



14 December 2018

Dear Saints Family

Rector's Letter December 2018

I greet you with best wishes for the Festive Season and a time of family connecting. For the Christians in our community, and as a Methodist Church School, we give thanks to God for sending Jesus to be among us as a Christ-child. This act of love for humanity is a continuing inspiration and challenge for our mission as St Stithians as we nurture children into young adults on the Saints Journey.

There is indeed much to give thanks for as we look back on the year of 2018 at St Stithians. In my experiences as the Rector, with a vantage point that spans our seven schools, I am inspired to be grateful daily. This for me is not a superficial gratitude, but rather a contemplative encounter with the beauty and complexity of human nature; wonder and stretch; and doing what is right and honourable. Our Statement of Intent cajoles us never to be self-satisfied and rather to be intentional and reflective.

Matric Marking and Results

The last remnants of the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) markers and examiners remain on campus today, finishing their important task of quality-checking and compiling the Matric results that will be released on 3 January.

The day after the students left at the end of term, the Saints campus became a hive of activity as hundreds of IEB markers began their work, enjoying our facilities and hospitality. They came from all over the country, and their working day began at 06:30 each day of the past week – a pleasing case study of professionalism.

Calendar 2019 and 2020

The 2020 calendar was recently published on the St Stithians website.

Due to the Easter weekend being so late in 2019, in the latter half of April, and our decision to take Term 1 through to the Saints Sports Festival, we have a long first term. We have included two half-term weekends in Term 1: 21-26 February and 20-25 March.

Transformation and Diversity

St Stithians is actively engaging with the opportunities of 'transformation and diversity' as an integral feature of our education and relationship-building. We are educating South African citizens. These initiatives involve many types of interactions and learning. The Saints Parents in Dialogue breakfast held this past term was an important formal event: thank you to the parents and staff who organised this seminal occasion. The event provided openings for me to promote St Stithians in the media. Much work has been done amongst our staff and students; the College is keen to create continuing opportunities for involving our parents in this space. Each of our schools has a senior staff member with a Transformation

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE. MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

and Diversity portfolio. For 2019, I have appointed Noma Shange, senior teacher in the Boys' College, to work part-time as the Campus Director of Transformation and Diversity, so as to create collaboration and cohesion across the schools.

Independent Quality Assurance Agency (IQAA) assessment of St Stithians in 2019

Participating in an institutional quality review on a 5-yearly basis is a condition of our membership of the Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa (ISASA). We will be conducting this structured quality audit in the first half of 2019. The review includes surveys of parents, staff and students; focus group discussions and reporting. We look forward to this opportunity to hold the mirror up and to learn from the outcomes. There will be further communication early in the new year. I encourage our parents to engage actively in the assessment.

South African Reward Association (SARA) Project of the Year annual award for the Saints Thank You Scheme

Through our Head of Human Resources, Kim Urquhart, we submitted a motivation to SARA for the national Project of the Year award. Kim and I presented to a distinguished panel of corporate leaders in Reward. The focus of the motivation was the Saints Thank You Scheme, a formalised recognition procedure developed in 2018 for members of staff. The Saints Thank You Scheme is one of a number of initiatives in Reward and Recognition at St Stithians, seeking to enhance best practice and to motivate high-performing staff members. The Scheme impressed the judging panel: St Stithians won a third place, standing tall amongst leading South African corporates who participated in this competition. Kim and I were pleased to be joined by our Deputy Chair of Council, Ntombi Langa-Royds, at the Gala Dinner and Award Ceremony.



RMB Think Bench at St Stithians

Rand Merchant Bank's marketing campaign around THINK has resulted in the creation of a giant 14-metre Think Bench. St Stithians is delighted to be offered the opportunity, through our partnership with RMB, to host the Think Bench on our campus for the period from November to February. The main structure is

located on the lawns of the Girls' College, overlooking the College fields. A smaller bronze replica is featured on the Chapel Drive circle.

The RMB Think Bench is a visual reinforcement of St Stithians as a Thinking School, a place of enquiry, of critical, creative and collaborative thinking – a place of lifelong learning.

We can look forward with anticipation to what 2019 has in store for our remarkable and significant College of seven schools.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Nuttall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the top.

Dr T A Nuttall
Rector