



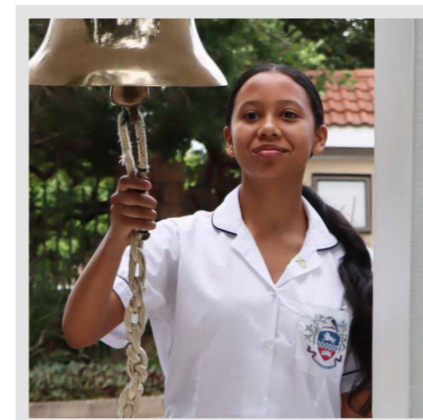
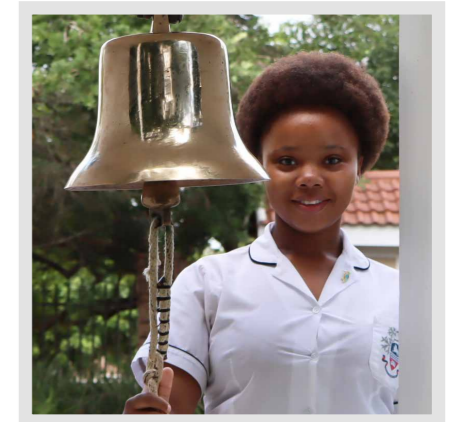
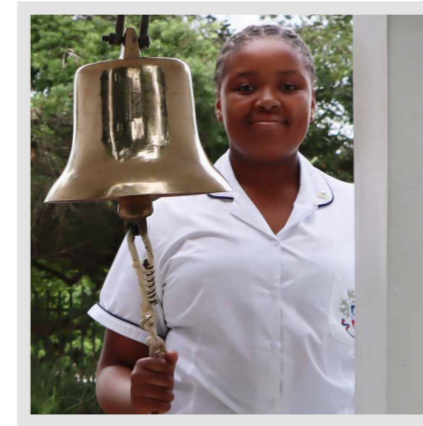
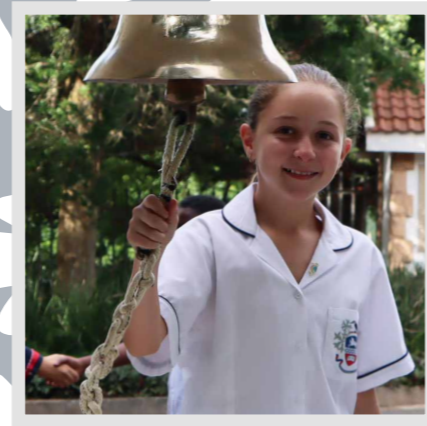
HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL



2025 OUTLOOK

If it's to be, it's up to me!

GRADE 8 ORIENTATION & BELL RINGING



"Don't despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin."

Zechariah 4:10

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." This mirrors our theme for 2025 which is "Dream, Believe, Achieve".

The year 2025 has been exceptionally busy, jam packed with learning and teaching, sporting fixtures, and cultural extramural activities, fundraising events, staffing changes, administrative changes and meetings to ensure that governance of the school is managed successfully.

HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Our Academic year started with the release of the 2024 matric results in January. A total of 217 learners wrote the National Senior Certificate examinations and 210 passed, giving us a pass rate of 96,8%. 156 of our learners obtained Bachelor's passes whilst 42 obtained Diploma passes. 91% of the Class of 2024 have thus satisfied the minimum requirements for admission to study further at a tertiary institution. We were exceptionally pleased with the results – congratulations to them all!

COMPETITIVE SPORT

The Co-Educational A-League Swimming Gala is always an important event on our sporting calendar, and this year was no different. This year it was hosted by Curro Hillcrest at their premises due to renovations taking place at the Olympic Swimming Pool in Durban. It was a very well organised gala, and our team members were well prepared – which was evident in the results with Hillcrest High School placing 3rd with 182 points – moving up one position from last year.

Ashton International placed 2nd and in 1st place was Curro Hillcrest. As one of only two government schools, out of the ten schools that participate, our swimmers, Coach, Mr White and Team Manager, Mrs Strydom, are to be congratulated for this outstanding achievement, and a terrific swimming season all round.

This year our 1st Teams for Rugby, Netball, Girls' and Boys' Hockey travelled to Benoni, Gauteng to participate in the St Dunstan's Easter Sports' Festival from 16 – 21 April. Thank you to our coaches and staff who gave up their Easter long weekend and time with family to travel with our teams and ensure the safety of our learners while on tour. Read more about the tour on page 54.

We were pleased to be part of the PSG Super 8 Series inter-school winter sport tournament again this year, competing against seven other KwaZulu-Natal schools over four consecutive weekends. Thank you, Mr Windsor, our Head of Sport, for co-ordinating and organising this tournament which involves a great deal of additional work and personal sacrifice made by him and his family during this season.

Thank you too, to our coaches and managers from the three sporting codes - netball, rugby, and hockey – whose efforts and dedication ensured that our teams delivered an excellent set of results. Congratulations to



Principal Mrs Denise Knight

our Netball 1st Team who brought the 1st place trophy home to Hillcrest High School again this year. Our Girls' and Boys' Hockey Teams finished 3rd overall and the 2nd Netball Team placed 2nd. Overall, we finished 3rd - a very pleasing result!

Our Chess Team continues to represent Hillcrest High School with distinction, achieving remarkable success once again this year. Under the steady guidance of Mrs Gomes, our Teacher-in-Charge, the team secured the 2025 PADSSA League title - an extraordinary accomplishment marking their 10th consecutive victory. What makes this achievement even more commendable is the team's humility and quiet determination. They go about their work with focus and discipline, never seeking the spotlight, but always delivering excellence. This is the essence of true sportsmanship, and I could not be prouder of them. My heartfelt thanks go to Mrs Gomes for her unwavering commitment, countless hours of coaching, and the dedication she brings to nurturing this exceptional team.



SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

– CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

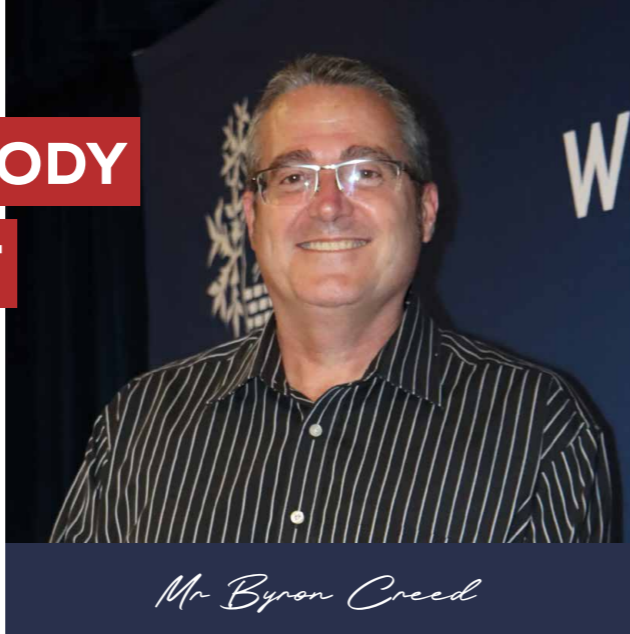
Thank you to Mrs Knight, School Management Team, educators and staff members, for your continued dedication and service to all our learners at Hillcrest High School. The year has been an incredibly busy, eventful, and pleasing school year and extremely rewarding in all departments.

Congratulations to Mrs Carol Edy and Mr Sibongiseni Ndebele on their official appointments as Deputy Principals of HHS in June 2025. Mrs Edy oversees Academics and Mr Ndebele oversees Sports, Buildings and Grounds. Both deputy principals have been stalwart staff members at our school for more than 30 years.

Congratulations to Mr Windsor, coaches and managers, players and supporters on a fantastic sporting year. Notable achievements include our 1st Netball Team placing 2nd at the Gelofted Night Series, 1st at the PSG Super 8s Series and winning the Spar Fast 5s again this year and our Swim Team moving up to take 3rd place in the D&D Co-Ed A-League Gala. The Rugby 1st Team took Bronze at the Gelofted Night series, our Hockey Boys' and Girls' 1st Teams placing 3rd at the PSG Super 8s, the Chess Team won the PADSSA League for the 10th consecutive year and our 1st Boys' Soccer Team placed second in the Mancosa Cup, and made it to the national level of the Curro Halala Cup in Gauteng. Our 1st, 2nd and U15A Girls' Softball Teams had another excellent year, finishing 1st in their respective leagues and we have also seen a growth in popularity in mountain biking and had our riders achieve good placement finishes.

The Matric Dance in April was a superb evening with the learners and their partners arriving in style and looking spectacular. The CM Girvin Multipurpose Centre was transformed into a beautiful setting and for once, even the weather was perfect for the occasion, adding to the ambience. The dance floor was packed for most of the evening, and I am sure great memories were made. Thank you to Mrs Edy, Mrs McLaughlin, Mrs Atkinson, Mrs Harmse, our staff members and the Grade 11 learners who served as waiters, for all your efforts in hosting another wonderful event.

Academic, Cultural and Sports tours allowed our learners and staff members to travel around the province, across the country, and globally, to compete and showcase our school's talent. This included selected Drama learners travelling to Shanghai for the renowned Summer Camp, the 2025 Shanghai International Sister Cities Youth Camp and four German learners winning all expenses paid tickets to Summer Camp courtesy of the Goethe Institute and Pasch Schule. Thank you to all our staff for giving of your time to ensure our learners were taken care of whilst they were away on tour and returned home safely.



Mr. Byron Creed

To all our learners and staff members who were selected for various sporting and academic codes, at provincial and national level, to represent in their chosen field of sport or academics, well done on your exceptional achievements.

HHS Annual Golf Day took place on 1 August 2025 and was another successful fundraising event with approximately R60 000 raised going towards purchasing additional sporting equipment. Thank you to Mrs Blom, Mr Windsor, Mrs Ingle, Mrs Soane, and staff members for making the entire event a huge success. A special word of thanks to all our generous sponsors for making the day a rewarding success.

HHS annual school play "Lights, Camera, Panic" was a hilarious comedy play and once again showcased the incredible depth of talent at HHS. Bravo to Mrs Macdonald and her team. The 19th Annual isiZulu Evening was extremely well supported and a beautiful evening showcasing the rich isiZulu culture. Thank you to Mr Ndebele, Ms Gabisa and the isiZulu department.

The Angel Fund Tea morning was a huge success with approximately R35000 raised to assist various HHS learners in financial need. Thank you to Mrs Edy and Mrs Kowlesur for organising the event.

The RCL Heritage Evening showcased the diverse cultures we have at HHS through dance and expression. Well done to the RCL team, the AV Club, Mrs Janssens and Mr Bartholomew. The Visual Art and Drama Supper Theatre Evening was a bittersweet evening as the talented learners showed off their set pieces, group performances and solo performances for the final time under the mentorship of Head of Drama of Ms Giorko as she embarks on a new venture.

The HHS Choir, Gospel Choir and Steel Drums and Marimba learners, and staff members provided entertainment and performed at various events and functions held throughout the year. Thank you, it is always a pleasure to watch you perform at our school occasions.

To RCL 2025, congratulations on an outstanding and successful year. From the outset, you outlined your fundraising events and achieved your goals. The notable highlights of the year were Movie Night and the Heritage Evening. We look forward to the new student Homework Area, adjacent to the CM Girvin Multipurpose Centre, with the purchasing of the picnic tables and benches. Well done to the RCL Executive committee, namely Thingo Dlamini, Lubanzi Maluleka, Natalie Rees, Shawna Creed and Teacher-in-Charge Mrs Janssens. You have most certainly raised the bar extremely high for RCL 2026.

CAPEX EXPENDITURE FOR 2025

The notable expenditure items and improvements to the school in 2025 included:

- The purchase of the VW Crafter Bus and VW Caddy vehicle to transport learners and staff to various school events and functions. This negotiation included the sponsorship of an additional, brand new, VW Caddy for exclusive use by the school.
- The refurbishment of the three outdoor netball courts including new fencing by Tenecon.
- The purchase of portable handheld two-way radios for the maintenance team, AV Club and Sports Department.
- The replacement, by the ICT Department, of 73 educator Windows 11 laptops, 36 PCs in the Media Centre and 10 PCs in the staff boardroom, for administrative staff and the Sports Department.
- AV Club upgrades to the school's stage lighting and sound system including the purchase of wireless microphones.
- High pressure cleaning of the building's gutters and removal of debris by Awnmaster.
- Attending to the remedial works on the roof of Block B of the school, replacing underlay and wooden battens by Roof-It.

To our maintenance and grounds staff members who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the school buildings, sports fields, swimming pool, and gardens are kept in immaculate condition - thank you. Thank you too, to our support staff who take care of the cleaning of our buildings, classrooms, bathrooms, and school facilities. It is a pleasure to work with such an incredible, cheerful team.

To Mrs Geel, staff members and learners of the Catering Department, thank you for working tirelessly throughout the year, early mornings, afternoons, evenings and weekends, providing food platters and refreshments for all the various functions and sporting events held throughout the year.

Thank you to Chairman Mr Ndlovu and the HHS Trust for your continued dedication, mentorship and funding of bursaries for the education and wellbeing of the trust learner beneficiaries.

The School Governing Body, thank you to all members for your valuable support, time and dedication in ensuring our great school always runs smoothly and in the best interests of Hillcrest High School. Many hours, evenings and weekends are spent in various meetings attending to all areas of governance at our school.

Our school Principal, Mrs Knight, thank you for your dedication, leadership and compassion shown throughout this year. I look forward to an exciting and memorable 2026 year ahead for Hillcrest High School.

Parents, Guardians, and Community members, thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to Hillcrest High School. We look forward to your continued support next year.

To the Matric Class of 2025, congratulations on the completion of your high school years. Well done, you've made it! The world awaits you with open arms, enjoy the journey, make plenty of memories along the way, and remember to live your life to the fullest. We wish you well with all your future endeavours and look forward to hearing of your triumphs and achievements.



"Success is not final; failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts."

Winston Churchill



Mr Mbulelo Mandindi

SCHOOL TRUST REPORT

As the year draws to a close, it's always inspiring to reflect on the work of the Hillcrest High School Trust and the impact it continues to have on our learners, staff, and the broader school community. The Trust's mission remains as important as ever: Providing opportunities that help learners thrive academically, socially, and personally, while also strengthening the connections that make our school community so special.

This year, we have focused on expanding the Scholarship Programme and deepening engagement with past pupils, sponsors, and partners who play such a vital role in the Trust's work.

TRUSTEES

We wish to acknowledge Mrs Elizabeth Snyman-Dicks, who resigned from her role as a trustee in February 2025 after accepting a new position as Head of the Legal Division at a firm that recruited her in late 2024. Liz has been an invaluable member of the Trust, offering her professional expertise and dedication to the learners. We thank her warmly for her contributions and wish her every success in this next stage of her career.

This year, the Trust committee included: Mbongeni Ndlovu (Chairperson), Sven Kraunsoe (Vice-Chairperson), Mrs Sue Schreuder (Finance Officer), Mr Rod van Eck, Ms Mpumi Methula, and Mbulelo Mandindi (Stakeholder Relations).

Mrs Denise Knight and Mrs Kim Blom continue to serve as ex-officio members representing the school. I want to extend my sincere thanks to all our trustees for their dedication, ideas, and energy - it is because of you that the Trust can achieve so much.

PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION

The Past Pupils and Supporters' Association remains a vital platform for alumni to stay connected with the school and contribute to its continued success. The Hillcrest High School Past Pupils Facebook page and the Scholarship LinkedIn page provide spaces to network, share updates, and celebrate achievements.

Next year, we plan to consolidate our alumni database further and create additional opportunities for engagement. We are particularly grateful to Mrs Judith Knox-Whitehead and the HHS Social Media Journalism Club, whose efforts in showcasing alumni accomplishments have strengthened our community connections.

HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL TRUST (HHST) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The Scholarship Programme continues to flourish. Through partnerships with sponsors, we provide full or partial tuition for deserving learners, alongside a mentorship programme that explores important topics such as mental health, gender-based violence, climate change, and social responsibility.

We congratulate our current scholarship recipients: Esihle Buthelezi (Grade 12), Faye Verster (Grade 12), Taylor Van Tromp (Grade 11), Nonjabulo Malinga (Grade 11), Mazithi Khunyana (Grade 10), Makayla Torchia (Grade 9), and Sisanda Dlamini (Grade 9).

We are also thrilled to announce four new scholarship recipients who will be joining Hillcrest High School in 2026: Lungelo Majola, Angel Machadu, Luhle Shezi, and Zasebo Maphumulo. Supporting learners from an earlier stage reflects our commitment to helping learners build confidence, resilience, and skills that will carry them throughout high school and beyond.

Our sincere thanks go to our 2025 sponsors: The Rotary Club of Hillcrest, Sven Kraunsoe, Custom Capital, Newlyn Group, Aeon Investments, Noluthando Khowa (Umbilo Plant Hire), the Muller family, and Stainbank-Johnson. Your support directly transforms the lives of our students and strengthens the Hillcrest High community.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look towards 2026, the Trust remains focused on growing the Scholarship Programme, engaging past pupils, and exploring new ways to support the Hillcrest High School community. Your continued involvement, whether through mentorship, sponsorship, or simply sharing your time and expertise, makes a real difference.

To the Class of 2025, congratulations on your achievements this year. We wish you every success as you move into the next stage of your journey. Please keep in touch and remember that the Hillcrest High School family will always be cheering you on.

Mbulelo Mandindi – Stakeholder Relations
mandindim@hhs.co.za

HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL STAFF 2025



Row 7: Mr C Madeley, Mr DA Gay, Mr S Silochan, Mr D Reuben, Mr LX Roux, Mr A Burger, Mr L Zuma, Mr N Naude, Mr M Bartholomew, Mr L Hudson-Piccione, Mr M Ngubane, Mr E Smith, Mr G Pearl **Row 6:** Mrs M Leppan, Mrs J Soane, Ms N Badenhorst, Ms M Bourreau, Mr N Majola, Mr J Langston, Mr C Marillier, Mrs D Van Heerden, Mrs J Hiscock, Mrs J Chabant, Mrs C Lessing, Mrs S Mtakwende **Row 5:** Mrs S Kowlesur, Mrs FJ Oosthuizen, Mrs L Prior, Mrs C Hodgskin, Mrs A Jugmohan, Mrs S Strydom, Mrs J Silva, Ms T Thrash, Mrs IA Bothma, Mrs A Stols, Mrs T Papé, Mrs E Gomes **Row 4:** Mrs S Geel, Mrs A Wessels, Mrs G Bastion, Ms SL Cope, Mrs NH Magubane, Mrs M Thompson, Mrs L Gordon, Mrs B Nicholas, Ms E Blom, Ms G Stow, Mrs L Topham, Ms T Mvumbu **Row 3:** Mrs M Bowley, Ms Z Khanyile, Mrs K Blom, Mr M Mthanthi, Mrs M Gordon, Mr L Mbuyazi, Mrs L Huxham, Mrs M Chetty, Mrs J Walters, Mrs K McCallum, Mrs JE Knox-Whitehead **Row 2:** Ms S Ramsout, Ms N Mbanjwa, Ms N Zulu, Mrs J Bega, Mr B Moffatt, Ms TP Gabisa, Mrs J Leuschke, Mrs L Janssens, Mr P Windsor, Ms N Dlamini, Ms S O'Halloran, Mrs S Macdonald **Row 1:** Mr E Moore, Mr B White, Mrs T Tonkin, Mrs R Harmse, Mrs CL Edy, Mrs DP Knight, Mr SD Ndebele, Mrs NE Atkinson, Ms G Giorko, Mrs P Ramsern, Mrs M McLaughlin **Absent:** Mrs E Naidoo, Mrs L Middleton, Mrs M Henderson, Mrs MOE Woodrow, Mr N Jali, Mrs AE Sebeikin

PRINCIPAL

Mrs DP Knight

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Mrs CL Edy Academics
Mr SD Ndebele Sports and Maintenance

DEPARTMENTAL HEADS (PL2)

Mrs J Leuschke Mathematics
Mrs R Harmse Sciences
Mrs M McLaughlin Social Sciences
Mrs NE Atkinson English

GRADE CONTROLLERS

Grade 12: Mrs NE Atkinson and Mrs R Harmse
Grade 11: Ms G Giorko and Mrs T Tonkin
Grade 10: Mr B White and Mrs P Ramsern
Grade 9: Mr E Moore and Mrs M McLaughlin
Grade 8: Mr B Moffatt and Ms TP Gabisa

HEAD OF LEARNER SUPPORT UNIT

Mrs J Leuschke

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICER

Mrs L Janssens

HEAD OF SPORTS

Mr P Windsor



ACADEMIC STAFF

AFRIKAANS

Subject Head – Mrs S Strydom

Mrs IA Bothma
Mrs M Henderson
Mrs L Middleton
Mrs T Papé
Mrs A Wessels

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

Subject Head – Mrs CL Edy

ACCOUNTING

Mrs J Chabant
Mr C Naidoo

BUSINESS ECONOMICS

Mrs M Leppan
Mr B Moffatt
Mrs S Mtakwende
Ms N Zulu

ECONOMICS

Mr B Moffatt

ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

Mrs J Chabant
Mrs M Leppan
Ms C Mathe
Mrs S Mtakwende
Mr C Naidoo
Mr LX Roux
Ms N Zulu

CONSUMER STUDIES

Subject Head – Mrs S Geel

Mrs JM Bega

DRAMATIC ARTS

Subject Head – Ms GA Giorko

Mr M Bartholomew
Mrs S Macdonald

ENGINEERING, GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Subject Head – Mrs T Tonkin

Mr A Burger

ENGLISH

Subject Head – Mrs NE Atkinson

Mrs G Bastion
Ms S Boyce
Ms M Bourreau
Mrs MC Gordon (LSU)
Mrs J Hiscock
Mr L Hudson-Piccione
Ms S Ramsout
Mrs AE Sebeikin
Mrs J Silva (LSU)
Mr E Smith
Mrs D Van Heerden

GEOGRAPHY

Subject Head – Mrs P Ramsern

Mr C Madeley
Mrs M McLaughlin
Mr S Silochan

GERMAN

Subject Head – Mrs IA Bothma

HISTORY

Subject Head – Mr EL Moore

Ms SL Cope
Ms G Giorko
Mrs MC Gordon
Mr L Hudson-Piccione
Mr M Ngubane

ISIZULU

Subject Head – Ms TP Gabisa

Mr N Jali
Mr SD Ndebele
Ms SP Nene
Mr M Ngubane
Mr L Zuma

LEARNER SUPPORT UNIT

Head of Unit – Mrs J Leuschke

Mrs MC Gordon
Mrs E Naidoo
Mrs F Oosthuizen
Mrs J Silva
Mrs A Stols

LIFE ORIENTATION

Subject Head – Mrs M McLaughlin

Mrs C Hodgskin
Mrs L Huxham
Mrs S Kowlesur
Mr N Majola
Mr C Marillier (PE)
Ms T Mvumbu
Mrs E Naidoo
Mrs L Topham (PE)
Mr B White
Mr P Windsor

LIFE SCIENCES

Subject Head – Mrs R Harmse

Ms E Blom
Ms N Dlamini
Mrs L Prior
Mrs A Stols

MATHEMATICS AND MATHEMATICAL LITERACY

Subject Head – Mrs J Leuschke

Mrs L Janssens
Mrs A Jugmohan
Mrs D Knight
Mr L Mbuyazi
Mr ML Mthanti
Miss S O'Halloran
Mrs FJ Oosthuizen
Mr D Reuben
Mr LX Roux
Ms GR Stow
Mrs MOE Woodrow

NATURAL SCIENCES

Subject Head – Mrs JE Knox-Whitehead

Ms E Blom
Ms N Dlamini
Miss S O'Halloran
Mrs L Prior
Mrs J Silva
Miss T Thrash

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Subject Head – Ms N Badenhorst

Mrs JE Knox-Whitehead
Miss T Thrash

TECHNOLOGY

Subject Head – Mrs T Tonkin

Mrs L Gordon
Mrs NH Magubane
Mr G Pearl
Mrs A Stols

TOURISM

Subject Head – Mrs M Singh

Mrs E Naidoo
Mr M Bartholomew
Mrs J Hiscock
Ms T Mvumbu

VISUAL ARTS

Subject Head - Mrs BE Nicholas

Mrs C Hodgskin

LEARNER COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT

Mrs S Kowlesur Social Worker
Mrs L Huxham Counsellor

MEDIA CENTRE

Mrs E Gomes Librarian
Mrs MB Chetty Assistant Librarian

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Head of Sports – Mr P Windsor

Mrs LJ Topham Assistant Sports Officer
Mr A Burger Sports Coach
Mr NG Majola Sports Coach
Mr CC Marillier Cricket Development Officer
Mr LX Roux Head Rugby Coach

NON- ACADEMIC & SUPPORT STAFF

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Business Manager – Mrs J Soane

Mrs M Thompson Bursar
Mrs CA Lessing Finance Assistant

PR AND MARKETING MANAGER – Mrs K Blom

FRONT OFFICE

Mrs M Bowley Principal's Personal Assistant
Mrs KL McCallum Data Computerisation and Administrative Clerk
Mrs J Walters Receptionist

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

IT Manager – Mr DA Gay

Mr N Naude Technology Integrator
Mr JB Langston Network Administrator

MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY STAFF

Mr I Summerton Grounds Manager
Mr MP Barthus Grounds and Security Assistant
Mr L Magubane Security
Mr CB Mzimela Handyman
Mr B Ndlovu Handyman
Ms ZO Khanyile General Assistant
Ms N Mbanjwa General Assistant



Photo by Isabella Te Brugge

FAREWELL MRS SINGH

We bid a fond farewell to one of our long serving educators, Mrs Marianne Singh. Mrs Singh joined the staff at Hillcrest High School, in 2003, as a History educator. A few years later she agreed to take on the challenge of introducing Tourism as a new subject to the school. She leaves the school having not only led significant growth in the Tourism department but also having made a positive impact on the lives of many learners and colleagues.

Mrs Singh shared some of her fondest memories from her 22 years of service to Hillcrest High School. "One of the funniest memories I have was when I asked a class of Grade 8s, who had arrived very late to class, to stand at their desks so that I could take register. I stated that I wanted to see who was missing. One learner 'innocently' said – 'Aren't YOU Miss Singh?'" The memory still makes her chuckle.

At her final staff meeting, Mrs Singh praised her colleagues for the work they do, the long hours, and facing the everyday challenges of teaching. She also thanked those educators who had taught her two children who also attended HHS. She was proud to share that they both have both qualified with Master's degrees, one from the University of Cape Town and one from the University of Witwatersrand thanks to the quality foundation they received at Hillcrest High School.

Many past pupils commented on social media about the impact Mrs Singh had on their lives.

Byron van der Valk, said, "I would like to take this moment to thank you for the invaluable role you played in shaping my journey. Your passion for teaching and the way you brought tourism to life in the classroom inspired me to pursue the very industry I am proud to be part of today. May this next chapter of your life be filled with the same joy, adventure, and fulfilment you gave to so many of your students!"

"She introduced me to travel. 13 years later, I am the mom behind South Africa's most followed Traveling Family on social media. She certainly did well!" **Candice Leigh King**.

"Your legacy will live on and so good to see so many of your past pupils remember you with fondness and love." **Brendon Scott**.



Mrs Singh

GOODBYE, GOD BLESS AND GOOD LUCK

BY MRS M SINGH

When I look back at the many years I've spent here I have so many fond memories of my learners. Some of the most memorable include when I was teaching a Grade 9 History class on trench warfare. I asked an army colleague for advice on setting a project on trenches without the learners having to make a model. Her suggestion – let them build it in the form of a cake! I thought this was a great idea.

I cannot tell you how much cake I ate in a day as I had five Grade 9 classes – and to add - this was not a group assessment! You can just imagine the number of cakes that were baked for each lesson. As such, my marking rubric changed drastically based on the taste and texture of the cake, rather than whether or not it resembled a trench...

Despite how challenging some classes are, they are the purpose of our being here and every day is fun being with the learners.

To my many friends I have made at school, thank you for your kind gestures, for checking on me, for spoiling me - I appreciate all that you do. Thank you, Mrs Knight, for your kindness shown, especially during times when I was unwell.

A special thank you to the Life Orientation and Tourism departments for my party – which I forgot to attend and had to be tracked down by Joe Te Brugge, our Head Boy! You know that you have a special place in my heart.



Ms Giorko

FAREWELL MS GIORKO

It was with great sadness that we bid Ms Georgina Giorko, Head of our Drama Department and current Grade 11 Grade Controller, farewell at the end of October. Ms Giorko matriculated from Hillcrest High School in 1998, joining the staff as the Drama teacher in 2009. In the last 16 years she has made an indelible mark on the school, raising the standard of Drama to where it is today, producing, and directing several memorable productions, supper theatre evenings, house and staff plays and musicals.

Ms Giorko is also a very talented performer who has, on many occasions, entertained us at events. She recently added teaching History to her repertoire and has shown that she is an adaptable and versatile educator with multiple interests. She has been a passionate and dedicated member of the School Management Team.

At her final staff meeting at Hillcrest High School, Ms G, as she has been fondly known by all, thanked her co-Grade Controller, Mrs Tonkin, fellow Management Team members and colleagues, sharing a few fun anecdotes and real-life bloopers from her time at HHS.

She made special mention of Mrs Knight, who she said had steadied the school through storms and whose unwavering commitment had shaped its heart. "You lead with grace, grit, and a deep sense of purpose - and it's been a privilege to walk beside you."

GOODBYE, HHS - I'LL CARRY YOU WITH ME - ALWAYS

BY MS G GIORKO

The first time I stepped foot into these buildings was in 1994. I loved Hillcrest High School from the very first day. I had some of the best times of my life here and made friends I still call besties - 27 years later.

When I matriculated, I left these corridors with big dreams of becoming an actress. The stage was where I first felt truly seen by my peers, where I discovered something special within myself. It was the one place that made me feel whole. Little did I know, my true calling was still waiting to be found.

Teaching, for me, has never just been about content. It's about connection. It's about making a child feel seen. It's about being the person who shouts their name when no one else is in the audience. It's about teaching values they may not learn at home, seeing through their bravado, encouraging them, listening to them, and correcting them when they need it. It is really about loving them.

And Hillcrest High School has been the perfect place to learn how to do that. I have encountered so many beautiful souls in these buildings and formed friendships that have shaped me into the teacher I am today. This staff truly cares - not just for the learners, but for each other. It is rare and it is precious.

Hillcrest High School has been my home, my stage, my classroom, and my heart. Thank you for the memories, the madness, and the magic.

I'll carry you with me - always.



WELCOME

This year we have welcomed several new staff members to our academic team. Mr Saurav Silochan formally joined the Geography Department, Mrs Tarryn Papé joined the Afrikaans Department, Ms Shannon O'Halloran joined the Mathematics and Natural Sciences Departments, Ms Tabitha Thrash joined the Natural and Physical Science Departments and Mr Llawdden Roux was officially added as an educator in the Mathematics and Commerce Departments. Later in the year Ms Thobekile Mvumbu joined our Tourism Department, Ms Charity Mathe and Mr Caleb Naidoo joined the Commerce Department and Ms Siphesihle Nene joined the isiZulu Department. We hope that their time at Hillcrest High School will be long and fruitful.



MATRICES 2024

Our Grade 12 Class of 2024 are to be congratulated on their National Senior Certificate Results. A total of 217 candidates wrote the NSC examinations at the school last year, with 156 achieving a Bachelor's pass, 42 achieving a Diploma pass, and 12 achieving Higher Certificate passes.

Kiarra Chetty achieved As for Physical Sciences, Mathematics, Life Sciences, English, Afrikaans First Additional Language, History and Life Orientation and is studying Medicine at UKZN. Abigail King, who also achieved 7As, excelled in Life Sciences, History, Tourism, Visual Arts, English, Afrikaans First Additional Language, Mathematical Literacy and Life Orientation.

Despite the numerous challenges they faced during their high school careers – from COVID-19, political unrest, floods, loadshedding, and water outages the Class of 2024 achieved 195 As across the grade, with Top Achiever, Annika Adendorff achieving 8 As and Kiarra Chetty and Abigail King achieving 7 As. A further four learners achieved 5As and six achieved 4 As.

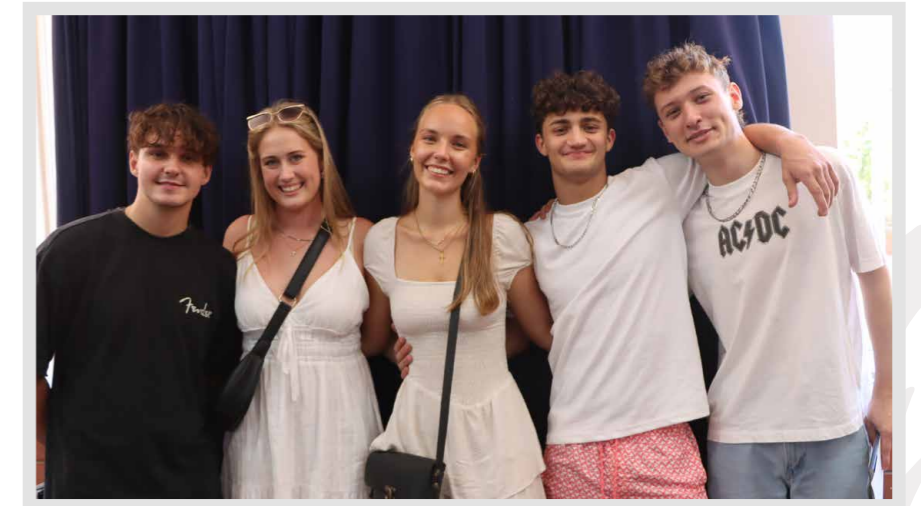
Learners who achieved 5As were:

- Leiah Kennedy
- Thandolwami Makhanya
- Fanelesibonge Mngadi
- Morgan Walker.

Top achiever for 2024, Annika Adendorff, who achieved As for Physical Sciences, Mathematics, Life Sciences, Accounting, English, Afrikaans First Additional Language and Life Orientation, also achieved an A for the additional subject she took, German Second Additional Language. She said she had no secret to share for how she achieved such excellent results. "I listened during class, and I did my homework. That made it easier when it was time to learn for exams or tests," she says. Annika is currently studying Chemistry and Physics at Potchefstroom University.

Learners who achieved 4As were:

- Tayla Davies
- Sinothando Dlamini
- Jessica Graham
- Sphile Kubone
- Chelsea Robertson
- Kaelyn Stainer.



Congratulations to the Class of 2024

The following pages highlight the achievements of individuals and teams across the five pillars of Hillcrest High School – Academics, Culture, Sports, Service and Leadership. Our theme for 2025 was Dream, Believe, Achieve.

JUNIOR PRIZEGIVING

SPORTS AWARDS

PACER TRAINING TROPHY
Most Promising Junior Sportswoman

Kellan Boynton

KINGSMEAD DIRECT TROPHY
Most Promising Junior Sportsman

Luthando Blose

WALSH TROPHY
Best Junior Sportswoman

Isabella Momoh

STERRETT TROPHY
Best Junior Sportsman

Tasriq Wingrove

CULTURAL AWARDS

Most Promising Grade 9 Artist

Kaitlyn Steyn

HAWKINS TROPHY
Most Promising Grade 10 Artist

Lubanzi Maluleka

Most Promising Grade 10 Performer

Nkazimulo Ngcobu

SERVICE AWARDS

LES MOFFATT TROPHY
For Outstanding Junior Service

Zenathi Mkhwanazi

ACADEMIC AWARDS

THE MOP CAP AWARD
Excellence in Grade 11 Consumer Studies

Hannah King

THE HOWARD CUP
Excellence in Grade 11 English

Ethan Ainhirn

UKZN OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
For Grade 11 Physical Science and Mathematics

Ethan Ainhirn

KLOOF CONSERVANCY AWARD
Top Grade 11 Life Science Student

Ethan Ainhirn

THE STEYTLER WILLIAMS ENDEAVOUR AWARD

Jamie-Lee Hiscock

LAURA ATKINSON SHIELD
The Pursuit of Excellence: Juniors

Brielle Pillay & Thingo Dlamini

ACADEMIC PRIZEWINNERS 2024

GRADE 8

1st Terania Govender
2nd Owethu Mkhize
3rd Khwezi Mnyandu
Progress Zibusiso Cebekhulu

GRADE 9

1st Luke Whittle
2nd Isabella Te Brugge
3rd Owumusa Dlamini
Progress Osiphile Mhlongo

GRADE 10

1st Brielle Pillay
2nd Amber-Lynn Jones
3rd Hannah Greffrath
Progress Snoxolo Dlamini & Paxton Searra

GRADE 11

1st Hannah King
2nd Ethan Ainhirn
3rd Micaella Hunter
Progress Matteo Moodley

Grade 11



**DREAM
BELIEVE
ACHIEVE**

GRADE 12 CLASS OF 2025

SENIOR SPEECH NIGHT PRIZE WINNERS

Guest speaker at the Hillcrest High School Senior Speech Night event, Mr Peter Herweg, applauded the Grade 12 Class of 2025 on reaching this point in their education, motivating them to dig deeper for the next several weeks and do their best in the National Senior Certificate examinations. He amused and motivated the audience with his anecdotes before being called on to hand out the prizes to the top achievers.

At the event, which was held in the school hall on 16 October 2025, Ethan Ainhirn was awarded the coveted Dux Award as the Top Achiever of 2025. He was also the winner of eleven other subject awards and trophies and was re-awarded Honours Cum Laude. Ethan, who has been a consistent high achiever throughout his high school career, surpassed the requirements of an aggregate of 85% or more by achieving 90%. He was awarded the subject prizes for Mathematics, Physical Sciences, English, Geography, Life Orientation, and Further Studies in Mathematics and also took home the trophies for top marks in both the Chemistry and Physics components of Physical Sciences, the English Creative Writing and Literature awards, and the trophy for excellence in Mathematics and Science combined.

The Runner Up or Proxime Accesit Dux, Hannah King was the top achiever in Business Studies and Tourism, sharing the subject trophy for Engineering, Graphics and Design (EGD) with Julia Cameron and the EGD PAT (Practical Examination) trophy with Eryn Beech. Hannah was also re-awarded her Honours Cum Laude.

Micaella Hunter, who placed third in the grade, won the subject award for Life Sciences, shared the German Foreign Language trophy win with Vanessa Van Der Westhuizen and was awarded the Afrikaans trophy for a learner who shows a passion for the language. She was also re-awarded her Honours Cum Laude.



