

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE NEWSLETTER

RELATIONSHIPS . RESPECT. RESPONSIBILITY. RESILIENCE

TERM 2 2024

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ST PETER'S
COLLEGE

HEADMASTER'S ADDRESS



Dear Parents, Staff, and Students

As Term 2 draws to a close, I have spent some time reflecting on how 2024 has been a monumental year. Just as it has been worldwide, the 2024 academic year continues to be a time of great uncertainty, not only for South Africa, but also for the entire St Peter's College community.

However, we at St Peter's College celebrate the resilience, positivity and creativity of our students and staff who continue to adapt superbly to these unique circumstances. As you are aware, after 22 remarkable years at this wonderful institution, I have made the difficult decision to resign as Headmaster of St Peter's College. Change is inevitable and an intrinsic part of life, and it is with a mixture of emotions that I embrace this new chapter. Rest assured; the College Council is actively engaged in recruiting a new Head of School who will lead St Peter's College to even greater heights. I am confident that St Peter's College will continue to thrive and grow under new leadership.

St Peter's College is exceptionally well-positioned. We are in a strong financial position and there is a high demand for places at our school from the surrounding community. You can be assured that the Council will appoint a strong and capable leader who will build on our successes. We have a robust management team in place, excellent staff and world-class facilities. Our school is well poised to continue its upward trajectory and remain one of the most sought-after educational institutions in South Africa.

This past term has been extraordinary. We once again enjoyed record numbers of interest in the college, receiving more applications for places than ever before and our acceptance rate has risen. It is evident to me that the culture and values of St Peter's College resonate with families. We offer a down-to-earth yet ambitious, co-educational environment where individuality flourishes within a broad and forward-thinking education. With this healthy interest at all points of entry, including Grades 9-11, there is every expectation that the college will welcome its largest contingent of new students in history when we open for the 2025 academic year in January.

I have been enormously proud of our students and have genuinely enjoyed watching them rise to the challenges and do things they did not believe they could. Their adaptability, determination, and positivity have been striking and humbling to see: the industrious approach to schoolwork; the impressive logistical and physical efforts of our sports department; the number and quality of our creative arts team; the enjoyment of intellectual clubs such as the Tour de Maths, Public Speaking, and Debating; and the outreach projects, to mention but a few. Thank you and well done to all, particularly our Matric students, who begin their preliminary examinations (mostly calmly) but always with dignity and an undeflected sense of purpose.

Our St Peter's College community has shone over the past few months. Our extraordinary students, talented staff and dedicated parents have risen to the challenges before us. In turn, I feel privileged to have witnessed and enjoyed the events of this past term, many of which are a last for me, and I will reflect with huge pride on our fantastic school.

As we approach the end of Term 2 and look forward to a wonderful long holiday in August, I want to update you on several staff developments.

The following staff will be departing St Peter's College at the end of Term 2:

- **Chantal Gunning** will be taking up the post of Principal at Pinnacle College Kyalami.
- **Shanel Sooku** will be moving to KZN to be closer to her family.
- **Matthew Amner** is emigrating to the UK where he will be coaching hockey.
- **Chris Rabambukwa** from our facilities team has left St Peter's College to run his thriving poultry business in Venda.

I also want to take this opportunity to welcome our new Business Manager, Mervin Naidoo, to St Peter's College. Mervin brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise that will be invaluable to our college. His role as Business Manager is critical in ensuring the smooth and efficient operation of our school's administrative and financial functions and we are confident that he will be a tremendous asset to our team.

New members of staff joining St Peter's College:

- **Jason Newton** joins the English Department at the start of Term 3, 2024.
- **Kirsty Papenfus** joins the English Department at the start of 2025.
- **Thabang Madi** joins the Sports Department as a Sports Administrator on Monday, 24 September. Thabang was at St John's College and is currently at Parktown Girls. He qualifies at the end of 2024 with a BEd specializing in Maths and Physics. He will be replacing Matthew Amner.
- **Fortunate Lindiwe Seepane** joins the Finance Department to look after Debtors on Monday, 24 July 2024.
- **Nthabiseng Matakalatsa** will be returning to St Peter's College as the HOD of Economic & Management Sciences.

We have made the following internal appointments:

- **HOD of Social Sciences: Patti Bossenger** in a full-time capacity with effect from 1 September 2024.
- **Acting Music Administrator: Lome Robertson.**

We wish all our departing staff much success in their new roles and extend a warm welcome to our new staff, as well as those with added responsibilities. We truly value all our staff, who are the cornerstone of our college's success. Thank you for all that you do to ensure that St Peter's College remains the school of choice.

I am delighted to share some exciting updates on the wonderful initiatives regarding our ongoing campus development. Our commitment to enhancing our facilities and environment remains steadfast as we continue to invest in our future. One of the highlights of our recent projects is the construction of a new pavilion that will service the tennis and netball courts precinct. This state-of-the-art pavilion will provide our athletes and spectators with a modern and comfortable space to enjoy these sports. Additionally, the new grandstand will offer much-needed seating for spectators, creating an even more vibrant and supportive atmosphere at our courts.

