



01 September 2020

Dear Saints Family

Welcome to Term 3. I trust you are all well. We are pleased that our nation has reached level 2 of our lockdown restrictions and are looking forward to welcoming our students back onsite on as many days as possible.

We begin the term with the installation of the TOLERANCE artwork. Mark Reid, an alumnus of our College and owner of the Everard Read Gallery has gifted us this sculpture by renowned international artist Guy Ferrer. We are honoured to be given the opportunity to host this structure for a while.

T.O.L.E.R.A.N.C.E – a major sculptural work Ferrer created in 2007 in response to contemporary religious tensions – has been widely acclaimed and displayed in France, Germany, the United States, Poland, the United Arab Emirates and South Africa. With these nine monumental bronze sculptures, Guy Ferrer offers his reconciliatory vision, a message of hope, mutual respect and tolerance. Ferrer's powerful sculptures remind us that tolerance requires us to take time to reflect and cultivate an openness to others.

A word from the artist...

“A word becomes intelligible because of each letter, each one being indispensable and of equal importance in order to carry out the meaning. In this way, the various cultures and spiritual beliefs of our different societies can live together fraternally and complement each other in the shared hope of a dynamic and reciprocal respect.

My emissaries invite you to meet them, to respect their differences and their beliefs. Together, they speak to us of harmony, of peaceful totality and the sharing of meaning. Discover each letter and consider the key message of the installation – “Tolerance” by Guy Ferrer.

In trying to understand Ferrer’s thinking behind this artwork, I watched a YouTube video and was particularly interested in his choice of the word TOLERANCE and I quote him “in the French language tolerance carries a sense of proactivity, a sense of positive engagement, it is nothing related to the simple acceptance or laxity which will be the worse meaning.

I urge you to take some time to visit the artwork.

I draw your attention to the following matters:

1. Indemnity Waiver

As you are aware, we have previously attempted to communicate with you regarding the indemnity waiver. We have revised the waiver and request that you complete the amended document. It is important, in light of the recent COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that this document is signed by each parent and legal guardian, whichever is applicable.

Many of you have enquired why there is a need for an additional Indemnity and Waiver form given the one contained in the Standard Terms and Conditions for Enrolment. In light of that inquiry we advise as follows:

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE. MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

- The general Indemnity and Waiver that is contained in the Standard Terms and Conditions for Student Enrolment is generally understood to cover events, trips and activities that occur at School or in relation to such events that are arranged by the School but occur off the School's premises, and any consequent loss or damage that emanate therefrom. In those circumstances and in terms of the law, that indemnity will cover the School only in relation to specific circumstances, and subject to the School's legal obligations to its students that emanate from the South African Schools Act 1996 and related legislation.
- The COVID-19 Indemnity and Waiver was not anticipated in the general Indemnity and Waiver because it was drafted in the circumstances in which the pandemic had not occurred. Perhaps most importantly, the pandemic is regulated by various forms of legislation (very different from the South African Schools Act), the primary one being the Disaster Management Act No 57 of 2002, and by numerous regulations issued since March 2020 in terms thereof, and by various directives issued by different departments of government, including those issued by the Department of Basic Education which affect schools, in particular. The various regulations read with the relevant directives require the School to implement various measures and protocols which we have done, and added to that various other measures, in an effort to reduce the risk of the transmission and spread of the virus. Despite these measures, the School cannot guarantee that it has eliminated such risk.
- In the circumstances, the COVID-19 Indemnity and Waiver is intended to cover the School in the event that a child contracts the virus at the School despite our compliance with the legal requirements that emanate from the Disaster Management Act. It is therefore necessary to have a specific indemnity and waiver covering the pandemic.

We trust that you will understand the circumstances in which we find ourselves and we request that you complete and submit the indemnity forms which will be sent to you from the individual schools.