ACCOUNTING - SKJOLDE TROPHY
Lindokuhle Nyaba

PRICE WATERHOUSE COOPERS TROPHY
for Excellence in Accounting
Lindokuhle Nyaba

AFRIKAANS
Vanessa Van Der Westhuizen

THE JORDAAN TROPHY FOR AFRIKAANS
for a Learner who shows a Passion for the Language
Micaella Hunter

BUSINESS STUDIES
Hannah King

CONSUMER STUDIES
Dayna Gagiano

MARGE MCLAREN TROPHY
for Practical Excellence in Grade 12
Consumer Studies
Shannyn Olivier

DRAMATIC ARTS
Isabella Traini

THE N.M.I. TROPHY
for Achievement in Practical Drama
Zofia Giorko

ECONOMICS - THE SUTTON TROPHY
Cheyenne Hoareau

JEWASKIEWITZ TROPHY FOR EGD
for the Top Learner in Engineering, Graphics & Design
Julia Cameron and Hannah King

ENGINEERING GRAPHICS AND DESIGN
for Excellence Achieved in the EGD P.A.T.
Hannah King and Eryn Beech

ENGLISH
Ethan Ainhirn

THE GRADE 12 LITERATURE PRIZE
Ethan Ainhirn

THE ALAN PATON PRIZE
for Creative Writing in English
Ethan Ainhirn

THE WATT TROPHY FOR ENGLISH
for a Learner who shows a Passion for the Language
Conrad Botha

GEOGRAPHY WITT MEMORIAL TROPHY
Ethan Ainhirn

GERMAN – FOREIGN LANGUAGE
Vanessa Van Der Westhuizen and Micaella Hunter

HISTORY – THUNDER TROPHY
Lola Klijnstra

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- SCHAUERTE TROPHY**
for Excellence in "IT"
Sahil Rambaruth

MBANJWA FAMILY TROPHY FOR ISIZULU
for Excellence in Mother Tongue isiZulu
Masande Luthuli

ISIZULU
for Excellence in Non-Mother Tongue isiZulu
Tanaka Chinodakufa

LIFE ORIENTATION
Ethan Ainhirn

LIFE SCIENCES – HAY TROPHY
Micaella Hunter

**MATHEMATICAL LITERACY
- LEUSCHKE-FISCHER TROPHY**
Sanjli Singh and Kelsey Brown

MATHEMATICS - STIEGER TROPHY
Ethan Ainhirn

**FURTHER STUDIES MATHEMATICS STANDARD
- SPARKS TROPHY**
Ethan Ainhirn

PHYSICAL SCIENCE - SADLER PHYSICS TROPHY
Ethan Ainhirn

**PHYSICAL SCIENCE - KNOX-WHITEHEAD
TROPHY FOR CHEMISTRY**
Ethan Ainhirn

PHYSICAL SCIENCE
Ethan Ainhirn

**TROPHY FOR EXCELLENCE IN
MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE**
Ethan Ainhirn

TOURISM - SINGH FAMILY TROPHY
Hannah King

VISUAL ARTS
Cheyenne Hoareau

THE BOTHMA TROPHY
for Outstanding Practical Work in Art:
Cheyenne Hoareau

THE KIRSTIE ROBERTSON MEMORIAL TROPHY
for Outstanding Achievement in Matric Art
Kelsey Brown

SPORTS AWARDS

THE MARSHALL SHIELD
Best Senior All-Round Sportsman
Cuan Le Roux

THE J.T.H. ELECTRICAL TROPHY
Best Senior All-Round Sportswoman
Lola Klijnstra

CULTURAL AWARDS

MCDONALD TROPHY for Best Actor/Actress
Isabella Traini

THE RYGILL TROPHY
for Public Speaking, Grade 11 & 12
Endinako Magafela

THE EVELYN FORREST CUP
for the Greatest Contribution to Cultural Affairs
Jade Gericke

SERVICE AWARDS

THE S.R.C. TROPHY
for the Best Ambassador of the School
Lola Klijnstra

GOOD SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL
Franz Trophy & Jade Gericke

HEAD LEADERS' COMMENDATION
Joe Te Brugge & Kylie Coetzee

LES MOFFATT TROPHY
for Outstanding Senior Service
Jessica Coutts

THE MITCHELL TROPHY for Perseverance
Zainab Wingrove

ITSHWELE LEMPANGELE AWARD
Spirit of Togetherness
Zofia Giorko & Kwandile Gumbi

THE WALSH TROPHY for the Pursuit of Excellence
Lola Klijnstra

THE COBB / MULLER SHIELD
for the Best All Rounder
Jade Gericke & Hannah King

VALEDICTORY ASSEMBLY

JOJO TROPHY for SLT Member of the Year
Isabella Traini

BRAD SMITH TROPHY for the Gentle Giant
Trent Taskes

ROCHELLE PRONK TROPHY for Good Fellowship
Lola Klijnstra

MICHELLE VOGELZANG TROPHY for Citizenship
Jade Gericke



SPORTS & CULTURAL AWARDS



BADMINTON - BOYS'
Most Valuable Player

Jeriah Govender

BADMINTON - GIRLS'
Most Valuable Player

Isabella Te Brugge

CHESS
Most Consistent Player
Exceptional Service to 1st Team Chess
Most Valuable Player

Jaden Strydom
Ethan Ainhirn
Juan-Diego Naidoo

CHOIR
Most Dedicated Choir Member
Exceptional Musicality Award
Most Versatile Singer
Most Committed Choir Member

Obedingwa Ngidi
Hannah King
Jade Gericke
Hayley Chabant

CRICKET
Best 1st XI Bowler
Gareth Irvine Trophy for Batsman of the Year
Team Man of the Year
Dalton Duck Award
Finlayson Cup for Most Improved Cricketer

Connor Lowe
Paul Momoh
Kienan Sawyer
Travis Whiteside
Tana Botha

CROSS COUNTRY
Most Valuable Runner

Bradley Leppan

DEBATING
Dedication and Commitment Trophy: Senior
Akob Trophy for the Top Senior Speaker
Jugdaw/Reddy Captain's Trophy

Lubanzi Maluleka
Endinako Magafela
Endinako Magafela

DRAMA
Most Improved Actor
Best Actress in a Supporting Role
Best Actor in a Supporting Role
Best Actress
Best Actor
Mike Dunleavy Award for Outstanding
Dedication and Passion for Drama

Daniel Burton
Isabella Traini
Siphesihle Mthiya
Zofia Giorko
Amahle Zungu

Nkumbulo Zulu

EQUESTRIAN
The Rothman Floating Trophy for the Best Rider
The Joker Jump Trophy for the Best Show Jumper
The Best Dressage Rider

Kingsley Matthews
Kingsley Matthews
Kingsley Matthews

ESPORTS
Most Valuable Player

Tyler Muller

GOLF
Most Valuable Player

William Asquith

GOSPEL CHOIR
Best Soloist since Grade 8
Versatile Member of the Choir
Most Reliable Leader
Dedicated Member since Grade 8
Dedicated Member since Grade 8

Zofia Giorko
Snqobile Mbili
Nonjabulo Malinga
Siphesihle Mthiya
Amahle Zungu

HOCKEY - BOYS'
Golden Stick Trophy for the
Highest 1st Team Goal Scorer
Ebsworth Cup for the Most Improved Player
Le Tourneur Floating Trophy for Player of the Year
"The Christopher Robin Shield for Excellence"
Presented to the most inspirational 1st Team
Boys' Hockey Player

Asande Ngobese
Keagan Glauser & Brendon Frenzel
Brendon Smith & Asande Ngobese

Cuan Le Roux & Tasriq Wingrove

HOCKEY - GIRLS'
Contribution to Girls' Hockey
Kim Exsteen Trophy for the Most Promising Junior
Jackson Trophy for Player of the Year

Zainab Wingrove
Kellan Boynton
Kellan Boynton

INDOOR HOCKEY - BOYS'
Most Valuable 1st Team Player

Cuan Le Roux

INDOOR HOCKEY - GIRLS'
Most Valuable 1st Team Player

Anele Sabela

MOUNTAIN BIKING
Rider of the Year - Boys' Junior
Rider of the Year - Boys' Senior
Rider of the Year - Girls' Junior
Rider of the Year - Girls' Senior

Bryce Fuchs
Dominique Knoesen
Erin Lowe
Taygen Oberholzer

NETBALL
Senior Player of the Year
The Combrink Trophy for the Most Valuable
Contribution to Netball
Best Defence Player
Best Attacking Player
Best Goal Average Trophy
sponsored by Belinda Pitt
The Tarr Netball Trophy for 'Spirit of Netball'

Lisakhanya Mncube

Hannah Greffrath
Thandolwethu Sishi
Lola Klijnstra

Michaela Clegg
Emma Atkinson

PHOTOGRAPHY
Five Years of Dedicated Participation

Samantha Berndt,
Ariyin Collingwood &
Jade Gericke
Megan McFarlane

Most Consistent and Loyal Member

RUGBY 7S
Most Valuable 1st Team Player

Azola Shandu

RUGBY
Du Toit Trophy for Rookie of the Year
Hall Trophy for the Most Capped 1st Team Player
Arnot Trophy for the Most Improved Player
Snowy Suter Trophy for Sportsmanship
Aitken Trophy for the Most Consistent Player
Members Club Trophy for the
Player's Player of the Year
Santana Trophy for Dedication to Rugby
Grubb Shield for Player of the Year

Mvelo Shangase
Nigel Dzikamunhenga
Jamie Bastion
Joshua Whittle
Andile Madikizela

Tanner Evans
Tanner Evans
Tsepo Moloi





SIGN LANGUAGE

Enthusiasm for Sign Language
Passion for Sign Language
Dedication to Sign Language

David Mackenzie
Jade Gericke & Hayley Chabant
Faye Verster

SOCCER - BOYS'

Top Scorer
Most Valuable 1st Team Player
Most Valuable 1st Team Player
Golden Glove Award - Goalkeeper of the Year

Ayedan Whitby
Thingoluhle Shezi
Bayanda Ntombela
Sinenhloso Shozi

SOCCER - GIRLS'

Most Valuable 1st Team Player
(Donated by Wimpy Hillcrest)
Tayla Kinsey Golden Boot Award
(for the Top 1st Team Goal Scorer)

Kylie Coetzee

Eryn Beech

SOCIAL MEDIA JOURNALISM

Most Valuable Member
Best Writer

Jade Gericke
Ariyin Collingwood

SOFTBALL - BOYS'

Player of the Year

Ethan Moss

SOFTBALL - GIRLS'

Sunkel Trophy for Player of the Year
Sunkel Trophy for Player of the Year

Shannyn Olivier
Jordan Kidgell

SOFTBALL

The Zolly Trophy for Dedication
and Excellence in Softball
The Zolly Trophy for Dedication
and Excellence in Softball

Jordan Kidgell

Shannyn Olivier

STEEL DRUMS

Dedication and Enthusiasm
Loyalty and Passion
Commitment and Enthusiasm
Dedication and Zeal
Outstanding Commitment to the Band
Exceptional Service and Commitment to the Band

Faye Verster
Ariyin Collingwood
Isabella Traini
Cadence Barclay
Hannah King
Jade Gericke

SWIMMING

Junior Victrix Ludorum

Sienna Kidgell
& Annabelle van Heerden
Bradley Leppan
Kayla-Jade van Heerden
Cuan Le Roux

Junior Victor Ludorum
Senior Victrix Ludorum
Senior Victor Ludorum

TENNIS - BOYS'

Most Valuable Player

Nhlanhla Luthuli

TOUCH RUGBY - BOYS'

Player of the Year

Siviwe Luthuli &
Sibusiso Mapotse

TOUCH RUGBY - GIRLS'

Player of the Year

Thingo Dlamini

STAFF

Most Dedicated Staff Member or Coach
Most Dedicated Staff Member or Coach

Ms E Blom
Ms TP Gabisa



KZN & SA REPRESENTATIVES

Row 6: Luthando Blose, Sibusiso Mbatha, Jeriah Govender, Nishal Pailath, Rudy Klijnstra, Bradley Leppan, Uyanda Hlongwa, Michaela Clegg, Kellan Boynton, Leante Goosen

Row 5: Thabang Makhanya, Nathan Patrick, Siviwe Luthuli, Simthandile Zwane, Sibusiso Mapotse, Shannyn Olivier, Ethan Moss, Bayanda Gumbi, Esihle Mangele, Alwande Sibiya, Jayden-Lee Anderson

Row 4: Jodi MacLachlan, Megan Maher, Macayela Johansson, Anele Sabela, Cebolakhe Gcuma, Banele Khuboni, Jordan Karriem, Aphelele Chiliza, Natalie Steyn, Isabella Te Brugge, Shaelyn Geldenhuys, Piya Brown

Row 3: Ubenathi Mbatha, Alwande Ngxongo, Isabella Momoh, Sesona Guzana, Ropafadza Marinda, Hannah Greffrath, Melokuhle Dlamini, Banele Chiya, Grace Humphreys, Katelyn Peattie, Brightness Ngcobo, Faith William

Row 2: Casey Erasmus, Liam Smith, Theresli Meyers, Roman Giorko, Dakota Horeau, Maroellé Coertse, Kayla Manning, Jose Lyons, Eryn Beech, Thingo Dlamini, Senzelwe Nene, Langalihle Nxumalo

Row 1: Lwandle Vukeka, Avela Madela, Amkelo Radebe, Mr B White, Kylie Coetzee, Mrs DP Knight, Lola Klijnstra, Mrs L Topham, Asande Mazibuko, Ziyanda Majola, Ndalentle Mnguni



ACHIEVERS 2025

TOURNAMENTS & COMPETITIONS

CON SPIRITU AFRIKAANS SKRYF KOMPETISIE

Sinhloso Shozi – 2nd Place.

CURRO HALALA CUP - SOCCER

1st Team was one of two KZN schools' teams to qualify for the National Tournament at Curro Heronbridge. Finished 10th overall.

D&D CO-ED 'A' LEAGUE GALA

Placed 3rd. Top Public School in the A league.

DISCOVERY CUP - SOCCER

U15 Team – Silver Medals.

GELOFTE NIGHT SERIES

1st Netball – Silver Medals
1st Rugby – Bronze Medals.

MANCOSA TERM 2 - A LEAGUE SOCCER

1st team – Silver Medals.

CHESS

Won the PADSSA League for the 10th year in a row (Won for 12 years in total).

PSG SUPER 8S TOURNAMENT

1st Netball – Winners of their division
2nd Netball – Placed 2nd in their division
1st Boys' Hockey – 3rd in their division
1st Girls' Hockey – 3rd in their division
Hillcrest High School placed 3rd overall.

SPAR KZN SCHOOLGIRLS' FAST 5S NETBALL TOURNAMENT

1st Netball – Won the tournament.

TOUCH RUGBY ELITE LEAGUE DIVISION

1st Boys' Touch Rugby Team - Won the Elite League Division for 9th year in a row.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVERS

ACTION NETBALL

Michaela Clegg - KZN U17 (2026).

ATHLETICS

Annabelle van Heerden - KZNCSSA
Kayla-Jade van Heerden - KZNCSSA
Thabiso Malembe - KZNCSSA and SACSSA. Achieved Gold medals for High Jump, Long Jump, 800m at KZNCSSA.



BADMINTON

Ndalentle Mnguni – KZN U15D
Roman Giorko – KZN U15A & SA U15
Jeriah Govender – KZN U17A & KZN U19B, U17 SA Squad
Isabella Te Brugge – KZN U19B
Adam Foulkes – KZN U19C
Teagan Baxter – KZN U17B
Nathan Patrick – KZN U17B & KZN U19C & U17 SA Squad
Faith William – KZN U19C
Lwandle Vukeka – KZN U19C
Ropafadzo Marinda – KZN U19C
Banele Khuboni – KZN U19D
Jordan Karriem – KZN U19D
Brightness Ngcobo – KZN U19D
Jeriah Govender and Nathan Patrick - Silver Medal in Air Badminton competition.

BASS FISHING

Joe Te Brugge – Top Junior, KZN Small Craft Bass League.

BIATHLE / TRIATHLE

Bradley Leppan – KZN Team, SA Team
Bradley has also qualified for the World Championships in Cape Town in December 2025.

CHESS

Juan-Diego Naidoo – KZN Team
Dejuan Govender – KZN Team.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Jade Gericke has completed over 127 hours of community service, aside from her service club activities at the school.

CRICKET

Stephen Munro - U15 KZN Main Trials
Keegan Compton-James - U15 KZN Main Trials
Stefan Chetty - U16 KZN Main Trials
Tasriq Wingrove – U17 KZN Main Trials
Paul Momoh – U17 KZN (2025)
Mr Marillier – KZN U17 Manager (2025).

CYCLING

Taygen Oberholzer – Placed 3rd in seeded category, U17 Age Group in Amashova 65km Half Challenge race. 24th Female Rider and 118th in the Mixed Category out of 519 participants.

DANCE

Tatum Noyle – Won 7 Gold Medals, 3 Silver and 3 Bronze Medals at South Africa Championship of Performing Arts (SACOPA). SA Colours for Dancing – will represent South Africa in Los Vegas in 2026.

Luyanda Hlophe - Gold Status for Contemporary, Ballet and Musical Theatre, and Silver for both Hip-Hop Dances. Selected to compete at National Dance Competition.

Thingo Dlamini - Gold Status for Contemporary Solo, Musical Theatre Solo, Contemporary Duet (3rd in KZN), Ballet Quartet (1st in KZN). Selected to compete at National Dance Competition.

Sophy Dalton - Qualified to compete in the National Dance Competition. Only three dancers from KZN qualify in each category to go to Nationals.

Thingo achieved Gold Status Qualifying for Nationals in the Contemporary Solo, the Musical Theatre Solo, the Contemporary Duet and the Ballet Quartet categories. She placed 1st in KZN for the Ballet Quartet and 3rd in KZN for the Contemporary Duet. Sophy achieved Gold in the Lip Sync Solo Category, Musical Theatre, and a Bronze in the Classical Ballet Solo Category.

DEBATING

Endinako Magafela and Lubanzi Maluleka were selected to participate in the National Individual Debating & Public Speaking Championship (NIDPSC), held at St Mary's Waverley in Johannesburg.

DRUMMIES

Asanda Mazibuko – KZN Senior Squad. Placed 3rd at National Championships. South African National Team. Placed 2nd in Senior Mace Solo and remains undefeated in Senior POM Solo Champion of KZN at the FDDCMKZN.

ECO-SCHOOLS CLUB

WESSA Eco-School's Platinum-1 Award for 2024 for diligence in working towards a healthy environment at the school.

EQUESTRIAN

Kingsley Matthews – Runner up: 95cm KZN eventing.

ESKOM SCIENCE FAIR – KZN CENTRAL REGION

Saiusha Viraragavan - Gold in the Social Science – Education Studies category, the Eskom Award, (Best Female), Best in Category – Social Science and Overall, Best Performing Learner (Secondary School Level).
Owomusa Dlamini - Silver Pin
Jorja Pretorius - Bronze Pin
Ameera Bham - Bronze Pin
Phelisa Hadebe - Bronze Pin.

ESKOM INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

Saiusha Viraragavan – Won Silver competing against international competitors.

HOCKEY – BOYS'

Asande Ngobese – PADSSA U18A
Brendon Smith – PADSSA U18B.

HOCKEY – GIRLS'

Kady Clemmett - PADSSA U14B
Senamile Mvelase - PADSSA U16A
Akwande Luthuli - PADSSA U16B
Theresli Meyers - PADSSA U16B
Shannyn Olivier - PADSSA U18A
Madison Bull - PADSSA U18B
Natalie Rees - PADSSA U18B
Nangamso Nxasana - PADSSA U18B
Isabella Momoh – PADSSA U16A, KZN U16B, Into Africa U18 Squad (travelled to Netherlands)
Langalihle Nxumalo – PADSSA U16A, KZN U16C
Anele Sabela – PADSSA U18A, KZN U18
Akwande Luthuli - DPL
Kellan Boynton - DPL
Langalihle Nxumalo - DPL
Tiffany Scott - DPL
Mrs Topham – KZN U18B Coach, DPL U18 Coach, Into Africa Coach.



INDOOR HOCKEY

Anele Sabela – KZN U18B
Langalihle Nxumalo – KZN U16B
Isabella Momoh – KZN U16B
Gareth Henning – KZN U16
(non-travelling reserve).

HONOUR SOCIETY

The following learners achieved the Honour Society selection criteria of a 75% aggregate and a minimum of 3 A-symbols:

Ethan Ainhirn	Julia Angus
Cadence Barclay	Eryn Beech
Samantha Berndt	Kelsey Brown
Esihle Buthelezi	Lwandile Buthelezi
Hayley Chabant	Lindokuhle Chiya
Kylie Coetzee	Ariyin Collingwood
Leah Donkin	Dayna Gagiano
Jade Gericke	Gabriella Herbst
Cheyenne Hoareau	Micaella Hunter
Jordan Kidgell	Hannah King
Caitlyn Kistensamy	Lola Klinjstra
Cuan Le Roux	Connor Lowe
Masande Luthuli	Lehar Maharaj
Lerato Mantashe	Chloe Marais
Siphesihle Mhlanga	Yuktha Moodley
Siphelele Mthethwa	Khanya Mzobe
Buhlebethu Ndhlela	Madison Neville
Khethelo Ngcamu	Lethokuhle Ngubane
Sesandile Ngubane	Carla Schwarz
Joe Te Brugge	Isabella Traini
Vanessa V D Westhuizen	Faye Verster
Jennifer Zinn.	

MOTOR SPORT

Connor Du Plessis – KZN Team.

NETBALL

Kady Clemmett - PADSSA U14
Piya Brown - PADSSA U16
Sophie Buccimazza - PADSSA U16
Hannah Greffrath - PADSSA U17
Anathi Mchunu - PADSSA U18
Lisakhanya Mncube - PADSSA U18
Katelyn Peattie – PADSSA U15, KZN U15
Kellan Boynton – PADSSA U15, KZN U15
Michaela Clegg – PADSSA U16, KZN U16
Emma Atkinson – PADSSA U18,
Ethekwini District U19
Thandolwethu Sishi – PADSSA U18, KZN U18
Lola Klijnstra – PADSSA U18, KZN U18, SA Squad U18.

PAGEANT WINNERS

Shaylize Gopal - Beauty with a Purpose Crown and Crowned 2nd Princess in the Queen of South Africa Teen Pageant.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Norma-Jean Price took 2nd place in the Kearsney College Culture@Kearsney Photography Competition. Category 1: Up Close and Personal with her entry "Eye Contact."

RUGBY

Tanner Evans – U18 Tier 2 Team
Luke Ball – U18 Tier 2 Team
Ayden Nel – U16 Tier 2 Team
Mvelo Shangase – U16 Tier 2 Team
Luke Whittle – U16 Tier 2 Team
Simthandile Zwane – U15 Tier 2 Team
Menelisi Khathi – U15 Tier 2 Team
Thamsanqa Sifumba – U15 Tier 2 Team
Ndalo Vilakazi – U14 Tier 2 Team
Mr Roux has been appointed as the U15 Tier 2 Coach for the trials
Leante Goosen – U16 KZN Duikers (Girls).

SASOL SKILLS EGD COMPETITION

Mr A Burger, Jaryd Andre and Mrs T Tonkin won regional level of the Provincial Sasol Skills Competition and were selected to represent KZN at National level. Placed in Top 3.

SOCCER – BOYS'

Ikhona Mahlasela – Highways U14
Melokuhle Ndlozi – KZN U14
Esihle Myende – Highways U15
Jose Lyons – KZN U15
Okuhle Nxumalo – KZN U15
Philisa Mngwengwe – KZN U16, Highways U16
Zekhethelo Zwane – KZN U16
Liyema Buthelezi – Highways U16
Simthandile Gwavuma – Highways U16
Melokuhle Shezi – Highways U16
Zekhethelo Zwane – Highways
Mr Majola – KZN U16 Age Group Co-ordinator.

SOCCER – GIRLS'

Sienna Kidgell – Highways U14
Osiphile Vilakazi – Highways U14
Natalie Steyn – Highways U14
Avela Madela – Highways U15
Sienna Fripp – Highways U16
Ayabonga Ngcobo – Highways U16
Chelsea Stainbank – Highways U16
Kylie Coetzee – Highways U19
Anele Sabela – Highways U19
Awande Nzuzza – Highways U19
Sienna Kidgell – KZN U14
Theresli Meyers – KZN U15
Langalihle Nxumalo – KZN U15
Katelyn Peattie – KZN U15
Grace Humphreys – KZN U15 (non-travelling reserve)
Sophie Buccimazza – KZN U16
Eryn Beech – KZN U19 (non-travelling reserve).

SOFTBALL – BOYS'

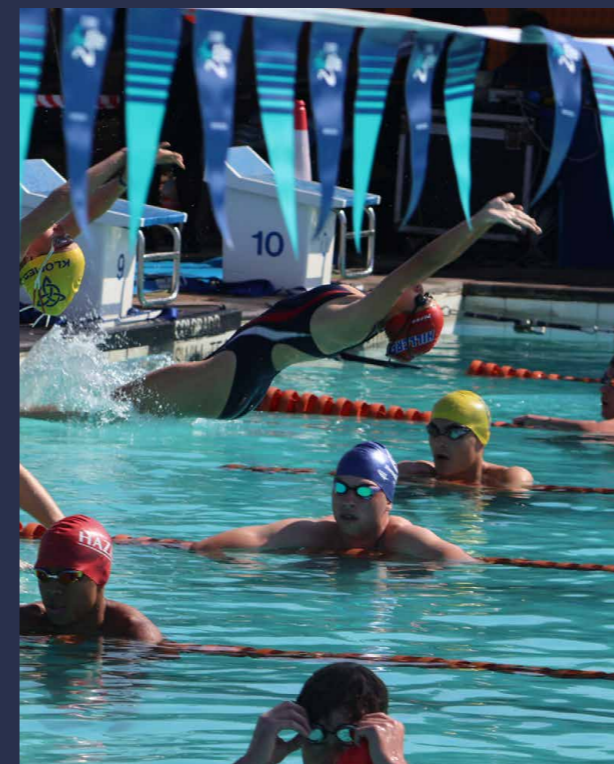
Keegan Compton-James – KZN U15A
Ryan Rees – KZN U15A
Stephen Munro – KZN U15B
Ethan Moss – KZN U17.

SOFTBALL – GIRLS'

Jayden-Lee Anderson – KZN U15 A
Kellan Boynton – KZN U15 A
Laela-Geldenhuis – KZN U15 B
Langalihle Nxumalo – KZN U15 B
Zoë Terblanche – KZN U15 B
Sienna Kidgell – KZN U15 A
Isabella Momoh – KZN ELITE U17
Jodi Maclachlan – KZN ELITE U17
Maroellé Coertse – KZN ELITE U17, KZN U19
Melokuhle Dlamini – KZN ELITE U17
Philasande Motaung – KZN ELITE U17
Shaelyn Geldenhuis – KZN ELITE U17
Natalie Rees – KZN U19 KZN
Senzelwe Nene – KZN U19 KZN
Shannyn Olivier – KZN U19 KZN.

SWIMMING

Sienna Kidgell – PADSSA U14
Liv van den Heever – PADSSA U14
Annabelle van Heerden – PADSSA U15
Lincoln Hopper – PADSSA U15
Bradley Leppan – PADSSA U15, KZN Open Water, SA Open Water, SA Junior Nationals
Ludick Erasmus – PADSSA U16
Kayla Jade van Heerden – PADSSA U17
Heinrich Freitag – PADSSA U17
Jamey Grobbelaar – PADSSA U17
Keira Duncan – PADSSA U18, KZN U18
Cuan Le Roux – PADSSA U18, KZN U18
Mr White – KZN Manager
Mrs Strydom – KZN Manager.



TOUCH RUGBY - GIRLS'

Lola Klijnstra – SA U20 Ladies' Touchbok Team. Vice-Captain. Represented SA at Youth Atlantic Cup in Limerick. Won bronze.

- Casey Erasmus – KZN Touch U13A
- Jayden-Lee Anderson – KZN Touch U15A
- Kellan Boynton – KZN Touch U15A
- Avela Hadebe – KZN Touch U15A
- Banele Chiya – KZN Touch U15B
- Dakota Hoareau – KZN Touch U15B
- Natalie Steyn – KZN Touch U15B
- Ndalente Mnguni – KZN Touch U15C
- Sesona Guzana – KZN Touch U15C
- Hannah Greffrath – KZN Touch U17A
- Ziyanda Majola – KZN Touch U17B
- Lola Klijnstra – KZN Touch U19A, KZN Mixed Open Team, SA U20 Women's
- Olwethu Dladla – KZN Impi's U17 U21 Ladies' Team
- Piya Brown – KZN Impi's U17, SA Invitational U21 Ladies' Team
- Caitlyn van Niekerk – KZN Impi's U17
- Kayla Manning – KZN Impi's U19, SA Invitational U21 Ladies' Team
- Kylie Coetzee – KZN Impi's U19
- Grace Humphreys – KZN Impi's U19, SA Invitational U21 Ladies' Team
- Kayden Carson - SA Invitational U21 Ladies' Team
- Macayela Johansson - SA Invitational U21 Ladies' Team
- Thingo Dlamini - SA Invitational U21 Ladies' Team
- Keira Du Plessis - SA Invitational U21 Ladies' Team
- Megan Maher - SA Invitational U21 Ladies' Team.

TOUCH RUGBY - BOYS'

- Ubenathi Mbatha – KZN Impi's U15
- Esihle Manqele – KZN Impi's U15
- Aphelele Chiliza – KZN Impi's U15, SA Invitational Men's Open Division Team
- Simthandile Zwane – KZN Impi's U15
- Liam Smith – KZN Impi's U15
- Cebolakhe Gcuma – KZN Impi's U17
- Sibusiso Mapotse – KZN Impi's U17, SA Invitational Men's Open Division Team
- Bayanda Gumbi – KZN Impi's U17, SA Invitational Men's Open Division Team
- Siviwe Luthuli – KZN Impi's U17, Referee



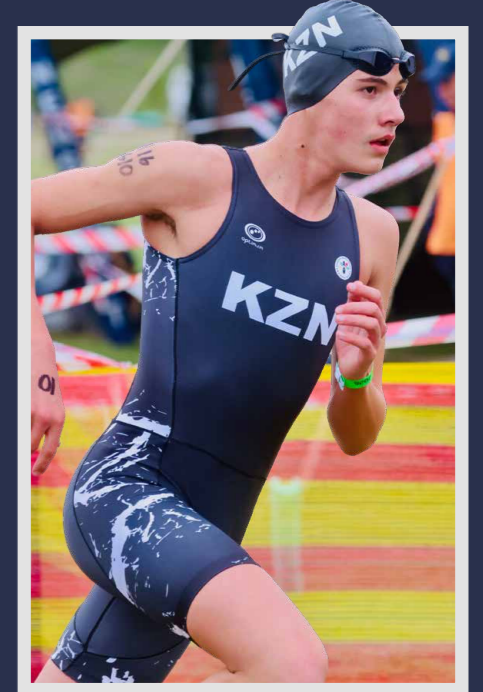
- Tamuka Chovuchovu – KZN Impi's U17, Referee
- Luthando Blose – KZN Impi's U17, Referee
- Alwande Sibiya – KZN Impi's U17
- Rudy Klijnstra – KZN Impi's U17, SA Invitational Men's Open Division Team
- Alwande Ngxongo – KZN Impi's U17
- Nishal Pailath – KZN Impi's U1, SA Invitational Men's Open Division Team
- Garth Smith – KZN Impi's U17
- Uyanda Hlongwa – KZN Impi's U17, SA Invitational Men's Open Division Team
- Sebastian Schaub-Kuffler – KZN Impi's U17
- Sloane Schaub-Kuffler – KZN Impi's U17
- Sethu Mkhize – KZN Impi's U17 (Reserve)
- Amabutho Mavundla – KZN Impi's U19A
- Azola Shandu – KZN Impi's U19A, KZN Men's Open Team
- Siphesihle Hlambisa – KZN Impi's U19A, Referee
- Kwandile Gumbi – U17 Impi's Assistant Coach, SA Invitational Men's Open Division Team
- Tanner Evans - KZN Mixed Open Team.

TIN MAN

Bradley Leppan – Competed in three Tin Man events in second half of year and placed 1st in 14 – 15 Age Group in all three. (400m Swim, 12km Cycle, 2.5km Super Sprint).

VARSITY COLLEGE SCHOOL'S QUIZ

Brielle Pillay - Placed 10th in KZN.



TUESDAY SALE

shop fresh for less

SATURDAY PRICE DROP

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WEEKLY DEALS

every day low prices

SHOP • LIVE • SAVE
FRESH.
2026





AFRIKAANS

The year had quite a disrupted start for the Afrikaans Department, as we waited for a term for the Department of Basic Education to approve the transfer of our new Afrikaans teacher. Mrs Papé, who joined us in the beginning of Term 2, has over a decade experience teaching and comes to us from Queensburgh Girls' High School. We trust that she will enjoy many happy years here at HHS.

We are proud of the National Senior Certificate results achieved by the Class of 2024 who obtained several A and B symbols. We wish the current Grade 12's all the best for their final examinations and hope that they have put in the required effort to obtain the best possible results.

Afrikaans celebrated its 100th anniversary as a language in South Africa. To celebrate we participated in the Con Spiritu Afrikaans Skryfkompetisie (writing competition). Five learners entered the competition, each writing an original poem on the theme of "Afrikaans". They were given valuable feedback and enjoyed the challenge. We are very proud of Sinenhloso Shozi, whose poem was selected for second place in the Senior Poetry category – an achievement we are especially proud of as learners from across South Africa took part in this competition.

We also participated in the yearly ATKV-Afrikaans Olimpiade (Olympiad), with our learners performing very well. Anro Adendorff achieved 90,77%, placing him 7th in South Africa and 6th in KZN in the Senior section. Well done, Anro! Dit wil gedoen wees!

The Heritage Evening took place for the second year, and once again the learners showed their passion for Afrikaans by performing a "sokkie". Literally translating to "sock", it is a style of dance where partners dance together to a song and perform some twists and turns whilst shuffling along the dance floor. It was an evening of fun and joyful laughter.

My sincere appreciation goes to my Afrikaans team: Mrs Bothma, Mrs Henderson, Mrs Middleton, Mrs Papé and Mrs Wessels. Thank you for your hard work and support throughout this year.

Mrs S Strydom
Subject Head



Front Row: Mrs IA Bothma, Mrs S Strydom (Subject Head), Mrs Papé
Back Row: Mrs A Wessels, Mrs M Henderson

HAAR ENIGSTE WARE KIND

In Suid-Afrika se hart
'n Taal klop
Haar enigste ware kind
Op die pad gebore

Met Nederlandse oorsprong
En 'n Afrika-begin
Met Maleiers en Portugees
Speel ook 'n rol

'n Samesmelting van tale
Dit spreek tot die siel
Een van moeders jonk
Dit maak haar heel

Baie van haar stories
Oor die hele geskiedenis geskryf
Oumas en oupas weef tapisserieë
Van liefde, verlies en
'n Afrikaans nalatenskap

Van boerewors tot bobotie
Afrikaanse kos, 'n kulinêre droom
'n Erfenis ryk aan elke hap
Dit is waarlik, 'n plesier

Gebore op hierdie land
Die tuiste van diversiteit
Afrikaans is werklik
'n Suid-Afrikaanse skepping

Deur Sinenhloso Shozi



COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to the Matrics of 2024; you made us proud!

BUSINESS STUDIES MARKET DAY - MRS LEPPAN

Working in teams of four, the Grade 11 learners planned, set up, and managed their own stalls as part of the Founder's Day celebrations, a valuable opportunity to apply their entrepreneurial skills in a real-world setting. A variety of creative and engaging stalls were on display, offering everything from pancake challenges and boerewors rolls to twister chips. The day was a great success, filled with fun, teamwork, and hands-on learning. A sincere thank you to Mrs Knight for making this enriching experience possible.

PROVERTO OLYMPIAD 2025 - MRS LEPPAN

The University of Johannesburg Department of Finance and Investment Management, School of Management, and the College of Business and Economics partnered to host the Proverto National High School Olympiad. Four Grade 12 learners participated in Round One on 7 May 2025. All four achieved over 80% and progressed to Round Two on 30 July 2025. All four students achieved a pass in round two.

GRADE 10 & 11 EXCURSION TO SANBS - MR MOFFATT

South African National Blood Service (SANBS) KZN staff welcomed the Grade 10 and 11 Business Studies learners who visited the regional SANBS office at Mount Edgecombe on two separate days in August. Included in the visit was a detailed presentation on the journey of blood - from donation, processing, and testing to distribution as well as an insight into career opportunities within SANBS. The excursion was both educational and inspiring, leaving learners with a deeper understanding of the importance of blood donation, and related career opportunities.

A highlight was guest speaker Mr Bruno Watzek, who shared an uplifting and emotional account of his tragic accident, recovery, and how blood donations were vital in saving his life. Following the presentation, learners were taken on a guided tour of the facility, viewing the laboratories and observing the intricate processes involved in testing and preparing blood products.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr Watzek, the SANBS staff including Anele Ngcobo, Penny Zwane, and Neelashan Govender for their professionalism, hospitality, and shared knowledge and our HHS staff who accompanied our two groups of learners.

GRADE 9 EMS OLYMPIAD - MS ZULU

Two of our Grade 9 learners participated in the EMS Olympiad this year. Hosted by the KZN Department of Education and the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), round one was held at HHS with 23 other schools from the Umhlatuzana Circuit invited. Terania Govender and Amy Neveling from HHS were selected to compete in round two, held at Newlands East Secondary School. After round three at Ferndale Secondary School in late August, the final round was held at Newlands East Secondary.

Fourteen schools competed in round two, with only two from the Umhlatuzana Circuit making it to the final round, Hillcrest High School and St Francis High School. We are extremely proud of Terania Govender, who came out tops, taking 1st place overall in the Pinetown District, after competing against schools from our Circuit as well as schools from the two other Circuits in the District. She scored 70% in the final quiz.

GRADE 12 ECONOMICS TOUR TO JOHANNESBURG - A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE - MR MOFFATT

From 31 July to 2 August, the Grade 12 Economics learners, accompanied by Mr Moffatt and Mrs Mtakwende, embarked on an enriching educational tour to Johannesburg. This excursion served as a meaningful milestone in the journey of the Class of 2025, offering both academic and personal growth.

Over the past four months, the group has actively participated in the JSE Investment Challenge. While they have not yet secured any prizes, the experience has provided them with valuable insights into the world of investing. A highlight of the tour was the seminar held at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in Sandton on 1 August, where Mr Ralph Speirs, Head of Public Engagement and Education at the JSE, delivered an informative session on strategies for growing an investment portfolio. The presentation was engaging and highly beneficial and was thoroughly enjoyed by both learners and staff.

On a more reflective note, the group visited the Apartheid Museum on 2 August. Although many of us are familiar with South Africa's painful history, the visit proved to be deeply moving. Several learners were particularly affected by the lesser-known aspects of the Apartheid regime and the profound suffering it inflicted. As Economics students, the socio-economic dimensions of our curriculum were brought into sharper focus through this historical lens, enhancing our understanding of systemic inequality and its enduring impact.

Overall, the tour was an immensely worthwhile experience. The learners not only gained academic knowledge but also developed a deeper appreciation for our country's complex past. The enthusiasm among the current Grade 11 cohort is already palpable, with many eager to participate in a similar initiative next year.

DEPARTMENT STAFFING

The Commerce Department has seen several changes this year with Mr Roux joining the team to teach EMS at the start of the year. In the third term, Mrs Harrypersad joined us to teach Accounting and EMS, and was with us until the end of August. We thank her for her contribution and wish her well. We later welcomed Ms Mathe, who teaches EMS, and Mr Naidoo, who teaches both Accounting and EMS.

At the end of the second term Mr Henderson, who joined HHS in July 2023, left teaching to pursue a corporate career. He made a valuable contribution through his teaching, involvement on the tennis court, and leadership of the Investment Club. His passion and commitment have left a lasting impact on our learners, and we thank him and wish him every success in his new, goal-driven career path.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mrs Chabant, Mrs Leppan, Mr Moffatt, Mrs Mtakwende, Ms Mathe, Mr Naidoo, Mr Roux, and Ms Zulu. You are an exceptional team, always willing to go the extra mile for our learners. Your dedication, commitment, and hard work are truly valued and deeply appreciated.

Mrs C Edy
HOD: Commerce
Deputy Principal



CONSUMER STUDIES

We were extremely pleased to learn that the 70 Consumer Studies learners all passed with 40% and above in the National Senior Certificate in 2024. Ten learners achieved between 70 - 79% and four learners achieved between 80 - 100%, placing our Consumer Studies Department first in the Kwasanti Circuit and second in the greater Durban area.

THE GRADE 10 CHEF'S SCHOOL VISIT

In September the Grade 10 Consumer Studies class had the opportunity to visit the 1000 Hills Chef's School - an excursion that was both inspiring and educational. The staff was warm and hospitable, treating us to an engaging talk about the diverse opportunities that exist within the world of culinary arts. The presentation encouraged learners to think more deeply about their futures and the exciting career paths that food studies can offer.

A guided tour of the school's impressive, modern facilities followed the talk. The learners explored the professional kitchens, training areas, and classrooms, learning more about the curriculum and the wide range of skills students develop there. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly returning to the restaurant, to enjoy a delicious three-course meal prepared and presented by the trainee chefs — a true showcase of their talent, creativity, and passion.

This excursion helped connect our Consumer Studies curriculum to real-world careers. It showed that food studies go beyond just preparing meals - it is about creativity, discipline, teamwork, and individuality. Watching



the trainee chefs in action demonstrated the importance of passion and dedication, qualities that are essential in any profession.

Overall, the day was an unforgettable experience that opened our eyes to the various possibilities within the culinary and hospitality industries. It reminded us that hard work and originality are the keys to success, and as Jacques Torres wisely said: *"Always work with a good chef, someone who can give you direction, inspiration and can set an example."*

We would also like to take this opportunity to applaud the 2025 Matric learners for their excellent results in the final cooking practical (PAT) of the year - a testament to their talent, perseverance, and hard work and wish them well for their final examinations.

Jodi MacLachlan and Kaitlyn Steyn

1000 Hills Chef's School



Mrs S Geel pictured with past pupils who are studying at 1000 Hills Chef's School, Nelisa Mvelase, Sabri Gafeldien, Gabriel Douglas, Matthew Legemaate and Mrs J Bega (Consumer Studies).



DRAMA

The Drama Department at Hillcrest High School has once again proven that creativity thrives where collaboration, courage, and a touch of chaos meet. Led by Ms Giorko and supported by Mrs Macdonald and Mr Bartholomew, 2025 has been a year of theatrical flair, physical storytelling, and joyful experimentation.

This year's annual school production, "Lights, Camera, Panic" - an adaptation of The Play That Goes Wrong - was a riotous success. With collapsing sets, missed cues, and gloriously exaggerated performances, the cast embraced the comedy of catastrophe with impeccable timing and infectious enthusiasm. Audiences roared with laughter as the play unravelled in spectacular fashion, proving that sometimes the best theatre is the kind that goes hilariously off script.

Another highlight was our Drama Evening, where the Grade 11s reimagined Shakespearean plots and characters in modern settings with a delicious dose of absurdity. From a TikTok-obsessed Juliet to a Macbeth grappling with corporate ambition, the performances were bold, witty, and refreshingly irreverent. The evening also featured solo dance pieces by Shawna Creed, Luyanda Hlophe, and Thingo Dlamini. Their work brought grace, intensity, and emotional depth to the stage, reminding us of the power of movement to tell stories beyond words.