We are also dedicated to being water-wise in our campus development efforts. In line with this commitment, we are working on beautifying the college gardens by planting indigenous, water-wise plants. These plants will reduce the need for excessive watering and ensure that our gardens remain sustainable and environmentally friendly. You may have already noticed the progress we are making in this regard and we are excited to see the continued transformation of our campus landscape.

Our facilities and ongoing campus development are crucial components of our strategy to provide our students with access to the best educational environment in the country. We believe that by enhancing our infrastructure, we are not only improving the physical space but also enriching the overall educational experience at St Peter's College. Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm as we strive to make St Peter's College a place where excellence thrives.

As we continue our journey through 2024, I feel it is important to reflect on the significance of being an Anglican school, especially in a world that often seems devoid of morals and values. At St Peter's College, our Anglican identity is more than a tradition; it is a vital foundation that shapes our community and guides our actions. In a world where moral and ethical standards can sometimes appear to be eroding, our commitment to Anglican principles provides a beacon of stability and guidance. These principles are embedded in our daily life, influencing our educational approach, our interactions, and our aspirations for our students.

Being an Anglican school means that we prioritize the holistic development of our students. We nurture not only their intellectual growth but also their spiritual, moral and emotional well-being. Our Anglican values teach us the importance of compassion, integrity, respect and service to others. These values are essential in forming well-rounded individuals who are prepared to contribute positively to society. Our Anglican heritage calls us to be a community that embodies love and acceptance. We celebrate diversity and inclusivity, ensuring that every member of our community feels valued and respected. This sense of belonging fosters a supportive environment where students can thrive and develop a strong sense of self-worth.

Moreover, our Anglican identity challenges us to engage with the world thoughtfully and responsibly. We encourage our students to question, to seek understanding, and to act with a sense of justice and fairness. These are critical skills in navigating a complex and ever-changing world, helping our students to become ethical leaders and compassionate citizens.

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As we move forward, let us continue to embrace our Anglican ethos with pride and purpose. Let it guide us in our endeavours, strengthen our community bonds and inspire us to live out the values that make St Peter's College a place of excellence and integrity, our **4Rs of Relationships, Respect, Responsibility and Resilience**.

Once again, St Peter's College will be a hive of activity these holidays. I am deeply indebted to the many members of our staff who give of their time so willingly to ensure that our students benefit from the many experiences on offer. During the August holidays, our students will have the to participate in Swimming, Water Polo, Basketball, Cricket, and Tennis clinics.

Perhaps the greatest success of the term, however, features very little within these pages. For my part, I am enormously grateful for your continued support and encouragement. I am looking forward to the new term enormously and wish everyone the very best for a little rest over the August holiday.

The closing of the school term remains a poignant and bittersweet time. Everyone is ready for a break, but it can be hard to see it come to an end. For those departing, I wish you the best of success: we will miss you, and you will always be welcome should you want to visit.

My final words must be 'thank you'. I cannot hope to list here everyone who has helped to make our college what it is, or those who have contributed to this year's journey. What an extraordinary time, what an extraordinary place: I look forward to Term 3 and wish you all a superb August break.

**Regards,
Rui Morais
Headmaster
St Peter's College**

RUGBY



We are excited to share the end of season report for the rugby. This year has been a whirlwind of ups and downs, with plenty of highlights and a few areas where we need to up our game.

First off, our continued Strength & Conditioning Programme, is really paying off. The players showed great improvements in strength, agility, and endurance. This was clear in their renewed performance on the field. We have also seen a large boost in rugby culture at St Peter's College which holds great excitement for the future. The dedication and enthusiasm from our players have been fantastic and there's a strong sense of camaraderie and commitment to the sport.

The return of the 1st Team to the St Dunstan's Easter Fest was another highlight of our season. The team performed impressively against some tough Zimbabwean teams and the event was a great opportunity for us to pave a good foundation for the in-season fixtures that followed. This season, we played some exciting new fixtures, which both challenged our players and assisted them in helping them improve their skills and teamwork.

Pirates League Winners 1st XV



1st XV Uplands victory



SPORTS NEWS



James Crossley, John Shaw, Antonio Legoinha, Yamiko Hassam, Liphe Pama

Five of our 1st XV players were selected to represent the Lions North Area Trials Team at Craven week trials and with one player progressing to the second round of Provincial Trials which was a fantastic achievement. This is a huge testament to the talent and hard work that these players have put in. Our U15 and U17 teams did us proud by placing third in the Pirates B League, while the 1st XV team took home the trophy by winning the league and boasting a 75% win percentage for the 2024 season. **A first-ever victory against Uplands was a historic moment for us and highlighted our progress we have made as a school.**

Additionally, 70 boys attended the Konka Camp, which was a fantastic experience for team building and skills development. On the injury front, we saw fewer serious injuries compared to last year, which shows our training and conditioning programmes are on the right track. We attained zero concussions this year which is also something to brag about and is testament to the incredible coaching staff we have as a school, putting our boys safety as our number one priority.