2. Sport

Exercise on Campus

We have been monitoring the "exercise on campus trial" that was in place during August, and feel that it worked well, so will continue to allow those associated with Saints – staff, students, parents, OSA members, Saints Committee members, permanent contractors to exercise for the rest of the year. We are still not opening to the general public at this stage and will consider whether we want to do this going forward or not. There would be strict rules in place if we decided we would allow this to happen.

To register your intent to exercise on campus (note that no sporting facilities are open for use as yet), then please complete the form in the link below (the August trial has now expired, thus the reason to re-register): https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=TusweXC7eU2E7eXtis_x55IKjS04ImxKqFBbMXOLHkxUMERHUzdXOFgzUldZU0pCRkdCM0ZURU9aWC4u

The Gym has also reopened and any queries can be sent to warrinercentre@insideactive.co.za

Facilities are slowly opening. Only Federations can open the facilities and St Stithians is governed by both Department of Basic Education and the Minister of Sport. We request that no facilities are used unless booked through the compliance officers for the specific sports codes.

There is much excitement for the team of Sports Directors to launch the Fitness and Athletic development programme in term three. The importance of this programme is to assist in the gradual return to exercise and sport as we approach our (new norm) for the remainder of 2020

3. Calendar 2021

The term dates have been amended, the proposed Draft 2021 Calendar is as follows:

Term 1 dates: 13 January to 31 March

Sports Festival: 1 April – 5 April

Term 2 dates: 28 April to 6 August

Half term: 18 June to 25 June (note this has shifted a week later)

Term 3 dates: 6 Sept-3 Dec (unchanged)

4. Uniform

Students will need to attend school in their school uniform from the 14th September, with the exception of the Junior Prep who are expected to attend school in their uniform from the 01st October 2020.

5. Security

Fidelity has spent the month of August familiarizing themselves with the campus and their role on site.

Access to Campus from start of Term

Access to Saints: from 2 September, all gates will be open during drop off times, being 06h00 – 08h30 and at collection times, being from 12h30 – 20h00. Between 08h30 and 12h30, the Hurlingham and Corlett gates will be locked and all access to the campus will be through Peter Place. The One & All gate will only be open to Higher Ground patrons and deliveries to the Semono building. From 20h00 (unless there is a big event at one of the schools), the Hurlingham and Corlett gates will be locked, with access to the campus being through Peter Place for Saints registered vehicles and the One & All gate for those visiting the restaurant. The ANPR system at the One & All gate will be disabled between 08h30 – 12h30 thus ensuring access during the school day through the Peter Place entrance, so please do not try and enter there to get access to the school during the school day as you will then be stopped and scanned in / treated as a visitor.

Any person entering the campus will either be registered on the Saints access system (parents, staff, students, alumni, etc.) or will be “pre-registered” – visitors or contractors (see details of this below) or registered at the gate if not pre-registered – whether entering in a vehicle, motorcycle or on foot. All adult people in the vehicle will need to be registered, not just the driver. With regards to motorcycles – as they do not have a number plate at the front of the vehicle, we will issue the Saints registered people who ride motorcycles with an access card that they will need to have scanned at the gate and the guards will open the booms manually.

Anyone wanting to enter campus with their dog will be required to present their dog permit at the gate, where it will be scanned to confirm that the permit is valid and they can then enter with their dog/s. We will be re-printing the dog permits to include a QR code so that the scanners can be used to scan the permit. Dog in car and no permit = no entry (unless a guide dog).

Wizz Pass Visitor and Contractor Management System

Fidelity have installed a new visitor and contractor management system – Wizz Pass. This system was developed in South Africa and has many functions that are customisable to Saints. At the moment, the standard system will be in place, but by the end of the week, we should have the customised system in place. What we intend happening with this system is that visitors and contractors coming to Saints will be required to “pre-register” so that by the time they get to the gate, security will know who they are and what the purpose of their visit is. There will be exceptions where visitors will not know that they need to pre-register, and these people will be scanned in and the necessary information obtained to ensure their visit is valid before being allowed to gain access. We believe that in time, anyone visiting Saints will come to realise that in order to gain access and not be inconvenienced, they will need to pre-register. All access by visitors will only be granted

through the Peter Place gate. At the end of the school day, the other gates will be opened, but access will still be strictly monitored – pre-registration and manual registration.