Meanwhile, our Grade 10s took to the floor with a choreographed class group dance that showcased not only their physical talent but their ability to work as a unified ensemble. Through rhythm, gesture, and shared focus, they explored themes of cooperation, identity, and collective expression - proving that drama is as much about listening as it is about leading.

As we close the curtain on 2025, we celebrate a department that continues to challenge, uplift, and inspire. Whether through laughter, movement, or modernised tragedy, our drama students have shown that the stage is a place where imagination meets discipline - and where every voice, stumble, and spotlight moment matters.

Bravo to all our performers, and heartfelt thanks to the Drama department for their tireless dedication and creative vision. We also sadly bid farewell to Ms Georgina Giorko at the end of October, after 16-years on the staff at HHS. We would like to thank her for her dedication and determination in building the drama department into what it is today. She will be missed for her great sense of humour, her calm presence even under extreme stress, and her literal ability to pull rabbits out of hats! We know this is just so long, and not Goodbye because Ms G is also an HHS Past Pupil and we know she will be back to support us in the years to come!



ENGINEERING, GRAPHICS & DESIGN

CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN EGD AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Engineering, Graphics and Design is a subject that combines technical drawing, design thinking, and modern technology. It teaches learners how to communicate ideas clearly and accurately through orthographic and isometric drawing - both by hand and using CAD software. These skills are essential in fields like engineering, architecture, and manufacturing, where precision and planning are key.

As Steve Jobs once said, "Design is not just what it looks like and feels like. Design is how it works." This quote captures the essence of EGD, where function and form go hand in hand.

The Matric Class of 2024 achieved commendable results in Engineering, Graphics and Design (EGD), with Luke Muller emerging as the top learner. The group collectively earned four A symbols, with an overall grade average of 57%. Despite challenges posed by unexpected public holidays and the shifting of the academic calendar, both Mr Burger and Mrs Tonkin worked hard to complete the syllabus in time.

This year marked a milestone as we participated for the first time in the prestigious Sasol Skills Competition, which highlights excellence in Technical and Artisan subjects. The competition begins at District level and includes both learners and teachers, with two categories: Computer-Aided Drawing (CAD) and traditional Instrument Drawing.

Mr Burger (CAD), Mrs Tonkin (Instrument Drawing), and learners Jaryd André (CAD) and Sebastian Smith (Instrument Drawing) represented HHS. Mr Burger, Mrs Tonkin, and Jaryd André won the District round and went on to claim victory at the Provincial level as well! This qualified them for the National Finals held in Johannesburg from 8–10 October. At this level, Mrs Tonkin achieved an impressive 2nd place, and Jaryd André placed 3rd nationally. Unfortunately, Mr Burger was unable to attend due to illness - but his contribution leading up to the finals was instrumental. These results mark a huge success for Hillcrest High School and its growing reputation in technical education.

We look forward to even more success in the years ahead as Hillcrest High School continues to foster creativity, technical skill, and a passion for design.



ENGLISH

2025 began with the excitement of the 2024 Matric results. Once again, The English results were very good. Congratulations to our learners and educators.

We had a productive start to the year with all of our learners comfortably accommodated in classes, both in the GEC and FET phases - with nine classes each in Grade 10, 11, and 12.

The focus in Grade 8 and 9 is comprehension and language skills, together with oral work and creative writing. Both grades complete a project in Term 3 – the Grade 8s on poetry and the Grade 9s as an integrated project with LO and other subjects. This helps to hone in on career possibilities and choices and has proved to be a most worthwhile enterprise.

In Grade 10, 11 and 12 literature becomes an important factor in the curriculum and sustained focus and diligence in the subject are pre-requisites for success. Another facet that we encourage is reading. Many of our learners are prodigious readers but many do not read at all, which is of great concern.

All learners have to pass English in order to proceed to the next grade. Unfortunately, many learners do not recognise the importance of studying for English with this becoming very evident when they write their examinations. As educators we continue to stress the importance of taking the subject seriously with learners, offering extra lessons to all grades throughout the year. We have also begun an online pilot project with Grade 8 and 9 for a few select classes in an attempt to improve their competence in English.

On the staffing front, we welcomed Mrs Hiscock to our department at the beginning of this year. We hope she will be very happy. We congratulate Mr and Mrs Sebeikin on the arrival of their firstborn son, Jeremy, in June and welcomed Mr Smith, a familiar face, back as her locum until December.

I would like to thank my team for their contribution to the department. Anyone who has taught English will appreciate the amount of work involved. I salute you for your commitment and dedication.

Mrs Atkinson
Subject Head

MATRIC MAGIC: A LIVE ENCOUNTER WITH SHAKESPEARE'S OTHELLO

In Term One, Hillcrest High School's Matric English classes had the opportunity to experience a live performance of Shakespeare's Othello at the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre, University of KwaZulu-Natal. The outing was arranged by Head of English, Mrs Atkinson, and supported by our passionate English educators, aligning with our current set work for the year.

The production was staged by THINK THEATRE in association with the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre and directed by the acclaimed Clare Mortimer who is a multi-award-winning director, writer, teacher, actress, and former Matric English marker. Her deep understanding of the IEB curriculum was evident in a performance that remained faithful to the key themes and nuances vital for our academic study.

The cast's compelling portrayal of jealousy, betrayal, love, and manipulation brought the text off the page and into vivid reality. Seeing Othello performed live deepened the learners understanding of the material and gave a new insight into the emotions and motivations that drive the characters.

This memorable and meaningful experience not only supported the Matrics' learning but reminded us of the timeless relevance of Shakespeare's work. As the Class of 2025, we are incredibly grateful to Mrs Atkinson and the entire English Department for making this invaluable experience possible.

Ariyin Collingwood
Grade 12

Front Row: Mr L Hudson-Piccione, Ms M Bourreau, Mrs N Atkinson (Subject Head), Ms S Ramsout, Mr E Smith.
Back Row: Mrs J Silva, Mrs M Gordon, Mrs J Hiscock, Mrs D Van Heerden, Mrs G Bastion,
Absent from photo: Ms S Boyce and Mrs A Sebeikin



GEOGRAPHY

MAPPING SUCCESS: A YEAR OF GROWTH IN GEOGRAPHY

The Geography Department is proud to reflect on another successful and engaging academic year. This year, we welcomed Mr Saurav Silochan to the department. He has brought fresh energy, a positive attitude, and a strong willingness to support learners across both junior and senior grades. His approachable nature and eagerness to make a difference have already made a meaningful impact in the classroom.

Our team, which includes Mr Madeley, Mr Silochan, Mrs McLaughlin, and Mrs Silva – continues to work collaboratively to ensure learners are equipped not only with geographic knowledge, but also with critical thinking skills relevant to the world around them.



"Geography is an earthly subject, but a heavenly science".

Edmund Burke

FRESH ENERGY, CREATIVE LESSONS, AND A SHARED COMMITMENT TO STUDENT GROWTH

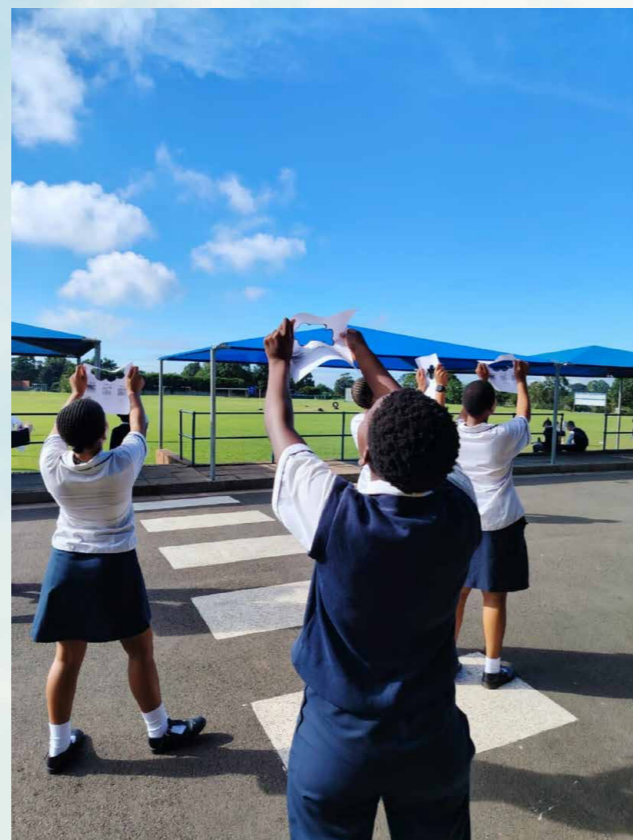
Our Matric Class of 2025 has risen to the challenge, demonstrating perseverance, determination, and growth. Their achievements are a reflection of their commitment, as well as the continued support and guidance of our dedicated teaching team.

We have also seen wonderful strides made in our junior grades. With thoughtful preparation of resources, creative lesson planning, and a supportive classroom environment, the foundation for our learners is being strengthened every day. Mrs Silva, in particular, has played a key role in supporting the Grade 8 cohort, helping to create engaging materials and a welcoming learning space. These efforts are instrumental in sparking a lasting interest in Geography among our younger learners.

While the journey this year came with its share of challenges, particularly with a demanding Grade 12 group, our team remained committed to bringing out the best in each learner. Their dedication is the heart of our department's continued success.

We look forward to building on this momentum and embracing the opportunities that lie ahead in 2026.

Mrs Ramsern
Subject Head



GERMAN

TAKING GERMAN OPENS NEW DOORS TO YOUR FUTURE!

German learners, under the guidance of Frau Bothma, once again participated in several events during the year, both online during class time and in person. Once a week the German Club meet to either play German games, partake in online activities or extend their German vocabulary with additional exercises.

FOUR GERMAN LEARNERS WIN BIG!

In January, 13 HHS learners submitted creative writing pieces for a competition, and four students won the opportunity to visit a Summer Camp in Frankfurt Germany during the July Holidays. Esihle Buthelezi, Carla Schwarz, Vanessa van der Westhuizen and Carlos Zakwe were awarded this incredible prize of an all expenses paid trip to Germany which included a visit to the Goethe Institute Johannesburg, where they met other German learners who would also be attending the Summer Camp. Unfortunately, due to passport and visa delays, Carla Schwarz was not able to travel.

"This was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I am so grateful," Esihle Buthelezi said. "To learn German in Germany with students from all over the world was not only "lustig", but sometimes a bit "schwierig". The fun parts and travelling to different destinations such as the Heidelberger Schloss brought us all even closer together and we became one big international family. I have never laughed this much. It opened my eyes to a different future."

Vanessa van der Westhuizen could not stop raving about the beautiful floral landscapes and cities visited: "Ich so

viel über Deutschland, andere Länder und ihre Kulturen und Sprachen gelernt... ich habe lebenslange neue Freundschaften gemacht!"

Carlos Zwakhe is already planning a reunion with some of the learners he met when in Germany, something a previous group has already done, meeting up in Egypt!

PASCH SCHULEN

Hillcrest High School received PASCH-Schul status in 2021 and is one of only three PASCH-Schulen in South Africa. PASCH stands for 'Schools: Partners for the Future', and the partnership offers Hillcrest High School learners who study German many opportunities, both in South Africa and internationally. This includes access to online courses and competitions, the possibility of attending outreach programmes in Germany, as well as access to further studies in German-speaking countries up to the age of 35. The Goethe-Institute works to promote the knowledge of the German language and culture across the world and currently partners with around 670 schools worldwide, providing opportunities for teachers and learners to earn qualifications in the language thereby expanding German tuition globally.

HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL OPEN DAY

As part of their oral mark, Grade 10 German learners were required to present slide shows to the visiting Grade 7 learners and their parents on Open Day, showcasing what the subject has to offer, and the holistic education provided at the school. Thank you to the Goethe Institute for the marketing materials and aids they have donated.

UMI – UNIVERSE. HUMAN. INTELLIGENCE EXHIBITION

In September five HHS German learners left for Johannesburg as guests of the Goethe Institute to attend the UMI – Universe. Human. Intelligence Exhibition. For some it was the first time flying and the excitement was overwhelming. Kostazia Davies, Kimba-Leigh Eistetter, Amber Jones, Carla Schwarz and Kayla van Heerden said the experience was very interesting. It brought German learners from various schools together to open up new perspectives on our universe, the history of humanity, how our brain works, the challenges of our time, as well as the world of Artificial Intelligence.

FIT EXAMS

Katharina Quicker and Tina Heffernan from the Goethe Institute Johannesburg visited the school to guide and assist HHS and the German Dept in October. HHS German learners had the opportunity to write the Fit Exams to get international accreditation for their language ability in German. In total 19 learners enrolled for three different levels: A1, A2 and B1 exams.

PAST PUPILS GET OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY IN GERMANY

Since July 2024 when Prof. Dr Montecinos and Dr Kirsten Steinhausen from the Furtwangen University in Germany visited our school to sign an agreement between our two institutions there have been some very exciting developments on that front. We are very pleased to announce that two of our learners who matriculated in

2024, Daniel Joubert and Siya Radebe, have been accepted to study at Furtwangen and are already in Germany, having successfully started their studies at the beginning of October 2025. A third learner, Charl Botha having passed his B2-Fit Exam, will join them in Furtwangen to start his studies in February 2026. We want to thank Dr. Daniel Krause, student-coordinator at Furtwangen University for his involvement and support and wish Daniel, Siya and Charl everything of the best in their new venture. We are overwhelmed with joy for this new doorway opening for our HHS German students. (For those who do not know, the school year in many countries start during Aug/Oct and ends in June for a long summer holiday.)

The Furtwangen University is situated in the Blackforest and has three campuses in the area – Furtwangen, Tuttlingen, and Villingen-Schwenningen where they offer a wide variety of courses including Business Management, Psychology, Computer Science, International Business Management, International Engineering, Health Sciences and many more. You can take part in bachelor and master's programmes at the Universities and even further your studies to get a PhD.

We extend our grateful thanks to Mrs Bothma, Head of German at HHS, for her continued dedication to opening doors and finding opportunities for learners who study German at our school.

Mrs IA Bothma
Subject Head



Row 5: Motlokoa Tsotetsi, Brendon Frenzel, Cameron Freeman, Thandolwethu Sishi, Kylie Coetzee, Max Schwarz, Bonga Ngubane, Jayden Chaythram, Lubanzi Khumalo
Row 4: Mathew Darby, Micaella Hunter
Row 3: Masibonge Msani, Eshile Buthelezi, Keagan Glauser, Carlos Zakwe, Samantha Berndt, Aidan Zungu, Vanessa van der Westhuizen, Anro Adendorff, Amahle Zungu
Row 2: Brightness Ngcobo, Faye Verster, Asemahle Tshapa, Amber-Lynn Jones, Melokuhle Dlamini, Carla Schwarz, Lesedi Ramakatsa, Faith William
Row 1: Kaitlyn Perumal, Pamela Majola, Kostazia Davie, Hayley Chabant, Mrs I Bothma, Jade Gericke, Luyanda Hlophe, Kylie Freeman, Senzelwe Nene

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Technology has had incredible success in the development of customised software from the Grade 10 - 12 Practical (PATs). The subject continues to grow in leaps and bounds with the addition of Digital Literacy, and Coding and Robotics introduced to the Grade 8 and 9 learners. We have seen an increase of usage of both Microsoft Office skills and adoption of computational thinking skills through the Resolute (Coding & Robotics course ware), along with growth in our extramural Robotics Club. Our top students continue to progress within the subjects at an extraordinary level.

This year we have all shifted forward with the introduction of Generative-AI, including the ethical usage of this in the schooling scenario. Our learners had the opportunity to compete in the Programming Olympiad, engage in both online and in-person learning and extend their skills into areas such as Web Development for the Grade 11s.

We look forward to gains in the next year for the school and the exciting development of software and hardware adding greater value to the classroom in 2026.

Grade 11 IT Learner, Torben Mikkelsen, assisted the Marketing Department once again in the development of an online game for Grade 5 and 6 learners to play at the High School Expo held at Hillcrest Primary School. The game, developed along the lines of Scrabble, used words relevant to Hillcrest High School as foundational words and learners who played were able to earn points for words created using those as a springboard. Four HHS IT learners assisted the Primary School learners with the game on the day. To accommodate those learners who were not keen to try out the digital game, Torben designed, and 3D printed letter pieces and boards so that they could also compete. Following the expo, he printed up in excess of 2000 letters in order to give each learner who participated, their own first name in "Scrabble" letters name kits.

Mr Pearl
Subject Head



ISIZULU

The year 2025 has been marked by incredible transformation and immense growth of the isiZulu Subject. Firstly, we would like to congratulate the Class of 2024 with their breathtaking results of 53 Distinctions. This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our isiZulu educators, who worked tirelessly to support our matriculants. Their efforts ensured that every learner was fully prepared resulting in achieving 100% subject pass rate.

The subject department is proud to congratulate Mr Ndebele on his well-deserved appointment as Deputy Principal. We are delighted to announce the appointment of Ms Gabisa as the new Subject Head of isiZulu Department. Ms Gabisa brings a wealth of experience, passion and leadership to the role. We are confident that she will continue to elevate the department to greater heights.

Our Grade 12 learners were selected to participate in the External Oral Moderation as part of SBA, which took place at Jockey Academy of South Africa.

At this moderation, Zofia Giorko truly made her mark; her Prepared Speech was nothing short of exceptional, showcasing eloquence, confidence, and a deep understanding and proficiency in the language. Dr Gamede, the Subject Advisor, expressed great admiration for Zofia's speech. What made Zofia's achievement more remarkable is that she is not a native isiZulu Speaker, yet her articulation resulted in her being identified as the Best Speaker achieving 90% overall on her speech.

Due to the growing number of learners taking isiZulu as a First Additional Language the department experienced a significant increase in demand. We are delighted to announce that Ms Nene was appointed. Ms Nene is a young vibrant educator full of enthusiasm; we warmly welcomed her to our department. Our department now comprises the following educators: Ms Gabisa, Mr Ndebele, Mr Jali, Mr Zuma, Mr Ngubane and Ms Nene.

Our 19th isiZulu Cultural Evening took place in August 2025 and was a resounding success with learners celebrating their vibrant and rich culture. Our Grade 11s dressed in their traditional attire and the event featured a wide range of performances from "Ukusina kwamantombazane" and "Amahubo," to Gumbboot Dancing and "Ukusina kwabafana" as well as learners reciting poems in an African language.

Our distinguished Guest of Honour Mrs Mathoko Mthembu delivered a keynote speech about the importance of preserving culture and the beauty of understanding the language even in a modernised environment. This was followed by a heartwarming message of support from our School Governing Body Chairperson, Mr Creed.

Our learners were honoured with an invitation from the Department of Education- Pinetown District to participate in the Annual Heritage Celebration on 26 September. The learners were accompanied by Ms Gabisa and Mr Ndebele. District Director Mrs Tembe awarded Hillcrest High School a Certificate of Appreciation for continuous support to the district. Ms Gabisa was also awarded a Certificate of Outstanding Efforts for her continued support of departmental initiatives. A DOE official, Mr Lushozi, spoke warmly about Hillcrest High School's unwavering support to the Department, commending the school as a pioneer of inclusivity in education.

At the end of September, our Grade 11s participated in the Annual isiZulu Best Speaker Competition which took place at Danville Girls Park and were joined by some of our Grade 10 learners who also delivered a performance. This competition has a profound impact on our learners. It helps them to develop essential skills of communication, critical thinking and moreover enables a learner to express themselves effectively. Out of the 17 participating schools, we were thrilled that Nonjabulo Malinga (Grade 11) was placed as a Top 5 Best Speaker. Heartfelt thanks to Ms Gabisa and Mr Zuma who arranged and accompanied the learners.

During the October school holidays Ms Gabisa and Mr Ndebele organised a well-structured Professional Development Workshop with the aim of strengthening teaching practices. Development areas included teaching techniques and understanding cognitive levels of assessment as outlined in the CAPS document. The session was facilitated by Mrs M Mthembu, who is a National Examiner for DOE, and we were honoured to have Dr Gamede, our subject advisor, present. This initiative not only empowered our teachers but also reinforced our commitment to academic excellence and professional growth.

Ms TP Gabisa
Subject Head



LEARNER SUPPORT UNIT

The Learner Support Unit welcomed two classes of Grade 8 learners this year, with learners from various primary schools joining us. They have had to adjust to high school life, but with the smaller class sizes and dedicated teachers, many have started to believe in themselves and are working on going from strength to strength in their next four years.

Our Matric results from 2024 were once again very pleasing and we are so proud of all our concessions learners who passed.

The Senior learners (Grade 10 - 12) are integrating well into Mainstream and the concessions granted to them have helped them to show their true abilities and reach for their goals, despite learning difficulties. A special mention must be made of our scribes and readers who give their time to assist these learners and allow them to shine.

In Natural Science, the Grade 8 LSU learners interpreted the camouflage section with some creative "blending in" around the classroom. This became quite a fascination for other learners who tried to find the examples, with some staying hidden for weeks. The Grade 9s, who study Body Systems in NS, were privileged to have a talk by Mrs Patsy Clinton on her experience of giving birth to and raising quadruplets, one of whom is deaf and has cerebral palsy. She also touched on her own experience of having breast cancer. In Technology, the learners made towers in Grades 8 and 9, and circuits for the Grade 9 GEC project.

Across all grades, our learners take part in and excel in various sports, cultural, service and leadership activities, with some LSU learners selected to attend KZN Cricket, Netball and Soccer trials. LSU learners also actively participate in various cultural activities such as Choir, Sign Language, the School Play, the AV Club, Steel Drums and the Eco-Schools Club.

Ten learners from the LSU/Concessions programme were selected as members of our Student Leadership Team for 2025, with special mention of Zainab Wingrove and Saskia Henning who were selected as Heads of the LSU, lending support to the staff and helping the juniors navigate high school.

It is this level of inclusion learners from the unit to feel that they are a real and valued part of Hillcrest High School.

I would like to thank all the Learner Support teachers and the senior concessions registration teachers for all their hard work and dedication to our learners.

Mrs J Leuschke
Head of LSU





LIFE SCIENCES

In Life Sciences, educators endeavour to teach learners to foster a love and caring nature towards the environment and living organisms. Learners experience the joy of seeing microscopic organisms when first introduced to the microscope in Grade 10, seeing the incredible wonder of nature in the small details that are not visible to the naked eye. The syllabus enables them to develop an interest in genetics, anatomy, environmental biology, physiology, ecology and evolution, which in turn opens many doors for a variety of careers.

The focus theme for our HHS Open Day in February was "What I can do to help Climate Change" and to make everyone aware of their carbon footprint and encourage them to plant one tree in their lifetime. During the year the learners do practical work, with dissections always the highlight. They dissect hearts, kidneys and eyes and in so doing learn the skill of using a scalpel for the first time.

The Life Sciences department participated in two Olympiads this year:

- Fourteen Grade 11 learners participated in the SAASTA South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement - National Science Olympiad Life Sciences 2025, and;
- Thirteen Grade 10 learners and eight Grade 11 learners participated in the South African Natural, Life and Physical Sciences Olympiad (NASO).

We also took part in the Kloof Conservancy Molweni River Health Project again this year, with learners trained to analyse the quality of our river water through regular monitor monitoring visits to collect and test samples.

Three Grade 11 learners attended the Jonny Lowe Memorial Trust Ifa Lethu Environmental Education Programme at the Weenen Nature Reserve. The October excursion focussed on the importance of preserving our grasslands and was attended by David Mackenzie, Erin Massey and Natalie Rees, accompanied by educator, Mrs Tonkin.

"We have forgotten how to be good guests, how to walk lightly on the earth as its other creatures do." - Barbara Ward, Only One Earth, 1972.

Mrs R Harmse
Subject Head

LIFE ORIENTATION

Life Orientation is the study of the SELF in relation to the society we live in. Interesting topics such as diversity, human rights, recreation, substance abuse, sexuality, environmental issues, careers and finances are discussed, debated and questioned. Our goal is to help educate learners to enable them to become productive citizens who contribute valuably to our society, and live responsible lives. Learners are encouraged to interact in these lessons and expand their thoughts, listen to the opinions held by others, and take responsibility for their life choices.

The Physical Education component of the programme ranges from fitness to dance and movement, and enables learners to expend some energy out on the field.

The Grade 11s spent two days doing work experience which was extremely valuable in establishing which careers they may be interested in pursuing. From pilots, to veterinarians, to accountants and judges, they really embraced their experiences.

During the third term we bid a fond farewell to Mrs Singh who has taught in the LO Department for many years. We wish her a happy retirement with much relaxation and fruitful time with family and friends.

Mrs M McLaughlin
Subject Head



MATHEMATICS & MATHEMATICAL LITERACY

The Matric Class of 2024 delivered a pleasing set of results in Mathematics. We congratulate the learners for their hard work and dedication, which translated into a few A symbols for Core Mathematics and 16 A symbols for Mathematical Literacy.

ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS

Our learners represented the school well in several challenging mathematics competitions this year.

SOUTH AFRICAN MATHEMATICS FOUNDATION (SAMF) OLYMPIAD

An astounding 151 learners participated in Round 1 of the Olympiad with 44 learners making it through to the challenging Round 2, which is significantly more complex than Round 1, requiring problem-solving without calculators. This included 18 Juniors (Grades 8 & 9) and 26 Seniors (Grades 10–12)

Top Achievers who received certificates were:

- Juniors: Keegan Compton-James and Izabella Keating
- Seniors: Sebastian Smith and Joe Te Brugge

MATHS MASTERS COMPETITION AT ST MARY'S

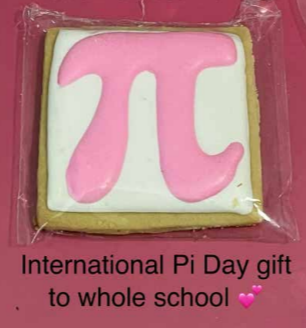
Our school was invited to participate in the Maths Masters Competition, attended by 175 learners from ten schools. Learners participated in teams of four (maximum of two from the same school), providing a fantastic opportunity to engage with learners from other schools. Well done to all participants - we look forward to competing again next year. A special congratulations goes to Vanessa van der Westhuizen, whose team placed 3rd in the Senior Section.



CELEBRATING PI DAY

This year, the Maths Department celebrated International Pi Day with the entire school treated to a Pi biscuit during their Maths lessons. Our Grade 11 learners gave a presentation in assembly, explaining the importance and real-world uses of Pi.

Hillcrest High School
What an awesome idea



International Pi Day gift to whole school

DEPARTMENT STAFFING UPDATE

The Maths Department has had very few changes this year, maintaining a strong, cohesive team.

We welcomed Miss Shannon O'Halloran, an HHS Past Pupil, to the department and are pleased that she has fitted in exceptionally well. We look forward to her being with us for many years to come. We wish Mrs Funnell, who joined us for the first half of the year, all the best in her next chapter.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the entire department for being a wonderful team that works so well together. A special thank you to everyone for being so willing to pick up additional classes and lessons when we were short a teacher in the second half of the year. It is a privilege to be part of this team.

Mrs J Leuschke
Subject Head



Row 2: Abigail Chetty, Vanessa van der Westhuizen, Hannah King, Hayley Chabant
Row 1: Lindokuhle Nyaba, Mr D Reuben, Ethan Ainhirn

AP MATHEMATICS

For those with a passion for numbers, Further Studies (FS) Maths (also known as AP Maths) offers the chance to move beyond the core curriculum and unlock a new level of academic potential. The jump from high school to university can be intimidating, especially for mathematically heavy fields like Engineering, Computer Science, and Actuarial Science. AP Maths helps bridge that gap by exposing students to advanced topics such as Calculus and Algebra. This rigorous programme provides a head start on university-level content, ensuring that learners walk into their first lectures feeling confident and well-prepared for the demanding pace of higher education.

Mrs J Leuschke
Subject Head



Celebrating WOMEN
Driving innovation in STEM!



Science2GO is an innovative science outreach initiative to take practical science learning to schools. MAHLE South Africa proudly supports Science2GO empowering young women and inspiring future generations in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Join us in driving meaningful change, contact us today to get involved and support Science2GO!



PHYSICAL SCIENCES

IGNITING A PASSION FOR DISCOVERY

This year, the Physical Science department has been a hive of innovation, and achievement, propelled by a new energy and the unwavering dedication of our learners.

We were delighted to welcome Miss Tabitha Thrash to our team at the start of the year. Miss Thrash brought with her a contagious enthusiasm for scientific inquiry and immediately took the initiative to launch an exciting new Science Club. This club quickly became a hub for curiosity, where she has expertly guided our learners through their intricate science expo projects while also dedicating time to fun experiments that bring the curriculum to life. Her commitment has fostered a wonderful spirit of hands-on learning and collaboration.

This investment in our learners' potential has yielded extraordinary results at the 2025 Eskom Expo for Young Scientists. We are proud to announce the following outstanding achievements:

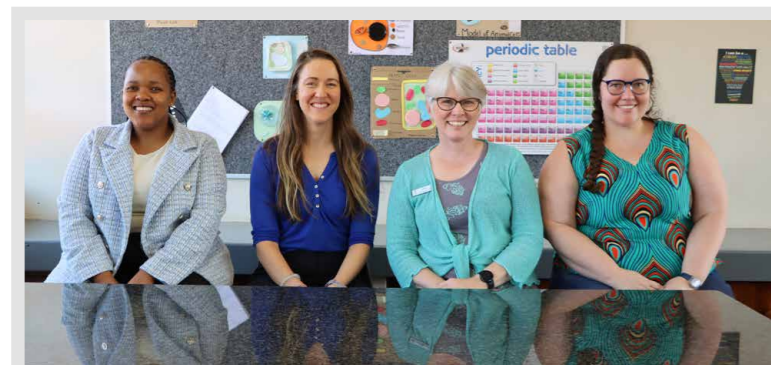
- Saiusha Viraragavan achieved a Gold medal at the KZN level. Her exceptional project also earned her the prestigious Eskom Award for Best Female, the title of Best in Category – Social Science, and the honour of Overall Best Performing Learner at the Secondary School Level. This incredible success has secured her a selection to represent our province at the International Eskom Expo, where she won a Silver medal. A phenomenal accomplishment!
- Owomusa Dlamini earned a Silver medal at the KZN level, demonstrating superb scientific skill.
- Our strong team performance was further bolstered by Bronze medals for Phelisa Hadebe, Ameera Bham, and Jorja Pretorius.
- Jema-Lee Duncan's excellent work earned a well-deserved selection to the provincial level.

The accolades continue beyond the expo. We were also delighted to hear that our top-performing Physical Science learner from the Class of 2023, Maia Klijnstra, was recognised as the Top Performing First-Year Chemistry Student at the University of the Witwatersrand.

In a fantastic boost for the future of women in science, two of our learners were selected for the highly competitive STEM MentHERship Programme in both 2023 and 2024. This initiative pairs young, aspiring female scientists with mentors in the field, providing invaluable guidance and inspiration.

It has been a year of tremendous growth and celebration for the Physical Sciences at our school. We extend our deepest congratulations to all our learners for their hard work and dedication. A special thank you to the entire Physical Sciences team for their continued support and excellence in teaching.

Ms N Badenhorst
Head of Department



TOURISM

The Tourism Department at Hillcrest High School started the year with a bang, welcoming Mr Bartholomew and Mrs Hiscock to the team and setting an ambitious course for success. It was a year of new beginnings, but also one of fond farewells.

This year held a bittersweet emotion as we bid a heartfelt goodbye to our long-serving Subject Head, Mrs Singh, who announced her retirement. Having dedicated over 20 years to teaching at Hillcrest High School, her unwavering commitment to the subject has left a lasting legacy. She will be greatly missed, and the department extends its warmest wishes for a restful and healthy retirement.

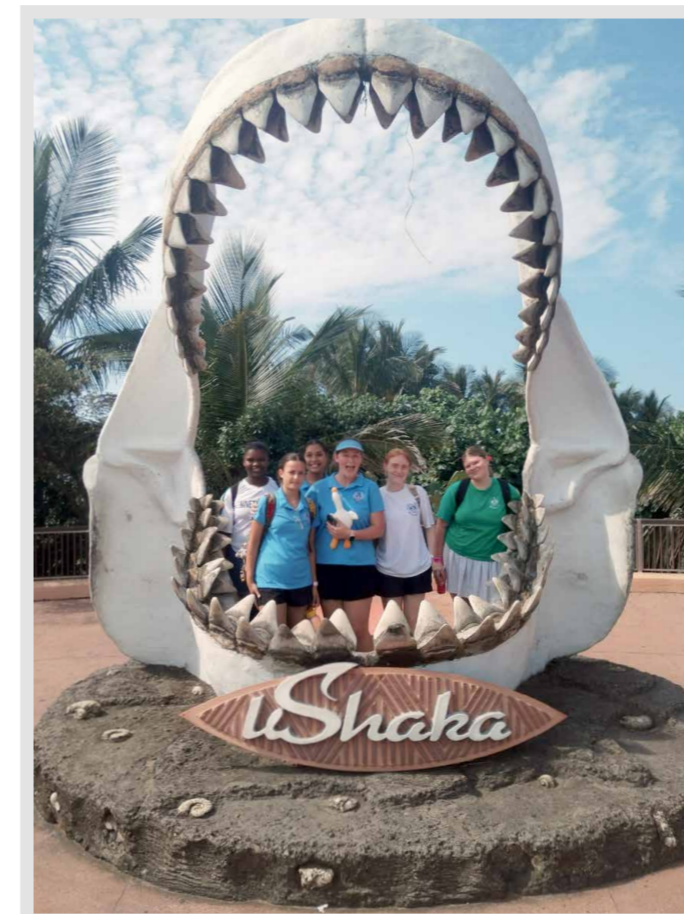
In Term 2, we were delighted to welcome Ms Mvumbu to the department. Her enthusiasm and fresh perspective are already proving to be a fantastic addition to our team. We wish her all the very best as she begins her journey with us at HHS.

One of the highlights of the year was the Grade 12 excursion to uShaka Marine World. The learners had the privilege of experiencing a guided tour, where they got up close with seals and penguins before being mesmerised by a thrilling dolphin show. A detailed tour of the aquarium provided an in-depth look at the tourism industry, showing students the ins and outs of operations from both the perspective of the tourist and the tourism department. The learners thoroughly enjoyed the entire tour, and as always, the bus ride was filled with laughter and excitement.

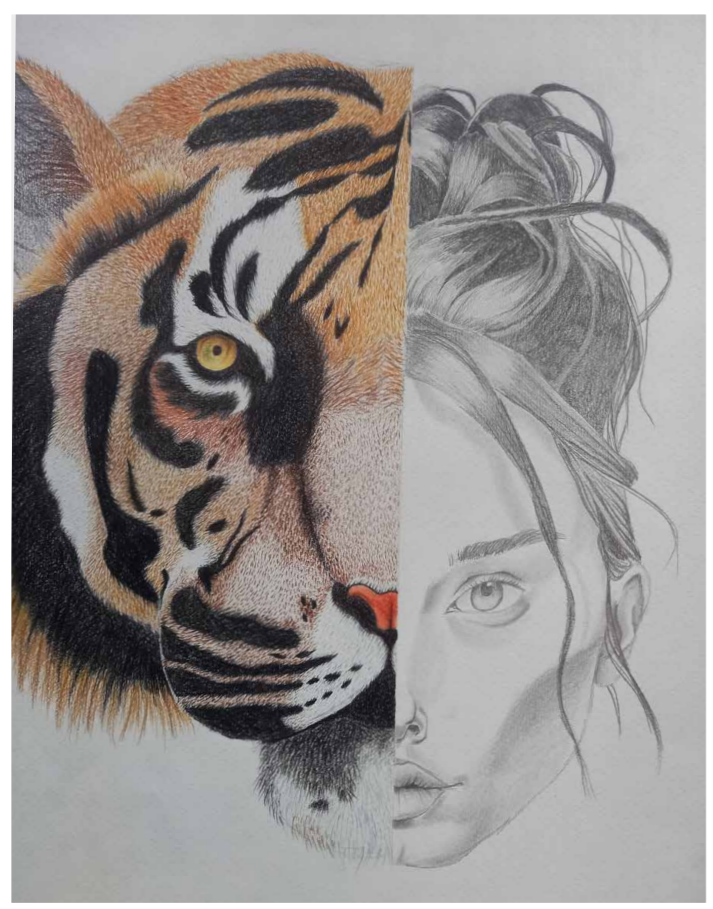
Looking ahead, we are busy planning some fantastic excursions for our Grade 10 and 11 learners for next year and are excited about the adventures to come.

To cap off the year, I am thrilled to announce that I will be taking on the role of Tourism Subject Head. I know I will be able to count on the full support of my department as I navigate this new chapter and hope to lead it to even greater heights.

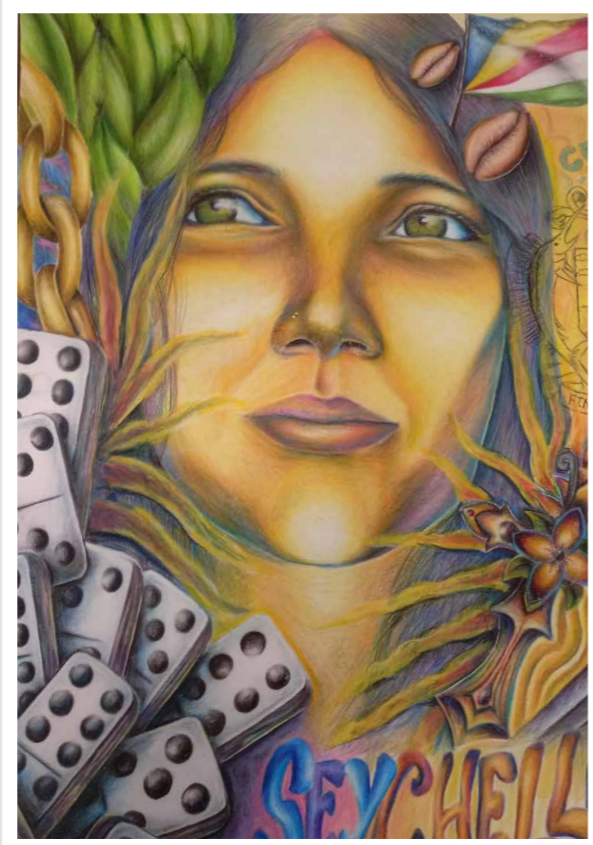
Mrs E Naidoo
Subject Head



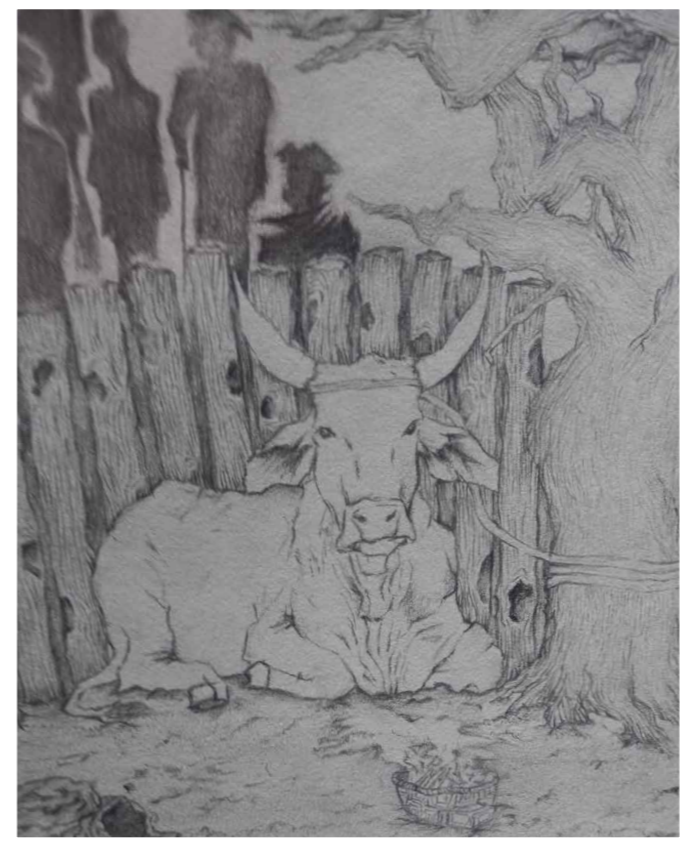
VISUAL ARTS



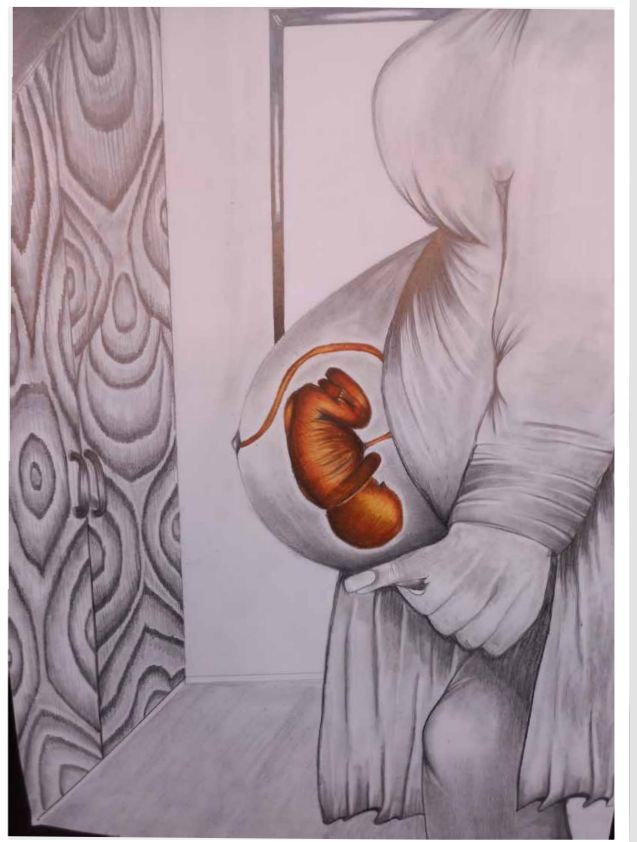
Tatum Nicholas



Cheyenne Hoareau



Asanda Ahandu



Sesandile Ngubane



Khanya Mzobe



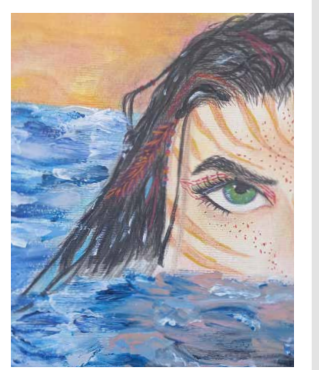
Kelsey Brown



Julia Cameron



Lisakhanya Mncube



Islay Pryce-Lewis



Lethokuhle Ngubane



Siphokazi Tembe



Allen Dube



Lerato Mantashe



2025 SPORTS TOUR

ST DUNSTAN'S TOUR

Our Hillcrest High School Rugby, Netball and Girls' and Boys' Hockey Teams were invited to travel to Gauteng to St Dunstan's Sports Tournament in April this year. Accompanied by their coaches and managers, the teams travelled by bus and stayed in Benoni while attending the five-day tournament.

