grade 10) emerged as this year's champion.

At the Girls' College, community engagement is about forging meaningful partnerships that extend beyond our campus. This work expresses our belief in social cohesion and shared humanity. Our Boost a Buddy partnership with Iphutheng Primary in Alexandra remains a beautiful example of connection and reciprocity. The relationships built between our Grade 8 students and their Grade 6 buddies filled with laughter, learning, and genuine care remind us that service is most impactful when rooted in relationship.

We are currently preparing to host a Christmas party for children supported by Swarango, the Alexandra-based soup kitchen founded by the remarkable Mpho Mashigo. Swarango now provides daily meals to around 178 children, and our partnership with them has deepened each year. Our students will prepare lunch, organise games, and ensure that each child receives a special Christmas gift.

Looking ahead, we are planning the installation of four temporary prefabricated classrooms alongside Baytopp Field to accommodate our College's growth. We also remain hopeful that the long-envisioned expansion of the Girls' School Resource Centre will come to fruition at the outset of 2026 enabling of further learning and teaching spaces to accommodate our growing school. We are excited, too, about the new legacy garden in the AvZ quad made possible by the generous contributions of the Class of 2025.



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As I reflect on my journey, there is much that fills me with pride: the strides we have made in building a more diverse and inclusive staff; the unwavering commitment to academic excellence and pastoral care; the centring of belonging as a defining value of our school, embodied so powerfully in Acacia Place, our wellbeing centre, a sanctuary of stillness, hope, and healing.

And so, as I bring this chapter to a close, I do so with a full heart. It has been my honour to lead this extraordinary community. Saint's girls, past and present, will remain with me always. Once a Saint, always a Saint.

Sally James November 2025











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MESSAGE FROM BOYS' COLLEGE HEAD: DAVID DU TOIT



I have thoroughly enjoyed our Boys' College reunions this year. Our boys and staff love welcoming Old Boys back to the school, hearing their past experiences, their love for this community, and their hopes for its future. Thank you to the classes of 1964 and 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005, and 2015 for your positive engagement with the school. The turnout at the reunions has certainly improved. I have a feeling that interest in the school, and the realisation of just how unique and special a Saints education has been, has grown. I would love to see huge groups of men coming back to our stunning campus to remember those formative years and the experiences that shaped you. Having our 2015 Class in full voice at the annual Pink Derby against St John's College was memorable with the school delivering the 'W' in Hockey and Rugby.

The Class of 1985 organised an epic weekend of celebration in November, with one of the highlights being their all-conquering First VII Rowers enjoying a race at Roodeplaat, having flown their Rowing Coach over from Ireland. A further highlight was the four speakers from 1975, 1985, 1995 and 2005 who shared words of inspiration with our boys, followed by a rousing singing of our School Hymn,

'Be Thou My Vision'. We also had the opportunity to hear from the Class of 1995 who shared with us how they crafted the Honour Code which is now at the heart of our school: 'Honour God. Honour Others, Honour Self'.

You make us proud of our College's history and remind us of our responsibility to safeguard the legacy left by our alumni, while continuing to build new ones. The joy for us is to listen to the stories of the past, of legendary staff members and students, of funny stories, of snake catching and 'klei-lat' fights, of famous victories, and of some characters that graced the halls of

St Stithians. Thank you One and All for coming to visit your school.

We hope that we continue to make you proud.





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When I address our old boys who visit the school I usually speak about our values and purpose, and how those have remained quite constant. In fact, I imagine that you expect those to remain the same. Traditions change with times. New buildings are erected. The school diversity has shifted enormously. But our core remains the same. This school has always been about a pioneering spirit, determination and commitment towards innovation, the choice not to be a 'sausage factory' but rather to embrace and encourage individuals to explore their interests and talents, whilst remaining resilient and courageous as the school embraces challenges and change, and our commitment to be an inclusive school. I hope that these are traits that you immediately can align with as OSA members. 2025 has been a very good year for Saints and for the Boys' College. Across all seven Pillars of our Boys' College education, we have shone brightly. And our alumnae equally are shining across the world. We have much to celebrate and we trust that throughout the year we have given you some good stories and performances that you can 'brag' about with friends. For example, being ranked as the 11th best boys' school in sport, second amongst independent schools, and trumped only by nine very big state schools, is quite incredible and acknowledges hard work by our staff and boys. An amazing fact is that Saints has produced the last two SA U17 Football Captains to lead our nation at the U17 AFCON. Our football programme is enjoying a golden patch, with a pinnacle this year being having two players, Lwandiso Radebe and Will Henson, representing us at the U17 Soccer World Cup.







Yi Shi was recently placed 2nd in the National Mathematics Olympiad, out of over 100 000 participants

– we do indeed take academics very seriously too. There are so many more significant achievements

and moments that we have enjoyed this year.









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I wish to thank OSA members who have generously contributed towards the school in 2025, and before. Thank you for your support and participation and thank you to so any who have their children at Saints. We constantly build our ecosystem and when we have our alumnae returning to their school with their own children, I believe we are building long term strength.

