



ST STITHIANS COLLEGE

A South African School Making a World of Difference

28 January 2015

RE: Rites of Passage at the Girls' College

Dear Parents and Girls

St Stithians Girls' College develops young girls to become women leaders within our society. To do so, we provide a holistic education considering a number of important pillars of education, service and excellence. In addition to this, as part of our leadership philosophy the girls experience a number of significant rites of passage as part of their journey through the school. We believe that these are occasions to be celebrated as markers of their development as a St Stithians girl. As a result, we have created a symbolic representation of this journey through the introduction of charms which can be purchased annually through the Student Centre at the school.

The charms have been uniquely designed for each of the significant rites of passage we believe marks each grade of a Saints girls' life. These include the following:

Grade 8 - Labyrinth Service

This service is symbolic of each girls' entry into the Girls' College. In this ceremony, the girls are effectively "anchoring their ship" as the school song suggests. The ceremony takes place next to the outdoor chapel, which holds one of our dearest biblical reminders, "Be Still and Know". These spaces form part of the walk of silence of the school. As a result, the charm which has been designed to mark this induction into high school is one symbolised by an anchor and the inscription "Be Still and Know" on the back. The charm will be given to the Grade 8s (commencing in 2015) as a welcoming gift in joining the Saints sisterhood.

Grade 9 - Kamoka Bush School

Kamoka Bush School is a unique experience which we believe grows our girls in many different ways. Here they learn to appreciate nature, resources, silences, friendship and teamwork amongst many other valuable life lessons. This experience is one which we

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believe is an example of what sets us apart as a school and demonstrates our commitment to growing whole, compassionate, resilient young ladies of strength and character. The charm that has been designed to mark this occasion is marked by the Kamoka giraffes and logo. It may be ordered through the Student Centre on the completion of Bush School as per the details provided.

Grade 10 - Halfway There High Tea

The Halfway There High Tea is symbolically located on the day of the winter solstice (or as close to as possible). The girls ring the bell at the school for the second time (the first being after commencement service in their Grade 8 year, and the last being at the end of their matric year in the Key Ceremony). This bell is rung at 12pm when the sun is at its highest, symbolising the middle of the day, middle of the year and middle of their journey. This charm has the representation of a bell and a full sun to mark this occasion. This charm can be ordered through the Student Centre and will be presented at the Halfway There High Tea.

Grade 11 - The Key Ceremony

In this special chapel service, the Grade 11s are provided with the 'keys' of leadership to the school. This is handed over from the matrices shortly before they begin their study leave to prepare for their final examinations. At this stage, we believe the girls have grown and matured to be true St Stithians leaders and young ladies. As such, the charm depicts the image of a key, but also the 6Cs which we pride and hold dear; compassion, contribution, character, commitment, confidence and creativity.

This charm can be ordered through the Student Centre and will be presented at the Key Ceremony.

Grade 12 - Valediction

This is a final, formal celebration we have with our young ladies, before they begin their examinations in matric. It marks a culmination of their schooling; and staff, parents and girls join together to mark the time and memories shared throughout their journey. As a final goodbye, the school provides a final charm to complete the set of 5, the St Stithians College badge, with the motto "One and All".

All of the charms are sterling silver (0.925). They retail at approximately R129 each (however this is dependent on the price of silver so some fluctuations may occur). They can be purchased through the Student Centre by submitting an order form and signing permission for your school fee account to be debited. As the charms need to be ordered, there will be a set time for orders to be placed with a deadline date (this information will be communicated through a grade baraza). The charms are produced by Mr Peter Scott, an ex-parent of the

school as well as an alumni. He produces a range of jewellery and can be contacted directly (see details below) to order a charm bracelet to complete the gift should you wish to do so.

While these items of jewellery have been designed to celebrate the life of a Saints girl, the code of conduct regarding jewellery still applies. Should you wish to wear your charm, you may do so provided it is not visible (for example on a long necklace under your school shirt). Charm bracelets may not be worn as part of the school uniform.

We hope that these symbols serve as a reminder for the wonderful accomplishments and memories made throughout a Saints girls' life.

Should you have any further enquiries please do not hesitate to contact Marisa Di Terlizzi at the Student Centre.

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Photograph of the complete bracelet front and back:



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