Tours are a great opportunity for our teams to play against schools they are not typically exposed to, build team spirit and get to know their team mates better. We are grateful for the support of our incredible sponsors and supporters, as well as the parents of the players, in making the tour possible. We are aware that for many parents, sending their child on tour is done a great personal cost, and we appreciate the effort made by parents to secure funding to ensure that our learners are able to experience the excitement and challenges of being on tour, as well as to make memories and forge friendships. Thank you.

We would also like to thank our Head of Sports, Mr Windsor and our Coaches and Managers who gave up their Easter holidays, sacrificing time with family, to chaperone our learners and ensure that everything ran smoothly and they all returned home safely. Thank you to Mrs Topham, Ms Cope, Ms Blom, Mr Ngubane, Mr Roux and Mrs Janssens, as well as to external coach, Miss Adlam.

We were exceptionally proud of our teams, not only for their results achieved, but because of the way that they conducted themselves on this tour. They were great ambassadors for our school.

NETBALL

Our 1st Netball girls had a gruelling tour, playing five matches on their first day winning three of them. Good Friday was a welcome relief and saw the teams all head to Gold Reef City for a day of fun and relaxation and it was also helpful to allow them to acclimatise to the higher altitude and drier air.

Saturday was another busy day with six fixtures - a few of which were back-to-back. Our girls played like champions, even against some very tough opposition and managed to win four out of the six games, only narrowly losing to hosts St Dunstan's, and St Peter's. Our third match day consisted of one win and one loss.

Overall, our girls came together as a team and showed real grit as they played 13 intense matches - scoring a total of 396 goals. The team is very grateful to our sponsors, Flo-line Cleaning Services, Northside Electrical, Lighting & Security Wholesalers, PJ Silo & Fabrication, and all those who helped us get on tour.



RUGBY

Our Rugby 1st Team Boys had an exceptional tour and won all three of their matches, coming home as one of only five teams who were undefeated at the tournament. The team showcased the pride they have for Hillcrest High School, playing with passion and grit in each game. Their first game, against Midlands Christian College from Zimbabwe saw them come back from being 15 – 0 down to triumphing with a win of 19 – 15. The massive effort and great form continued with them playing excellent rugby for the next two games. They can also be proud of how they represented our school under the great leadership of team Captain, Sphehile Hlambisa, who led the young men to victory on and off the field.

Thank you to our incredible team sponsors for their new playing kit, warm-up shirts and kit bags! Northside Electrical, Lighting & Security Wholesalers, Roman's Pizza Hillcrest, Blue Security, Oxford Freshmarket, Remax Address and Da Costa Inc.



GIRLS' HOCKEY

Under the guidance of Mrs Topham, the Girls' Hockey 1st Team had an exceptional tour, winning five of the seven matches played. They won their first match, against Wise Owl - a team from Zimbabwe, on the day of arrival with Rebekah Nel (Player of the Match), Kellan Boynton and Anele Sabela all scoring goals. They went on to win their second match that same day, against Jeppe High School for Girls. Goal scorers were Isabella Momoh, Kellan Boynton and Anele Sabela (2 goals), who was also Player of the Match. A loss to Hellenic Academy followed with Kellan Boynton scoring our only goal and Shaelyn Geldenhuys being awarded Player of the Match. They came back strong winning against host, St Dunstan's College 2 - 1. Goal scorers: Kellan Boynton and Macayela Johannsen. Player of the Match: Madison Neville.

On the Saturday they defeated Curro Salt Rock 4 – 0 and Isabella Momoh, who scored two goals was Player of the Match. Kellan Boynton and Anele Sabela each scored one goal. Despite losing to Goudveld later that day, Madison Neville, was awarded Player of the Match.

On the final day they finished off strong, with a 3 – 0 win against St Peter's College. Goal scorers: Kellan Boynton, who scored two goals and was Player of the Match, and Anele Sabela who scored the other goal. At the conclusion of the tour Kellan Boynton was awarded the title of Most Valuable Player for HHS and Isabella Momoh the title of Most Improved Player for HHS.

Thank you to Northside Electrical, Lighting & Security Wholesalers for their continued sponsorship of the 1st Hockey Girls' Team.



BOYS' 1ST TEAM HOCKEY

The Boys' Hockey 1st Team played their first match, against St George's College, soon after arriving. A nail-biting match, where despite HHS playing an excellent game, they were defeated. The second round of matches got off to a fantastic start, with our team defeating hometown rival Thomas More College. They did not fare as well in their next match, against their toughest competitor Beaulieu College, and took a loss of 9 - 1.

In round 3 they faced two tough opposition teams – Springs Boys' High and E.G Jansen Invitational, going to a penalty shootout with Springs where they sadly lost 2 - 1 but claiming a 4 – 0 victory against E.G Jansen Invitational.

The final round was just as intense as the first round with HHS taking on another hometown rival, Curro Salt Rock. Once again both teams dug deep and played their hearts out. Both teams clearly wanted the win, which resulted in a 1 all tie, followed by a penalty shootout, which still left the score tied! The victory came down to a sudden death (Golden Goal). Brendon Smith, a senior member of the team, scored with a superb drag flick, and our new goalkeeper Levi Lundie, a Grade 9 HHS learner, pulled off a spectacular save which gave us the final win. Well done, boys! Coach Cope extended her thanks to team Captain, Cuan Le Roux for his assistance on tour, and to the team of boys for making it a memorable one.

Thank you to our amazing sponsor, Splashy Fen, for ensuring the full team was outfitted with smart new kit and that they could all attend the tour.

Mr P Windsor
Head of Sport



BADMINTON



GIRLS' 1ST TEAM

Row 2: Senamile Mvelase, Faith William, Ropafadzo Marinda, Lwandle Vukeka
Row 1: Miss W Foulkes, Isabella Te Brugge, Mrs DP Knight



BOYS' 1ST TEAM

Row 2: Adam Foulkes, Jeriah Govender
Row 1: Miss W Foulkes, Ethan Ainhirn, Mrs DP Knight

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS AND RISING STANDARDS

Badminton at Hillcrest High School continues to grow from strength to strength, with excellent number of learners attending practices and an ever-expanding pool of talented players. This year saw a greater contingent of our players making their mark on the KZN circuit, participating across the U15, U17 and U19 age groups. Their involvement reflects not only the depth of skill but also the growing confidence within the programme.

Our school entered five competitive teams – three boys' (1st, 2nd and 3rd) and two girls' (1st and 2nd) – with each squad navigating the ups and downs of the season and producing solid results. The highlight came once again at the SA High Schools' Championships, where our players put in a spirited performance, particularly in the doubles events, demonstrating both teamwork and technical growth.

A special word of recognition goes to Head Coach Weny Foulkes, whose dedication and guidance have been instrumental in driving the teams to consistently give their best. Beyond school leagues, it has also been inspiring to see more of our players commit to club training outside of school hours, a sign of the passion and ambition taking root within the squad.

With such depth, dedication, and drive, the future of badminton at our school looks brighter than ever.

PLAYERS OF THE SEASON:

Girls: Isabella Te Brugge
 Boys: Jeriah Govender



GIRLS' BADMINTON

Row 2: Avela Hlophe, Faith William, Margo Frasenburgh, Kaylyn Sinclair, Brightness Ngcobo, Asanda Mazibuko
Row 1: Owomusa Dlamini, Isabella Te Brugge, Ms W Foulkes, Ropafadzo Marinda, Lwandle Vukeka



BOYS' BADMINTON

Row 2: Jaden Cornish, Ricardo de Almeida, Shaun Lloyd, Connor Quinn, Teagan Baxter, Scott Burger
Row 1: Caleb Chavoos, Banele Khuboni, Sebastian Smith, Ms W Foulkes, Nathan Patrick, Jordan Karriem, Roman Giorko

1ST TEAM

Row 3: Jaden Strydom, David Mackenzie, Syon Naidoo, Kayden Ferguson
Row 2: Dejuan Govender, Terania Govender, Juan Diego Naidoo, Maja Kearley
Row 1: Joy Mackenzie, Mrs L Gomes, Ethan Ainhirn, Mrs DP Knight, Aarin van der Byl



CHESS

"Nobody ever won a chess game by resigning." (anon)

At the end of 2024 when our Chess Team "matriculated" – it would have been easy to resign ourselves to defeat. Not so! With the arrival of some very talented juniors and dedicated chess reserves a team was forged – and despite resignations – this loyal and enthusiastic team proudly won the PADSSA Chess League for the 10th consecutive year. Many players also participated in external tournaments including, amongst others, the eThekweni Youth Trials, KZN Open, SAJCC, and KZN Selected Tournament.

Mention needs to be made of Dejuan Govender, Aarin Van Der Byl and Juan Diego Naidoo (JD) who played exceptionally well – JD competing in the South African Junior Champs, as well as finishing 3rd in the U16 division of KZN. Our Matrics, Syon Naidoo, Jaden Strydom and Ethan Ainhirn kept the team "in check" - Ethan being Match Captain and Jaden Club Captain. Thanks go to ALL the other team members and reserves for their unwavering dedication to the team including Maja Kearley, Kayden Ferguson, Terania Govender, Joy Mackenzie and David Mackenzie.

Looking forward to 2026 – from small beginnings we will build!

Mrs L Gomes
 TIC - Chess

"Life is like chess sometimes, the most powerful move is not in taking, but in waiting." (anon)



CRICKET

Our 1st Cricket Team was pleased to receive brand new cricket shirts sponsored by Hillcrest Corner. Not only did they feel and look good, but the shirts also brought them good luck from the outset!

THE SUMMER SERIES CRICKET FESTIVAL

In February the 1st Team participated in the Summer Series Cricket Festival hosted by Thomas More College. Despite their first fixture against St Henry's being washed out, team spirit remained high and the team went on to defeat Reddam House Umhlanga by 26 runs in their 2nd fixture. Kienan Sawyer, Paul Momoh and Connor Lowe all achieved good 20s to take the team to a competitive 128 on a very tough wicket to bat on.

In the final against Curro Hillcrest, both teams took the field hungry to get a result. However, the weather would have the final laugh. Shortly after taking the field, with only three overs bowled, the heavens opened and completely washed out the final. This meant that the trophy would be shared between both schools - Curro Hillcrest and Hillcrest High School. The boys from both teams shared in the victory spoils after the match. Many of them having a good laugh with their mates from the other side.

HOWICK HIGH SCHOOL FESTIVAL

During the Term 3 holidays, the Hillcrest First XI played five intense cricket matches over three days at the Howick High School Festival, competing against Kloof High School, Curro Hillcrest, Howick High School, Grantleigh, and a Maritzburg College Invitational side.

In the opening match against Curro Hillcrest, HHS recovered from early setbacks to post a competitive total of 155/7 in 20 overs. Ricardo de Almeida and Keegan Compton-James showed positive signs with great cameos, but the highlight was the powerful partnership between Kienan Sawyer (36 off 14) and Paul Momoh (54 not out off 40). Unfortunately, Curro Hillcrest batted aggressively, chasing down the target (156) in 16 overs, bringing an enthralling first day to a close.

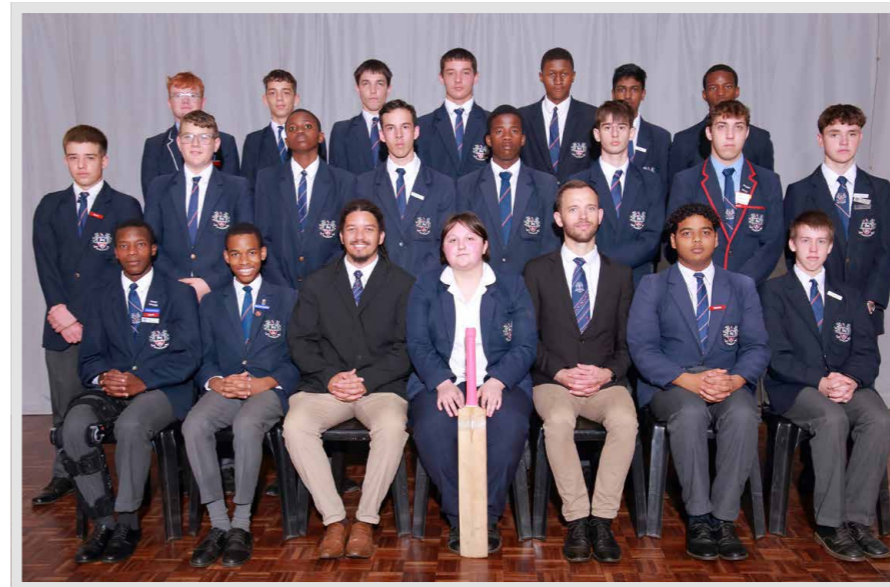
In the match against Kloof High School, Ricardo de Almeida opened with a 65-run partnership with Kienan Sawyer getting HHS off to a strong start, but unfortunately the team was eventually bowled out for 144.

The team secured a win against hosts Howick High School where the use of spin bowlers proved highly effective, restricting Howick to 140. Notable performances came from Kienan Sawyer and the partnership of Keegan Compton-James and Paul Momoh.

Against Maritzburg College, HHS chose to field, relying on their batting form to chase the target. College posted a daunting 186/3 and despite fighting back hard and giving the College boys something to worry about, HHS fell short of 10 runs. Kienan Sawyer and Dylan Jacobson put on an impressive 85-run partnership.

The final fixture against Grantleigh was cut short by lightning and rain while Hillcrest was well-positioned at 61/3 after just 7 overs, ending the tour abruptly.

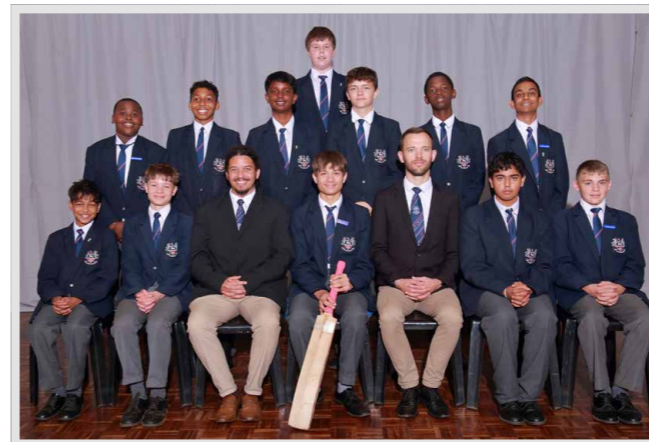
Row 3: Jayden Chaythram, Brendon Frenzel, Travis Whiteside, Kienan Sawyer, Seth Surgeson, Kaidin Singh
Row 2: Paul Momoh, Dylan Jacobson, Kiano Elliott, Luca Chessa
Row 1: Mr A Burger, Tasriq Wingrove, Mrs DP Knight, Connor Lowe, Mr C Marillier



2nd TEAM
Row 3: Connor Lowe, Ricardo de Almeida, Nathan Daw, Gareth Henning, Mpumelelo Makhathini, Clive Padayachee, Sandisizwe Shezi
Row 2: Luca Chessa, Liam Sanders, Rebokile Nketu, Scott Burger, Ntuthuko Zuma, Marco Chessa, Michael Griessel, Adam Foulkes
Row 1: Sinenhloso Shoji, Banele Shange, Mr C Marillier, Tana Botha, Mr A Burger, Evan Rambaran, Callum Stieger



U15A
Row 3: Patton Knoesen, Bradley Leppan, Trenton Christian, Richard Smeda, Noah Berndt, Ryan Rees
Row 2: Annika Pretorius, Riley Rimmell
Row 1: Jordyn Botha, Riaan van der Byl, Ms N Zulu, Stephen Munro, Mr C Marillier, Keegan Compton-James, Matthew Pillay



U14 A
Row 3: Clayton Soane
Row 2: Sbonga Mhlongo, Jayden Watson, Aaron Kodandaraju, Chaz Rodney, Bandile Danisa, Levi Naidoo
Row 1: Aarin van der Byl, Keegan Meyeza, Mr C Marillier, Ciaran Christian, Mr A Burger, Tashay Harie, Liam Smith

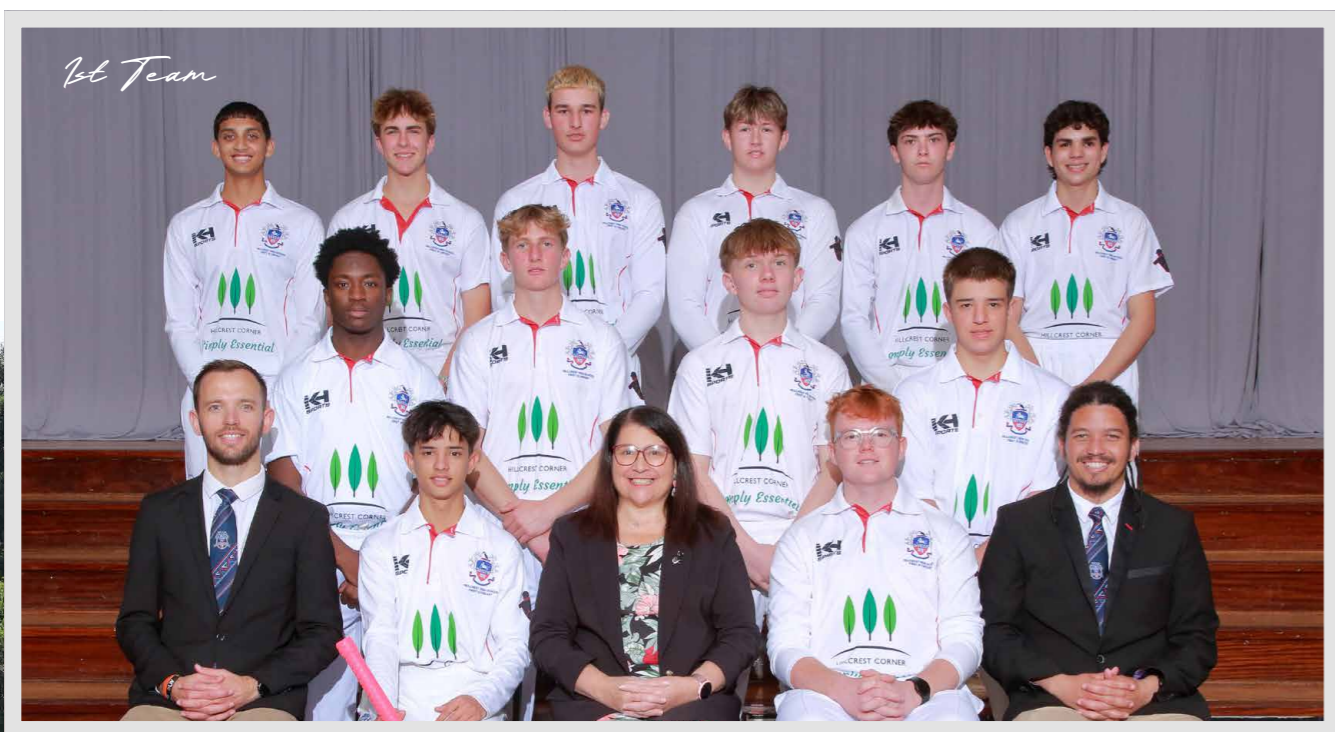


Our team's determination was evident in every fixture. Kienan Sawyer finished as the highest run-scorer of the entire tournament, accumulating 311 runs at a phenomenal average of 75 and a strike rate of 185. The team showed just how good they can be and put up a fantastic fight.

The 2nd Team ended off their season with back-to-back wins over Reddam Umhlanga 2nd XI and George Campbell's First XI. This year's 2nd XI was led by Tana Botha, a passionate young cricketer with a big heart for her team. She played a big role in both wins. In the match against Reddam House the HHS batsmen Ricardo de Almeida and Kaidin Singh stole the show with Tana Botha again contributing with 3-14 in her spell. Her leadership and contributions to the team have gone a long way towards them having a successful term on the cricket field.

This year's U15A Team was very competitive in their matches winning four out of six in the first term with notable victories over Crawford La Lucia, Reddam Umhlanga, George Campbell and Howick High School. A close-knit bunch, they were ably led by Stephen Munro and showed a lot of spirit on the field, with a never-give-up attitude no matter the circumstances. This showed in their victory against Howick High where Noah Berndt grabbed the first breakthrough, disrupting a big partnership for Howick, Stephen Munro bowled a triple-wicket maiden over and the team won by a narrow eight runs with the 1st Team cheering, encouraging the boys, and supporting every wicket taken. This day was a memory that will long live in the memory of all the boys that played and watched that day.

Mr C Marillier
 Cricket Co-ordinator



CROSS COUNTRY



Row 4: Alexis Duncan, Nkazimulo Nzimande, Scott Burger, Bradley Leppan, Kaitlyn Steyn, Chloe Matthews

Row 3: Katy Armstrong, Osiphile Vilakazi, Banele Shange, Kristen Bartholomew, Anro Adendorff, Callum Stieger, Kayla Jackson

Row 2: Bethany Haynes, Ava Riley, Tayla Holing, Layla Lee, Juwairiyah Sindhi, Amy Neveling

Row 1: Manqoba Gumede, Rebecca Easson, Ms N Badenhorst, Julia Cameron, Mr B White, Brogan Torrie, Vuyo Mlamula

E-SPORTS

Sports and gaming both possess an incredible power to connect, inspire, and transform lives.

Sports challenges both the body and the mind, imparting essential lessons like teamwork, regardless of a person's background. They generate joy and pride in both the players and the fans. On the field or court, sports clearly demonstrate how hard work and dedication lead to success.

Gaming also has a huge impact. It is much more than just entertainment; it actively builds creativity, problem-solving skills, and focus. Online games allow people from around the world to play together, form friendships, and share experiences. The rise of Esports, now filling stadiums, proves that gaming can be just as competitive and exciting as traditional sports.

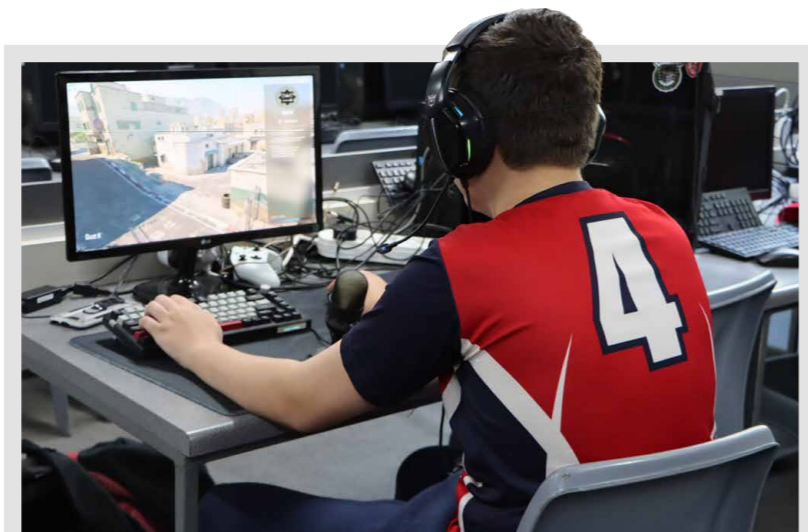
Both sports and gaming have given me confidence, friendships, and valuable life lessons. I truly believe anyone would benefit from being a part of them.

Tyler Muller



Row 2: Christopher Rossouw, Brandon Lilly, Wayne Kearley, Tyler Muller

Row 1: Caiden Smith, Mr N Naude, Okuhle Zondi, Mr J Langston, Cian Els



GOLF

This year marked an exciting milestone for Hillcrest High School as golf was introduced as a school sport for the very first time. The team, made up of learners from Grades 8 to 12, quickly developed a strong sense of camaraderie and competitiveness, creating an inspiring team atmosphere both on and off the course.

Under the capable leadership of Team Captain, Liam Asquith, the players rose to the challenge in every fixture, facing strong opposition with determination and sportsmanship. Competing in both league matches, and friendly encounters, provided not only valuable experience but also the opportunity to build friendships with golfers from other schools.

With Kloof Country Club as our home base, the team was able to refine their skills and adapt their game to different course conditions. They also had the privilege of playing at a variety of prestigious courses - an experience that many young golfers seldom get to enjoy and participated in the HHS Golf Day, kindly sponsored by Blue Security and CMH Suzuki Hillcrest.

The players embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, balancing their competitive drive with plenty of good humour and team spirit. It has been rewarding to witness their steady improvement and commitment throughout the season.

The golf programme has grown in popularity and success, and the team looks forward to building on this year's achievements. With continued dedication and hard work, there is great potential for promotion to the next league in the coming year. Congratulations to all the learners who represented Hillcrest High School golf in its inaugural season - your efforts have set a strong foundation for the future!

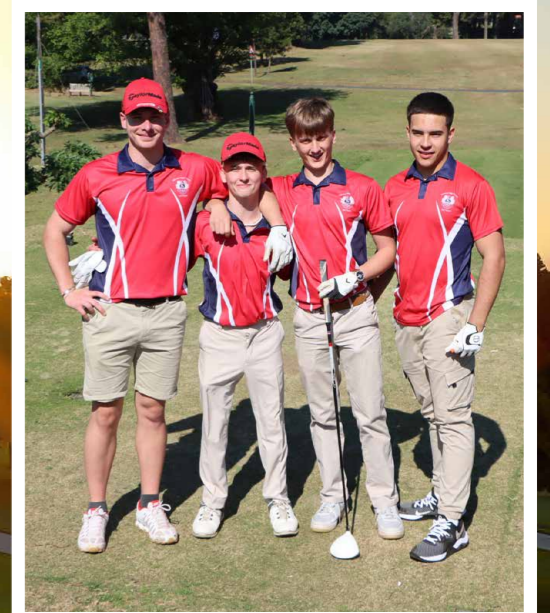
Mr P Windsor
Head of Sport



Row 3: Brendon Frenzel, Joshua Roets, Tao Gauche

Row 2: Riley Nicholas, Campbell Robinson, Kingsley Matthews, Adam Foulkes

Row 1: Tasriq Wingrove, Mrs DP Knight, William Asquith, Mr P Windsor, Jordan Prior





BOYS' HOCKEY

Row 4: Owen van den Berg, Brendon Frenzel, Campbell Robinson, Dominique Knoesen
Row 3: Marco Chessa, Riley Nicholas, Keagan Glauser
Row 2: Sloane Schaub-Kuffler, Nhlakanipho Zinume, Asande Ngobese, Sebastian Schaub-Kuffler
Row 1: Brendon Smith, Ms SL Cope, Cuan Le Roux, Mrs DP Knight, Tasriq Wingrove

The 2025 Boys' Hockey season was jam-packed for all age groups this year. The U14 Team had a good season with the introduction of some new talent from our Grade 8s. The boys played hard and won most of their matches. Although it is a big jump from primary school hockey into high school hockey and tournaments, the youngsters showed true GRIT, kept the pace, and performed well.

The U16/2nd Team can also be proud of their season. They exhibited great team cohesion, dedication, and hunger for the win – with all of them showing phenomenal skill. They also won most of their matches with a few draws and only one or two losses. As a team they came together and created such a positive vibe, with continuous support from the boys, parents, and coach.

The 1st Boys' Hockey Team can also be congratulated on their incredible season, kickstarting the season with the Crawford La Lucia Tournament where they showcased their skill and determination, pulling off a good few wins. At the Curro Hillcrest Legacy Cup they pulled together and played some great hockey. Hillcrest High School finished 3rd in the tournament.

Our touring squad ventured to St. Dunstan's College in Gauteng in April. They were excited and raring to go and

kitted out, once again, by our supportive sponsor, Past Pupil, Stuart Berry and his company, under the Splashy Fen brand banner. The boys, playing against schools from across South Africa as well as from other African countries, performed phenomenally, defeating some tough schools, including some very intense penalty shootouts.

We also participated in the PSG Super 8 Tournament again this year, finishing 3rd overall with only one loss. It was a challenging tournament with all of the matches played on grass and our players are accustomed to playing on turf; however, with their grit and determination they pulled off some brilliant victories.

The boys' outdoor season of 2025 was one of our best seasons with some brilliant victories and friendship bonds forged. It is always inspirational to see a group of teenage boys come together and, after a long season, come out as friends who respect the sport, their school, and each other.

Well done boys and thank you for a great season!

Ms SL Cope
 Coach and Manager



U16 BOYS
Row 2: Kyle Nickson, Juandré van der Watt, Patton Knoesen, Liam Kruger, Stephen Munro, Jayden Roestoff, Mpendulo Vilakazi, Owethu Mkhize
Row 1: Siphosethu Miya, Jaden Pillay, Ryan Rees, Ms SL Cope, Ethan Moss, Banele Khuboni, David Mackenzie



U14 BOYS
Row 3: Sibanisethu Myeza, Ndimiso Cele, Clayton Soane, Jethro Le Roux, Liphelihle Khumalo
Row 2: Mpendulo Mutambaneshiri, Tashay Harie, Bayanda Ngwazi, Ndimiso Zwane, Dingane Chipande, Jett Thomas
Row 1: Caiden Smith, Samkelisipho Vilakazi, Ms SL Cope, Jayden Watson, Melokuhle Nyathikazi





Girls' 1st Team

GIRLS' HOCKEY

Row 3: Jodi MacLachlan, Shaelyn Geldenhuys, Kellan Boynton, Jayden-Lee Anderson, Anele Sabela
Row 2: Natalie Rees, Akwande Luthuli, Nangamso Nxasana, Isabella Momoh, Senamile Mvelase, Rebekah Nel
Row 1: Zainab Wingrove, Shannyn Olivier, Mrs L Topham, Jordan Kidgell, Mrs DP Knight, Lilli Geel, Macayela Johansson

1st Girls' Hockey Team welcomed a coaching change with Mrs Lauren Topham being promoted. Deputy Head Girl, Jordan Kidgell, was announced as Captain and the team was set for a great season.

A number of juniors were given an opportunity early in the season with the pre-season tournament hosted by Curro Hillcrest and the annual Crawford La Lucia Festival. Jayden-Lee Anderson was confident in the defence and went on to be a consistent thorn in the side of the attackers for the U16 team.

Kellan Boynton took her opportunity at the highest level and never looked back! She started her scoring streak on tour at the St Dunstan's Easter Festival in Gauteng scoring in six out of seven games, aiding Hillcrest High School in finishing 5th out of 13 teams in the girls' tournament.

Back in Durban, Kellan's scoring streak continued. In the PSG Super 8s Tournament she took a ball to the knee early in the match against Riverwood College and was off the field for most of the fixture but came back on in the last five minutes to score a consolation goal. She ended the season with a total of 18 goals in 35 games!

Due to an early loss to Riverwood College in the PSG Super 8s Tournament, we finished second in the "South" Pool and faced

Vryheid in the final held at Richard's Bay High School. The 1st team girls won that match convincingly to finish 3rd overall.

The girls played a total of 37 matches including four teams from Zimbabwe and four Gauteng schools – an excellent season overall. A coaching change can be disruptive, but Coach Topham felt the girls adapted well to this ending the season with a win rate of 83% and two players and Mrs Topham selected to represent KwaZulu-Natal.

Isabella Momoh made the KZN U16 B Team that attended the SASHOC National week hosted by Inlands Hockey at St Anne's and Hilton College and Anele Sabela made the KZN U18 B side. Mrs Topham was selected as the coach for this team. The U18 National week was hosted by Inlands Hockey at St Anne's Girls in Pietermaritzburg. The U18 B team finished 2nd in their division at the tournament losing to Eastern Gauteng in the final 2 - 0.



1ST TEAM SPONSOR

"Sport into Africa" invited Isabella Momoh and Mrs Topham to travel to the Netherlands and on the first day teams were joining a touring party of over 150 people from around the country. The tour, held in October, was hosted by a few Hockey clubs in and around Amsterdam, including LOHC in South Holland and Stichtsche Cricket en Hockey Club in Utrecht. They had the opportunity to explore the towns of Zaanse Schans, Utrecht and Voldendam as well as spending a day at the Efteling Amusement Park before flying home.

Hockey in the Netherlands, which is all club based, starts for players from two years of age with shin pads and gum guards compulsory at all levels. There are no school teams.

After the first day's matches the South African teams were invited to the hockey clubhouse for pizza and time to socialise. We were all pleasantly surprised to find that the Dutch girls were mostly fluent in English and could also follow the conversation in Afrikaans.

The whole group was hosted by another club, SCHC for two days of clinics and matches.

The clinics were run by the junior coaches from SCHC and on the first day teams were on the astro for nearly six hours. Day two, which was held a couple of days later, included four hours of clinic followed by matches.

Between the clinic days the teams were free to explore Amsterdam Central, Utrecht and the windmills at Zaanse Schans. The touring party also had the opportunity to watch a women's professional match. Host Club SCHC, ranked number 1 in the league, were playing Kampong, ranked number 2 in the league at Kampong's home club in Utrecht. This is a professional league, and everyone was very excited to see Yippi Jansen, and her famous drag flick in action. SCHC won that match 2 - 1.

The tour was extremely educational for both Isabella and Mrs Topham - on and off the hockey field. Mrs Topham was able to connect with some likeminded coaches from around South Africa and made international connections with the Dutch coaching staff.

Mrs L Topham
Teacher-in-Charge



Girls' 2nd Team



Row 2: Ukwethaba Zuma, Taygen Oberholzer, Karlissa Pretorius, Danielle James, Kayla Jackson, Emma Akeroyd, Roxanne Lendon
Row 1: Senzelwe Nene, Nicole Waddleton, Natalie Rees, Ms M Buckley, Nangamso Nxasana, Morgan Linden, Brogan Torrie



U16 GIRLS
Row 3: Bethany Haynes, Rebekah Nel, Jayden-Lee Anderson, Annika Pretorius, Tayla Holing, Samkelsiwe Makhanya
Row 2: Langelihle Nxumalo, Neha Pillay
Row 1: Theresli Meyers, Courtney Mackintosh, Sienna Fripp, Ms Z Ngcobo, Tuseka Mngadi, Caitlyn van Niekerk, Katelyn Rajkoomar



U14 GIRLS
Row 3: Katie Wright, Michaela Roberts, Laela-Mae Geldenhuys, Natalie Steyn, Bella Fettes, Chenay Tappin
Row 2: Tiffany Scott, Boniswa Masondo, Simthandle Cele, Abigail Smit
Row 1: Kenzie Stevenson, Casey Erasmus, Kady Clemmett, Ms B Buckley, Sienna Kidgell, Khonokuhle Bulose, Avela Hadebe



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Indoor Girls' 1st Team

Row 3: Isabella Momoh, Jodi MacLachlan, Shannyn Olivier, Anele Sabela
Row 2: Akwande Luthuli, Macayela Johansson
Row 1: Mrs L Topham, Jordan Kidgell, Mrs DP Knight

INDOOR

GIRLS' HOCKEY



U16 INDOOR GIRLS

Row 4: Senamile Mvelase, Shaelyn Geldenhuys, Jayden-Lee Anderson, Danielle James, Kellan Boynton, Alexis Duncan, Kayla Jackson, Nicole Waddleton, **Row 3:** Emma Akeroyd, Samkeliwe Makhanya
Row 2: Morgan Linden, Theresli Meyers, Rebekah Nel, Sesona Guzana, Courtney Mackintosh, Bethany Haynes, Brogan Torrie, Langelihle Nxumalo, **Row 1:** Tuseka Mngadi, Sienna Fripp, Ms S O'Halloran, Katelyn Rajkoomar, Ms L Gordon, Senzelwe Nene, Ms Z Ngcobo, Caitlyn van Niekerk, Lwandle Vukeka



Indoor Girls' 2nd Team

Row 3: Lilli Geel, Karlissa Pretorius, Roxanne Lendon, Nangamso Nxasana
Row 2: Tayla Holing, Ukwethaba Zuma
Row 1: Taygen Oberholzer, Natalie Rees, Ms M Buckley, Zainab Wingrove, Kaitlyn Perumal



U14 INDOOR GIRLS

Row 3: Esihle Mncube, Natalie Steyn, Laela-Mae Geldenhuys, Bella Fettes, Boniswa Masondo, **Row 2:** Casey Erasmus, Cheney Tappin, Simthandle Cele, Katie Wright, Khwezi Kunene, Tiffany Scott, **Row 1:** Kenzie Stevenson, Thobeka Khumalo, Kady Clemmett, Ms B Buckley, Sienna Kidgell, Khonokuhle Bulose, Avela Hadebe



Row 3: Brendon Frenzel, Gareth Henning, Riley Nicholas
Row 2: Keagan Glauser, Tasriq Wingrove
Row 1: Asande Ngobese, Ms SL Cope, Cuan Le Roux, Mrs DP Knight, Brendon Smith

INDOOR BOYS' HOCKEY

The 2025 Indoor Hockey season got off to a great start – the number of boys that were interested in playing was incredible and it was really great to see so many boys really keen to get involved.

We entered 1st and 2nd teams into the U18B and C leagues respectively. Both teams had a strong season, with the 2nd team pulling off some tremendous wins (even with some first-time players). The vibe amongst the boys was brilliant, and as a team they grew from strength to strength, only losing three matches all season.

The 1st Team Boys played some excellent hockey against some strong opposition – with three wins and four close losses and a final standing in 5th place - a dramatic improvement from 2024. They showed strong commitment with a few big learning curves but came out strong at the end. We look forward to a better and stronger finish in 2026.

- Hillcrest vs Northwood C: A tight loss 2 – 3
- Hillcrest vs Thomas More: A tough loss 0 – 4
- Hillcrest vs Kingsway: A solid victory 6 – 1
- Hillcrest vs Curro Hillcrest: A close last-minute win 3 – 2
- Hillcrest vs Westville B: A tight loss 1 – 3
- Hillcrest vs Kloof High School: A sterling win 10 – 6
- Hillcrest vs Reddam Umhlanga: A close loss 5 – 7

A big thank you to our players, parents, and the school for all the continuous support of both the boys and their coach.

Thank you to Mr Windsor for all the behind-the-scenes organisation and a big thank you to Splashy Fen for your continuous support and sponsorship – truly appreciated!

To our players - thank you for the commitment and heart at each practice and game.

And to the Matrics – a final thank you to each of you. You will be truly missed. You have inspired the younger players in more ways than one – thank you for your commitment in your final year. All the best and good luck for finals.

Ms SL Cope
 Coach and Manager



Indoor Boys' 2nd Team
Row 3: David Mackenzie, Liam Kruger, Cooper Marsh
Row 2: Marco Chessa, Owen van den Berg, Juandré van der Watt, Jaden Pillay
Row 1: Owethu Mkhize, Mrs S Strydom, Campbell Robinson, Ms SL Cope, Banele Khuboni

MOUNTAIN BIKING

What an incredible season it has been for the Hillcrest High School Mountain Biking Team! From freezing cold mornings at Waterfall College to glorious sunny days racing at Howick High School, our riders represented HHS with pride and passion throughout every race.

Mountain biking is a thrilling sport that challenges riders to navigate technical terrain, test their limits, and grow in courage and skill. This season our team faced it all - wooden bridges to balance over, staircases to descend at full speed, and floating bridges that demanded both focus and finesse. Every course brought something new, and our riders rose to the challenge with determination and grit.