On behalf of the Boys' College, I wish our Old Stithian Community richest blessings over this Festive Season, and a reflective Christmas period, as you take stock of your 2025 year, and begin to cast your gaze forward towards 2026. As alumnae of our school, I believe that you have much to celebrate about your alma mater. We love sharing as many of our achievements and stories as possible on our social media pages, and my hope is that you do cast your eye over these stories eve so often, keeping abreast of what is happening at Saints and in the Boys' College.

When I do address our alumni at events, I speak about our collective responsibility to build the school. We have very good admissions numbers in the Boys' Prep and College at the moment, and indeed across the entire campus.

When I do address our alumni at events, I speak about our collective responsibility to build the school. We have very good admissions numbers in the Boys' Prep and College at the moment, and indeed across the entire campus. This is the result of constantly having to promote who we are, to ensure that our values and student conduct are exemplary, to offer facilities that are world class, and to produce results that draw attention. And we need to tell good stories of the Saints experience. I then add how our alumnae can, and indeed need to, play a role in this work. Your stories about our school, and your positive talk about Saints and you suggesting our school as the best option for families, is important. Equally, your support for programmes at the school is much needed. Around the world, schools cannot rely on their OPEX budgets for the important differentiators. The scholarships which are supported and funded by alumnae make a very significant difference in our school. Our endowment growth is securing the future of our school, and here we also see the generosity of alumnae. Equally, to modernize facilities requires fundraising and support, and here I invite Old Boys to consider supporting some of our initiatives, ensuring that we remain current and that our experiences of school for our students are relevant.



An example of such an initiative is to transform the bathroom block in the Chapel Quad into a modern space. Having a bathroom in the middle of the guad, as the prominent building, is not what we want.

The building served its time, but it is time for change. Imagine having a new centrepiece like this



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A flexible space which will serve as a heritage space, and whose function will be to host lessons, debating forums, parent engagements, art exhibitions and, indeed, guests, in the heart of our graceful quad. Importantly this building will link the Resource Centre, Chapel and Mears Hall, rather than continuing to divide the space as it currently does. This is a vision of renewal for a place of connection and collaboration that will be opened to our school, and the world, during our historic first hosting of the International Boys' School Coalition Conference where we expect approximately 550 international guests. We would love to put our best foot forward. We are initiating a fundraising plea to raise funds for this project to raise the R3 million required to change the face of our Quad. We need your support to fund this project which will change the experience of our current boys. Our aspiration at Saints and in the Boys' College remains: "to be a leading school for boys, modern in practise, holding on to important and relevant traditions, focused on positive experiences for boys, staff and students, a place where every student has a sense of belonging, where we include rather than exclude, where we are open-minded and where we embrace change and challenge, producing young men who seek to positively impact the world."

I would like to thank the OSA for your connection with me, and with the College, over this past year. From robust and respectful conversations to regular chats with our BC Liaison Jock Seeliger, to various meetings and projects, and regarding students we wish to support. I also had the privilege of travelling to New York City where I attended an OSA event.

We have a strong and vibrant St Stithians community across the globe, which is connected, talented and which shares a love for our school which started as a small farm school outside of Johannesburg and is now a Family of Schools which impacts education and the world positively. would like to thank the OSA for your connection with me, and with the College, over this past year. From robust and respectful conversations to regular chats with our BC Liaison Jock Seeliger, to various meetings and projects, and regarding students we wish to support. I also had the privilege of travelling to New York City where I attended an OSA event. We have a strong and vibrant St Stithians community across the globe, which is connected, talented and which shares a love for our school which started as a small farm school outside of Johannesburg and is now a Family of Schools which impacts education and the world positively.

A key element to a really fantastic school is the staff. At the Boys' College we have had many staff who have served in our school with distinction and who have positively affected many lives with their care, humanity and ability to inspire. In 2025 we have bade farewell to the following staff members, some retiring, some due to promotion, and some seeking a new challenge. We say thank you to the following staff for their commitment and impact: Mr Barry Lambson (35 years of service), Mrs Sarah-Jane Libera (28 years), Mr Basie Viljoen (23 years), Mr Marius Masenacamp (21 years), Mr Chris Fontaine (14 years), Mrs Katy McLachlan (10 years), Mr Thebolo Motshegare (7 years), Mrs Chanté Coetzer (3 years), Mr Tshepiso Moloi (2 years) and Ms Palesa Legodi (1 year).



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As we close out 2025, we are thrilled to have the Class of 2025, who have had a very successful school year under the leadership of their Head Boy, Stefano Stankovich, and Jake Finch, his Deputy, joining the OSA. 2026 holds much promise where, under the leadership of our new student leaders, Nzuzo Bam (Head Boy) and Lesego Matshego (Deputy), and with the guidance of our committed and very talented staff, we hope to continue to make you proud of your school and have many brag moments for you to share in your varsity and working spaces.



