



15 April 2019

Dear Saints Family

### **End of Term 1 letter**

In this letter I address the following themes:

- Reaching the end of a long term
- The significance of Easter
- The value of a St Stithians education
- Saints Sports Festival
- Cyclone Idai collection
- Looking ahead to Term 2 – Founders' Day and Rector's sabbatical
- Looking ahead to Term 3 – ending on 4 December

#### **Reaching the end of a long term**

I express thanks and appreciation to all in the great Saints team – students, staff and parents – for your dedication, contribution, service and achievements. There is so much to celebrate in the rich tapestry of a St Stithians education, and we have expressed this in full flight this past term. It has been a long haul and we are now at the end of it!

The term dates for 2019 were decided on in 2017. At that time, the College Executive recognized that the lateness of Easter in the annual calendar created a challenge for the length of Term 1. We took the in-principle decision to stay 'in term' up to the Easter weekend and to create two half-terms. The placing of Easter has resulted in a short April holiday and we have planned a longer than usual August holiday.

#### **The significance of Easter**

Alongside the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas, the commemoration of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter marks the second major moment in the Christian calendar. As a Methodist Church School, we commit to a special focus on the Easter message of God's profound and sacrificial love for humanity; the offer of forgiveness and wholeness which flow from repentance and renewal; the triumph of good over evil; the affirmation of life and living over death and dying. Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross and then resurrection from the dead inspires and motivates Christians to live out their faith with humility, gratitude and service as agents of God's love in our world – our school, neighbourhood, city, country, continent and globe.

We invite you to attend the Family Easter Service to be held in our Chapel on Easter Sunday at 09:00.

#### **The value of a St Stithians education**

This was the topic of discussion at the recent meeting of the St Stithians Council. We were privileged to be addressed by two young Old Stithians, Tafadzwa Ndlovu (2014) and Lauren Urdang (2017). They spoke movingly and with inspiration of how St Stithians shaped their young lives and prepared them excellently for early adulthood. They also made positive suggestions regarding how Saints could better engage with

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the 'real world' in our educational offering, particularly the South African context and its challenges and opportunities.

### **Saints Sports Festival**

The Prep and College Saints Sports Festival is a wonderful St Stithians community occasion, a partnership between staff and parents who organise these mega-events and provide an opportunity for teams from across the nation to enjoy festival sport. Thank you to each individual for the part that you play, large and small, seen and unseen.

The rain last Friday did not dampen the enthusiasm and success of the Prep Sports Festival held from 11-13 April. There was a lovely vibe and a great festival atmosphere across the tennis, squash, netball and rugby fixtures. Our visitors were impressed by our hospitality and the large vision that is part and parcel of #SaintsFest2019. Here is the Prep Festival 2019 formal photograph:



The College Festival begins on Wednesday 17 April and promises to be another bumper occasion. We look forward to a full programme of sport across the six codes of rugby, football, hockey, netball, squash and tennis; including Old Stithian games, and exhibition games and coaching clinics involving members of the national netball and women's hockey teams.

### **Cyclone Idai – collection for communities devastated by the natural disaster**

The community of St Stithians showed remarkable generosity in the collection of clothing, emergency supplies and food for the victims of Cyclone Idai. Thank you, One and All, and for our staff, parents and student leaders who co-ordinated this campaign.

### **Looking ahead to Term 2 – Founders' Day and Rector's sabbatical**

Founders' Day takes place on Saturday 1 June – please save the date for this most important event in the College calendar. The theme will be 'South African drumbeats'.

Having served six years as the Rector, I will be on sabbatical in Term 2, the wonderful opportunity provided in our College's employment practice for a time of recharge and professional development. My main project focus will be scoping the 'online school' concept. With the approval of the Chair of Council, Carel Nolte, I have appointed Celeste Gilardi (Head of the Girls' Preparatory) as the Acting Rector and thank her for taking on this role.

### **Looking ahead to Term 3 – end date of 4 December**

I alert you to the decision made by the College Executive to change the end of Term 3 date from Friday 6 December to Wednesday 4 December. The [calendar](#) published on the website reflects this change. St

Stithians is the major centre for the Independent Examination Board's matric marking teams, which need to begin marking on 5 December.

Yours sincerely

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 beginning of the word "Tim".

Dr T A Nuttall  
Rector