



13 January 2020

Dear Saints Family

Launching 2020

A warm welcome back as we begin another annual season of St Stithians. We recently celebrated our excellent 2019 Matric results and affirmed the character of a St Stithians education. We have welcomed our new staff. The campus is looking beautiful and full of lush life after the rains of December (a challenge for our grounds staff to manage the growth – and thank you to them). We look forward to the return of young people to this space when classes begin on Wednesday 15 January – with all the vibrancy, sounds and hope that they will bring to our College of seven schools.

Reflecting our commitment to the development of our staff, a critical ingredient of educational excellence, we have organised various staff meetings and professional growth opportunities on Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 January. This includes members of our campus departments – Finance, Operations, Advancement, Human Resources and ICT. Please bear this in mind if you wish to interact with staff in these departments.

The Campus Staff Development morning (for all staff in our schools and departments) on Monday 13 January will focus on the theme 'Be Stronger One and All'. This is a great opportunity for us as the staff to strengthen our understanding of the community of practice that is St Stithians; and how we can advance and optimise the Saints Model.

Our College motto 'One and All' is a beautifully simple phrase with many layers of meaning. 'One' refers to the unity of the collective, the threads that draw us together, the single entity of St Stithians, our College of seven schools. 'All' is a celebration of our diversity -- the unique personality of each individual in our community, the distinctive character of each school, the embrace of difference. 'And' is the connector between the unity and the diversity, the flow of energy, the multiplier of positive relationships, the value-add. 'And' is the synergy space, the intentional working together of the parts of St Stithians to create an institution which is greater than the sum of its parts. There is so much that is positive about St Stithians College as a centre of excellence, making a world of difference. The word 'and' in our College motto beckons us to do more together as we live out our intent, purpose and educational mission.

I take the opportunity of this start of year letter to draw your attention to several matters relating to campus projects that are being implemented this term; to campus security; and to remind us all of the dog-walking regulations.

New Road near the Girls' Prep and relocation of Grounds storage and staff facilities

The new section of College Ring Road is open; and the old road is closed just above the Girls' Prep parking area. Moving the ring road away from the Girls' Prep flows from the Campus 2053 Landscape Plan. The old road enables access to the Girls' Prep parking area and the Saints Seconds and Saints Supporters shop.

The Grounds equipment storage and staff facility is to move across campus to a custom-built new site behind the Recycling Depot. Once done, the sheds next to the Saints Seconds and Saints Supporters shop will be demolished and the area rehabilitated.

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE. MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Girls' Prep Grade 5 Classroom Renovations

Next week we hand over the site to the contractor who will be doing the renovations to enhance the Grade 5 classroom block (previously Grade 3). Temporary classrooms for the Grade 5s have been placed on the old section of ring road, and these have been fenced off in the interests of safety and access control. The construction phase of this classroom renovation project will be complete by the middle of June 2020, followed by landscaping.

New Parking Area at the Girl's College

Towards the end of January 2020, we will issue a tender to build a new parking area between the top of Jamieson field and the waterway. This parking will be dedicated staff parking during the school day and will be open after hours and weekends for general parking. This project will help to alleviate the traffic congestion in the current parking at the Girls' College.

Solar Plant

Last year we went out on tender for a 600kW Solar Plant with storage – ground mount. In addition to future cost savings in the College's electricity bill, this Solar Plant will contribute to continuous supply of electricity and will be a site for education of our students. If all goes according to plan, this project should be completed by mid-2020. The solar plant will be located to the west of the Recycling Depot, near to the main power cable lines which supply the campus. Trees will need to be felled to clear the area for the Solar Plant; and indigenous trees will be planted in replacement elsewhere on campus.

Security on Campus

Our Head of Operations, Rene Swart, has convened a Security Forum, which consists of parents, staff and security consultants and we are looking at ways to improve / enhance security on campus.

However, campus security is everyone's responsibility, so if you notice anything suspicious, or experience a security incident, please report it immediately to the Security Manager, Colin Kallee on 0837297387 or the Security Supervisor on duty on 0826908474. Please put these numbers in your phone so that you have them handy when you need them. Reporting incidents long after they have happened does not assist our staff with a rapid response. If we are all vigilant and proactive, together we can work to prevent crime on campus. Please remember to check that you have locked your car before leaving it; and please do not leave valuable items in full view.

Walking of Dogs on Campus

If you would like to walk your dog on our beautiful campus, please note that you need to obtain a dog permit to do so. This permit costs R500.00 per annum. There is also a dedicated dog walking route in the grasslands area of the campus. Dogs are not allowed on or in any of the sporting facilities or school precinct areas. A special application can be made for Dogs for the Blind. Please be mindful of other users of the campus and kindly pick up any mess your dog makes and dispose of it. The dog permit and the walking route is obtainable from the Operations Department – ops@stithian.com.

With thanks and best wishes for a great 2020.



Dr T A Nuttall
Rector