A huge congratulations to our team captains, Dominique Knoesen and Taygen Oberholzer, for leading the team with dedication. A big thank you also goes to Mrs Tonkin and Taygen for organising our snazzy new cycling kit - our team looked great as they rode! Thank you to Mr White, Mr Gay, and Mrs Tonkin for overseeing training sessions, and to Mrs van Heerden, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure entries were sorted and Hillcrest High School was always in the loop. We truly appreciate your support!

This year, the Mountain Biking Team, made up of 14 dedicated learners (10 boys and 4 girls), competed in four School League races. The boys' team proudly placed 10th overall, while the girls brought home an outstanding 2nd place finish!



Row 3: Danielle James, Sebastian Smith, Jaden le Roux, James Tatton, Wayne Kearley, Christiaan Venter
Row 2: Maja Kearley, Erin Lowe, Benjamin Smith, Bryce Fuchs, Sibusiso Mapotse, Liam Henstock
Row 1: Asad Mkhize, Mrs T Tonkin, Taygen Oberholzer, Ms D van Heerden, Dominique Knoesen, Mr B White, Alana van Wyk



SEASON RANKINGS

BOYS:

1. Bryce Fuchs
2. Sebastian Smith
3. Wayne Kearley
4. James Tatton
5. Dominique Knoesen
6. Menelisi Cele
7. Noah Hawkins
8. Asad Mkhize
9. Jamey Grobbelaar
10. Christiaan Venter

GIRLS:

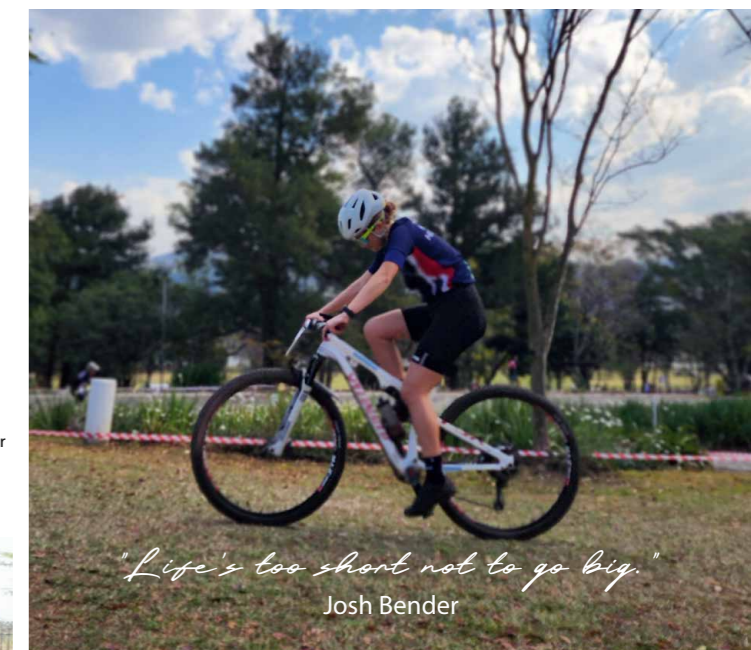
1. Erin Lowe
2. Maja Kearley
3. Taygen Oberholzer
4. Danielle James



A special congratulations goes to Bryce Fuchs and Erin Lowe, who were awarded Mountain Biker of the Year for boys and girls respectively at the Sports' and Cultural Awards evening. And to Taygen Oberholzer who finished the School's League in 4th place in her age group category. Your dedication and standout performances have inspired us all.

To every rider on the team: Thank you for your commitment, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship. From the first race to the last, your growth was evident, and your determination made Hillcrest High proud.

Mrs T Tonkin



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NETBALL

A YEAR OF GRIT, GROWTH & GREATNESS

With pre-season tournaments kicking off as early as February, our netball girls truly hit the ground running in 2025!

The season began with an impressive performance at the Gelofto Night Series, where our 1st Team showcased their skill and teamwork, earning a well-deserved 2nd place.

Over the Easter weekend, the 1st Team took part in the St Dunstan's Easter Sports Festival in Benoni. The girls faced an intense schedule - 13 matches over three days - and walked away with 8 commanding victories. It was a true test of stamina, spirit, and sportsmanship - especially dealing with the challenge of the change in altitude. Thank you to Mr Windsor for making the tour happen!

In Term 2, the season picked up momentum as we returned for our second year in the prestigious PSG Super 8s Tournament. All teams (U14, U15, U16, 2nd and 1st) gave it their all, with our 1st Team delivering a standout performance to win the competition, finishing strong with a decisive victory over Empangeni High School.

Our local midweek matches offered a mixed bag of results, but each game was an opportunity to grow. The commitment, determination, and improvement shown by all our players is something to be proud of.

SPAR FAST 5S WAS HOSTED AT NEIGHBOURING SCHOOL CURRO HILLCREST

A season like this would not be possible without the dedication of our staff and supporters:

Thank you to our managers - Ms Blom, Ms Gabisa, Ms Dlamini, Mrs L Gordon and Mrs Bastion - for your unwavering support and organisation throughout the season.

A heartfelt thank you to our coaches - Ms Adlam, Ms Gabisa, Ms Watt, Mrs Joubert, Mrs Venter Darbyshire, Mrs Lubbe, and Mrs Hiscock - for the countless hours spent on the court and behind the scenes training, strategising, and inspiring our girls.

To our sponsors, Foline and Northside, and everyone who supported our tour fundraising efforts - your generosity made this season's achievements possible. Thank you for believing in our team.

This season has been a testament to what hard work, teamwork, and community support can achieve. We are incredibly proud of every girl who wore our BLUE RED WHITE colours this year and look forward to building on this momentum in the seasons ahead.

Ms Blom
Manager





1st Team

Row 3: Thandolwethu Sishi, Anathi Mchunu, Michaela Clegg, Sophie Buccimazza, Julia Cameron
Row 2: Jorja Pretorius, Kylie Coetzee, Hannah Greffrath, Maroelle Coertse
Row 1: Ziyanda Mabhida, Ms E Blom, Lola Klijnstra, Mrs DP Knight, Lisakhanya Mncube



2nd Team

Row 3: Akhona Mkhize, Emily O'Shaughnessy, Keira Boshoff, Taylor van Tromp, Megan Maher, Amber-Lynn Jones, Nangamso Nxasana
Row 2: Hlobisile Sibaya, Ntwenhle Kunene, Simbonge Dladla, Unathi Zungu, Yandiswa Dlamini, Olwami Mshengu, Tatum Low, Olwethu Dladla
Row 1: Akwande Luthuli, Anele Sabela, Snoxolo Dlamini, Kiara Botha, Ms T Gabisa, Awande Nzuzo, Andiswa Nyathikazi, Ayanda Ngidi, Amambo Mkhize



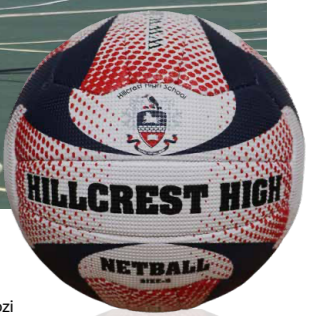
U16
Row 3: Vuyiswa Hlengwa, Sanelisiwe Ndlovu, Abongwe Luthuli, Olivia Donaldson, Shaelyn Geldenhuys, Kate Woolven, Piya Brown, Sinenhlahl Nyathikazi
Row 2: Caitlyn van Niekerk, Olwami Vilakazi, Tamiqwe Piyoo, Alwande Phewa, Mvelo Mkhize, Samukelisiwe Mbonambi, Amahle Tshabalala, Nkazimulo Mthethwa
Row 1: Sibani Magwaza, Chelsea Stainbank, Ayabonga Ngcobo, Mrs G Bastion, Jorja Pretorius, Asanda Mazibuko, Sibahle Zwane



U15
Row 5: Esihle Mtshali, Shiloh Lortan, Zisanda Khathi, Yolanda Makhoba, Kellan Boynton, Jayden-Lee Anderson, Erin Lowe
Row 4: Ethaba Majazi, Paige Schoeman, Busiswa Mbanjwa, Banele Chiya, Sophie Grunewald, Kayla Conlon
Row 3: Ezojobe Jobe, Lulo Ngcetshu, Grace Humphreys, Amilamaswazi Nxumalo, Lihle Ngcobo, Mutende Mulenga
Row 2: Neha Pillay, Sesona Guzana, Sinakhokonke Mkhize, Nqobangothando Khumalo, Uyathandwa Madonda, Zenathi Mkhwanazi, Katelyn Peattie, Aurora Rose
Row 1: Thabisa Ndawonde, Ayabonga Ximba, Sisanda Dlamini, Theresli Meyers, Mrs L Gordon, Morgan Linden, Oluhle Msomi, Avela Madela, Snakhokonke Mzimela



U14
Row 4: Michaela Roberts, Bella Fettes, Sinelizwi Dlamini, Izabella Keating, Abby Woolven, Nandisa Myeni
Row 3: Naledi Gumede, Mackenzie Kujken, Mawande Cira, Jamee Frasenburgh
Row 2: Riley Greffrath, Katie Wright, Zinhlazonke Ngwane, Esihle Mncube, Jaylene Chaythram, Siyamthanda Phewa, Osiphile Vilakazi, Zibusiso Lushozi
Row 1: Yasmeen Ismail, Avela Hadebe, Ndalentle Mnguni, Ms J Hiscock, Chloe Matthews, Mrs J Lubbe, Kady Clemmet, Kenzie Stevenson, Likhona Mtshali



RUGBY

The 2025 season was an overall success with all the teams competing well throughout their fixtures. All age groups displayed passion and pride for Hillcrest High School, which was seen on and off the field.

U14 TEAM

The U14 Team had a big turnout with many learners taking part in rugby this year. Their enthusiasm was admirable, showing great spirit and a willingness to improve each week. They won several games with wins against Hilton and Kloof and other derby fixtures.

U15 TEAM

The U15 Team showed great promise throughout the season winning the majority of their games. They had a few close losses in some tight games but remained true to their core values as a team and played exceptional rugby throughout the season. They displayed courage and pride for the team and provide a promising future for HHS Rugby.

U16 TEAM

The U16 Team had an excellent season, showcasing their talent and perseverance. They are a team filled with enthusiasm and are eager to improve as individuals and as a team. This was seen throughout their season with the team achieving very promising results with wins against Hilton and Kloof, and placing very well in PSG.

1ST TEAM

The 1st XV had a good 2025 season, with an especially good start. At the Geloftse Night Series the team placed 3rd, which was a result of losing the first fixture of the tournament, and then winning the remainder of the games they played. The 1st XV went on tour to Gauteng where they performed exceptionally well, winning all the games they played and being one of only 3 teams that were undefeated at the festival, beating two teams from Zimbabwe and one team from Johannesburg.

They went on to win 12 out of the first 14 games they played of the season, which was then interrupted by a large number of injuries.

All teams can be exceptionally proud of how they performed in the 2025 season. There is ample potential and promise going into the 2026 season for Hillcrest High School Rugby.

Mr L Roux
Head of Rugby



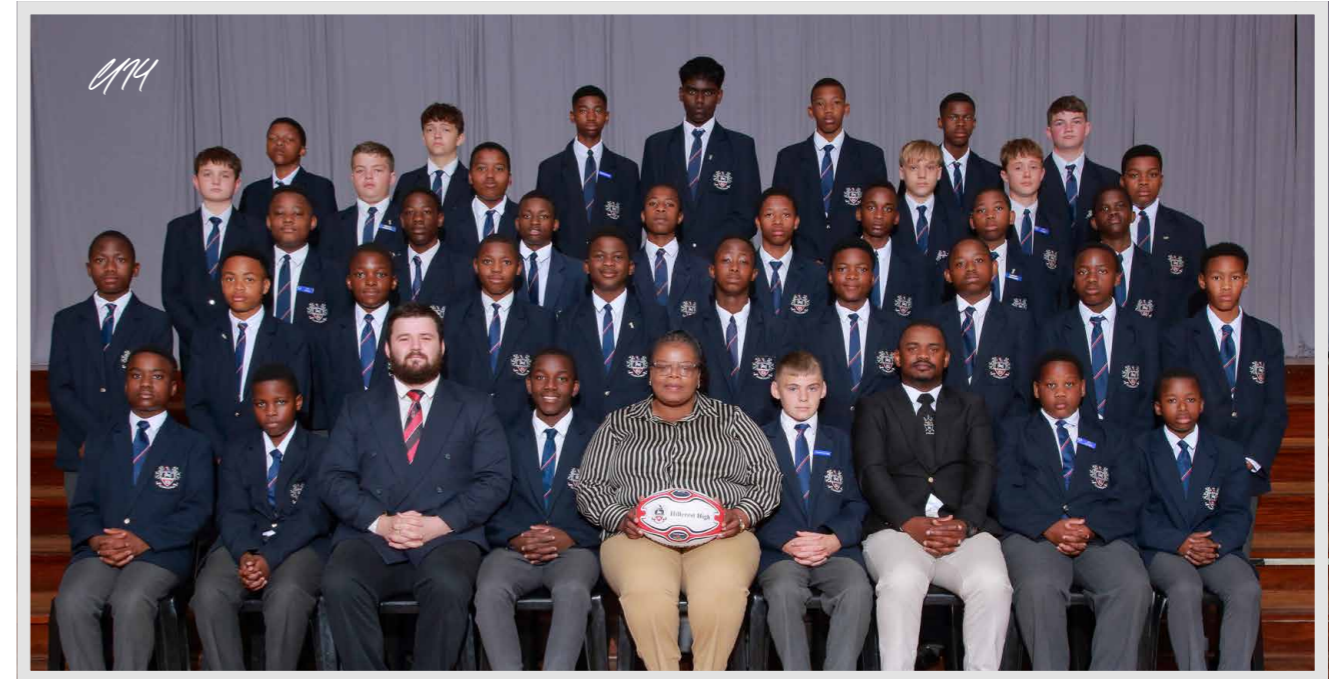
1st Team
Row 4: Katiso Ramatsiliso, Nigel Dzikamunhenga, Jamie Bastion, Rayne Fryer, Luke Ball, Fabian Soobramoney
Row 3: Lungelo Pons, Siphosethu Khwela, Tanner Evans, Trent Taskes, Nkululeko Gumede, Evan Rambarun, Thabo Mpti
Row 2: Azola Balondwe Shandu, Amabutho Mavundla, Garth Smith, Tsepo Moloi, Paul Momoh, Andile Madikizela, Thapelo Sondezi, Asiphile Blose
Row 1: Mr L Roux, Joshua Whittle, Mrs DP Knight, Sphehile Hlambisa, Mrs L Janssens, Kutlwano Sondezi, Mr Minenhle Ngubane



2nd Team
Row 5: Trent Taskes, Siqiniseko Shawe, Jaden le Roux, Connor du Plessis, Melokuhle Zungu, Uyanda Hlongwa, Sanda Dlamini
Row 4: Motobatsi Mnqobi Maseatile, Nkumbulo Zulu, Gift Ngcobo, Kyran Rimmell
Row 3: Melikhaya Ntshangase, Remofilwe Moalusi, Thabo Mpti, Jamie Bastion, Ntuthuko Zuma, Nkazimulo Nzimande, Garth Smith
Row 2: Aphiwe Kweyama, Luthando Mbatha, Mnotho Buthelezi, Langelihle Mkhize, Amabutho Mavundla, Kutlwano Sondezi
Row 1: Sphamandla Shabalala, Mr S Nkosi, Evan Rambarun, Mrs L Janssens, Nkululeko Gumede, Mr L Roux, Siphosethu Khwela



Row 5: Sphesihle Ntshangase, Ayden Nel, Luke Zeiss, Gareth Henning, Hayden Oertel, Mvelo Shangase, Rylan Leask
Row 4: Sandisizwe Shezi, Ntuthuko Cele
Row 3: Zack Levenson, Langalibalele Mbothwe, Ntuthuko Zuma, Kopano Sekonyela, Siviwe Luthuli, Alwande Sibiyi, Rebokile Nketu
Row 2: Kingston Clark, Gift Duma, Cebolakhe Gcuma, Nate Jones, Thando Ngcobo, Sethu Mkhize, Lubanzi Zwane, Alwande Ngxongo
Row 1: Luke Whittle, Mr L Kunene, Sibusiso Mapotse, Ms S Ramsout, Bayanda Gumbi, Mr A Burger, Luthando Blose

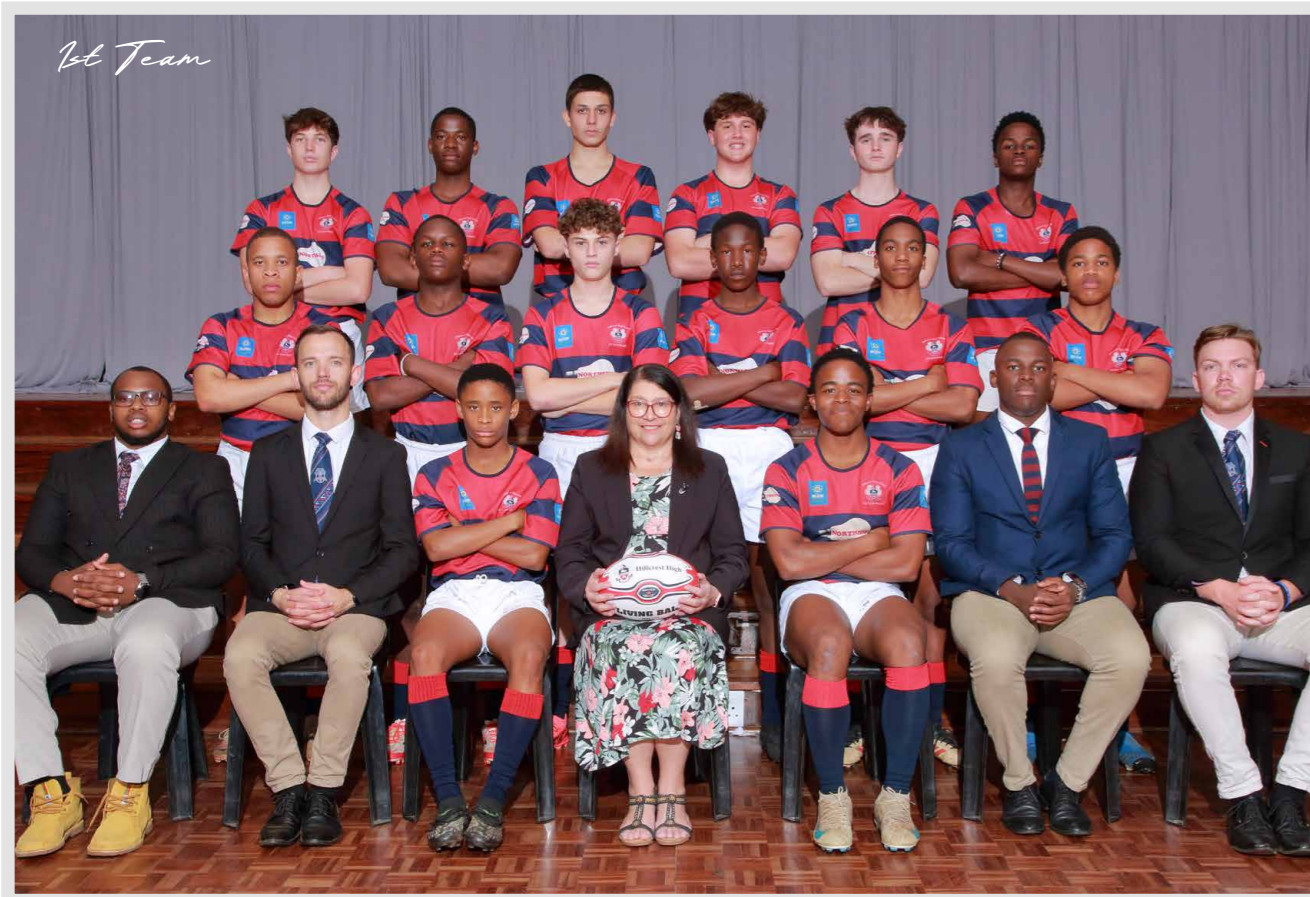


Row 5: Khayelihle Khathi, Chaz Rodney, Luhlelo Sibisi, Cohen Sundraj, Ndalo Vilakazi, Bahlebonke Xaba, Ian Lenferna de la Motte
Row 4: Joshua Roets, Jordan Diedericks, Tshepiso Mokoatle, Jack Jones, Trent Heath, Lungelo Radebe
Row 3: Lukhanyo Mncube, Lindelo Dlamini, Lungelo Khanyile, Emmanuel Nkosi, Bayanda Ngwazi, Ayama Mkhize, Lindokuhle Nxumalo, Awanda Phakathi
Row 2: Kukhanya Msani, Ikhona Mahlasela, Okuhle Zuma, Siphesihle Dlamini, Ukhona Dlamini, Ziphozonke Ngwane, Wamukelwe Mkhwanazi, Khayelihle Khuzwayo, Nsindiso Mthethwa, Kwandokuhle Mkhize
Row 1: Lukhanyo Ndlovu, Sazi Gwala, Mr B Nelson, Ndabezinhle Zikhali, Ms T Gabisa, Liam Smith, Mr N Majola, Bandile Gumbi, Thabang Mpti



Row 4: Bryce Caldeira, Thapelo Mndaweni, Keygan Gregersen, Thamsanqa Sifumba, Iviwe Vazi, Nqobile Nodangala
Row 3: Thabang Makhanya, Simthandile Zwane, Thabiso Malembe, Esihle Manqe, Aphelele Chiliza
Row 2: Samkelisipho Vilakazi, Kayden Ferguson, Riley Rimmell, Khanya Ngcobo, Sinokubonga Zondi, Thandolwethu Dlamini, Alistair Machado, Ubenathi Mbatha
Row 1: Andile Fared, Kwandile Gumbi, Ntuthuko Gumede, Mrs S Mtakwende, Menelisi Khathi, Mr S Nkosi, Jose Lyons





Row 3: Luke Ball, Mvelo Shangase, Connor du Plessis, Ayden Nel, Rayne Fryer, Sphehle Hlambisa
Row 2: Andile Madikizela, Bayanda Gumbi, Kyran Rimmell, Siviwe Luthuli, Asiphile Blose, Gift Duma
Row 1: Mr S Nkosi, Mr A Burger, Alwande Ngxongo, Mrs DP Knight, Azola Balondwe Shandu, Mr L Kunene, Mr L Roux

RUGBY 7S

The U15 Team performed exceptionally well in the 7s season, achieving very good results. They played in five tournaments in which they progressed to a Cup Final, a Cup Semi-Final, a Plate Semi-Final, and won a Plate Final against St Charles' College. They showcased pride for Hillcrest High School in all tournaments played, which can be seen in the results they achieved. They played with heart and passion and can be proud of their efforts throughout the season.

The 1st Team had a season of growth in 2025, losing a lot of senior players early in the season. This allowed many of our U16 players to be involved in the team which saw massive improvements throughout the season. With a young team, the results came second to the willingness to learn and to play with pride for HHS.

There is massive potential for both teams, with many talented young players coming up the age groups, which provides promise for the future years.

Mr L Roux
 Head of Rugby



Row 3: Menelisi Khathi, Simthandile Zwane, Ntuthuko Gumede, Thapelo Mndaweni, Thabiso Malembe, Patton Knoesen
Row 2: Eshle Manqele, Riley Rimmell, Thabang Makhanya, Aphelele Chiliza, Sinokubonga Zondi, Kayden Ferguson
Row 1: Alistair Machado, Mr A Burger, Samkelisipho Vilakazi, Mr S Nkosi, Ubenathi Mbatha, Mr L Roux, Liam Smith



Boys' 1st Team



Boys' 2nd Team

Row 3: Thato Mndaweni, Lwandiso Luthuli, Melokuhle Zungu, Lethukuthula Jali, Avuyile Ntshangase, Nigel Dzikamunhenga
Row 2: Ntuthuko Cele, Uduumo Dlamini
Row 1: Aidan Zungu, Sisanda Ngobese, Aphiwe Cele, Mr N Jali, Buhle Dlamini, Lwandile Zuma, Sibusiso Makoba



BOYS U16

Row 4: Owami Radebe, Kopano Sekonyela, Nkhanyiso Jacobs, Amir Ramraj, Simthandile Gwavuma, Phila Ngcobo, Sinqmnqobi Buthelezi, Ntuthuko Zuma
Row 3: Sithenkosi Ngongoma, Cebelihle Dlamini, Deon Tayero, Apelele Gumedede, Uyanda Hlongwa, Phiweyo Kubone, Melokuhle Shezi, Lungelo Nxumalo
Row 2: Tyrique Piyoos, Ibanathi Mnyali, Thando Ngcobo, Khwezi Sibisi, Sibusiso Mapotse, Cebolakhe Gcuma, Sethu Mkhize, Luthando Mzobe
Row 1: Kabelo Ndaba, Alistair Machadu, Kgalalelo Sedibe, Siphesihle Mbatha, Mr L Mbuyazi, Remofilwe Moalusi, Zekhethelo Zwane, Mluleki Majola, Alwande Ngxongo



BOYS U15

Row 4: Simthandile Zwane, Kuhlekonke Zezi, Nqobile Nodangala, Thabiso Malembe, Junaid Chetty, Theko Motaung
Row 3: Zibusiso Cebekhulu, Mafuya Nkabinde, Philasande Mdladla, Sibusiso Mzizi, Ethan Henley, Avukile Zezi, Tshogofatso Molelekwa
Row 2: Okuhle Nxumalo, Lwandoluhle Phathela, Amkelwe Ndlovu, Akhona Kubheka, Jose Lyons, Owethu Nolokwe
Row 1: Luyanda Ntshangase, Manqoba Gumedede, Eshile Myende, Mr L Zuma, Siphwiwo Mkhize, Imange Magafela, Khethelo Maseko



BOYS U14

Row 4: Bayanda Ngwazi, Emmanuel Nkosi, Ayama Mkhize, Tshepiso Mokoatle, Langelihle Nxumalo, Luhlelo Sibisi, Bahlebonke Xaba, Bandile Danisa, Liphelihle Khumalo, Vincent Maemesa, Jayden Watson
Row 3: Ntando Mchunu, Wamukelwe Mkhwanazi, Thabiso Nombela, Lindelo Dlamini, Ukhona Dlamini, Awanda Phakathi, Ziphozonke Ngwane, Wenzile Mahlanze, Khayelihle Khuzwayo
Row 2: Buhlebenkosi Mdluli, Bandile Maduna, Okuhle Zuma, Syabonga Ngcobo, Siphesihle Dlamini, Ndabezinhle Zikhali, Keegan Myeza, Lwandle Hlatshwayo, Ikhona Mahlasela, Osaze Mhlongo
Row 1: Qwabelihle Makhanya, Amkelo Radebe, Bandile Gumbi, Mr M Mthanti, Melokuhle Ndlazi, Ms T Gabisa, Mlondolazi Mbonambi, Kwandokuhle Mkhize, Uyanda Msomi

BOYS' SOCCER

A SEASON OF GROWTH, TALENT AND MEMORABLE MOMENTS

This year has been another exciting and successful one for our Boys' and Girls' soccer programmes. With outstanding performances, new talent emerging, and players achieving recognition at provincial level, our teams have once again carried the school badge with pride.

BUILDING SUCCESS AND SHOWCASING TALENT

The boys' soccer programme continued its strength and depth this year, fielding eight teams across different age groups. The season saw remarkable growth and a number of players being rewarded for their talent with KwaZulu-Natal provincial selections:

- Philisa Mgwengwe - KZN U16
- Zekhethelo Zwane - KZN U16
- Okuhle Nxumalo - KZN U15
- Jose Lyons - KZN U15
- Melokuhle Ndlazi - KZN U14

The 1st Team boys enjoyed a strong 2nd term league campaign, where they impressed with quality football and determination. They competed in the Mancosa KZN Coastal A League, reaching the final where they took on Westville Boys' High School. They went into a penalty shootout after a hard-played goalless final before going down with a narrow loss of 1-0 to Westville.

Row 4: Matthew Donaldson, Siphesihle Mbatha, Thandolwethu Ndlovu, Martin Smith
Row 3: Aphiwe Cele, Sinenhloso Shozi, Ayedan Whitby
Row 2: Siyabonga Shelembe, Carlos Zakwe, Kwethemba Ngidi, Sinqmnqobi Buthelezi
Row 1: Luthando Mzobe, Mr C Marillier, Thingoluhle Shezi, Mrs DP Knight, Tanaka Chinodakufa

In the 3rd term, the squad proudly represented the school at The Curro Halala Cup in Gauteng. The inaugural tournament included 64 schools from around the country vying for the first prize of R100 000. Due to us winning our first two regional round fixtures against Grantleigh and DHS, we qualified for the National Tournament hosted at Heronbridge College, in Gauteng.

The National Tournament was a prestigious event which narrowed the tournament down to the top 16 teams, playing in a 4-day tournament in Gauteng with 2 teams from every province in South Africa being represented. Our boys achieved notable wins against Barberton Hoërskool and Glenwood Boys' High, finishing 10th overall out of all teams involved.

The tournament provided a good learning opportunity for the boys in an environment where we were challenged every day by some of the best schools for football in the country - according to the SA Schools Magazine rankings. In line with the theme of the tournament and the heart of its organisers, there was one other award to be given out - The Spirit Trophy for the team who demonstrated the best sportsmanship on and off the field. Our Hillcrest High School football boys were honoured as the recipient of this award, being exemplary in their conduct with all players, match officials and coaches - irrespective of results.

Outside of the football, our boys were afforded the opportunity to watch a live PSL match at Orlando Stadium in Soweto. This was an amazing experience for all, coaches and players, with many having never watched a professional football match live. This experience was the climax of the tour for many, especially when some of their favourite players from Orlando Pirates and Sekhukhune came walking around the stadium to take photos with supporters, our boys included.

A huge thank you to our parents for making these boys' dreams possible and to Mr Ndebele, Mr Majola and Mr Marillier for the management and support of our boys while on tour.

Mr N Majola
 Teacher-in-Charge



Row 3: Anele Sabela, Dayna Gagiano, Awande Nzuza, Kylie Coetzee, Lola Klijnstra, Ayanda Ngidi
Row 2: Olwami Mshengu, Theresli Myers Hlobisile Sibaya, Eryn Beech, Thingo Dlamini, Buhlebethu Ndhlela
Row 1: Sophie Buccimazza, Mrs DP Knight, Kiara Botha, Mr P Windsor, Macayela Johansson

GIRLS' SOCCER

DEVELOPING STRENGTH AND NURTURING NEW TALENT

The Girls' programme, with five teams this year, also enjoyed a season filled with growth and achievement. Our players excelled, with several being chosen to represent KwaZulu-Natal:

- Eryn Beech - KZN U19
- Sophie Buccimazza - KZN U19
- Langelihle Nxumalo - KZN U15
- Sienna Kidgell - KZN U14

The 1st Team girls had a beautiful season, integrating younger players into the senior squad and giving them valuable exposure at the top level. They competed proudly in the U19 Knockout Cup as well as the Midlands Cup, showing determination and skill. Their development promises exciting times ahead for girls' soccer at the school.

CLASS OF 2025: A FOND FAREWELL

A heartfelt appreciation goes to our Class of 2025 soccer players, who have left an indelible mark on the programme. Many have been part of the 1st Team setup for the past four years, showcasing loyalty, leadership, and unforgettable performances in the school colours. Their contribution has set the standard for future generations, and we thank them for their service.

LOOKING AHEAD

The 2025 soccer season has been a mix of triumphs, learnings, and memorable experiences. With so much young talent coming through the ranks, the future of soccer at our school shines brightly. We extend our gratitude to the coaches, managers, players, and supporters who continue to make the programme a success.

Mr N Majola
 Teacher-in-Charge



Girls' 2nd Team

Row 3: Hannah Greffrath, Megan Maher, Kiera Finch, Clarissa de Villiers, Emily O'Shaughnessy
Row 2: Brielle Pillay, Leigh Tappin, Morgan Goodrum, Akwande Luthuli, Unathi Zungu, Simbonge Dladla
Row 1: Kayla Manning, Nonjabulo Malinga, Yolanda Zondi, Ms N Dlamini, Jamie Hiscock, Amahle Vilakazi, Andiswa Nyathikazi



Girls' U16

Row 4: Olivia Donaldson, Shaelyn Geldenhuis, Jade Knott, Kaitlyn Steyn, Piya Brown, Senamile Mvelase
Row 3: Asenathi Mbense, Vuyiswa Hlengwa, Mazithi Khunyana, Chelsea Stainbank, Sibani Magwaza, Bethany Haynes
Row 2: Tamiqwe Piyoo, Owomusa Dlamini, Kloey Edwards, Sanelisiwe Ndlovu, Samukelisiwe Mbonambi, Azamahle Zezi
Row 1: Ziyanda Majola, Sibahle Zwane, Mr N Majola, Sienna Fripp, Ms E Blom, Ayabonga Ngcobo, Lwandle Vukeka



GIRLS U15

Row 4: Samkelisiwe Makhanya, Tamiya Manning, Usithandile Cebekhulu, Zisanda Khathi, Banele Chiya, Farrah Lief, Khwezi Mnyandu, Sasona Guzana
Row 3: Uyathandwa Madonda, Katelyn Peattie, Sinakhokonke Mkhize, Ezojobe Jobe, Mutende Mulenga
Row 2: Aphelele Shelembe, Theresli Meyers, Azania Ntshangase, Oluhle Msomi, Grace Humphreys, Brogan Torrie, Ayabonga Ximba, Sinakokuhle Majola
Row 1: Sisanda Dlamini, Avela Madela, Langelihle Nxumalo, Ms Z Ngcobo, Jayden-Lee Anderson, Mrs S Mtakwende, Namhla Matsimbi, Owami Ndlovu, Tuseka Mngadi



GIRLS U14

Row 4: Ogechi Okorie, Alexis Herbert, Mawande Cira, Bella Fettes, Natalie Steyn, Laela-Mae Geldenhuis, Sienna Kidgell, Mackenzie Kuijken, Layla Lee, Jamee Frasenburgh
Row 3: Esihle Mncube, Naledi Gumede, Khanya Zuma, Boniswa Masondo, Jaylene Chaythram, Aphiliswa Hlopho, Okuhle Ntshingila, Lulo Ngcetshu
Row 2: Ramona Mzimela, Fundiswa Khumalo, Osiphile Vilakazi, Thubelihle Mncube, Siyamthanda Khanyile, Siyamthanda Phewa, Sibongile Luthuli, Awande Thabethe
Row 1: Likhona Mtshali, Avela Hadebe, Casey Erasmus, Mrs N Magubane, Tayla van der Berg, Mr N Majola, Ndalentle Mnguni, Ncebakazi Kumalo, Andiswa Maphumulo



GIRLS' SOFTBALL

This has been a year to be proud of! The players have been dedicated and hardworking, resulting in one of the best seasons yet. Once again our school had one of the highest number of teams in the Schools' Softball League, with two U15 and two U19 teams. Our U15Bs came third and U19Bs came first in their respective leagues. Both the U15As and U19As have been undefeated this season, finishing first in their league. This is the second consecutive win for the U15A Team and the fourth for the U19A Team!

We had a very high number of learners who made KZN Softball teams this year:

KZN U15 Girls: J Anderson, K Boynton, L Geldenhuys, S Kidgell and Z Terblanche.

KZN U17 Girls: I. Momoh, J MacLachlan, M Coertse, M Dlamini, P Motaung and S Geldenhuys.

KZN U19 Girls: S Olivier and M Coertse.

Well done to you all for making your respective teams – you have made Hillcrest High School proud.

This year we say goodbye to two players who have been dedicated, hardworking and have always been team players, Shannyn Olivier and Jordan Kidgell. They have been such an asset to our team and have definitely made a mark in the hearts of all the players. We started a new tradition in 2022 in honour of one of our most dedicated players in many years, Zoleka Ngcobo. Zoleka has since donated a trophy to softball called The Zolly Trophy for Dedication and Excellence in Softball. This year the trophy was shared by Shannyn Olivier and Jordan Kidgell. Thank you, Shannyn and Jordan, for all you have done for softball in the past four years. You both are leaving big shoes to fill! We wish you both all the best for your future adventures!

We were very fortunate this year to have a great team of coaches: Miss R Chabant, Miss B Buckley, Miss H Carney and our Softball Girls' Team Manager, Mrs J Chabant. Thank you, coaches, for the unwavering support and dedication you have given to the girls this season and for helping us achieve such great results. We would also like to thank Hayley Chabant for being part of the team by scoring for our games on a Saturday.

Mrs J M Bega
Coach



Row 3: Simphiwe Mostert, Kate Woolven, Taylor van Tromp, Lubanzi Maluleka, Hayley Chabant
Row 2: Juwairiyah Sindhi, Tayla Holing, Nangamso Nxasana, Karlissa Pretorius, Giselle Stow, Lesedi Ramakatsa
Row 1: Andiswa Maphumulo, Senzelwe Nene, Ms H Carney, Asanda Pedersen, Mrs J Chabant, Caitlyn van Niekerk, Tamiqe Piyoo



Row 3: Shaelyn Geldenhuys, Shannyn Olivier, Megan Maher
Row 2: Natalie Rees, Isabella Momoh, Jodi MacLachlan, Maroellé Coertse
Row 1: Mrs J Chabant, Jordan Kidgell, Mrs DP Knight, Melokuhle Dlamini, Mrs J Bega



U15 A
Row 2: Langelihle Nxumalo, Sienna Kidgell, Laela-Mae Geldenhuys, Kellan Boynton, Natalie Steyn, Jayden-Lee Anderson, Katy Armstrong
Row 1: Aurora Rose, Brogan Torrie, Ms B Buckley, Courtney Mackintosh, Mrs J Chabant, Casey Erasmus, Jaylene Chaythram



U15 B
Row 3: Kady Clemmett, Sinelizwi Dlamini, Grace Maemesa, Ashley Braybrooke, Bella Fettes, Sophie Grunewald
Row 2: Sinokuhle Zulu, Emma Akeroyd
Row 1: Kenzie Stevenson, Tiffany Scott, Ms R Chabant, Zoë Terblanche, Ms E Edwards, Morgan Linden, Neha Pillay





Row 3: Tylan Harvey, Mpumelelo Makhathini, Jayden Chaythram
Row 2: Luthando Blose, Ryan Rees
Row 1: Mrs L Topham, Ethan Moss, Mrs DP Knight, Nhlanhla Luthuli, Ms Shannon O'Halloran

BOYS' SOFTBALL

KZN Schools' Softball merged the leagues for the boys' divisions this year, meaning our boys were now playing "in the big leagues" with the likes of Westville Boys 1st, Glenwood 1st, and Northwood 1st, or A teams in the U15 league. However, our boys did well, especially considering the jump in the level of competition!

The boys that come out to join softball are always so much fun. They are often learners that play cricket too and the adaption from one sport to the next often results in some interesting batting styles, that usually work surprisingly well!

We are pleased to have learners representing KwaZulu-Natal this year at Provincial Level. Ethan Moss has been selected for the KZN U17 Summer Games Team, and the following U15 Boys will travel to Camp Discovery in Limpopo for their Inter Regional Tournament:

- Keegan Compton-James - KZN U16
- Ryan Rees - KZN U15
- Stephen Munro - KZN U15

Summer Games is a Department of Sports and Recreation Event, which takes place along with the Department of Education Multi-Sports Tournament held in the first week of December. The tournament is an inclusive tournament with able-bodied and disabled sporting codes on offer.

We are incredibly proud of all of the learners that were selected to represent the province but need to make special note of the fact that U17 Team is considered an elite team as only one team is selected for U17s for each province. Well done, Ethan on selection as part of this squad. At U15 and U19 levels A and B teams are selected.

Mrs L Topham
 Coach



BOYS' U15
Row 2: Noah Berndt, Richard Smeda, Stephen Munro, Keegan Compton-James, Clayton Soane, Aaron Kodandaraju
Row 1: Mark Govender, Riaan van der Byl, Ms S O'Halloran, Roman Giorko, Mrs L Topham, Caleb Chavoos, Keegan Myeza

SWIMMING

Our swimming pre-season began in the Third Term, laying the foundation for a strong start to the season in preparation for the Aqua Elite Gala. This event is a fantastic springboard for the season ahead, helping to boost fitness levels and provide valuable racing experience - especially for our junior and non-club swimmers.

This year, the team presented a united and professional image, proudly wearing our official Swimming Team shirts, towels, and bags, generously sponsored by Mahle Behr South Africa. We are sincerely grateful for this generous support and extend a special word of thanks to Mrs Van Heerden for her tireless efforts in securing these sponsorships. A heartfelt thank you goes to our 2025 Swimming Captains, Emma Atkinson and Cuan Le Roux, whose outstanding leadership kept the team motivated, disciplined, and focused throughout the season. Your dedication has set a high standard for those who will follow in your footsteps.

We would also like to acknowledge Mrs Strydom, our incredible team manager, whose unwavering support and organisational prowess have been invaluable. Special thanks are due to Mrs Mtakwende and Mrs Wessels for their dedication to morning training sessions, and to Mr Windsor for his vital role in coordinating fixtures, arranging transport, and ensuring the smooth running of our Championship Gala.