A flexible space which will serve as a heritage space, and whose function will be to host lessons, debating forums, parent engagements, art exhibitions and, indeed, guests, in the heart of our graceful quad. Importantly this building will link the Resource Centre, Chapel and Mears Hall, rather than continuing to divide the space as it currently does. This is a vision of renewal for a place of connection and collaboration that will be opened to our school, and the world, during our historic first hosting of the International Boys' School Coalition Annual Conference where we expect approximately 550 international guests. We would love to put our best foot forward. We are initiating a fundraising plea to raise funds for this project to raise the R3 million required to change the face of our Quad. We need your support to fund this project which will change the experience of our current boys. Our aspiration at Saints and in the Boys' College remains: "to be a leading school for boys, modern in practise, holding on to important and relevant traditions, focused on positive experiences for boys, staff and students, a place where every student has a sense of belonging, where we include rather than exclude, where we are open-minded and where we embrace change and challenge, producing young men who seek to positively impact the world."

'It takes the village to raise a child' is a well-known saying. Less well known is: 'It takes a community to nurture a Saints Knight'. The Saints community which year in and year out produces young graduate students who are primed and ready to go out and make a significant difference in the world, is a large one of friends, parents, staff, school departments, alumni and leaders. We had 154 Saints Knights graduating this year. There are hundreds of community members who have contributed to helping them complete this journey. I wish to extend my gratitude to this community, One and All.







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I wish you a really awesome holiday period with your families. May it be 'well with your soul' and may you find time to replenish your bodies and minds and spirit. I have encouraged our boys to exercise, to read and to learn a new skill in this holiday period. Perhaps we can all try.

I am so proud of our school.

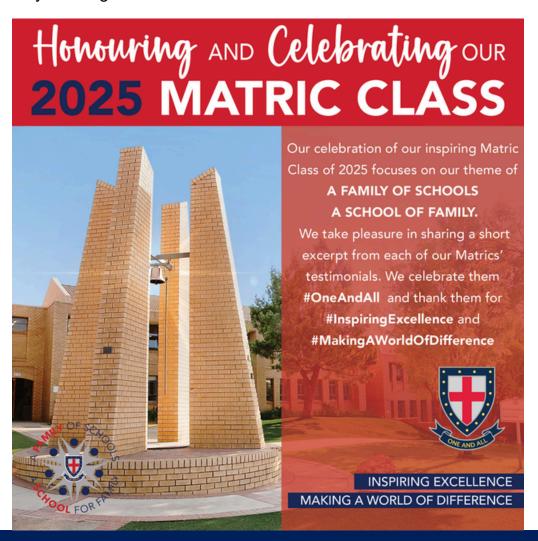
I trust that you feel the same way.

Be kind. Stay safe. Tell the Saints story with pride.

Yours faithfully

David du Toit

Head of School: Boys' College











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REUNIONS

St Stithians Class of 1985 Reunion: A Weekend of Legacy, Laughter, and Lasting Bonds

The St Stithians Class of 1985 returned to campus for an unforgettable reunion weekend filled with camaraderie, celebration, and heartfelt moments. Over three days, classmates, former teachers, and long-time coaches came together to honour shared memories and the enduring Saints spirit. Friday: Mountain Biking, Golf Day & Boys' College Walkabout

Read more here...



Class of 1985 Rowing Reunion – 40 Years On

In a remarkable celebration of camaraderie, tradition, and Saints spirit, the Class of 1985 Rowing First VIII reunited at Roodeplaat Dam to mark their 40th reunion. Four decades after their memorable victory in 1985, the original crew returned to the water to recreate the race that defined their year. Adding to the significance of the occasion, the crew flew out their former rowing coach, Raymond Blake, whose guidance and influence were instrumental in shaping their success. Having him back at the dam, whistle, wisdom, and all made the moment even more meaningful.



St Stithians Collage OSA Rowing Class of 1985 Reunion

What unfolded was far more than a race. It was a celebration of lifelong friendships, shared stories from the boathouse, and the enduring spirit of Saints rowing. The laughter was loud, the strokes surprisingly synchronised, and the pride unmistakable as the 1985 First VIII once again powered down Roodeplaat together. A fitting tribute to a team whose legacy continues to inspire.







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SAVE THE DATE: **2026 REUNIONS**

SAVE THE DATE:

CAPE REUNIONS OLD STITHIAN ASSOCIATION

STELLENBOSCH:

Date: Tuesday, 24th February 2026 Venue: Die Stal, Coetzenburg, Join us from 5.30pm









Austin

MAY STH

Tuesday, 5th May 2026 at 17:30 **Looking to host in Austin** Calling One & All to join us!

SAVE THE DATE



Old Stithian Reunion

New York



Thursday, 7th May **Annual NYC Reunion!** Venue tbc



SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday, 5th May 2026



SAVIE TIHIE IDATI



Wednesday 13th May 2026, Sit down - dinner from 17:30

Thursday 14th May 2026 Casual Drinks & Canapés at The Wandle from 17:30

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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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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 (See 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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MAY THE PEACE AND BLESSINGS OF CHRISTMAS BE YOURS, AND THE NEW YEAR FILLED WITH JOY.









