



22 March 2018

Dear Saints Family

During the first term of 2018, St Stithians has flourished in so many ways across our College of seven schools. There is much to be thankful for in our vibrant school communities as we 'inspire excellence and make a world of difference'.

This letter draws your attention to the following themes:

- A vibrant and growing community
- Human Rights Day
- Transformation and Diversity
- Procurement Policy and Procedures
- Boys' College Administration Building Upgrade: Pre-Qualification RFI (closing date 5 April)
- Thought leaders: Raising boys and girls to confidently engage a changing world
- Saints Sports Festival and Easter Sunday Chapel Service
- Founders' Day, Saturday 2 June 2018
- The Warriner Centre – high performance facility supported by a Saints community gym
- Administrative notices: College tracksuit, and Closure of Campus offices on 30 April 2018

### **A vibrant and growing community – participates, shares experiences and listens**

It is an important feature of our collective DNA that we reflect and listen; we value the opportunity to hear a range of perspectives from staff, students, parents and alumni. By sharing our thoughts, experiences and aspirations we learn and grow. I encourage all in our community to participate, to communicate, to grow your talents and to add your voice – using the many channels and opportunities that are available. I am aware of so many initiatives that represent a healthy and engaged school community. We truly benefit from an active community of belonging.

### **Human Rights Day**

I write this letter on Human Rights Day. We remember the Sharpeville Massacre of 1960 and all other incidents in our more recent past when human dignity has been trampled on and disrespected. Our society experiences daily the testing contradictions between our Constitution's bold affirmation of human rights and lived experiences which deny these rights. At Stithians, we affirm our commitment to fostering individual rights and dignity within our College, with accompanying collective responsibility to promote the embedding of Saints Character: Know Myself, Be Myself, Make My Contribution. At the core of our mission is to educate citizens of our country, continent and globe.

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

## **Transformation and Diversity**

The agenda of transformation and diversity is alive and active at St Stithians. During the course of 2017, each school appointed a Director of Transformation and Diversity, who sits on the school executive – and the resulting implementation of intentional and programmatic approaches has reaped much fruit. In the two Colleges, active student committees progress lively and engaged conversations, consciousness-raising and activities. We are, together, on a journey of learning and relationship-building.

Recently, the Campus Transformation Committee (consisting of staff leaders) held a day-long workshop to review the College's [Transformation Statement \(2009\)](#) and the [Statement on Race and Racism, Transformation and Diversity \(2017\)](#), with the purpose of progressing a new statement of intent and purpose. The meeting concluded that an Anti-Racism Statement be included in the refreshed framework, while also deepening critical engagement with gender discrimination and the promotion of a College culture which embraces diversity in many forms. Refreshing and reaffirming our institutional stance on Transformation and Diversity will involve multiple stakeholders as we engage in deliberation and conversation.

I am keen to grow the identity of St Stithians as a school which connects with the continent of Africa, and graduates alumni who create exciting futures on this continent. Through our affiliation to Round Square, we are growing links with a number of schools in other African countries. In 2015, I began an Africa Reference Group, an informal gathering of parents and staff who have links to African countries north of South Africa. In my bid to revive this group, I issue an invitation to parents and staff to email [rector@stithian.com](mailto:rector@stithian.com) if you wish to participate in the conversations of the Africa Reference Group.

## **Procurement Policy and Procedures**

Our revised and updated procurement policy and procedures are in the final stages of completion. Included in the revision is a more explicit commitment to advancing black economic empowerment (BEE); to creating opportunities for St Stithians parents and alumni to tender for College business; and to communicating more openly on our website about major procurement projects.

We have created a [Procurement Page](#) in the Information Section on the College website. Until the new Procurement Policy and Procedures documents are approved by Council, the existing policy frames our approach. We are gearing up to put into practice the intentions of the new procurement processes.

## **Boys' College Administration Building Upgrade: Pre-Qualification RFI (closing date 5 April 2018)**

An important building renovation is planned for the Boys' College Administration Building during 2018. The focus of this is to create a new staffroom, to re-size and modernise eight existing classrooms, and to reconfigure and modernise office spaces. This project will bring disruption to the normal operating of this area of the Boys' College for a number of months.