The 2025 Championship Gala was a resounding success, and we were thrilled to host several primary schools at the event. Congratulations to Hillcrest Primary for claiming the title of Top Primary School for the evening.

- We also celebrate some outstanding individual achievements:
- Annabelle van Heerden – broke the U15 50m Butterfly record
 - Lincoln Hopper – broke the U15 50m Butterfly record
 - Keira Duncan – broke the Open 50m Backstroke record
 - Cuan Le Roux – broke the Open 50m Freestyle record

These remarkable performances speak volumes about the talent and determination within our team. Another proud highlight of the season was the 2025 Co-Educational D&D Gala, where Hillcrest High School achieved an outstanding 3rd place overall. This result cements our reputation as the top-performing Co-Educational Public School in the province - a remarkable and well-earned distinction. In a historic first since I began coaching at Hillcrest High, we are thrilled to announce that two swimmers have been selected for the KZN Schools' Swimming



Row 5: Michaela Clegg, Jamey Grobbelaar, Brendon Frenzel, Gareth Henning, Lincoln Hopper, Bradley Leppan, Wayne Kearley
Row 4: Christiaan Venter, Heinrich Freitag
Row 3: Senamile Mvelase, Kady Clemmett, Sienna Kidgell, Liv van den Heever, Leah Botha, Maja Kearley, Rebekah Nel
Row 2: Morgan Linden, Liam Smith, Neha Pillay, Brogan Torrie, Caiden Smith, Casey Erasmus
Row 1: Kingsley Matthews, Mrs S Strydom, Francesca Del Grande, Mrs DP Knight, Cuan Le Roux, Mr B White, Shawna Creed

Team: Keira Duncan and Cuan Le Roux. This achievement reflects the growing strength and depth of our programme.

We are deeply grateful to the School's Management and Governing Body for their continued support and belief in our Swimming Team. Their investment in our growth has provided the resources and encouragement we need to thrive.

Finally, to our swimmers: None of this would be possible without your commitment, perseverance, and passion. You have consistently gone above and beyond, and I am incredibly proud to be your coach.

Congratulations to every HHS swimmer - you have done us proud!

Congratulations to the Age Group Champions and Trophy Winners of the 2025 Championship Gala:

- | AGE GROUP CHAMPIONS: | TROPHY PRESENTATIONS: |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| U14 Girls: Sienna Kidgell | SIENNA KIDGELL
Junior Victrix Ludorum |
| U14 Boys: Wian Erasmus | |
| U15 Girls: Annabelle van Heerden | ANNABELLE VAN HEERDEN
Junior Victrix Ludorum |
| U15 Boys: Bradley Leppan | |
| U16 Girls: Rebekah Nel | WIAN ERASMUS
Junior Victor Ludorum |
| U16 Boys: Ludick Erasmus | |
| U17 Girls: Kayla Jade van Heerden | KEIRA DUNCAN
100m Freestyle Girls
100m Individual Medley Girls |
| U17 Boys: Heinrich Freitag | |
| U19 Girls: Emma Atkinson | EMMA ATKINSON
Victrix Ludorum |
| U19 Boys: Cuan Le Roux | CUAN LE ROUX
Victor Ludorum
100m Freestyle Boys
100m Individual Medley Boys |

From the pool deck, Mr B White

TENNIS



GIRLS' TEAM

Row 3: Fanelwe Mqadi, Amahle Tshabalala, Mackayla Smit, Janoah Williams, Neha Ramlall, Azania Ntshangase
Row 2: Sisanda Dlamini, Tuseka Mngadi
Row 1: Simtholile Ngcobo, Khwezi Mnyandu, Mr G Pearl, Pamela Majola, Awande Mchunu



BOYS' 1ST TEAM

Row 2: Heinrich Freitag, Mpumelelo Makhatbini, Nhlaphla Luthuli
Row 1: Ethan Moss, Mr G Pearl, Joe Te Brugge

TOUCH RUGBY



Row 3: Sibusiso Mapotse, Nishal Pailath, Rudy Klijnstra, Caiden Singh, Bayanda Gumbi, Apehele Chiliza
Row 2: Ubenathi Mbatha, Sebastian Schaube-Kuffler, Alwande Ngxongo, Sloane Schaube-Kuffler
Row 1: Luthando Blose, Mrs T Tonkin, Siviwe Luthuli, Mrs DP Knight, Tamuka Chovuchovu



BOYS' JUNIORS

Row 3: Ethan Barnes, Jack Jones, Ndalo Vilakazi, Luhlelo Sibisi, Jordan Diedericks
Row 2: Akhona Kubheka, Ukhona Dlamini, Khayelihle Khathi, Ayama Mkhize, Awanda Phakathi, Siphesihle Dlamini
Row 1: Lukhanyo Ndlovu, Kwandokuhle Mkhize, Bandile Gumbi, Mr N Majola, Okuhle Zuma, Wamukelwe Mkhwanazi, Ziphozonke Ngwane

TOUCH RUGBY - EXPANDING FOOTPRINTS, RECORD NUMBERS AND NATIONAL PRIDE

Touch rugby has continued to flourish at Hillcrest High School this year, with fantastic numbers of players taking part. The 1st Teams competed in the KZN Touch Schools League and performed strongly, though unfortunately the final day of fixtures was rained out. Our other teams also enjoyed great participation, with players turning up in impressive numbers every week.

This season, particular emphasis was placed on building interschool fixtures. The girls' teams proudly hosted one school and travelled to play a touch rugby club – valuable steps in strengthening competition.

A true highlight of 2025 was the incredible representation of our players at provincial and national level. With the introduction of the new KZN IMPI Association, opportunities expanded, and our learners seized them with passion.

- At the Senior Interprovincial Tournament, an impressive 25 learners represented KZN Touch, the SA Invitational Team, or contributed as referees.
- During the Junior Interprovincial Tournament in October, we celebrated 15 KZN Touch players, 26 KZN IMPI players, 1 assistant coach, and several referees.

JUNIOR NATIONALS GIRLS' U19 - LOLA CAPTAIN

A special mention must go to Lola Klijnstra, who achieved the ultimate honour by representing South Africa at the World Cup in Ireland – an achievement that reflects both her individual excellence and the standard of touch rugby at our school. Lola was also selected as the Vice Captain of the SA U20 squad – well done, Lola!

Hillcrest High School Touch Rugby continues to live up to its motto "Here To Lead", setting the pace for touch rugby in the province. With participation at a record high and the programme firmly embedded in the KZN circuit, the future of this fast-growing sport at our school looks brighter than ever.

Mrs T Tonkin



SA Touch Rugby Representatives



Girls' 1st Team
Row 3: Anele Sabela, Awande Nzuza, Piya Brown,
Row 2: Macayela Johansson, Grace Humphreys, Awande Mchunu, Leigh Tappin
Row 1: Ziyanda Majola, Mr N Majola, Megan Maher, Mrs DP Knight, Kayla Manning



Girls' 2nd Team
Row 2: Sanelisiwe Ndlovu, Abongwe Luthuli, Kiera Finch, Ayabonga Ngcobo, Amahle Tshabalala, **Row 1:** Mvelo Mkhize, Samukelisiwe Mbonambi, Mr N Majola, Ziyanda Majola, Eloise Groenewald



GIRLS' U16
Row 4: Chelsea Stainbank, Asande Mdluli, Zisanda Khathi, Yolanda Makhoba, Kellan Boynton, Jayden-Lee Anderson, Ethaba Majoji, Sibani Magwaza
Row 3: Mutende Mulenga, Samkelisiwe Makhanya, Olivia Donaldson, Banele Chiya, Tamia Manning, Sesona Guzana, Senamile Mvelase
Row 2: Sphesihle Sloti, Theresli Meyers, Lihle Ngcobo, Simbonge Dladla, Vuyiswa Hlengwa, Tamique Piyoos, Alwande Phewa, Oluhle Msomi
Row 1: Avela Madela, Langelihle Nxumalo, Caitlyn van Niekerk, Adriannah Naidu, Mr P Windsor, Olwami Vilakazi, Thando Sloti, Thabisa Ndawonde, Snakhokonke Mzimela



GIRLS' U15
Row 4: Siyamthanda Khanyile, Mawande Cira, Bella Fettes, Chloe Matthews, Natalie Steyn, Laela-Mae Geldenhuys, Michaela Roberts, Sienna Kidgell, Mackenzie Kuyjken, Osiphile Vilakazi
Row 3: Jamee Fransenburg, Khanya Zuma, Boniswa Masondo, Layla Lee, Skylar Neaves, Ogechi Okorie, Simthandile Cele, Okuhle Ntshingila, Jaylene Chaythram
Row 2: Chloe Lessing, Dakota Hoareau, Chenay Tappin, Gcinokuhle Sibisi, Siyamthanda Phewa, Abigail Smit, Uminathi Mhlongo, Minenhle Simelane
Row 1: Casey Erasmus, Ntandoyenkosi Khumalo, Zoë Terblanche, Tiffany Scott, Mr P Windsor, Ndalentle Mnguni, Riley Greffrath, Likhona Mtshali, Avela Hadebe



Cultural & Service Clubs

ANGEL FUND

We are the Angel Fund. When you hear 'angel' you most likely conjure up thoughts of peace and calm. But as Mahatma Gandhi reminds us "In a gentle way, you can shake the world." That is exactly what we aim to do: Make a powerful difference through compassion and kindness.

The Angel Fund at Hillcrest High School is a dedicated committee of learners and staff members that supports learners who may be going through financial distress, by either providing lunches, school uniforms, or stationery. Led by Mrs Kowlesur and Mrs Edy, who give us their unwavering support, and driven by a committed group of girls who have created a sisterhood, the team meets weekly and is constantly involved in heartfelt fundraising activities.

This year has been blooming with success for the Angel Fund, with innovative ideas and continued energy. In term 1, we hosted both a Valentine's Day and Mother's Day raffle which consisted of beautifully curated hampers that were a hit amongst both learners and staff.

In term 2, we introduced our Easter Challenge – learners had to guess how many speckled eggs were in a jar. This generated much excitement and anticipation with the fun continuing in term 3, when we hosted a stall selling "mac and cheese", milk tart and many other delicacies at our annual Founder's Day Market Day.

The pinnacle of the year though, was the highly anticipated Angel Tea, held in August. The dazzling theme of "Denim and Diamonds", saw our MPC glittering with elegance as over 200 women came in beautifully adorned attire. Carvin Goldstone, the renowned comedian, was our guest speaker, entertaining us to such an extent that we cried with laughter, holding our stomachs after every punchline. Our guests were served a delicious breakfast, gifted two amazing goodie bags filled with a variety of gifts and had the opportunity to win amazing raffle prizes - all made possible by generous donations. The event raised ample funds.

As we look to the end of the year we are filled with hope and gratitude. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our Angel Fund learners who always give one hundred percent, and to HHS for creating a purposeful platform for us to serve our school and our community.

Here's to continuing our mission - one kind gesture at a time.

Saiusha Viraragavan



Row 4: Leah Jerome, Kaylin Olsen, Lola Klijnstra, Shannyn Olivier, Jordan Kidgell, Hayley Chabant, Kristen Bartholomew, Khethelo Ngcamu
Row 3: Thalente Cele, Skye Mans, Julia Angus, Iyana Ntshangase, Hannah King, Leah Donkin, Cheyenne Hoareau, Kelsey Brown, Ella Saunders
Row 2: Amy Neveling, Juwairiyah Sindi, Kayla Jackson, Terania Govender, Azania Ntshangase, Eryn Beech, Jade-Lee Bailey, Chloe Marais
Row 1: Azrah Chetty, Isabella Traini, Jodi MacLachlan, Mrs C Edy, Saiusha Viraragavan, Mrs S Kowlesur, Kaitlyn Steyn, Abigail Chetty, Ameera Bham



AV CLUB

The Audio Visual (AV) Club launched into 2025 with energy and enthusiasm, returning to the annual Splashy Fen Music Festival. Armed with camping gear and a hunger for hands-on experience, our learners had the incredible opportunity to work alongside some of the country's top sound and lighting technicians. The long hours and packed schedules were intense, but the skills gained were invaluable. A massive thank you to Past Pupil, Stuart Berry, from Impi Concepts for making this opportunity possible. Special thanks also go to Mr Bartholomew (Mr B), Mr Piccione and Mrs Bastion, who were the supportive "away-from-home" parents throughout the trip.

In term three, the AV Club took on its biggest challenge yet - transforming the school hall into a fully-fledged professional production space! We began the term with expert training from former AV Club member and now professional lighting designer, Evan Le Roux, who shared his knowledge on lighting types and advanced programming. This training was put to immediate use as we excitedly unboxed and rigged our brand-new lighting equipment - cost-effectively sourced thanks to Mr B's investigative skills.



AV CLUB SENIOR
 Row 2: Leon Erasmus, Lubanzi Khumalo, Anro Adendorff
 Row 1: Jaryd Andre, Jade Gericke, Mr M Bartholomew, Carla Schwarz, Keegan Cooke



The new gear quickly became a hot commodity. Its debut at the annual isiZulu Evening saw our learners running live lighting cues that had to adapt on the fly to match fast-paced dancers. Next, the Club went into full theatre mode for the annual School Production, which also featured the premiere of our new school microphones. The team executed hundreds of precise sound and lighting cues, from elevator pings to dramatic gunshots, delivering a truly professional-quality production.

With barely a moment to catch their breath, the team tackled a brand-new challenge: Mixing a live band for the Students' Christian Association Worship Event. Despite having no prior experience with live band mixing, our learners rose to the occasion and delivered a fantastic sound experience that was enjoyed by all. As always, Mr B expertly co-ordinated the action from his trusty radio.

The term three marathon wrapped up with a trio of major events: the RCL Heritage Evening fundraiser, the Sports' and Cultural Awards Evening, and the Visual Arts and Drama Supper Theatre. At each event, the AV Club delivered world-class sound and lighting, executing cues with precision and flair that made it seem like every show had weeks of rehearsal. It truly felt like a full year's worth of work packed into one term. In term four, the AV Club faced its final challenge of the year: Providing sound and lighting for two of the school's most prestigious events - Senior Speech Night and the Grade 12 Valedictory Ceremony. With the pressure on, the team delivered flawless technical support, creating a polished and professional atmosphere befitting the occasion.

Mr M Bartholomew



AV CLUB JUNIOR
 Row 2: Katy Armstrong, Nandisa Myeni, Luhlelo Sibisi, Katiso Ramatsiliso, Masibonge Msani, Angel Nosilela
 Row 1: Wamukelwe Mkhwanazi, Rebecca Easson, Giselle Stow, Mr M Bartholomew, Khonokuhle Bulose, Sphesihle Sloti, Sayush Pillay



CATERING CLUB

The Catering Club has once again had a busy and rewarding year, playing a vital role in the life of our school community. From the very first week of the year to the final events of the calendar, our members have been hard at work behind the scenes - ensuring that every occasion is marked with warm hospitality, delicious food, and a welcoming atmosphere.

Our year began with providing refreshments for guests after the Junior Prizegiving and during Open Day, setting the tone for the many events to follow. Throughout the seasons, the Catering Club has proudly served at every home sporting and cultural event, including cricket, hockey, netball, rugby, soccer, swimming galas, and debating. Parents and visitors have come to look forward to the array of treats we prepare - from Ms Khanyile's famous cream scones to freshly made sandwiches, brownies, crunchies, and butter biscuits. The cricket teams and their guests are always especially well catered for, enjoying a hearty two-course lunch at every home match.



As the year drew to a close, we continued to support the school by hosting the Student Leadership Team's "Thank You" Breakfast and providing refreshments for the Senior Speech Night - events that highlight the Club's commitment to service and celebration. One of the highlights of this year was an afternoon spent baking an incredible 300 cupcakes, which were then sold by our learners at the Watercrest Mall to raise funds to support children and families battling the scourge of childhood cancer - a project that not only showcased our baking skills but also our desire to make a difference beyond the school grounds.

Catering Club members learn far more than just how to bake and cook. They gain valuable experience in event planning and management, teamwork, time management, and service - skills that will serve them well beyond the classroom. As they dedicate hours of their time to the school, learners work towards a series of service awards, beginning with a merit certificate and progressing all the way to Honours.



Row 3: Thalente Cele, Banele Khuboni, Kagiso Sebitloane, Lesedi Mokheseng, Hayley Chabant, Taitum Scott
 Row 2: Avela Hlophe, Angela Ngubane, Lesedi Ramakatsa, Zenathi Mkhwanazi, Pamela Majola, Jade-Lee Bailey
 Row 1: Ms T Gabisa, Ms Z Khanyile, Mrs S Geel, Rebecca Easson, Ms N Mbanjwa, Mrs N Magubane, Mrs J Bega



Row 5: Amahle Zungu, Grace Maemesa, Shiloh Lortan, Ashley Braybrooke, Ross van der Merwe, Sinelizwi Dlamini, Jordan Karriem
Row 4: Anro Adendorff, Zahra Zulu, Michaela Roberts, Mawande Cira, Nandisa Myeni, Amber-Lynn Jones
Row 3: Sinokuhle Zulu, Lwandoluhle Phathela, Tanith Eggersdorfer, Carla Schwarz, Janoah Williams, Katy Armstrong, Giselle Stow, Esnath Kufakunesu, Roman Giorko
Row 2: Chloe James, Simtholile Ngcobo, Vuyo Mlamula, Osaze Mhlongo, Sbangakonke Nxumalo, Pamela Majola, Ncebakazi Kumalo, Misha Vardan
Row 1: Obedingwa Ngidi, Jade Gericke, Mrs S Macdonald, Hayley Chabant, Mr M Bartholomew, Hannah King, Ms G Stow, Faye Verster, Iyana Ntshangase

CHOIR

A HARMONIOUS START TO THE YEAR: THE CHOIR'S JOURNEY SO FAR

The school year began on a high note - literally - as our choir welcomed potential new learners with a vibrant performance on Open Day. This early showcase set the tone for what has been an exciting and musically rich year.

In March, we took to the stage at Thomas More's annual Fusion Concert, where we proudly displayed our versatility. Our repertoire this year has been nothing short of dynamic, featuring an anthem by Pink, a lively number from the musical, Sister Act, and a beautifully arranged a cappella rendition of Some Nights by Fun. Each performance highlighted the choir's growing confidence and musical range.

Hot on the heels of Fusion, one week later, we joined forces with esteemed Upper Highway schools at the Roseway Arts Festival. Performing alongside such talented peers was both an honour and an inspiration, capping off a very busy and rewarding Term 1.

Term 2 brought a fresh challenge and a new collaboration. For the first time in many years, our choir combined with the Hillcrest High School Gospel Choir for a joint performance at Pinetown Girls' High School. This special event marked a significant milestone

- not only in terms of unity but also in musical growth, as our choir embraced the rich harmonies of gospel music, including songs sung in isiZulu.

In Term 3 we took on a new challenge - participating in the Ethekwini Eisteddfod - a prestigious singing examination that tests skills and showcases progress. Our diverse programme required serious commitment, as we balanced the complex classical song, A Clare Benediction, with a lively pop piece by Pink.

The judges were clearly impressed! Our hard work and dedication culminated in the highest possible accolade: the Diamond Award, with an incredible overall score of 95%. Congratulations to every member on this outstanding achievement. After a successful run at the Eisteddfod, the choir capped off the term by entertaining guests with a memorable performances at the Sports' and Cultural Awards Evening and the Senior Speech Night.

This year has also seen remarkable growth in our numbers, with the choir reaching a peak of 51 members.

With so much already accomplished and even more on the horizon, 2025 is shaping up to be a truly unforgettable year for our choir.

Mr M Bartholomew and Ms G Stow

COMPUTER ASSISTANTS



Row 2: Tyler Muller, Mayenziwe Mkhize, Darius Hanekom, Khethelo Ndlangisa, Zibusiso Cebekhulu
Row 1: Caiden Smith, Mr D Gay, Mr N Naude, Mr J Langston, Sbonga Mhlongo

Being a Computer Assistant in the IT department is a rewarding experience that helps other learners who need extra support with using computers and printers. It is not just about offering help - it is also a chance to learn from the IT staff, gaining new skills and understanding of technology. Assistants find themselves interacting with different people, making new friends, and building connections in the process. It is a unique role that allows you to grow both technically and socially, all while making a positive impact on others' technical journeys. Whether it is troubleshooting or simply offering a helping hand, it is a fulfilling and fun experience that I hope more learners will get a chance at.

Thandolwethu Dlamini
Head Computer Assistant

DEBATING, PUBLIC SPEAKING

& SPOKEN WORD

DEBATING

One of the most valuable things about debating is the sense of community it creates. It's a space where you can express yourself freely and be heard without judgment. It is more than just arguing a point; debating teaches you valuable lessons about commitment, teamwork, and responsibility. You learn to work together, support each other, and strive for excellence. The friendships you form in debating are often strong and lasting, and the experience can open doors to new opportunities.

This year, our debating team had an outstanding season, winning four out of six debates. The team was made up of incredibly talented students:
 Grade 12: Endinako Magafela (Captain), Ayanda Ndlovu and Akira McMillan.
 Grade 11: Lubanzi Maluleka, Simphiwe Mostert, and Julianna Blom.

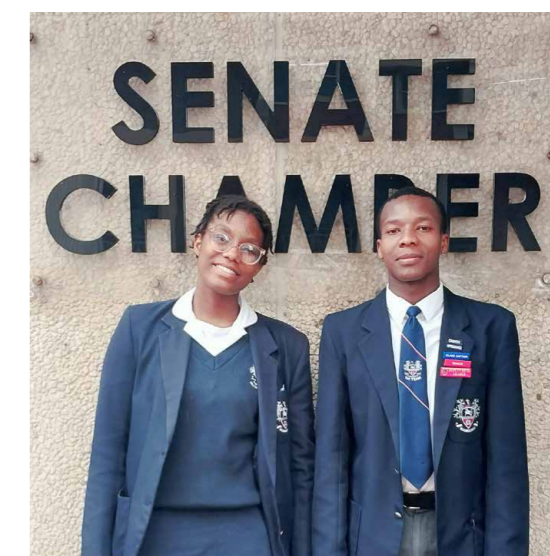
Our coaches, Ms Ramsout and Mr Hudson-Piccione, have been instrumental in our success. Ms Ramsout's patient and caring approach has created a supportive environment, while Mr Hudson-Piccione's enthusiasm and energy have brought a new level of excitement to the team.

To our Grade 12 team members: Ayanda Ndlovu, Akira McMillan, and Endinako Magafela, we say thank you for five years of dedication to Debating. Your leadership and contributions to the team have been invaluable.

Endinako Magafela
Captain, Grade 12



Row 4: Esihle Mtshali, Owethu Mkhize, Lesedi Mokheseng, Keegan Compton-James, Simphiwe Mostert, Makayla Torchia
Row 3: Zahra Zulu, Ndumiso Zwane, Nqobangothando Khumalo
Row 2: Simtholile Ngcobo, Zinhlezonke Ngwane, Andiswa Maphumulo, Zenathi Mkhwanazi, Gcinokuhle Sibisi, Ziphezinhle Mkhize
Row 1: Ayanda Ndlovu, Mr L Hudson-Piccione, Endinako Magafela, Ms S Ramsout, Lubanzi Maluleka, Mr E Moore, Akira Mc Millan



PUBLIC SPEAKING

Glossophobia, or the fear of public speaking, is famously the world's most common phobia. For many, addressing a crowd is one of the most terrifying things they could do. But for a dedicated few, it's a thrilling hobby - a chance to own the spotlight for 5 to 10 minutes.

Coached by Mr Moore, Public Speaking Club is a safe space dedicated to building confidence and self-development. Our weekly coaching sessions are where the real work happens. We practice delivery, fine-tune speeches, provide and receive constructive feedback, and even play speaking-focused games.

This year, members were given valuable opportunities to present in school assemblies and showcase their skills in a special end-of-year showcase. The skills developed and the opportunities granted have benefited every member significantly.

In 2026, our aim will shift to include a competitive element, with members participating in both internal and external events.

Public speaking is an art anyone can master and a skill you will always need. We look forward to more exciting developments within the club and welcome anyone who wants to someday present a speech without breaking a sweat!

PUBLIC SPEAKING SHOWCASE

The Public Speaking Showcase was held on Tuesday, 28 October. This event combined the talents of the Public Speaking and Spoken Word Clubs, featuring prepared speeches, impromptu speeches and Slam Poetry. The following speakers delivered speeches and also served as key role-players: Madam Chairperson, Simtholile Ngcobo, Grammarian, Andiswa Maphumulo and Timekeeper, Simphiwe Mostert.

Speakers: Lubanzi Maluleka, Makayla Torchia, Owethu Mkhize, Keegan Compton-James, Siphesihle Mthiya, Uminathi Mtembu, Riaan Van Der Byl, Banele Khuboni. Slam Poets: Vuyo Mlamula, Scarlett Ferreira, Nandisa Myeni, Amber-Lynn Jones and Emma Hughes.

Lubanzi Maluleka
Captain



Row 2: Faye Verster, Lubanzi Maluleka, Amber-Lynn Jones
Row 1: Angel Nosilela, Mrs Tarryn Pape, Nandisa Myeni

SPOKEN WORD CLUB

The Spoken Word Club started in Term 3 with many enthusiastic poetry performers. Spoken word is a powerful form of expression that uses words to share stories, emotions, and perspectives in a real and raw way. Learners have performed their poetry in assemblies, at Heritage Evening, and at the Banquet of Public Speaking, where the audience was moved, inspired, and transformed by the performances. A 'Slam Jam' competition, held in Term 3, saw performers compete for the loudest applause from the audience. We congratulate Angel Nosilela in Grade 9LG, who performed a short but powerful poem about the betrayal of a best friend.

POETRY AFRICA 2025

Scarlett Ferreira in Grade 9CH entered the Poetry Africa Competition, under the 'Chalkboard Slammers' division, where she was placed in the Top 10. She says she is incredibly grateful to have an extracurricular activity like the Spoken Word Club at school, as it provides her with a space to express her creativity in a non-judgmental environment. Scarlett performed her poem entitled 'Listen' at the Seabrook Theatre at Durban High School on the 11th of October 2025. She was placed in the Top 5 and had to perform a second poem entitled 'The sun, the moon, and a girl called Hope' which landed 4th position all-round. She won a cash prize and gadgets and thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. She says the energy at the competition was amazing and that she will definitely enter Poetry Africa next year again.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

This year we participated in the Model United Nations (MUN) for the first time with its top debaters who were up for the challenge. The aim of MUN is for learners to act as diplomats and come up with solutions to global problems by looking at the different standards and governments of different countries. This year's topic was the global protection of children, and HHS was selected to represent South Africa. Lubanzi Maluleka and Sinenhloso Shoji, accompanied by Mrs T Papé, attended the event at the UKZN Westville Campus in October. Their position paper won Best Position Paper, and Lubanzi Maluleka won first place for Best Public Speaker. This was an immense achievement as we were up against 27 countries and organisations. We look forward to attending such a well-organised and enjoyable event again next year.

Mrs T Papé

ECOSCHOOLS CLUB

EcoSchools Club at Hillcrest High School was awarded with a Platinum-1 Award at the Wildlife & Environment Society of South Africa Schools Awards for 2024. We are currently working towards a Platinum-2 Award.

In Term 2 we drove a bread tag collection competition in support of the QuadPara Association of South Africa bread tags for wheelchairs campaign. A huge thank you to all learners and educators who contributed towards this drive and congratulations to Grade 9 ST for winning the competition and collecting the most bread tags in all registration classes.

Thank you to the WildTrust foundation for the donation of several indigenous plants and a copy of the book penned by Dr George Hughes – "The Natal Parks Board – A Conservation Adventure." The Club were proud to show the WildTrust staff around the EcoSchools garden where the plants were later planted. These included an Adodytes dimidiata (white pear), Syzygium cordatum (water berry) and Ficus sur (broom cluster fig).

During the year we went to visit the home garden of enthusiast and local "homesteaders", Mrs Simone Laing. Her experience and wealth of knowledge on environmentally friendly gardening methods was insightful and walking around her garden, which she refers to as her "food forest" was most enjoyable.

Every year we find that we are faced with new challenges and new beginnings. The love and support that we receive from the school, learners and staff is much appreciated. This is what helps us stay motivated and encouraged to continue to strive to make Hillcrest High School an even better eco-friendlier school. The EcoSchools Club would like to mention a special thank you to Kim and Adrian Blom for their donation in laying ground sheeting and gravel to make the pathways within our garden. This has been much appreciated and a great improvement in the garden this year.

Mrs L Prior



Row 3: Paige Biggar, David Mackenzie, Isabella Berrington
Row 2: Joy Mackenzie, Liam Henstock, Eben Coetser, Yamkela Ndaba
Row 1: Erin Massey, Mrs Annalet Stols, Samantha Berndt, Mrs Lola Prior, Jade Gericke



FANTASY LEAGUE

Row 2: Lesedi Ramakatsa, Jordan Howes, Leon Markwell, Trent Nicholls, Sboniso Blose, Daniel Ferreira
 Row 1: Conrad Botha, Mathew Darby, Mrs S Strydom, Carla Schwarz, Faye Verster



This has been the second year that the Fantasy League Club has run, with regular attendance from its Dungeons and Dragons members. It is not only a time for them to socialise, but the game involves a lot of preparation from the person leading the game (called the Dungeon Master) as storyline needs to be created, encounters planned, and the game managed to ensure the players stay on track.

The players have freedom of creativity in creating their characters and choosing what they do and what they say. They also face different challenges – not only in needing to solve puzzles the Dungeon Master has set, but also to work together as a team and give everyone a chance to speak.

We will miss our Grade 12 learners next year and we are grateful for their initiative in starting the club in 2024. We trust that the new generation of Dungeon and Dragon players will continue to come together and keep enjoying the adventures.

Mrs S Strydom
 Teacher-in-Charge

GOSPEL CHOIR

The Hillcrest High School Gospel Choir has continued to grow and have great successes with our talented group of students. We were pleased to welcome many new Grade 8 learners to the choir this year and we hope they will stay with the choir for their full time at our school.

This year brought a great challenge for us to keep up with practices because many of our choir members were also involved in additional extramural activities. We learnt new methods to challenge ourselves to ensure that we made time for our weekly practices.

We have also grown and began to experiment and explore music with the addition of a Djembe drum. It has been rewarding to see our learners showcase their melodic voices and we were able to find new raw, hidden talent.

On 26 April 2025, we performed at the Pinetown Girls' High School Break of Dawn Musical Festival. We were invited to form a mass choir with neighbouring school choirs for this wonderful celebration of the musical talent we are so fortunate to have in our district.

It has been a pleasure to see the choir grow this year, and we hope that the following year brings more great opportunities and fun memories.

Mrs N Magubane and Ms T Gabisa
 Teachers-in-Charge



Row 5: Amahle Zungu, Masibonge Msani, Esihle Mtshali, Bayanda Gumbi, Luhlelo Sibisi, Kwandile Gumbi, Lesedi Mokheseng, Khwezi Sibisi, Sipheshile Mthiya, Kutlwano Sondezi, Janoah Williams
 Row 4: Okuhle Ntshingila, Naledi Gumede, Angel Nosilela, Khwezi Kunene, Nandisa Myeni, Mawande Cira, Sophie Newcombe-Bond, Ndumiso Zwane, Khanya Zuma, Aphiwe Kweyama
 Row 3: Thubelihle Njokwe, Sibongile Luthuli, Fundiswa Khumalo, Alwande Phewa, Avela Hlophe, Zekhethelo Mkhabela, Sinakhokonke Mkhize, Gcinokuhle Sibisi, Sibonelo Tshabalala
 Row 2: Lungelo Ngcobo, Sthembile Makhuba, Ndalentle Mnguni, Azania Ndlovu, Thando Sloti, Pamela Majola, Senzelwe Nene, Olwami Vilakazi, Yolanda Zondi, Nkazimulo Mthethwa
 Row 1: Sngqobile Mbili, Siphosethu Miya, Masande Luthuli, Mrs N Magubane, Nonjabulo Malinga, Ms T Gabisa, Zofia Giorko, Noluthando Gwala, Thapelo Sondezi



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 FRI: 7.00AM TO 01.30PM





Row 5: Gabriella Herbst, Samantha Berndt, Lindokuhle Nyaba, Connor Lowe, Lethokuhle Ngubane, Siphesihle Mhlanga, Ethan Ainhirn, Esihle Buthelezi
Row 4: Hannah King, Dayna Gagiano, Micaella Hunter, Hayley Chabant, Lola Klijnstra, Vanessa Van Der Westhuizen
Row 3: Kelsey Brown, Ariyin Collingwood, Julia Angus, Jordan Kidgell, Masande Luthuli, Cheyenne Hoareau, Cadence Barclay, Khanya Mzobe, Leah Donkin
Row 2: Lehar Maharaj, Jade Gericke, Sesandile Ngubane, Carla Schwarz, Faye Verster, Khethelo Ngcamu, Lwandile Buthelezi, Buhlebethu Ndhlela
Row 1: Lerato Mantashe, Isabella Traini, Mrs L Topham, Joe Te Brugge, Mrs DP Knight, Kylie Coetzee, Ms S Ramsout, Chloe Marais, Eryn Beech
Absent: Caitlyn Kistensamy, Cuan Le Roux, Yuktha Moodley, Sipehelele Mthethwa, Madison Neville and Jennifer Zinn

HONOUR SOCIETY

The Hillcrest High School Honour Society, founded in 2023, remains committed to its core objective: Providing crucial mentorship, support, and guidance to the school's highest-achieving learners. This is made possible by our dedicated staff members who volunteer their time to mentor learners through their most challenging year.

2025 proved to be a true testament of the strength of our Grade 12 cohort and it is with great pleasure that 43 high-achieving learners were welcomed into the Honour Society.

2025 saw a significant and valuable change as the Honour Society partnered with the Hillcrest High School Trust to bring in speakers, conduct workshops and seminars to both groups of learners.

In addition to the ongoing mentorship provided by staff members, the Honour Society and HHS Trust learners were afforded the opportunity to attend the following:

- **Vision Board Workshop:** Presented by Ms Nozipho Zwane, this session was designed to help learners clearly focus on and plan for their future goals.
- **Stress Management Talk:** Conducted by Mrs Dora Pelizzari, the focus was on understanding the nature of stress and identifying helpful, practical stress management techniques.

On October 15, the Honour Society, Trust, and Commerce Department hosted the impactful "Take Charge" Seminar. Successful businessmen, Mr Nyimpini Mabunda and Mr Mbulelo Mandindi shared lessons from their journeys with our Grade 8 – 11 students. Mr Mabunda, author of the bestselling book *Take Charge*, shared his experiences on his way to becoming a CEO.

As Founder and Teacher-in-Charge, I am incredibly proud to see the society flourish, not only in the growing number of members each year but also in the commitment and dedication of all the learners who strive to meet our rigorous selection criteria. I wish all the 2025 Honour Society members a highly successful exam session and look forward with anticipation to witnessing the bright futures that lie ahead of them all.

Ms S Ramsout
Teacher-in-Charge



INTERACT

The Hillcrest High School Interact Club has had another very active year, with the majority of the projects undertaken as a result of the school being approached to support or take on activities. The main projects undertaken by Interact this year have been:

VALLEY SCHOOLS UPGRADE PROJECT

A group of Hillcrest High School Grade 11 learners teamed up with learners from Kloof High School to refurbish and upgrade six classrooms at the St. Leo Primary School in the Molweni area. This was our second year working at St. Leo, bringing the total number of classrooms we have upgraded and beautified at the school to 12. We are extremely proud of the group of learners who undertook this project with diligence, representing our school admirably. Almost R9000 was donated towards the renovation project.

ITHUBA-ELISHA COLLECTION PROJECT

Interact Club collaborated with the Hillcrest High School Student Leadership Team and other schools in the area to support a residential care facility in the KwaNyuswa area. Ithuba-Elisha caters to people of all ages and after a visit to the home, our learners collected and donated surgical gloves, adult nappies, non-perishable food items and toiletries.

SIYABUSWA CHILDREN'S HOME

We have continued to partner with Siyabuswa this year, supplying them with food socks and other items as needed. We are also in the process of raising funds to complete some construction work at the home.

DOMINO CHALLENGE

As the youth arm of Rotary, we are currently involved in the Domino Challenge, raising funds by securing

sponsorship of dominos. Each domino "costs" R10 and we receive 50% of the profits to put towards our different projects (the other 50% goes to Rotary). A big thank you to Hillcrest Rotary for their continued support.

Thank you to our Hillcrest High School President of Interact, Grade 12 learner, Jessica Coutts and my co-Teacher-in-Charge, Megan Leppan; what a great team we have made.

Mr B Moffatt
Teacher-in-Charge



Row 3: Erin Lowe, Owethu Mkhize, Danielle James, Bradley Leppan, Owen van den Berg, Hayley Chabant, Farrah Lief
Row 2: Amber-Lynn Jones, Mackayla Smit, Taygen Oberholzer, Phelisa Hadebe, Tamia Manning, Neha Ramlall, Ashlee Taylor, Nicole Waddleton
Row 1: Rebecca Easson, Melokuhle Dlamini, Mr B Moffatt, Jessica Coutts, Mrs M Leppan, Taitum Scott, Shawna Creed

INTERFAITH

The Interfaith Students' Association, previously known as the "Hindu Students' Association" and "Muslim Students' Association" has had an inspiring year. The group was formed with the aim of creating a platform where students of different faiths can learn from one another.

Throughout the year students participated in open discussions and learnt the values between Hinduism and Islam.

Highlights of the year included the colourful Heritage Evening Showcase, where students presented traditional clothing, dance and music.

The Interfaith Students' Association continues to remind us that despite our different beliefs; we can come together as one school family.

Mrs M Chetty
Teacher-in-Charge



Row 3: Thalente Cele, Ahmed Khan, Terania Govender
Row 2: Yasmeen Ismail, Neha Ramlall, Mackayla Smit, Jade-Lee Bailey
Row 1: Tamara Pillay, Mr S Silochan, Juwairiyah Sindhi, Mrs M Chetty, Azrah Chetty



Row 2: Jordan Diedericks, Lesedi Ramakatsa, Sophie Buccimazza, Lindokuhle Nxumalo
Row 1: Mvelo Madikizela, Mrs M Chetty, Amahle Ngcobo

MEDIA CENTRE

LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

The Hillcrest High School Media Centre has always been one of the busiest places in the school. Every day learners can be found reading, researching, studying and catching up on work. Some breaks we have between 80 to 100 pupils in the library.

In the 2nd term, the library hosted a very special event: the return of Past Pupil, and author, Miss Sindiswa Mkhize. It was both inspiring and heartwarming to see a former pupil share their journey from our classrooms to the world of books. Ms Mkhize shared her experiences and the challenges of writing her book and the importance of never giving up on one's dreams. After her talk, learners asked questions about the publishing process, how to overcome mental blocks and how to find the confidence to pursue writing, even when you feel alone in your passion.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our dedicated Library Assistants, Amahle Mkhize, Mvelo Madizela, Sophie Buccimazza, Lesedi Ramakatsa, Lindokuhle Nxumalo and Jordan Diedericks whose hard work and support makes the library such a welcoming space for all learners.

"Every Individual possesses an innate power to overcome adversity, regardless of their circumstances"

Ms Sindiswa Mkhize

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Photography Club is a club where creative learners can develop their skills in the field of photography. With so many exciting themes and areas of interest, there is something for every photographer to participate in. This year we have covered many themes including water droplets, colour, macro-photography, reflections and portraits.

Guest speaker, Mr David Knox-Whitehead, gave an enthralling talk on macro-photography and showed his work in this field where he focusses on insects and frogs. This was truly inspiring. Throughout the year we went on excursions in and around the beautiful Hillcrest surrounds. We visited Fig Tree Farm and Morewood where the photographers were free to explore new opportunities for that "good shot."

