



ST STITHIANS COLLEGE

A South African School Making a World of Difference

20 July 2015

Dear St Stithians parents

I write to highlight a number of important developments for your attention. In summary, I address the following:

- New Saints Website
- Boys' Sports Pavilion
- Girls' Sports Pavilion
- New Chair of the St Stithians Foundation
- Admissions Policy
- Rector Connect

New Saints Website

After many months of design thought and hard work, the new-look Saints website will be up and running during the course of Monday 20 July 2015. Click on www.stithian.com and please refresh if the new website does not appear.

I wish to thank especially the 'drive' team which has made this happen, and each staff member who has contributed to the creation of the new text.

The design of the new website has been accompanied by the strategic planning process of the College's senior staff and Council during the past twelve months, reflected in *Strategy 2025* launched on Founders' Day. The website reflects the evolving thinking about the identity and priorities of our College of seven schools. The development of the new website has provided opportunities to align our overall identity as St Stithians with the character of each of the schools.

Notable features of the new website include a standardised menu architecture, functionality across multiple device formats; easily modified news updates and links to newsletters and social media feeds; an accessible portal for internal school documents; and the facility to make donations online. We will shortly be launching an online admissions application form which will function through the website.

The new website gives significant impetus to our intent to improve at telling Saints stories – there is such a rich tapestry of success and significance, of inspiring excellence and making a world of difference. I encourage all our parents to follow @ststithians on Twitter and to like our Facebook page, and then to Retweet and Share.

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Boys' Sports Pavilion

The construction of our new Boys' Sports Pavilion next to the High Performance Centre will begin this week, and is planned to be completed in time for the 2016 Easter Sports Festival. The decision has been made to proceed with this project even though there is a shortfall of R2.5m in our fundraising campaign. It is expected that the initiation of the building will accelerate fundraising initiatives as the first phases of the building happen.

A big thank you to those who have already pledged R2.5m towards our fundraising target of R5m. The fundraising target is to match the contribution already made through the College's capex budget, My School revenue and the St Stithians Foundation.

Interested donors are please to contact Dave Knowles, Head of the Boys' College (dknowles@stithian.com), myself (rector@stithian.com) or our Council Chair, Carel Nolte (carel@carelnolte.com).

The upstairs deck of the Pavilion will enable viewing of cricket on the Main Oval and of rugby on Baytopp. There will be a walkway from the Jamieson fields directly on to the upstairs deck. The Pavilion will include much needed changing rooms and ablution facilities, as well as sports offices and a long room. Moving the existing offices and long room out of the HPC will expand the gym area.

The building of the Pavilion will require us to move a number of smaller trees from the site, and to fell up to nine of the large poplars behind the existing stands.

Girls' Sports Pavilion

The architect's plans for the new Girls' Sports Pavilion, to be built next year at the courts, are far advanced. This project is a central part of the 21st birthday celebrations of the girls' schools in 2016. The Pavilion will be funded on a 50:50 allocation between a College capex contribution and fundraising. The new Girls' Sports Pavilion will provide an extensive viewing area of the courts, much-needed changing rooms and ablution facilities, as well as sports offices for the two girls' schools.

Although for now these two buildings are called the Boys' and Girls' Sports Pavilions, respectively, they are facilities which will add value for the entire College family.

It is important, in announcing these two new buildings, to stress the continuing priority of investing in the staff who work and contribute to the educational mission of St Stithians. *Strategy 2025* is explicit in its intent to grow the talents of our staff. We are committed to allocating resources and providing opportunities for our staff to develop professionally as we inspire excellence and make a difference.

New Chair of the St Stithians Foundation

I am pleased to announce, on behalf of the Chair of Council (Carel Nolte) and of the Chair of the St Stithians Trust (Colin Smith), that Russell Loubser has been appointed as the new Chair of the St Stithians Foundation. The Foundation has the responsibility to mobilise fundraising for the Thandulwazi Academy, for other campus projects – such as the new Pavilions, and for growing a long-term endowment fund.

Russell is the parent of two Saints alumni, Mark (1998) and Carine (2001). Russell's grandson, born this year, is an applicant for admission to Grade R in 2021.

Russell Loubser brings to the Foundation the experience and wisdom of an influential corporate career and a long involvement in foundation related work in the tertiary education

sector. We look forward to the contribution he will make as he takes over the baton of chairing the Foundation, succeeding Khumo Morolo and before her, Pete Backwell.

I take this opportunity to thank Khumo Morolo for her term of office as Chair of the Foundation governors; and to announce, with appreciation, her continuing role as the new chair of the Thandulwazi Trust.

I invite parents, alumni and friends of St Stithians to volunteer as Foundation governors in order to advance the critical work of ensuring the future sustainability of the College. Anyone interested is requested to contact me on rector@stithian.com or Carel Nolte on carel@carelnolte.com.

Admissions Policy

The new admissions policy is available on the College website. Of special relevance to current parents is my request that applications are made early for sibling children. Please do not assume that a sibling child is automatically enrolled, particularly in Grade R where there is a very long waiting list. The scoring matrix weights the date of application in relation to date of birth, with a greater weighting the closer the application is made to date of birth.

I take this opportunity to remind our parents that if you are relocating from Johannesburg or intend to remove your child from one of our schools, a term's notice is required.

Rector Connect

I have postponed my Rector Connect meeting with parents from 29 July 2015 to 10 September 2015 at 18:00 at the One & All. Please save the new date. I apologise for any inconvenience caused by this change. The reason for the postponement is a change to my travel arrangements as I attend the International Confederation of Principals conference in Finland.

We enter the final lap of the term. I look forward to our schools finishing the term strongly, and thank all our parents for your involvement and support in the lives of your children and our school community.

Good wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Nuttall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent horizontal line above the first letter 'T'.

Dr T A Nuttall
Rector