In the spirit of the new draft Procurement Policy, I bring this project to your attention, and invite construction companies to respond to a Pre-Qualification Request for Information. In response to submissions, the appointed professionals will assist the College management to prepare and select a short-list of appropriate companies to participate in a formal tender process. To find out more details about the Pre-Qualification RFI, please refer to the [Procurement Page](#) on the College website.

### **Thought leaders: Raising boys and girls to confidently engage a changing world**

St Stithians is hosting a national conference on this theme in May 2018. This conference is one of a number of initiatives which characterise St Stithians as a place of educational research and thought leadership. Our synergy model of a co-educational Junior Prep (which includes boys-only and girls-only learning experiences) and single-sex Preps and Colleges on one campus, places us uniquely to progress the important discussion about optimising education with gender in mind. To our knowledge, this will be the first time in South Africa that a conference with a 'gender and education' focus has occurred. For details of the conference, its programme and speakers, please click on this [link](#).

The Raising Boys and Girls conference is a sponsorship opportunity. If you wish to respond and assist us with creating a world-class event, please read the [Sponsorship page](#) on our website.

### **Saints Sports Festival and Easter Sunday Chapel Service**

The annual Saints Sports Festival is just around the corner, with the College Fest taking place over the Easter Weekend (28 March to 2 April) and the Prep Fest the following week (5-7 April). These mega-events reflect a wonderful partnership between our staff and parents, and all participating Saints students – a living example of Saints Excellence in action. Thank you, One and All! We look forward to an exciting line-up of rugby, hockey, netball, tennis, squash, football and cross-country in the College Fest; and rugby, netball and tennis in the Prep Fest.

St Stithians College is a Methodist school and amidst the festival of sport we are mindful of the centrality of Easter for Christians commemorating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our Easter Sunday Service in the Chapel at 09:00 is a Saints Family Service and we invite our College families as well as our Festival visitors and guests to join us.

### **Founders' Day, Saturday 2 June 2018 – Theme: Saints Character**

I request you to Save the Date for Founders' Day, which takes place on Saturday 2 June 2018. The planning committee is on track to create another memorable day in the College's annual calendar. We look forward to gathering as the whole College community to celebrate the generosity and vision of our founders, and to commit ourselves to building on the Saints legacy in the present and into the future. We are the baton-carriers of today. The theme for Founders' Day will explore Saints Character in a number of forms. The guest of honour is not yet confirmed.

### **The Warriner Centre – a top-class high performance facility supported by a Saints community gym**

Do pop in and take a look at the Warriner Centre, located next to the Boys' Sports Pavilion. You will find an excellent high-performance centre staffed with professionals contracted by Inside Active. I encourage our parents, staff and alumni to take out gym membership, which is competitively priced.

The College's contract with Inside Active includes the company's equipping of the high-performance facility and the provision of a specified number of 'free hours' for students to use the gym. The funding model includes a commercial element, associated with gym membership, which enables Inside Active to provide facilities and professional conditioning staff to the students.

To enquire about gym membership, please email [warrinercentre@insideactive.co.za](mailto:warrinercentre@insideactive.co.za).

The Warriner Centre, and associated medical services, forms one hub in a wider vision of long-term athletic development and wellness amongst the students of St Stithians.

**Administrative notices: College tracksuit, and Closure of Campus offices on 30 April 2018**

1. College tracksuit:

According to the College's procedure on changes to the uniform, a two-year notice period is required in the case of major changes to the uniform. During 2015, notice was given of the introduction of a new College tracksuit. I remind all parents and students that, as of January 2018, only the new College tracksuit may be worn for school activities.

2. Campus offices closure on 30 April 2018

A decision has been taken to close the offices of the campus departments on Monday 30 April, a long weekend bracketed by two public holidays. As the new school term starts on Thursday 3 May, I alert all to plan ahead accordingly and make early requests to the Finance and Operations Departments, in particular.

Kind regards

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 top.

Dr T A Nuttall  
Rector