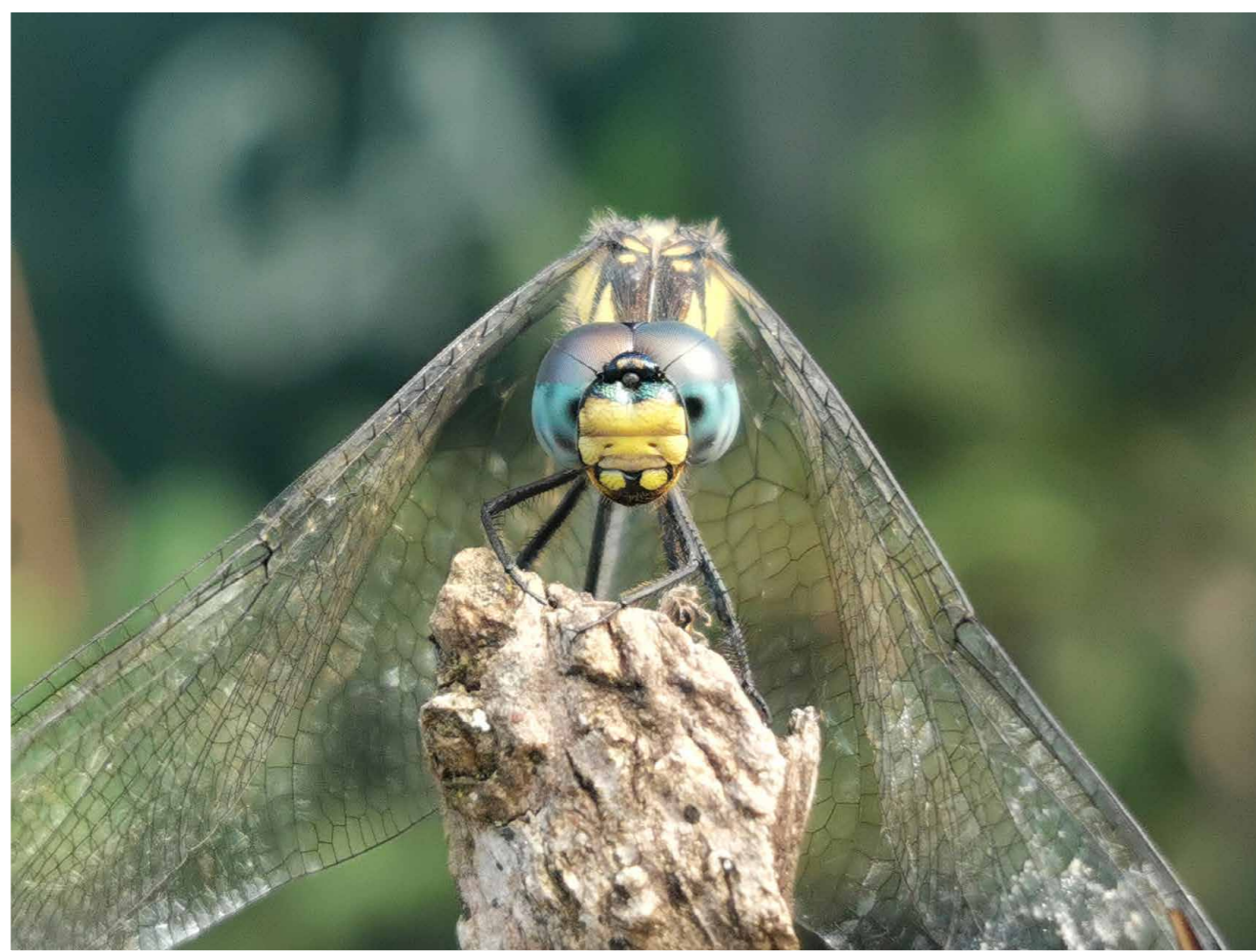
There have been termly competitions where learners submitted their favourite photographs, and some photographers entered the Culture@Kearsney

Photography Competition. We would like to congratulate Norma-Jean Price who won 2nd place in Category 1: Up Close and Personal with her entry, "Eye Contact".

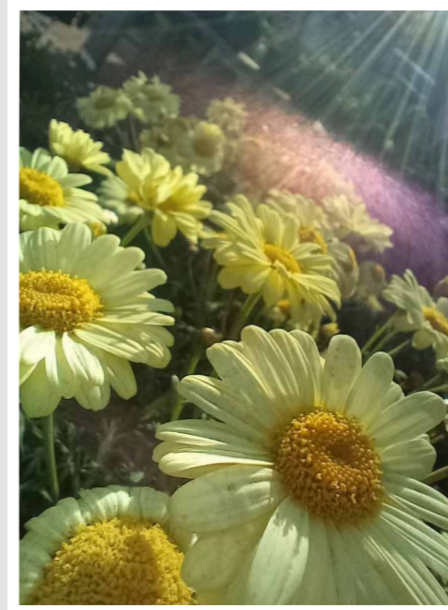
A big thank you and farewell to the Photography Club Grade 12 "Dream Team." They were always available to assist with any photography that was needed from school notebook photographs to matric dances. They were dedicated members from Grade 8 and showed such a passion for photography. Samantha Berndt, Jade Gericke, Aryin Collingwood, Akira McMillan and Megan McFarlane - we wish you all the best for the future and may you have many exciting photography opportunities along your way.

"Photography is always going to be a part of our lives."

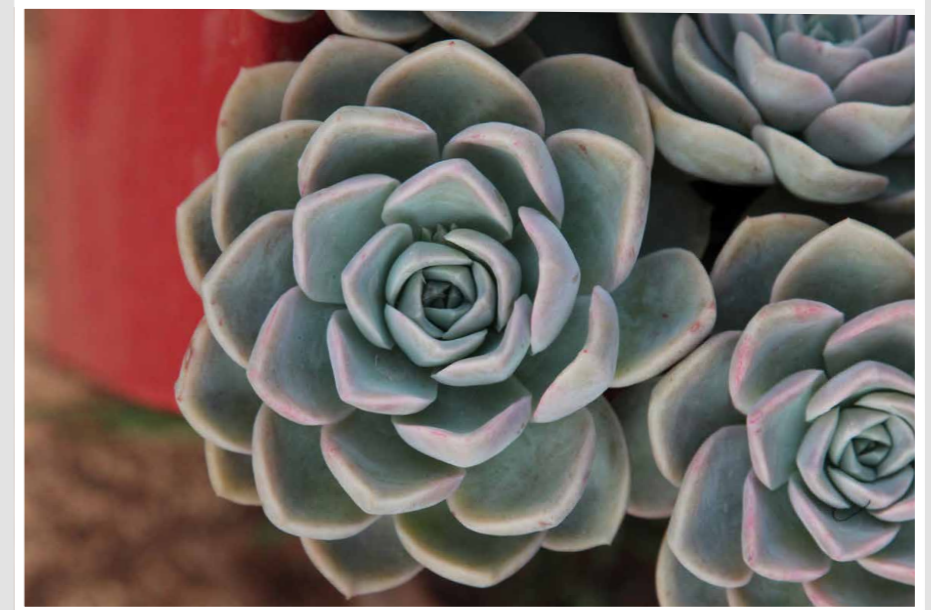
Jade Gericke
Grade 12



Norma-Jean Price - Eye Contact



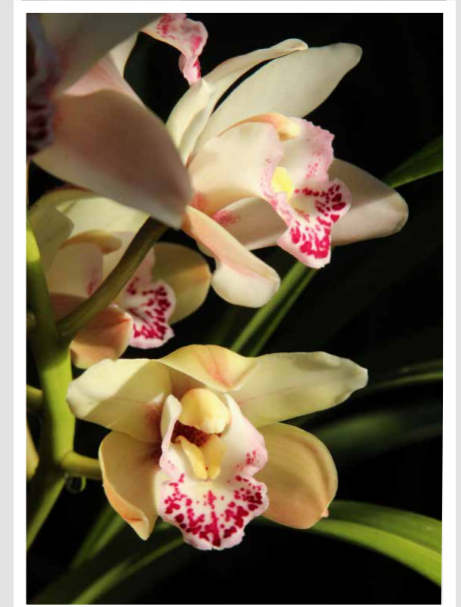
Tayla Ackerman



Megan McFarlane



Leon Markwell



Megan McFarlane



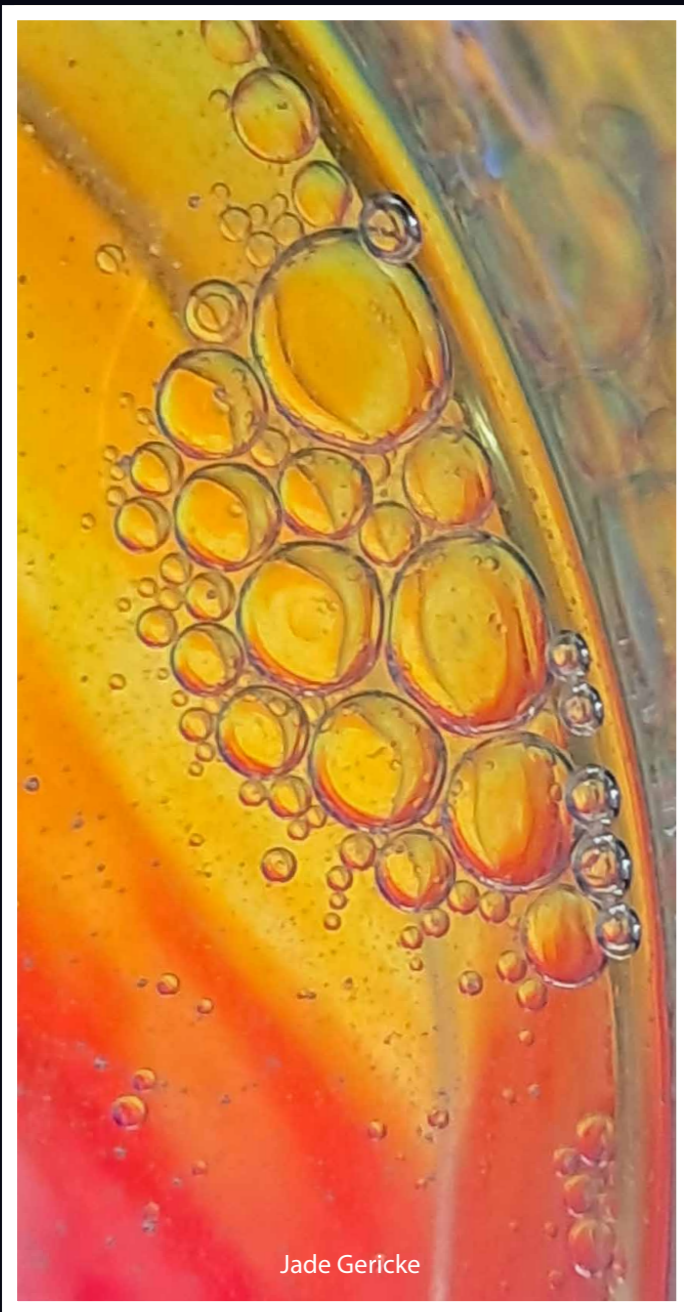
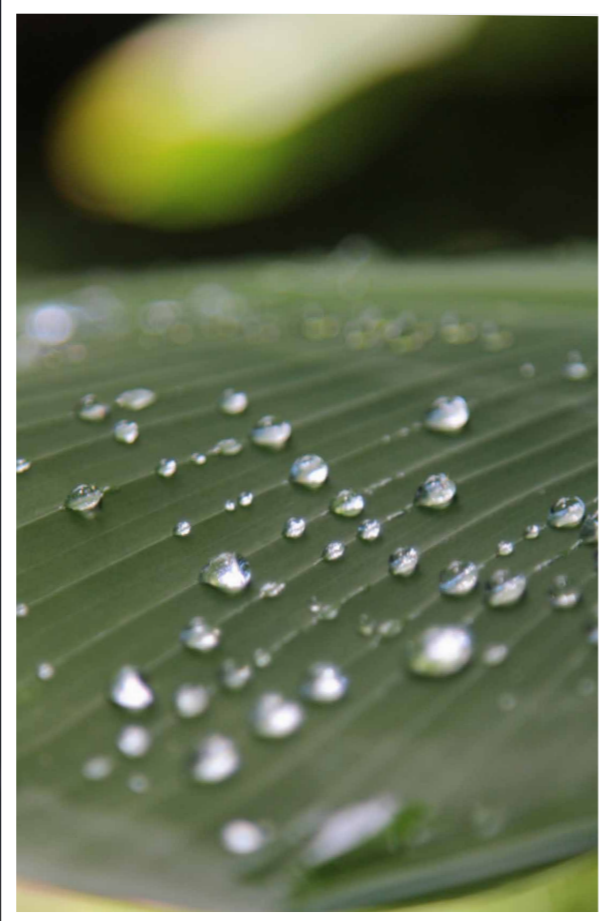
Isabella Te Brugge



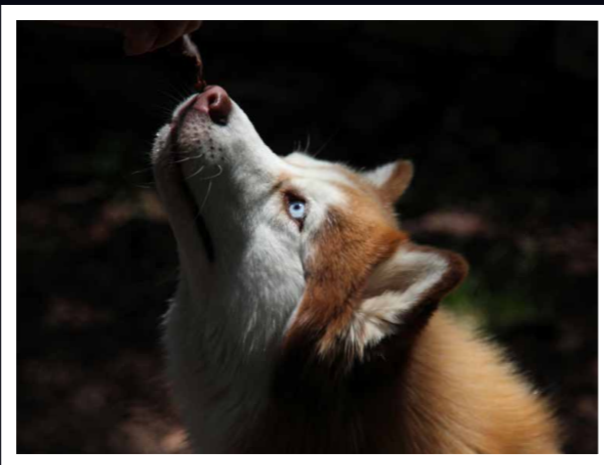
Row 4: Isabella Te Brugge, Ellie Anderson, Alexis Duncan, Chloe Voss, Tayla Ackerman, Anro Adendorff
Row 3: Katy Armstrong, Tamia Manning, Farrah Lief, Michaela Roberts, Skylar Neaves
Row 2: Ella Saunders, Amy Neveling, Skye Mans, Isabella Berrington, Cayla Wareing, Jordan Da Cunha
Row 1: Faye Verster, Ariyin Collingwood, Jade Gericke, Mrs R Harmse, Samantha Berndt, Megan McFarlane, Mathew Darby



Megan McFarlane (above and right hand column)



Jade Gericke



PRESIDENT'S AWARD



Juwairiyah Sindhi, Mrs T Tonkin

"No person was ever honoured for what he received. Honour has been the reward for what he gave." - Calvin Coolidge

BUILDING SKILLS FOR LIFE

The President's Award is open to young people between the ages of 14 and 25. Each year, thousands of youth take part in this programme to develop themselves and make a positive impact in their communities. The benefits of achieving The President's Award, at any level, are endless. Through the Award, participants engage in physical recreation, community service, learning new skills, and undertaking an adventurous journey.

JUWAIIRIYAH'S JOURNEY TO GOLD

Juwairiyah Sindhi is well on her way to completing her Gold Award. She has nearly finished the following requirements:

- A minimum of 72 hours of community service
- 12 months of physical activity
- 12 months of learning a new skill

Over the holidays, Juwairiyah will embark on her adventurous journey - a four-day, three-night expedition covering at least 80 kilometres! After that, she'll complete her residential project, the final step toward achieving her Gold Award. She aims to finish by early next year.

Well done, Juwairiyah, on all your hard work and dedication!

PROUD SUPPORTERS OF HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL



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Row 6: Kaitlyn Steyn, Jakin Goldstone, Esethu Sibani, Shaun Lloyd, Lindokuhle Nyaba, Thandolwethu Sishi
Row 5: Ciaran Christian, Owethu Mkhize, Menelisi Khathi, Trent Heath, Zibusiso Ngubane
Row 4: Anika Oltmann, Awande Mchunu, Thapelo Sondezi, Lukhanyo Mncube, Thoko Motaung, Asemahle Tshapa, Nandi Ngcobo, Avela Hlophe
Row 3: Nonjabulo Malinga, Roman Giorko, Courtney Mackintosh, Summer Mnguni, Vuyiswa Hlengwa, Mutende Mulenga, Sandakahle Msomi
Row 2: Avela Madela, Ndalentle Mnguni, Katelyn van Ballegooyen, Anelisa Madlala, Bandile Gumbi, Saiusha Viraragavan, Snakhokonke Mzimela, Banele Xhakaza
Row 1: Ayanda Ndlovu, Natalie Rees, Mrs DP Knight, Thingo Dlamini, Mrs LQ Janssens, Lubanzi Maluleka, Shawna Creed

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF LEARNERS

The Representative Council of Learners (RCL) for 2025 was elected in February of this year. The Executive Committee consisted of the following members: Thingo Dlamini (President), Lubanzi Maluleka (Vice President), Shawna Creed (Secretary), Natalie Rees (Treasurer), and Mrs Janssens (Teacher Liaison Officer).

The RCL decided that their project for 2025 would be to focus on the establishment of a new homework area for our learners. All funds raised throughout the year were allocated towards the purchase of eco-friendly picnic tables and benches, umbrellas, and plants to create this homework space.

The dedicated homework area will be situated outside the CM Girvin Multi-Purpose Centre and will provide learners with a quiet and comfortable environment for completing assignments, homework, and studying. This project aims to promote academic excellence and create a supportive learning environment for all learners.

Our first fundraiser was the inaugural Movie Night, which was held in May. The featured movie, Top Gun: Maverick, was selected through a school-wide voting system. The event was well attended and received enthusiastic support from both learners and staff. As a result, the RCL successfully raised a substantial amount

of funds. For Founders' Day 2025, the RCL hired several activities to enhance the school festivities; these included the mechanical bull, the rocket, the dunk tank, and the wipeout. The inflatables were a popular attraction and provided great enjoyment for learners throughout the day whilst raising funds.

The final fundraiser for the year was the Heritage Evening. This event aimed to celebrate and showcase the rich cultural diversity of our country – and school. Learners were encouraged to represent their unique heritage through traditional clothing, music, and performances. The evening was a vibrant success, highlighting the beauty of South Africa's diversity.

The RCL Executive Committee would like to extend its sincere gratitude to all learners and staff members who contributed towards raising funds for the 2025 Year Project. Special thanks are extended to Mrs Knight, Mr Ndebele, the Maintenance Team, the School Governing Body, the School Management Team, Mrs Janssens (Teacher Liaison Officer), Mr Bartholomew and his Audio-Visual Club, and the RCL members of 2025. Their dedication, guidance, and support played a pivotal role in the successful implementation of this initiative.

Shawna Creed
 RCL 2025 Exec (Secretary)



RCL Executives
 Row 3: Lubanzi Maluleka
 Row 2: Mrs L Janssens, Mrs DP Knight
 Row 1: Shawna Creed, Thingo Dlamini, Natalie Rees

Cast of Lights, Camera, Panic...



Row 4: Onke Gumedé, Daniel Shuttleworth, Leon Markwell, Nkumbulo Zulu, Jakin Goldstone, Daniel Burton, Zoë Visser, Snawo Gumedé
Row 3: Kutlwano Sondezi, Nkazimulo Ngcobo, Kate Cairns, Amber-Lynn Jones, Asemahle Tshapa, Sibani Magwaza
Row 2: Jabulile Mchunu, Roman Giorko, Shawna Creed, Luyanda Hlophe, Simtholile Ngcobo, Fanelwe Mqadi
Row 1: Amahle Zungu, Mrs S Macdonald, Zofia Giorko, Mrs DP Knight, Isabella Traini, Mr M Bartholomew, Siphesihle Mthiya

SCHOOL PRODUCTION

LIGHTS, CAMERA, PANIC...

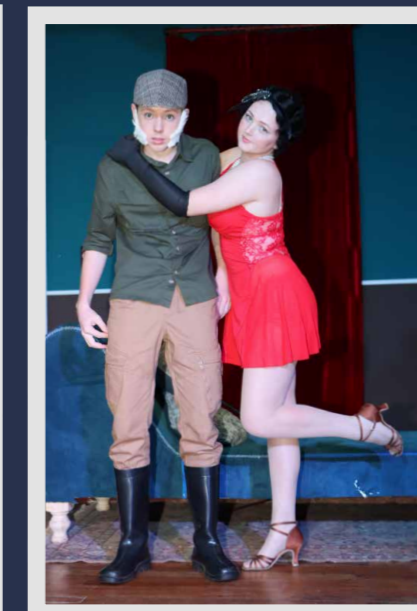
Adapted and directed by Drama Educator Mrs Samantha Macdonald, with Musical Direction by Mr Mervyn Bartholomew and Choreography by Hillcrest High School (HHS) Past Pupil, Miss Kaelyn Stainer, the 2025 play production, "Lights, Camera..., Panic!" was a resounding success. Throughout the performance, which ran for five consecutive nights, audience members found themselves in fits of hysterics, fully engaged in the complicated twists and turns of the unfolding plot.

The storyline followed the journey of an amateur drama society as they attempt to stage a classic "whodunnit" murder mystery. From the moment the curtain rises, disaster strikes - and keeps on striking. Props vanish, lines are forgotten, scenery collapses, actors get injured, and the chaos escalates into a full-blown farce. Through it all, they cling desperately to the somewhat misguided mantra "the show must go on!"

On top of the mayhem, due to a scheduling clash, the cast must share the stage with a dazzling dance company, with the cameo role of dance choreographer played by HHS Geography Educator, Mr Saurav Silochan. The dance company delivers a sparkling performance, a direct contrast to the grim tone of the murder mystery unfolding.

Delivering the final act of their high school career, the only two female cast members, Zofia Giorko and Isabella Traini, did not disappoint handling the transitions between their dual roles with conviction.

At the final performance Mrs Macdonald thanked the cast, the slick backstage crew and Audio-Visual team, as well as the entire drama department who supported her throughout the auditions, rehearsals, and on show nights.





Row 2: Amahle Zungu, Siphesihle Mthiya, Nkumbulo Zulu, Asemahle Tshapa
Row 1: Shawna Creed, Nkazimulo Ngcobo, Ms G Giorko, Thingo Dlamini, Luyanda Hlophe



Row 3: Isabella Berrington, Lesedi Ramakatsa, Abongwe Luthuli, David Mackenzie, Owethu Mkhize, Khwezi Mnyandu, Faye Verster
Row 2: Ezinhle Mqadi, Ncebakazi Kumalo, Azania Ntshangase, Joy Mackenzie, Sisanda Dlamini, Mvelo Mkhize
Row 1: Rebecca Easson, Tuseka Mngadi, Jade Gericke, Mrs J Silva, Hayley Chabant, Misha Vardan, Chloe James

By Sesona Guzana, Grade 9

I can't hate you,
 Even when every word from your mouth is like a knife
 to my spine
 Even when you twist the truth until it breaks me
 Even when your voice drowns out my own, making
 me feel small, silent, and alone
 I can't hate you
 Because I was taught that love was stronger, but what
 am I supposed to do when love feels like a chain and
 your voice is the weight pulling me under, pulling me
 deeper into self-pity?

You tell me that I'm stupid
 That I'll never be good enough, that I'll never be loved
 by anyone except you
 But somehow those same words twist and become
 something like, "I love you, I'm sorry, forgive me
 please." But forgiveness shouldn't be a cage where
 I trap myself to make you feel comfortable, but it is
 because I can't hate you.

So, I swallow my bitterness
 I smile when I want to scream
 I stay when I want to run because hating you would
 make me like you
 And I'd rather drown in my own silence than become
 the kind of person who feeds on the pain of others
 I'd rather watch as I burn than become like the one
 who set me on fire.

You see, I liked the thought of being loved
 Even if it came with its conditions

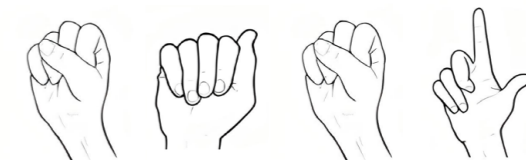
Conditions that break me, make me feel worthless, but at least
 I'm loved, right?
 Funny how you can break something without even touching it.

"Sticks and stones may break my bones", they say, "but words
 will never hurt me," a complete lie!
 I wish sticks and stones were the ones to break my bones. I wish
 the pain were physical, but it's not.
 It's the words that cut deep, you see, settling and nesting in my chest
 The pile getting higher,
 The cut getting wider
 Until eventually I explode!
 I hate you; I hate you, I hate you!
 But I can't hate you, not when you tell me you love me
 I can't hate you because I actually believe you.

I wish I were stronger
 I wish all the lies you tell me weren't so easy to believe
 I wish there was a way for you to be the one who comforts me
 But you're not, because you make me hate you
 I mean, I can't hate you because you love me
 I can't hate you, even when my bones are shattered and I
 become a sad pile of nothing on the floor caused by the very
 voice that claims to love me. I can't hate you.

I can't hate you because hating you would be like hating myself
 I can't hate you, even when your words settle like ash in my
 lungs and I count the scars you left on my heart like the stars in
 the sky that never see morning. I can't hate you
 Because hating you would be like hating the very air I breathe,
 Poisoned or not
 It keeps me alive
 So I won't hate you
 I can't.

SIGN LANGUAGE



While keeping our faithful members from the last two years, we welcomed some new learners to the Sign Language Club this year and were once again involved in many activities throughout the year.

Our signing choir performed one of the school hymns in assembly, Matt Redman's "10 000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)", and were amazing. Later we filmed their performance and shared it on the school's YouTube channel.

In celebration of Women's Day, we were invited to the Fulton School for The Deaf Hostel to share supper with them. It was a wonderful opportunity for our learners (including two Matrics from 2024) to interact with learners from Fulton in a relaxed and enjoyable setting. The food was delicious, and our learners picked up many new signs. Afterwards the girls were included in a spontaneous dance celebration.

In September we went to spend the morning with the Fulton Grades 1 - 6 and played some games, did some arts and crafts, and of course, practised our signing. The learners were also given a hearing health screening and advice on how to clean their ears properly so as not to damage them. An ongoing project with Fulton involves us beautifying their Play Therapy and Clinic area. We also spent time at Fulton after the end of year exams playing soccer and netball.

The evening where our learners can showcase their newfound knowledge of sign language to parents and family is always a fun evening. They enjoyed the experience and are gaining confidence with signing to others.

To end off our year, we showcased our interpreting skills at the Sports' and Cultural Awards evening as well as performing a signed rendition of the song "Something I need" by Ben Haenow.

Mrs J Silva
 Teacher-in-Charge



SOCIAL CLUB: SELF CARE



Row 3: Mackenzie Kuijken, Ogechi Okorie, Samela Shabangu, Njabulo Dlamini, Michaela Lessing, Zahra Zulu
Row 2: Aluwani Msane, Sbhongakonke Nxumalo, Hannah Thompson, Jamee Fransenburg, Siphokazi Makanya, Ziphezinhle Mkhize
Row 1: Clarissa de Villiers, Mr Saurav Silochan, Hayleigh Govender, Mrs Gilah Bastion, Uminathi Mhlongo



Row 4: Zahra Zulu, Isabella Te Brugge, Anro Adendorff, Ndumiso Cele, Izabella Keating, Sinelwzi Dlamini, Anelisa Sapepa
Row 3: Jamee Fransenburg, Juwairiyah Sindhi
Row 2: Ndumiso Hlophe, Isabella Berrington, Michael Griessel, Faye Verster, Mpendulo Mutambaneshiri, Mamello Ramakatsa
Row 1: Cadence Barclay, Hannah King, Mrs R Harmse, Jade Gericke, Mrs N Atkinson, Ariyin Collingwood, Isabella Traini

SOCIAL MEDIA JOURNALISM

The Social Media Journalism Club is a dynamic and creative space where learners' voices truly come alive. Led by Mrs Knox-Whitehead and Mrs Blom, our club is made up of passionate, curious, and hardworking learners who help capture the spirit of our school.

We write for the school's social media platforms and contribute to the school magazine. The Club covers everything from major events and cultural days to the achievements of our learners, teachers, and even past pupils. Whether it's a sports victory or a musical production, we aim to spotlight it all.

This club is about storytelling, community, and giving life to the moments that make our school unique. Being part of this club means developing real-world writing and communication skills while staying at the heart of everything happening around us in our School Community.

Ariyin Collingwood
Grade 12



Row 2: Thalente Cele, Alexis Duncan, Makayla Torchia, Kristen Bartholomew, Phelisa Hadebe
Row 1: Kylie Freeman, Jade Gericke, Mrs JE Knox-Whitehead, Ariyin Collingwood, Jade-Lee Bailey



STEEL DRUMS & MARIMBA BAND

The Steel Drum Club is a place where learners can come and learn how to play either the marimba or the steel drums and work towards doing school events. This year we have had an array of people coming in to teach us and it has been a fun year. In addition to Calvin and Paige, who have been our long-term instructors, we also had four other teachers join us this year, which gave us a wide exposure to different styles.

We have been privileged to learn an expansive array of songs and have grown as a band to the point where some days we did not have enough instruments for everyone to have their own! This year we had a large group of Grade 8s join practices and they have been committed for the whole year, showing their dedication and passion for the instruments and the band.

Unfortunately, we say goodbye to several of our members who are in Grade 12 this year, but we are happy to know that the passionate Grade 8s will be there to keep the passion alive!

Beatles Drummer, Ringo Starr once said, "As long as I can hold a pair of sticks, I don't have to retire. I may end up in a slow blues band, but that's how it works."

Jade Gericke
Grade 12



STUDENT CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION



SENIOR SCA

Row 6: Lubanzi Maluleka, Ayabonga Mthembu, Yolana Govender, David Mackenzie, Motobatsi Mngqobi Maseatile, Simthandile Gwavuma, Siqiniseko Shawe, Lwandile Zuma, Thabiso Ndawonde, Nikodim Girdhari, Taylor van Tromp, Carlos Zakwe
Row 5: Ntuthuko Cele, Zongqoba Phakathi, Amambo Mkhize, Udumo Dlamini, Luthando Mhlongo, Kwethemba Ngidi, Simthandile Nyanda, Aidan Zungu, Megan Maher
Row 4: Nkosingiphile Mngoma, Hannah Greffrath, Amber-Lynn Jones, Masibonge Msani, Azola Balondwe Shandu, Thapelo Sondezi, Kyle Sum Yuen, Emily O'Shaughnessy, Yandiswa Dlamini, Melokuhle Dlamini
Row 3: Andiswa Maphumulo, Aphive Kweyama, Ayanda Ngidi, Janoah Williams, Nangamso Nxasana, Brazil Adam, Sophie Newcombe-Bond, Natalie Rees, Kayla Manning
Row 2: Senzelwe Nene, Pamela Majola, Ariel Naicker, Brielle Pillay, Olwethu Dladla, Asanda Shandu, Maroellé Coertse, Eryn Beech, Simtholile Ngqobo
Row 1: Amahle Zungu, Micaella Hunter, Sinenhloso Shoji, Isabella Te Brugge, Mrs E Naidoo, Dominique Knoesen, Sebastian Smith, Jayden Chaythram, Asanda Pedersen

The Student Christian Association, or SCA, meets every Tuesday and Thursday at second break in the LSU quad as well as after school on a Thursday. Anyone and everyone is welcome to come and learn about Christ and during our time together we play games, hear sermons and spend time in prayer.

We also host guest speakers from churches in the surrounding areas and missionary groups from other provinces and even other countries. One of the highlights from this year was a visit from Circuit Riders - a missionary community of young adults from America reaching out to the youth around the world. They shared a powerful and encouraging sermon at one of our meetings.

Another highlight was the Amped Takeover, which took place in September, a combined youth event with City Hill Church. The night was a great success with fun games and amazing worship. To many SCA is more than just a school club; it's a community of Christians within Hillcrest High School and one where learners can feel at home and can come to when they need help.

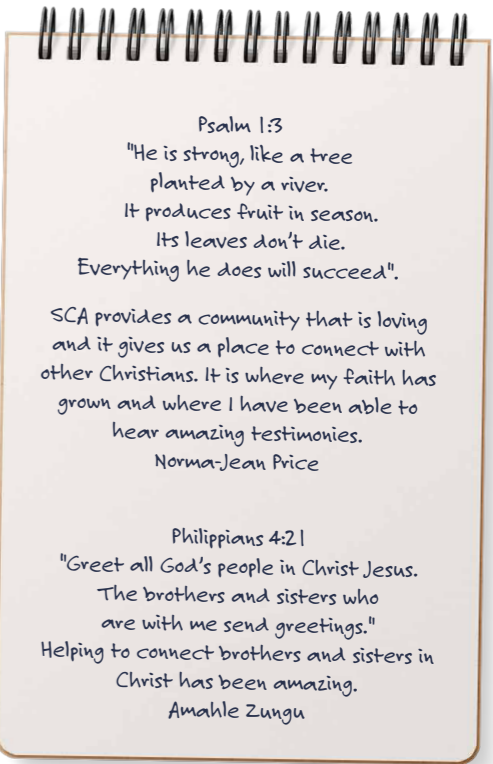
I am honoured to have been one of the head leaders of this amazing community for 2025 and to see it grow. I hope to be part of this community for the rest of my time at HHS and to see a genuine faith arise within my school, where the morning hymn, prayer and reading are not considered another formality.

Isabella Te Brugge
Head Leader SCA



JUNIOR SCA

Row 6: Ethan Moss, Ricardo de Almeida, Sandisizwe Shezi, Rylan Leask, Jeriah Govender, Matthew Quinn, Benjamin Dempers, Daniel Burton, Kopano Sekonyela, Wayne Kearley, Luthando Blose, Ntuthuko Zuma
Row 5: Sinqmqobi Buthelezi, Hlelo Mthembu, Sibusiso Mapotse, Menelisi Cele, Cebolakhe Gcuma, Rebokile Nketu, Zack Levenson, Cebelihle Dlamini, Pihweyo Kubone, Siviwe Luthuli, Nkanyiso Danisa, Kagiso Sebitloane, Ross Van Der Merwe
Row 4: Anro Adendorff, Ogechi Okorie, Anika Oltmann, Zahra Zulu, Kristen Bartholomew, Benjamin Smith, Peyton Kietzmann, Anelisa Sapepa, Siphosethu Miya, Hailey Oberholzer, Jaylene Chaythram, Eben Coetser
Row 3: Banele Shange, Sanelisiwe Ndlovu, Sibani Magwaza, Joy Mackenzie, Tamuka Chovuchovu, Athandwe Ngongo, Okuhle Mhlongu, Maja Kearley, Isabella Momoh, Senamile Mvelase, Awethu Makhoba, Amahle Tshabalala, Alexis Herbert
Row 2: Misha Vardan, Yolanda Zondi, Thubelihle Njokwe, Ubenathi Mbatha, Mvelo Mkhize, Asanda Mazibuko, Sibonelo Tshabalala, Owomusa Dlamini, Olwami Vilakazi, Stembile Makhuba
Row 1: Amahle Zungu, Micaella Hunter, Sinenhloso Shoji, Isabella Te Brugge, Mrs E Naidoo, Dominique Knoesen, Sebastian Smith, Jayden Chaythram, Asanda Pedersen





MATRICS 2025

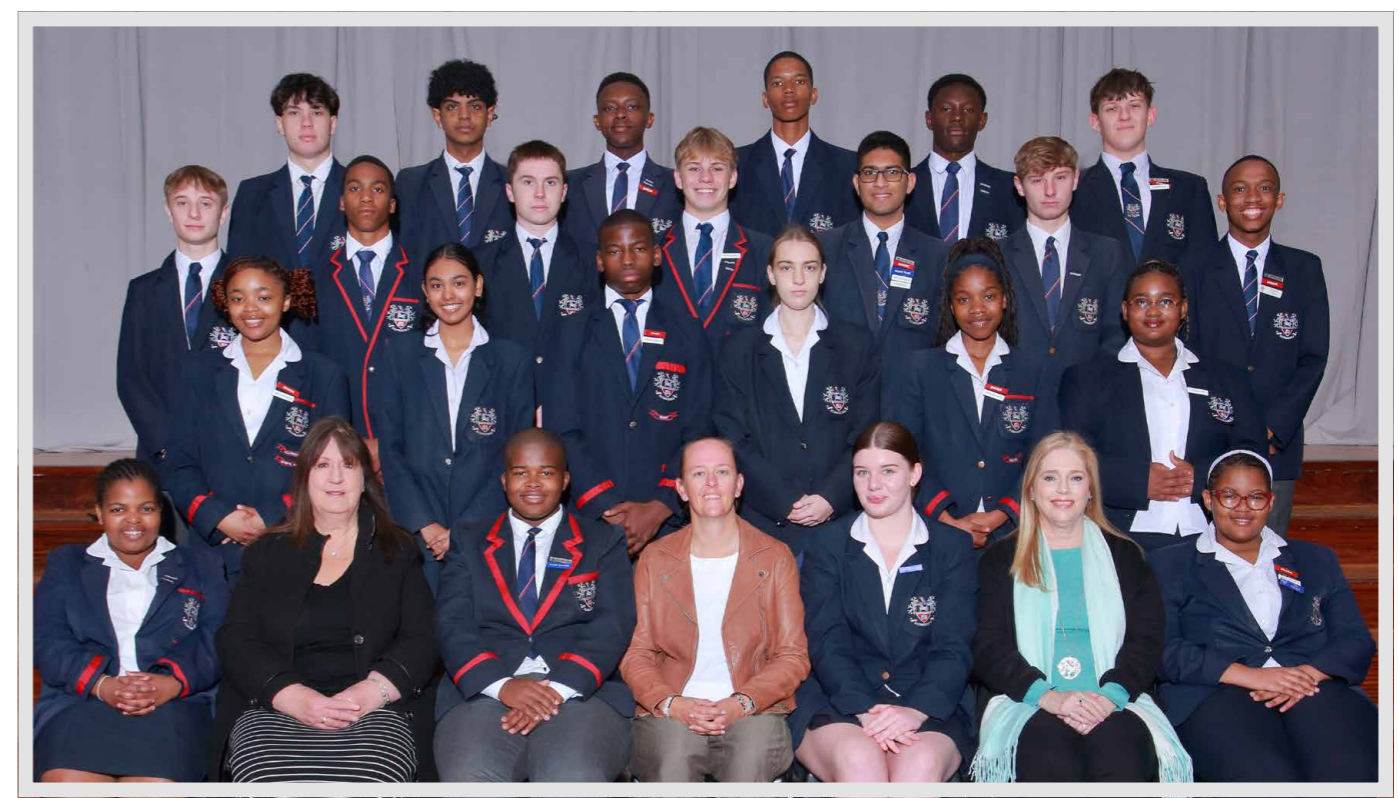


GRADE 12 LM



Row 5: Keagan Thyssen, Njabulo Kumalo, Tao Gauche, Lethukuthula Jali, Aphiwe Cele
Row 4: Iyana Ntshangase, Tanner Evans, Snqobile Mbili, Blaine Herbst, Ethan Ainhirn, Leah Riggien
Row 3: Hlanganani Ndlovu, Madison Bell, Oyedwa Makhoba, Thubelihle Luthuli, Khanya Mzobe
Row 2: Snoxolo Dlamini, Ayabonga Mqadi, Julia Angus, Kelsey Brown, Asanda Shandu, Tshepiso Mokoena
Row 1: Luyanda Mkhize, Mrs R Harmse, Sesandile Ngubane, Mrs L Middleton, Anelisa Madlala, Mrs N Atkinson, Andiswa Vukeka

GRADE 12 LT



Row 4: Mitchell Parker, Brayden Ramnath, Motlokoa Tsotetsi, Mkhuleko Mkhize, Nigel Dzikamunhenga, Joshua Whittle
Row 3: Ashton Lyle, Asiphile Blose, William Asquith, Mitchell Landman, Syon Naidoo, Logan Riley, Thingoluhle Shezi
Row 2: Lerato Mantashe, Nikiesha Girdhari, Tsepo Moloi, Megan McFarlane, Endinako Magafela, Mathapelo Sondezi
Row 1: Sinesipho Msomi, Mrs R Harmse, Luyanda Ntshangase, Mrs L Topham, Kara Nel, Mrs N Atkinson, Nandi Ngcobo

GRADE 12 AW



Row 4: Paul Momoh, Tayla Petersen, Lubanzi Khumalo, Anathi Mchunu, Conrad Botha, Sanjli Singh
Row 3: Apehelele Nene, Chloe Atkins, Tatum Noyle, Melikhaya Ntshangase, Roxanne Lendon, Carla Schwarz, Ntabiso Mkhize
Row 2: Thabile Ngcobo, Tinisha Naidoo, Lea Chetty, Lehar Maharaj, Shaylize Gopal, Chloe Marais
Row 1: Lindokuhle Nyaba, Mrs R Harmse, Sandi Mabaso, Ms A Wessels, Leah Donkin, Mrs N Atkinson, Sipehelele Mthethwa

GRADE 12 MW



Row 5: Sphesihle Mhlanga, Tyelyn Roberts, Snqobile Zondi, Evan Rambarun, Micaella Hunter
Row 4: Tatum Nicholas, Andile Madikizela, Gabriella Herbst, Zakhele Khumalo, Lunathi Bango, Owethu Dlamini
Row 3: Bayanda Vezi, Cebolihle Sithole, Obedingwa Ngidi, Cheyenne Hoareau, Cadence Fourie
Row 2: Noluthando Gwala, Nomhlangano Mtolo, Tana Botha, Khethelo Ngcamu, Eryn Beech, Andiswa Nyathikazi
Row 1: Yuktha Moodley, Mrs R Harmse, Aphiwe Majozi, Mrs M Woodrow, Bayanda Ntombela, Mrs N Atkinson, Thapelo Sondezi