The Wizz Pass scanners also have the COVID-19 questions on them and all that is required is the temperature to be captured, which will be done by the guard at the gate. Vehicles that arrive with expired licence discs or drivers who have expired licences will be denied access (we understand that this may have to be postponed until the Licensing Department get back to full operation and start issuing licenses again, but this is the intention going forward).

You are probably wondering how we then manage access to those visiting Higher Ground? Due to it not being practical to pre-register to go to the restaurant, patrons who are not associated with the College will be allowed to enter at the One & All gate only. There will be two additional internal boomed areas (one on the Staff road above houses 19 and 20 and the other on the sand road coming in from Corlett gate). This means that Saints associated people will be able to get through these booms as they will be linked to the ANPR system, but patrons to the restaurant who are not associated / registered with the College will only be able to get access to the restaurant. These patrons can only enter and exit at the One & All gate. This does not stop them from walking into the school areas, but they will not be able to take their vehicles into the school areas.

To address the previous point about unknown people having access to walk around Saints, we have been exploring options of how to easily identify people who are “allowed” to be on campus, whether it be parents, staff, students, alumni, committee members, visitors, contractors, people registered to exercise, etc. and we are looking at a simple card that will be pre-printed with name and photo and will be in different colours depending on the association with the College. These will be required to be worn while on campus (either on a lanyard or with a clip). This will require all of us complying with and challenging those who are not “identifiable” in order to make Saints safer for all.

The NAVIC system has been installed now and will prevent any “stolen or wanted” vehicle that is registered on a central database from being able to enter the campus. We can also create our own Saints list of unwanted vehicles to our campus. We realise that number plate cloning is a problem, and that with the Wizz Pass scanners and the NAVIC system in place, we should be able to prevent the majority of these vehicles from entering the campus. It’s not 100% fool-proof but is a deterrent.

Another feature that we are installing at the Hurlingham gate in particular is a pedestrian / cycle gate, to allow those people who walk/cycle onto campus from this area when the gates are locked to be able to still gain access if they are registered on the Saints Access System. Access control will be installed to prevent just anyone from entering the campus. We will be installing this system at the other gates too for when the vehicle gates are locked including the Lyme Park gate.

Buzzer Emergency App

The Buzzer App that was mentioned previously is now up and running and being monitored in our on-site control room. Please download the app from the App Store and enter the details that are required – first name, surname and cell number. Set the Home Location as St Stithians College, 40 Peter Place - this will mean that when you enter Saints, the app becomes “live” and should you need to call for help in any way while on campus, your location will be picked up and a response team will be able to attend to you. The campus has been broken up into “zones” to make it easier for responders to find you and for communications for people within these zones to be done more effectively. We have also extended the zones to include Bram Fischer Drive from the Corlett gate up to Peter Place

and then down Peter Place to William Nicol, so that if you are in trouble on this section of road (we are aware that there have been several hijackings at traffic lights on these roads) then the Fidelity response team can assist you. This app is primarily for parents and staff (adults), however, should you feel that you want your child to have the app on their phone, please ensure that you explain to them the purpose of the app and that it is not to be misused under any circumstances. Anyone found to be “calling wolf” for a non-incident (cell number can be tracked) and wasting the time of the responders will be removed from the system immediately. It is there for any emergency situation while on campus only. Once you have downloaded the app and filled in the necessary information, you will see a red panic button on the screen with a map showing your location on campus. If you press the button for 3 seconds, it will send a notification to the necessary responders on campus who will then assist you. You are able to communicate on the app if there is information about a situation you want to inform others of in the “zone” you are in – it will only work if you are within one of the Saints zones. There will be a couple of “super users” at Saints who will also be able to communicate with everyone who has the app either in a specific zone or the whole campus if necessary. Please do not use this as a general communications chat group – it is for emergencies only.



