



ST CHARLES COLLEGE

S O U T H A F R I C A

18th June 2024

Dear Parents, Guardians and Grandparents

The winter sport season has come to an end with a great set of matches against Highbury on Saturday. Across the College we have shared some extraordinary moments this winter. I think it is especially at the end of a season that reminds us how fast these days go by and how final that final whistle is.

Orchestral maneuvers

I am not sure how you get two choirs, a band and an orchestra to perform together, but it happened last Friday night and I guess things will never be the same again. The emergence of the St Charles College orchestra was an historic moment and the culmination of more than a decade of hard work and musical encouragement. I am already amazed at what the Prep school boys can do, so I fully expect this area of the College's development to explode in future.

Final dates for 2025

Next year is a special year for the College and because of events that had to be planned well in advance we published provisional dates. We always attempt to synchronise our dates with other schools and now that they have published their dates, we have made final adjustments where possible. All dates for 2025 synchronise with other local independents schools besides the following:

- Our half term dates for term 3.
St Charles College will host The ISASA Proudly Primary conference over 7,8,9,10,11 August and we will use that weekend as the half-term break.
- Term 4 in 2025 has to start on 30 September because a number of Cambridge examinations are written in the week starting 29 September. To ensure that students have a week-long holiday to prepare for those examinations we will close the third term on 18 September.

The end of Cell phones

Schools throughout the world are grappling with the challenge of diminishing attention spans and digital addiction. The Head of the Middle School and the Head of the Upper School have clearly had enough of hours of forensic investigation down virtual rabbit holes following the digital trails of destruction and unmentionable acts of misjudgment from which we are constantly having to rescue boys. I have found the following research, brought to our attention by our Director of Academics, to be a useful reference: <https://timharford.com/2024/04/a-tiktok-ban-wont-solve-social-medias-collective-trap/>

In the next few days, you are likely to receive details around a proposed no cell phone policy at the College which we plan to implement in the new term. There is no doubt that such a policy will change many patterns of behaviour, but I fully endorse the intention to safeguard the minds of our boys.

A land of miracles

Winning the Rugby World Cup and beating Nepal by one run in a T20 World Cup cricket match only really make sense when our country has a chance to survive. The new Government of National Unity is probably the only plausible way for South Africa to thrive – and this is truly something to be grateful for as we renew our hope for a future for young South Africans:

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." 1Timothy 2:1

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allen van Blerk', with a stylized, cursive script.

Allen van Blerk
PRINCIPAL