GRADE 12 TP



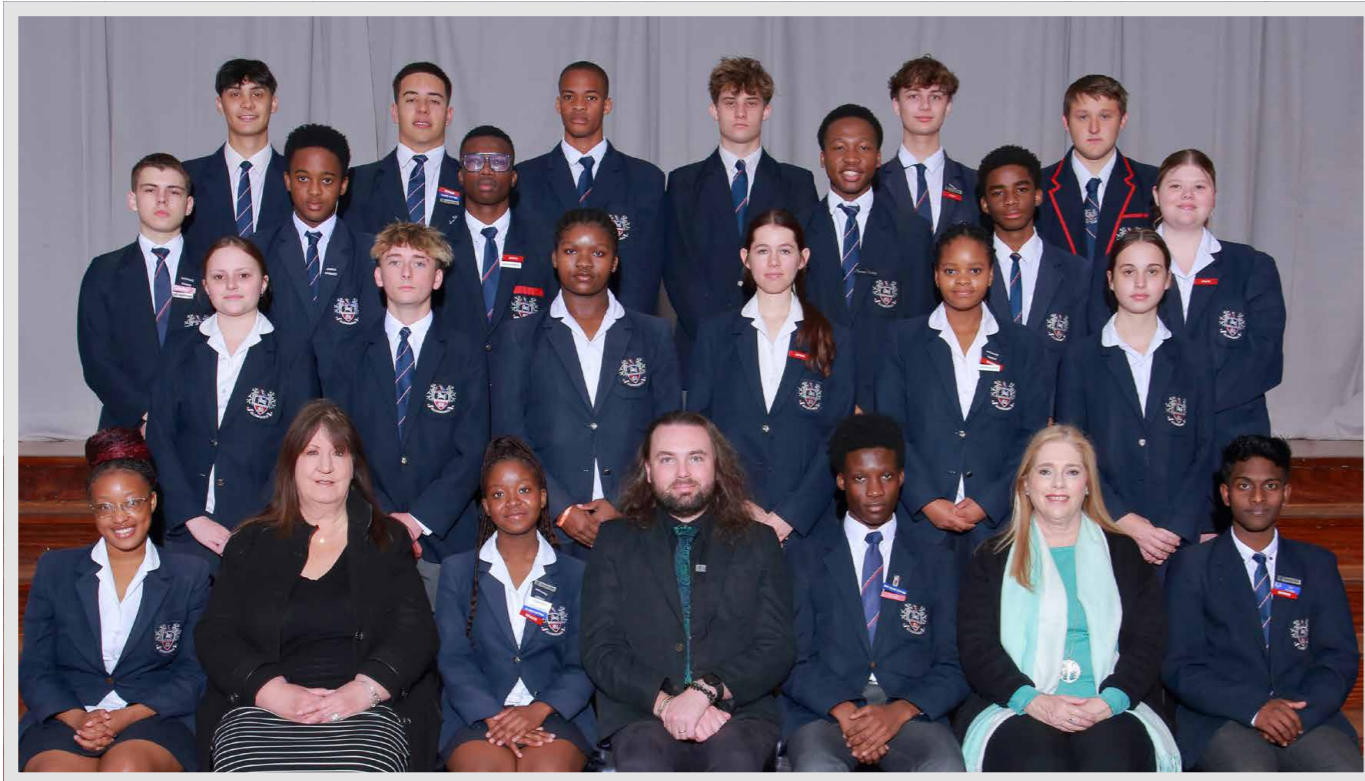
Row 5: Mathew Darby, Fabian Soobramoney, Luke Ball, Kingsley Matthews, Wazokuhle Mthethwa
Row 4: Faye Verster, Matteo Moodley, Kiara Botha, Jaden Strydom, Mieke Lombard, Nhlakanipho Zinume
Row 3: Siphosethu Mabuza, Andile Ntombela, Madison Neville, Slindile Khumalo, Jadal Reddy
Row 2: Anovuyo Quvane, Onamandla Hlophe, Lungelo Ntuli, Lisakhanya Mncube, Lwandile Buthelezi, Siphokazi Tembe
Row 1: Tia Govender, Mrs R Harmse, Ayanda Ngidi, Mrs S Strydom, Max Schwarz, Mrs N Atkinson, Thandolwethu Sishi

GRADE 12 MH



Row 4: Xander Tailall, Ayabongithemba Makanya, Eneme Mpanza, Brendon Smith, Sanda Dlamini, Dayna Gagiano
Row 3: Mvelo Madikizela, Julia Cameron, Xolani Zungu, Amahle Ngcobo, Anathi Ndlovu
Row 2: Lwazi Mungwe, Sisanda Ngobese, Dylan Rich, Nthabseng Vilakazi, Bongeka Mbili, Kiara Halley
Row 1: Caitlyn Kistensamy, Mrs R Harmse, Ntonhle Ntshalintshali, Mrs M Henderson, Blake Brits, Mrs N Atkinson, Nkosingiphile Mngoma

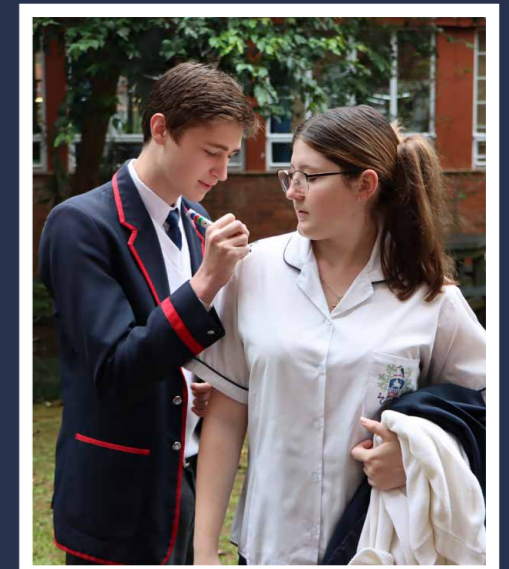
GRADE 12 LU



Row 4: Martin Smith, Trent Taskes, Zolani Dlamini, Vaughn Gower, Judah Venter, Ethan Graham
Row 3: Matthew Trublet de Nermont, Buhle Ndwandwe, Thabo Mpti, Lethokuhle Ngubane, Manelisi Msomi, Emma van der Merwe
Row 2: Jessica Hall, Jordan Prior, Mbali Shabangu, Kayla Jenkinson, Islay Pryce Lewis, Angelina Greyvenstein
Row 1: Amahle Mthethwa, Mrs R Harmse, Asanele Ngwane, Mr L Hudson-Piccione, Allen Dube, Mrs N Atkinson, Camden Satyaprey



CLASS OF 2025



Student Leadership Team



Row 4: Asande Ngobese, Francesca Del Grande, Shannyn Olivier, Cuan Le Roux, Jamie Bastion, Emma Atkinson, Ayathokoza Hadebe, Samantha Berndt, Michael Griessel, Hayley Chabant
 Row 3: Akira Mc Millan, Cadence Barclay, Jennifer Zinn, Jodi Macpherson, Hannah King, Taitum Scott, Tanaka Chinodakufa, Ashlee Taylor
 Row 2: Abigail Chetty, Saskia Henning, Jeane Rashkumar, Jessica Coutts, Ariyin Collingwood, Jade Gericke, Zainab Wingrove, Tatum Henning, Isabella Traini, Siphokazi Nsele
 Row 1: Ayanda Ndlovu, Masande Luthuli, Zofia Giorko, Mrs R Harmse, Joe Te Brugge, Mrs JE Knox-Whitehead, Kylie Coetzee, Mrs N Atkinson, Jordan Kidgell, Kwandile Gumbi, Buhlebethu Ndhlela

Student Leadership Appreciation Breakfast



Student Leadership Executive



Row 3: Jordan Kidgell, Mrs JE Knox-Whitehead, Zofia Giorko
 Row 2: Connor Lowe, Masande Luthuli
 Row 1: Joe Te Brugge, Mrs DP Knight, Kylie Coetzee



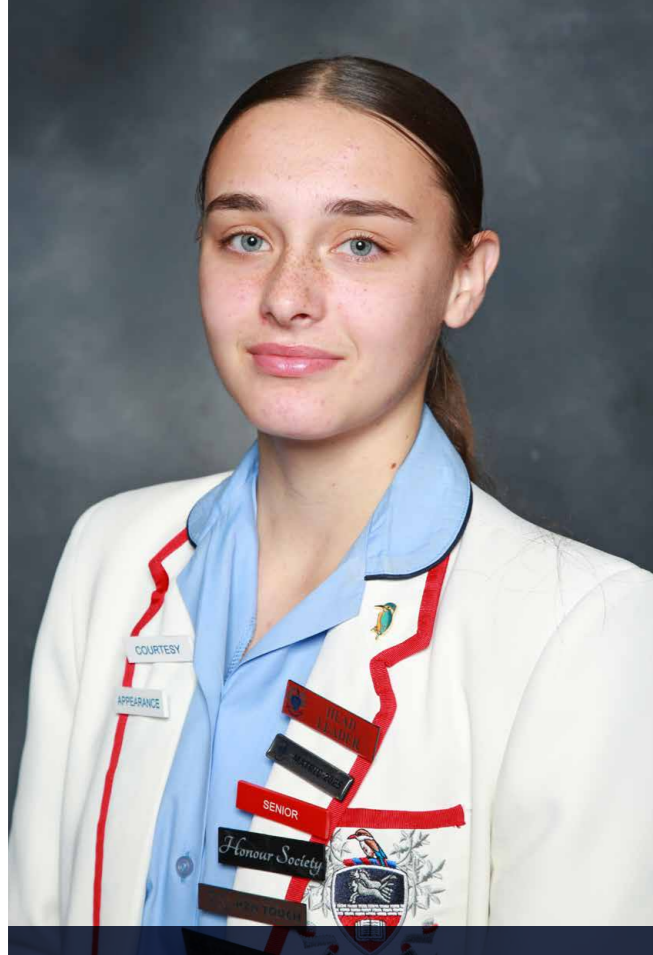
With smarter tech, faster response, and a community manager who actually answers his phone, **WE PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST.**

PROTECTING GENERATIONS IN HILLCREST



your Community Manager Sheldon Locke is your direct line for support, safety guidance, and neighbourhood care.





VALEDICTION

HEAD GIRL 2025

Kylie Coetzee



Mrs Knight, staff, invited guests, my fellow classmates, and lastly, the Grade 11s who are anxiously waiting for the next part of the evening.

Standing here tonight feels both surreal and overwhelming. The last five years have been nothing but laughter, challenges, and growth. It's hard to believe that this chapter of our lives is coming to an end. When I think back to my very first day at Hillcrest High School, I would never have imagined just how much this school would shape me, not only as a student or sportswoman but as a person. High school has been so much more than tests and exams, it's been about the friendships built in classrooms, on break fields, and creating memories that will forever stay with us.

Class of 2025, wow. Our grade is basically one big chaotic "vlog". Every day is content. We've got the sleepers, the overachievers, the class clowns, the teacher's pets, and the part-time students, but combined, we are a grade who will cherish these memories that we created together forever. Thank you to our grade controllers Mrs Harmse and Mrs Atkinson for putting up with us for the past five years.

I think it's safe to say we also owe our teachers a huge thank you, for putting up with us when we asked, "Will this be in the exam?" for the tenth time, or when we thought handing in work "fashionably late" was a valid excuse. Teachers: Thank you for your patience, your wisdom, and your questionable PowerPoint designs. Thank you for pretending not to notice when we were half-asleep in class and for repeating "this will be important for your future" even when we were clearly more interested in deciding on what we were doing that weekend. Some of you inspired us. Some of you scared us. And some of you still don't know how to use the projector. I think it's safe to say that even though we celebrated every time there was a batting list outside your doors that deep down, we will miss you.

To our parents and families: Thank you for cheering us on through every late night and early morning. Thank you for being our unofficial alarm clocks, Uber drivers, and generous financial sponsors of the tuckshop economy. We won't miss the lectures about studying harder because I swear, we really did study, you just happened to walk in during our "strategic study break" on our phones. Thank you for somehow loving us even when we brought home exam marks that looked more like shoe sizes. You were our first teachers, our strongest supporters, and the reason we made it here today. To my parents in particular, Mom and Dad, I am because you are. Thank you for shaping me into the person I am today, for being on the side of every sports field for the last 12 years. You never gave up on me, even when I struggled to believe in myself. You've sacrificed so much to give me the life and opportunities I have today. I am very grateful.

Throughout my high school career, I have been blessed to have been backed by an incredible support system. They say it takes a village to raise a child, and I've been fortunate to have a village of parents, teachers, and friends whose guidance, patience, and love shaped me into who I am today. So thank you to every teacher that has played a part in my journey.

Mrs Knight, firstly, thank you for trusting me with the position of head leader of Hillcrest High School. It has been an absolute honour and truly one of the most unforgettable experiences of my life. Thank you for always listening to our leadership team, for valuing our ideas, and for letting us have a voice. Your guidance, strength, and patience have shaped not just me, but all of us who had the privilege to work alongside you.

Mrs Janssens thank you for providing guidance academically and emotionally, for offering constant encouragement, patience, and support even with maths. Lastly thank you for having a punching bag in your office, I can confidently say we used it more times than we should have.

Ms Gabisa, thank you for being my school mom, for checking up on me every day, guiding me academically, and all your care means so much to me. Ngiyakhuthanda kakhulu.

Mrs Knox-Whitehead, thank you for always supporting the Student Leadership Team and reminding us to take breaks. You lifted us when we felt discouraged and believed in us even when we doubted ourselves.

SLT, otherwise known as Blue Security, where do I even begin? Whether it was cheering at galas, spying at movie nights, or playing Xbox on the projector, we've built a bond that is unbreakable. Each of us has been a piece of this machine, and without even one of you, it wouldn't have worked. Some days were unbelievably hard, and yet, having each other made the impossible feel possible. Thank you for leading with heart, reminding us that friends can become chosen family.

The Executives. I could genuinely have never asked for a better team to work with. Thank you for being my pillar of strength and listening to me complain about my tummy ache every day. Thank you for backing my decisions and showing me what it's like to be a part of a team as strong as our one.

Masande, you are the most passionate person I know, always motivating me and reminding me what it means to be a leader. Ukubanomgani ojengawe kuyisipho kimi, esiqhamuka kuNkulunkulu. Ngiyakuthanda kakhulu, bhuti wami.

Jordan, Cookie, you brought the positive energy on days that felt unbearable. You have such a kind heart and are always ready to jump into action. Our conversations were my favourite part of the day even though sometimes you were more interested in your Rubik's cube.

Connor, Connie Wonnie. Thank you for showing up no matter the occasion. For facing every challenge head on and for showing me what it means to be there for each other on the hardest days. Thank you for reminding me of my worth and for having everyone's best interest at heart.

Zofia, Zosh, but more importantly known as Uzu, thank you for always complaining with me so that I wasn't the only moan bag, inspiring me with your positivity, and for always having my back. I'll miss our morning tuckshop visits because everyone knows that Zosh can't go a day without a Coke or her Super M chocolate milkshakes. This year wouldn't have been the same without you.

Finally Joe, Jojo, Jojo Siwa, Fomo Jojo, my partner in crime, Josephina, you are so hardworking always keeping me on my toes. Our first day as head prefects was so awkward, it was like we were mute and lacked communication skills. But now it's the complete opposite, we can't stop talking. You are a great example of a head boy, and like you always say when we walk together, we have a different kind of aura. It has been a great year working alongside you.

If I could do it all again, I would, with the same people, because all of you made this journey unforgettable. Tonight isn't just an ending, it's a beginning. A reminder that every goodbye carries a little bit of hope for what's next. As we close this chapter, let's carry forward the spirit of Hillcrest High School because no matter where life takes us, a part of this school will always be with us.

To the future leaders of Hillcrest High School, seize this opportunity with pride and purpose. You are stepping into a role that carries both honour and heart. Lead with empathy, act with integrity, and never underestimate the power of kindness. True leadership isn't measured by how many follow you, but by how many you inspire to lead alongside you.

Thank you.





VALEDICTION

HEAD BOY 2025

Joe Te Brugge



Mrs Knight, Members of the Governing Body, Staff, parents, Grade 11s, and my fellow (hopefully) future tax-paying citizens.

This year has been a roller coaster of highs and lows, and the only things that have kept me going, are my team, my friends, my family, fishing and our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. They are the only reason I stand before you today. I am so grateful for every moment that has led me to this point and to every person that has shared even one of those moments with me. I would not change a second of my high school career for anything, as every event has helped mould me into the person I am today.

I would like to acknowledge and thank those who have walked this road with me. First, of course, thank you to my parents who have guided and encouraged me as I navigated Grade 12 while proudly serving as Head Boy. I am and will always be grateful for everything they have done for me throughout my life.

To Mrs Knight, thank you for giving me this incredible opportunity to serve the school and give back to all the people who have given me so much.

To our Grade Controllers Mrs Atkinson and Mrs Harmse who have dealt with our grade for 5 years and guided us through high school, thank you.

To Mrs Ramsern, who firstly convinced me to join this amazing team and for guiding us through the first part of the year.

To Mrs Knox-Whitehead, your care and genuine concern for all our thoughts and ideas have made a massive impact on our morale and team spirit through the challenges of serving as the SLT.

A special thank you to my team who have been my best friends and the people whom I can rely on whenever I need anything. They really have been such an amazing team of leaders to work with.

My bestie Wami Kylie, better known as "Mrs Stick", you have helped me guide the team to achieve amazing things that we couldn't have imagined. I appreciate all you have done, and thank you for being the easiest person to make fun of.

To Zoshie, our unofficial news anchor, who keeps our days eventful. Even though your tuck shop tab was often four digits and Coke was a part of your personality, we still love you.

To Jordan, I appreciate your willingness to jump into action and help everywhere you are needed - after you solve your Rubik's Cube in 40 seconds.

To Connor, who can solve it faster, and was there for me when I needed you the most. You are always a friend I can rely on when I need help, and I hope you know how much I value your friendship and support.

To Masande, my break duty partner, better known by your nickname, (which I'm told I may not say)... the challenges of this year were made easier because of your amazing personality. I'm sure everyone who knows Masande can say his warmth and positive attitude has brightened your day at least once. I am so thankful to you for cheering me up after many long, tough days.

I could go on and on and on about this amazing team, especially to the other SLT who sit among the crowd, some of them contributing more than me. I'm truly thankful to you all. I will never forget the fun we had on our camp and at school. I have grown so close to you all, and I can't believe that it's coming to an end.

Thank you to the Matrics for all the fun times and inside jokes. I am going to miss walking through the corridors and saying "Hi" to those of you that I know. I know our silly games at breaks and on prank week were frowned upon by some, but I can truly say it was so much fun.

As my English and Afrikaans teachers know every one of my orals since Grade 8 has always included fishing in some shape or form, you have my Grandpa to thank for that and this one is no exception so... as Henry David Thoreau once said, "Many men go fishing all their lives without realising it's not the fish they are after."

For me, I found what I'm after in every single member of my team. Together, we found something greater than the catch - whether that's lifelong friendships or something more that words just can't convey. And I can truly say life isn't about what you reel in; it's about who we are in the boat with!

To the the SLT and Class of 2026. Remember to value the people around you because they are the people who will be there for you when you need it the most. After all, we are all gears in the same clock each turning not for ourselves, but to keep time for one another.

If you take one thing away from my speech, I want you to remember that the people in your life make it what it is, not the objects nor the money, so spend time with the people you love, because they won't be there forever.

Goodnight, Hillcrest High.



MATRIC DANCE

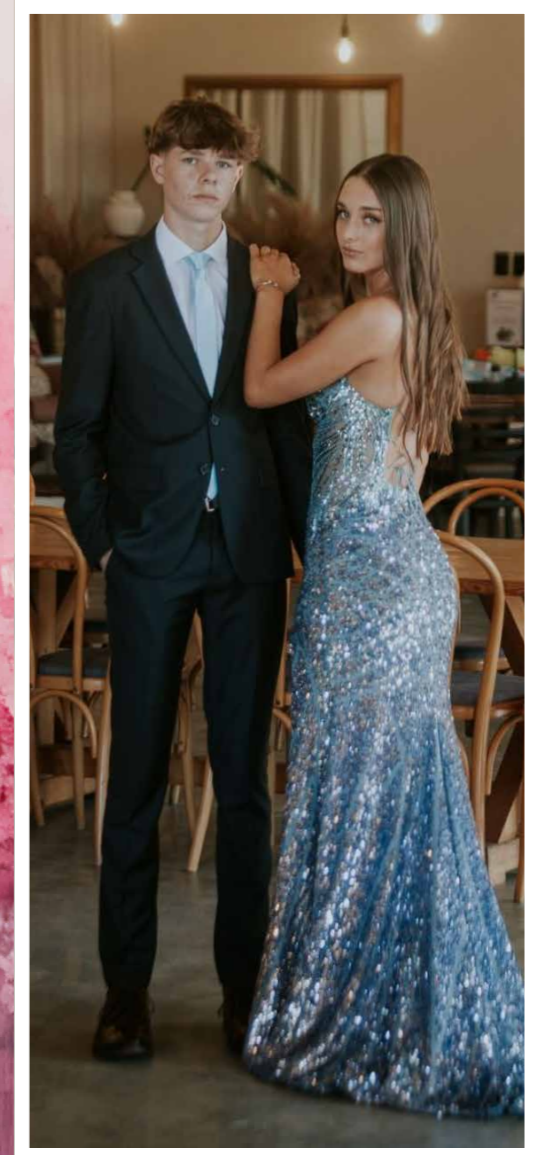
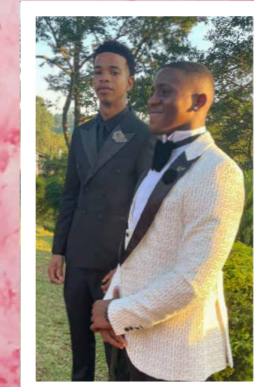
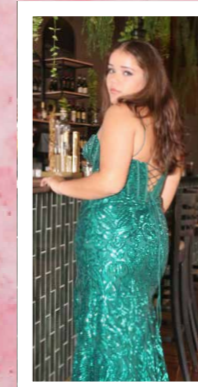
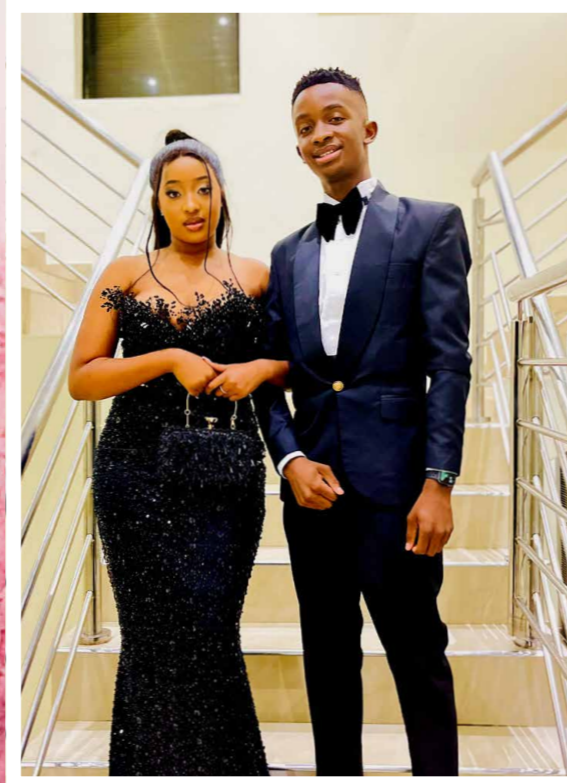
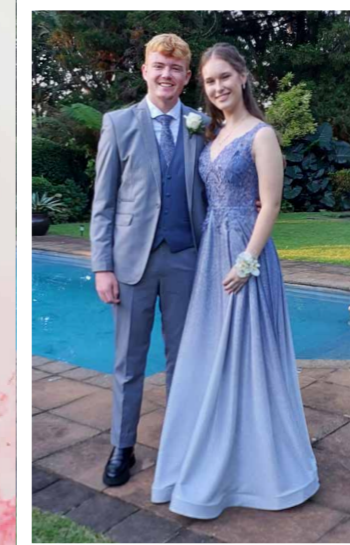
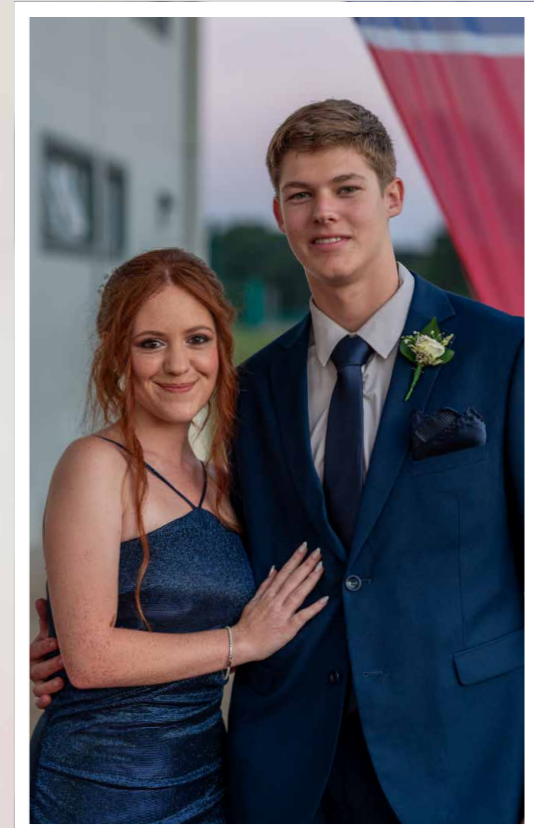
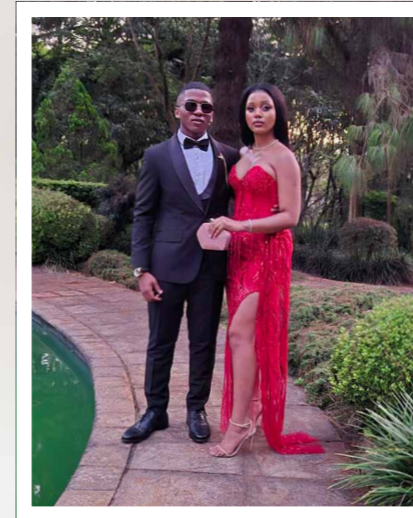
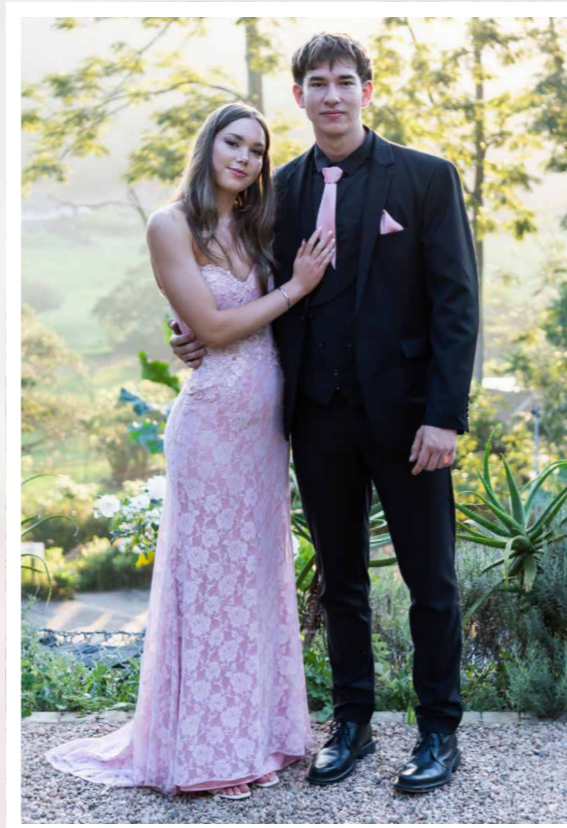
On the evening of 12th April, the Hillcrest High School Class of 2025 gathered to celebrate one of the most anticipated events of the year: the Matric Dance. What magical, stylish, and unforgettable night it was!

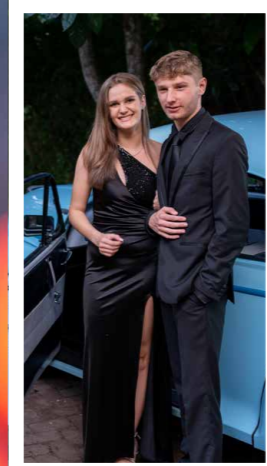
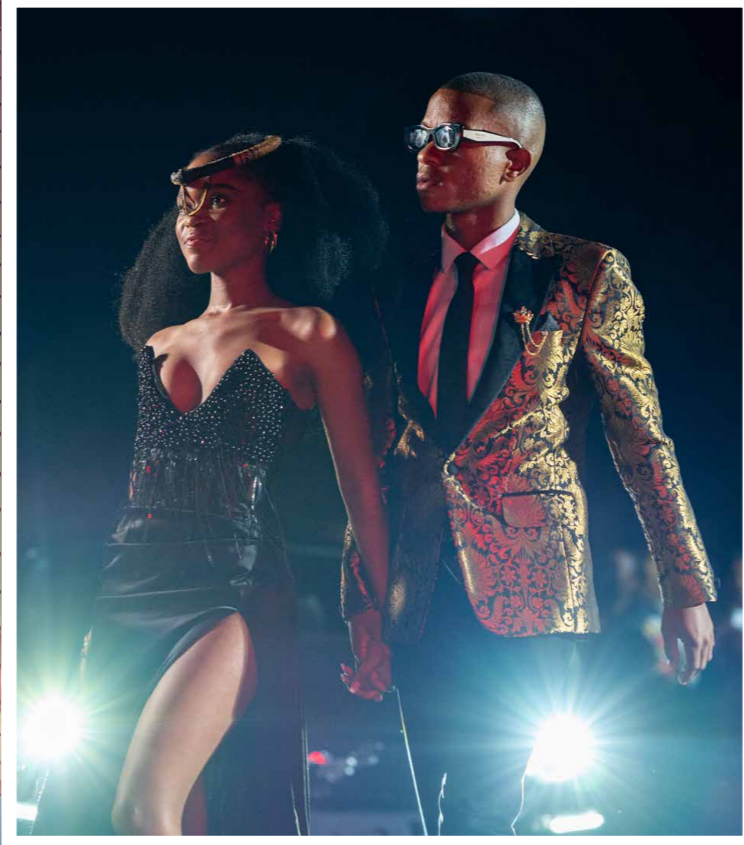
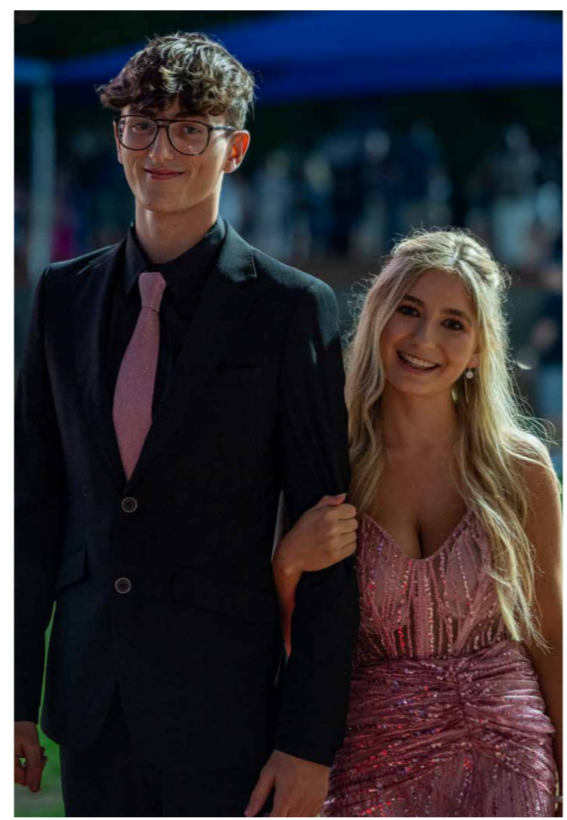
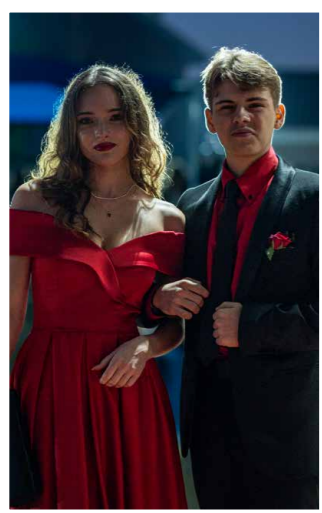
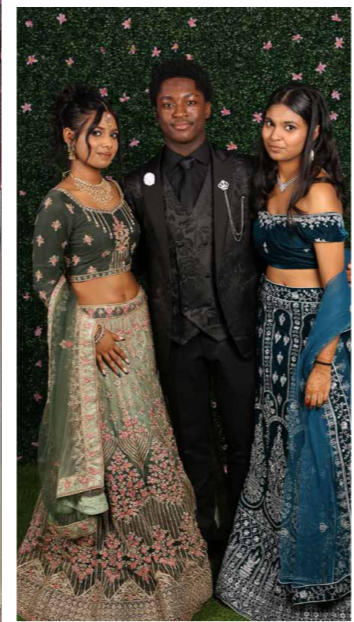
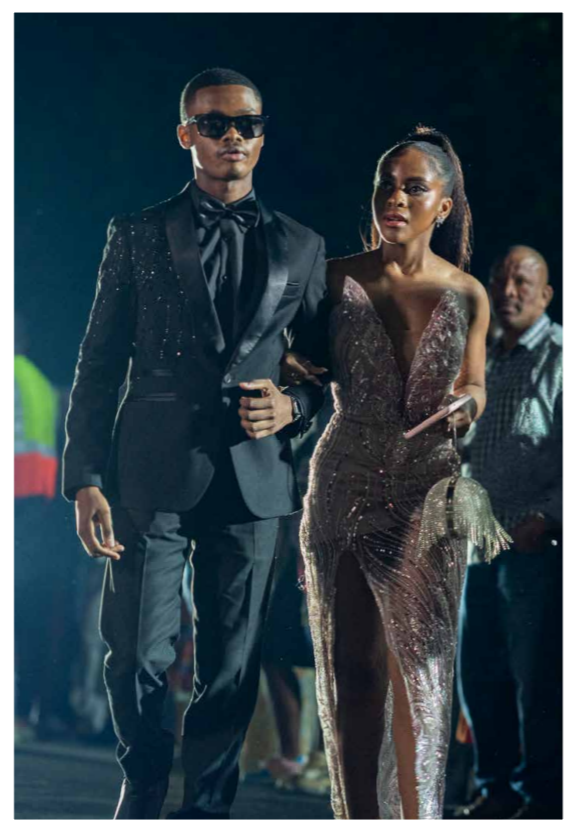
The red-carpet arrivals drew a lively crowd, with students making their entrances in everything from sleek sports cars to charming vintage vehicles. There was even a golf cart and a custom-built chariot which was a true showstopper that had everyone cheering.

The Matrics and their partners stepped out in style, met with flashing cameras and excited applause. With perfect weather and a buzz of anticipation in the air, the evening unfolded into something special.

The matric students enjoyed a beautifully presented harvest table dinner, followed by a night of dancing under the lights. Laughter, music, and shared moments made it clear that these are memories the Matrics will carry with them long after the final song.

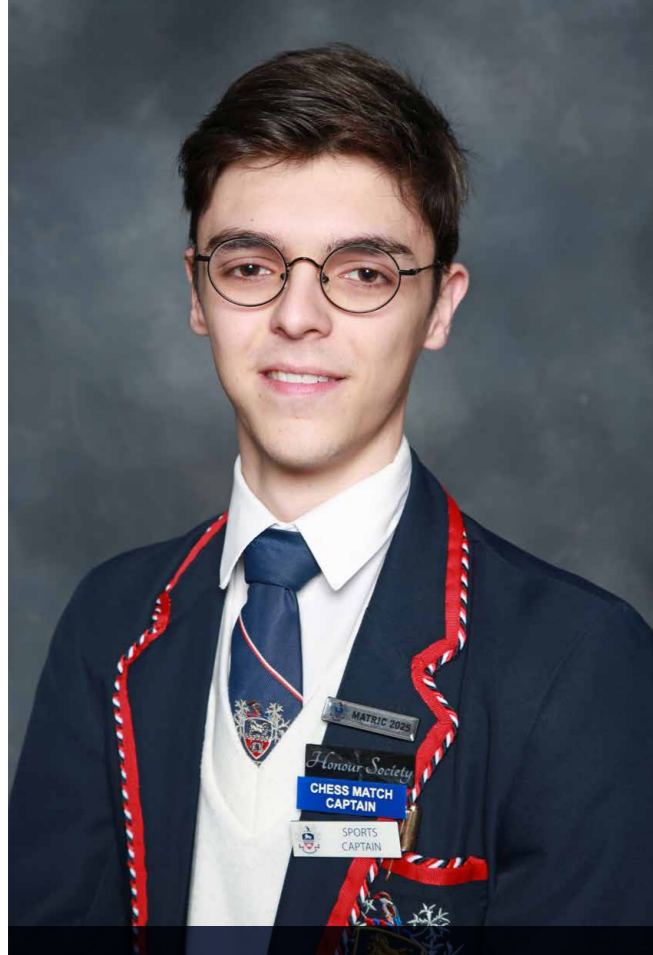
Ariyin Collingwood
Grade 12





VALEDICTORY ASSEMBLY





VALEDICTION

DUX 2025

Ethan Ainkinn

Fellow Matrics - I am sure you all expect a simple thank-you speech, but I'll keep the thank-yous to a minimum. Thank you to my family first of all, to my mentor, Ms Ramsout, my friends, and my teachers. The real crux of my speech is a short evolution of my thoughts and feelings towards school.

I had always thought of my journey through school as travelling through a long tunnel. The books and curriculum were the bricks, the tests and assignments the cement and the teachers were the workers that built the ever-lengthening tunnel. I felt trapped, waiting for the glimmer of hope at the end of the tunnel.

We all, at some point, have a similar feeling that the only way is forward with no immediate promise of true salvation. It's not the fault of teachers, nor the direct fault of the system, but a fault found much deeper within how we approach it. We make ourselves slaves to a system, we write tests without care and we sit in class without paying attention and daydream of what's out there because we don't see the reason for what is presented to us on whiteboards and in stapled booklets. The reason for all this is not just the work or the tests or the mark that we receive on paper, it's all about the mark we leave on those around us.

I challenge you to find those closest to you, friends and family, to simply experience life with them during this time that you have left at school. Don't simply neglect school or your future opportunities in education like they're not a major part of your life, find meaning and purpose among the piles of books. Find your one way to shine, be it in the art of language, the labyrinths of maths and science or the sheer human spirit that you cultivate on the sports field. You don't need to be the best at everything, just be the best at what makes you feel the most comfortable and try your hardest for the rest.

The people closest to you are your greatest pillars of support or your most likely cause for downfall. Manifest good relationships to last a lifetime but also to enrich yourself for a lifetime. Be it through a mentor, family and friends or even in solitude, be sure to find a situation that matters to you and that makes you feel as if you matter too.

Today I thought I would see the light at the end of this tunnel, but instead I see through the illusion of a suffocating tunnel with only a single exit to see a bright and promising hope right ahead of me. The shattering of this image was not just the effort of myself but the effort of an enlightenment where I found purpose in the mundane and found my way through these halls by seeing the world through the eyes of a collective consciousness I have culminated from the advice and experiences from those around me.

The walls that once surrounded me are crumbled and the remains now pave the path I must walk along. My mistake of ever thinking I was trapped now guides me in my freedom.

To end off, I would like to share a final thought. Much like how it takes a village to raise a child or a faculty of teachers and staff to get us through school, it takes far more than just ourselves to seek a life worth living.

*Congratulations
Class of 2025*

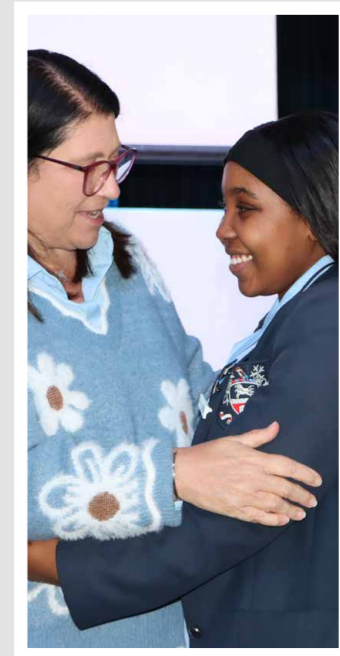
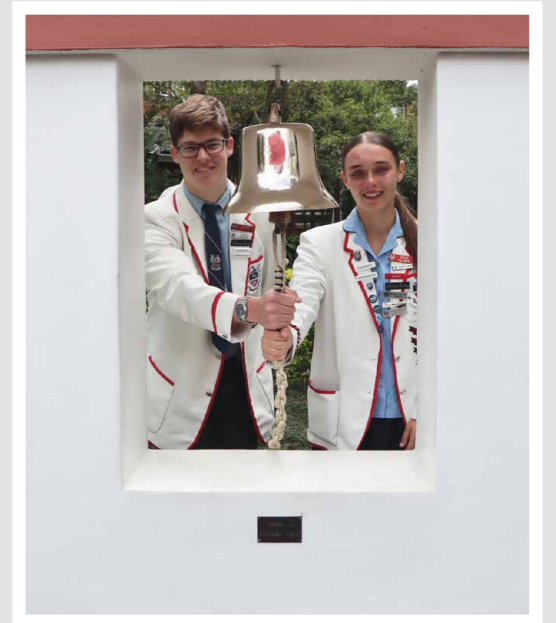


GRADE 12

BELL RINGING

"The future belongs to those who prepare for it today."

Malcolm X





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