COVID-19 Screening

With regards to COVID-19 screening – we have changed the system for permanent contractors on site who were being screened at the Peter Place gate as there was just too much congestion. All contractors (this includes the gym staff and members, sports shop staff and customers, Stythian Shop staff and customers, coffee shop staff, Servest grounds and cleaning staff, security staff, physio staff, etc.) are now required to screen their staff/members at their work location (as in where the offices / venue of the contractor are positioned on site). They will be enforcing their work place plans which have been approved by our Health & Safety Officer.

Parents are still encouraged to not leave their vehicles when dropping their children at school, however, should you have a meeting with a staff member, please go to the reception of the school or department concerned so that you can be screened and sanitised before meeting with the staff member. If you are exercising after dropping your child off, please park at the area to the east of the astros and walk/ride from there – please do not park in the parking areas around the schools and go and exercise. Please stay on the ring road or walking/cycling track and wear your mask at all times. We do not have capacity to screen people exercising on campus, so if you are sick, please do not come onto campus.

You are again reminded that if your child is presenting with any symptoms of illness, to not bring them to school. If you suspect that they may have COVID-19, please ensure to get them tested and inform the school of the results so that we can follow the necessary protocols that we have in place.

New Grounds Depot

The Servest grounds staff have moved into the new ground's depot near the recycling depot. The old grounds depot has been demolished and is being tidied up to create additional parking and pathways. Thank you to the Ops team that have been hard at work during the August holidays getting this all done.

Recycling Depot

The recycling depot is open to Saints registered people to drop off their recyclables – please do not bring your wet waste (food waste) or garden waste – strictly recyclables only.

Girls' Prep Classroom Upgrade

The classrooms are ready for use and the playground is in the process of being landscaped.

6. Unmasking Hearts and Minds' initiative

This is the banner that will now welcome you on Campus on Wednesday 2nd September 2020.



Due to our country's lockdown regulations, participation in community engagement in line with St Stithians' philosophy of service through presence has been more challenging this year. Ironically, the need for this service and assistance is greater now than ever before. St Stithians College's students did not, however, let the lockdown in South African affect their ability to Make a World Of Difference and although all Covid-19 protocols were observed and masks worn, their hearts remained unmasked as they have continued to carry out many acts of kindness.

This particular board is a collaboration between RMB and St Stithians College and as part of the 'Unmasking Hearts and Minds' initiative, RMB will be donating over 1000 masks to Thandulwazi Maths and Science Academy.

7. Finance Department

Our Finance Team is continuing to work remotely. Zoom or MS Teams meetings are available and may be arranged by contacting 011 577 6219 or accounts@stithian.com. Access to the Finance office is only available on an appointment basis. Please contact 011 577 6219 to make an appointment for on-site meeting / access to the Henning Block Finance Offices. Access will only be granted after screening has been completed at a screening station to obtain a screening sticker, and a mask will be required while in the office block.

8. SAINTS Cafés, Seattle, Cupped Coffee, Stythian Shop, Saints Seconds, Hockey Shop

These service providers will all be operating onsite from Wednesday, 2nd September 2020 with the exception of the Saints Cafés which will operate from the 9th September 2020 and the Stythian Shop which will operate from the 7th September 2020 from 08h00 to 14h00.

As we enter our third and final term for the year, I see opportunity, I see hope, I see possibility. I urge us to leave the grey and cold of winter behind, and to embrace a new beginning as symbolized by Spring.

Let us resolve to take these words from our Founders' Day song by Just Jinger ([click here to view on YouTube](#)):

**If there is grace in this world
If there is light on this earth
Let us use it
Let us see it
Starting right now**

I wish you all a happy and fulfilling Term 3.

Warmest wishes

Celeste



Celeste Gilardi
Rector: St Stithians College