



16 October 2015

Dear Saints family

During this week of Matric farewells, and reflections on educational journeys travelled, I am deeply conscious of the contributions of our teachers and our parents to inspiring excellence and making a world of difference. Our matriculants are confident, engaged and articulate young adults – on the threshold of new beginnings. Our students are provided with multiple opportunities for personal growth. They have a strong emotional attachment to this place and its community of belonging. Particularly moving was the visit made to the Junior Preparatory by the boys and girls who began their Saints journey here in Grade R in 2003, thirteen years ago.

In this letter, I address the following themes:

- Family Chapel Service
- Annual Remembrance Service
- Budget 2016 process
- Umalusi accreditation
- New school tracksuit
- New campus gate opening and closing times
- Boys' and Girls' Sports Pavilion progress
- 2016 School Calendar
- African networks reference group

***Family Chapel Service – Sunday 18 October 2015 at 09:00***

All are welcome to attend our Family Chapel Service this Sunday.

***Annual Remembrance Service – Friday 30 October 2015 at 09:00***

We will gather as the Saints community in the chapel on 30 October to remember those in our family, past and present, who have died. All are welcome and we will give thanks to God for the lives of loved ones.

***Budget 2016 process***

For the past six months, the College Executive Committee has been preparing the budget for 2016. We have scrutinised costs, determined priorities and parameters, and advanced plans to implement *Strategy 2025*. We have been guided by our strategic intent – *Inspiring Excellence. Making a World of Difference*. We have taken account of economic indicators. The Council's Finance Committee has reviewed and approved the draft budget, which will be presented to the Council meeting on 5 November. After the Council meeting, the Chair of Council and I will communicate the main outcomes.

We appreciate the significant investment and financial commitment which our parents are making in each child's education. The creation of a high-quality learning environment to advance holistic education at St Stithians requires motivated and skilled teachers, learning-rich programmes, facilities that enhance our educational mission, and efficient and effective administration.

**INSPIRING EXCELLENCE. MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE**

As parents plan ahead towards 2016, I take this opportunity to point out that our fee structure includes a stepped increase between Grades R and 1, Grades 2 and 3, Grades 5 and 6, and Grades 7 and 8.

Paying the full annual school fee in advance attracts a discount and we encourage consideration of this option.

### ***Umalusi accreditation process***

Umalusi is the national accreditation body in South African education. During the first week of October, our schools hosted site visits by the Umalusi accreditation team. This experience in the quality assurance process is rigorous and thorough, involving a documentary check of internal procedures and of teacher qualifications, interviews with management, classroom observation, and focus group discussions with students and teachers. We have learnt and grown through the process. The Saints schools stood tall and the Umalusi evaluators experienced many benchmarks of excellence. In this manner, St Stithians is contributing to the setting of high-quality standards in the wider education system.

### ***New school tracksuit***

A new tracksuit has been approved by the College's Uniform Committee, after due deliberation. The tracksuit is now available in The Stythian Shop. Please note that there will be a two-year period of transition, from January 2016 to December 2017. During this period the old (existing) tracksuit may still be worn as approved uniform, while the new tracksuit is introduced.

### ***New gate opening and closing times (and changes at the Hurlingham gate)***

A review of gate times and access control has been conducted, and the following opening times (with guards monitoring access) will operate from 27 October 2015 (after half term):

- **Peter Place Gate:** Open 24 hours
- **Corlett Gate (Bram Fischer Drive):** Open 05h00 – 21h00 (Monday to Sunday)
- **One & All Gate (next to Medfem Clinic):** Open 05h00 to close of restaurant (Monday to Sunday)
- **Hurlingham Gate:** 05h00 – 21h00 (Monday to Sunday). \*Please note change, as outlined below.

**Hurlingham Gate / Access Control:** We have taken a decision to standardise the operation of the Hurlingham gate, and will no longer issue personal access cards for campus access outside the hours of 05h00 and 21h00. The card access system at this gate will be removed over half term.

### ***Outdoor gym***

We are very grateful for the donation of an outdoor gym, which has been erected on the edge of the Baytopp and Main Oval Fields. Once completed, the gym will be incorporated into physical education classes and conditioning programmes.

### ***Boys' Sports Pavilion and Girls' Sports Pavilion progress***

The Boys' Sports Pavilion overlooking the Main Oval and Baytopp fields has now reached first storey height. The targeted completion date is the end of February, in time for the 2016 Easter Festival. Thank you to individuals who have pledged donations towards the completion of the project, and a celebratory event is planned for 4 November – with further details to follow.

The Girls' Sports Pavilion, to be built at the courts during 2016 and 2017, is in the final design and costing stage. Once completed, a visual graphic will be produced, providing momentum in our fundraising campaign.

The goal for both Pavilions is that the school will fund 50% of the cost, with donors providing the balance of the funding. Interested donors are requested to make contact with me on [rector@stithian.com](mailto:rector@stithian.com),

Alistair Stewart (Advancement Director) on [astewart@stithian.com](mailto:astewart@stithian.com) or the Heads of School, Dave Knowles ([dknowles@stithian.com](mailto:dknowles@stithian.com)) and Ivanka Acquisto ([iacquisto@stithian.com](mailto:iacquisto@stithian.com))

***2016 school calendar updated***

The 2016 School calendar is available on the website at the following link:

[www.stithian.com/content/page/campus-calendars](http://www.stithian.com/content/page/campus-calendars)

Please note that Term 2 classes will begin one day later than previously published.

***African networks reference group***

I am keen to promote contacts with schools and contacts in other African countries. The growing number of African schools affiliating to Round Square provides one vehicle for this, as does the re-launch of the African Confederation of Principals.

I wish to initiate a reference group of parents and alumni who work in, or have connections in, other African countries to advise me on how to advance our engagement with educational opportunities (including tours) elsewhere in Africa. If you are interested in joining this reference group, please contact my executive assistant, Yolande Marsh, on [ymarsh@stithian.com](mailto:ymarsh@stithian.com).

Good wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Nuttall". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr T A Nuttall

Rector