Pre-Season Strength & Conditioning Sessions



SPORTS NEWS



3rd Place at Saheti Sevens Festival

However, not everything was smooth sailing. Our junior teams didn't perform as well as we had hoped with a 40% win percentage, which is something we need to work on. We also had issues with patch play, where our teams struggled to maintain consistency throughout the game. Attendance for training sessions was another concern with too many players making excuses for missing training. Fitness levels, while improved, still need attention and we need all players to meet the required standards. The U14 team struggled with low numbers, affecting their performance and development so we need to focus on recruiting and retaining players at this level. There's also a need to improve our players' understanding of the rugby laws to play smarter and avoid penalties. Our junior teams missed out on festivals and tours, which are crucial for their growth. Finally, we had some friction between the building phase of our girls' rugby team and other sports which we need to resolve to create a more supportive environment.

Our incredible facilities have been a hit internationally with several teams choosing to train here over the past two seasons. This has not only put our school on the map but has also given our players a chance to learn from different playing styles and techniques.

Konka Rugby Camp 2024





St Dunstan's Easter Festival 2024

Looking ahead, we'll keep building a strong rugby culture, setting high standards, and focusing on performances over results. We aim to strengthen friendships within our teams, take on tough new fixtures and keep improving. Our goals include better training attendance, improved fitness levels, stronger understanding of rugby laws, higher participation and performance in junior teams, a supportive environment for girls' rugby and more junior festivals and tours. We're excited for the next season and are committed to continuing our journey towards excellence in rugby.

This year has been significant for our rugby programme. While we have a lot to celebrate, there are clear areas for improvement. Together, we'll build on our successes and tackle our challenges, ensuring our rugby programme remains something we can all be proud of.

NETBALL



U14 B – Bronze

As the netball season draws to a close, we are delighted to share the highlights and achievements of our teams. This season has been nothing short of spectacular with our students showcasing incredible talent, teamwork and sportsmanship across all age groups.

Our netball teams participated in a total of 7 festivals this season, each one a testament to our players' dedication and skill. These festivals brought together schools from all over the region and our teams consistently performed admirably, demonstrating the true spirit of St Peter's College netball.

In addition to the festivals, we also played 5 derby days, facing off against some of our fiercest rivals. These matches were intense and thrilling and our players showed great determination and resilience on the court.

U14 B – Bronze

Our teams also competed in 7 league fixtures, further honing their skills and building their competitive edge. Each match provided valuable experience and lessons, contributing to the growth and development of our players throughout the season.

The culmination of our season saw several of our teams advancing to the championships where they competed at the highest level. We are proud to announce the following outstanding results:

- **1st Team:** Placed 4th
- **U14 A Team:** Placed 3rd
- **U14 B Team:** Placed 3rd
- **U16 B Team:** Placed 3rd
- **U15 A Team:** Placed 1st (Champions!)

NETBALL



U14 A – Bronze

The success of our U15 A team, who emerged as champions, is a particularly proud moment for our school. Their hard work, dedication and teamwork have truly paid off; they have set a high standard for future teams to aspire to. The U15 A team completed the entire season without a single defeat.

This season has been a remarkable journey for our netball teams, filled with challenges, victories, and invaluable experiences. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the coaches, parents and supporters who have been instrumental in our success. Your encouragement and commitment have been vital to our achievements.

As we look forward to the next season, we are excited to build on this year's successes and continue to nurture the talent and passion for netball within our school. Congratulations to all our players for their incredible efforts and accomplishments!

U15 A - Gold



U16 B – Bronze



HOCKEY



After a packed hockey pre-season in Term 1, Term 2 was a continuation of business and success for Hockey at the college.

The Hockey teams got back into the swing of things with league fixtures, derby days and friendlies. Following a great pre-season tournament for our U14 Girls, they went on to complete the season with an 89% win rate.

Among our U14 players, we had three St Petrians represent Southern Gauteng at various national and regional tournaments. Gugu Moyo placed 4th at Nationals A Section with the U14A team. Aurora Gilbert won a silver medal with the U14B side at North Regionals whilst Jessica Barbour managed a bronze medal with the U14C side (also at North Regionals).

The 1st Team Girls and 1st Team Boys had the opportunity to travel to Mooi River to compete in a triangular with St Patrick's College and Treverton College. Both teams left the tour as the only unbeaten teams through the 4 games.

The 1st Team Girls took this form into the rest of the season and finished 3rd in the Graetz League. The 1st Team Boys and U15 Boys played in the annual Aitken and Boden tournaments. The U15 side placed 6th in the Boden B Section.

The 1st Team Boys competed in the Aitken C Section. They won 6/6 games on the weekend and won the tournament. This got the side promoted back into the Aitken B Section. A very busy, successful and enjoyable season for all teams and players!

SQUASH

As we bring another thrilling squash season to a close, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on our journey, celebrate our achievements and discuss our plans for the future.

This season has been a good season filled with victories, challenging matches and moments that tested us. We are proud of the determination and sportsmanship displayed by each member of our team.

The energy and support among our players have been of a great standard. This unity has been the backbone of our season. We have had some good wins against tough opponents. These victories are a testament to our hard work and dedication. Many players have achieved personal milestones, showcasing significant improvement in their skills and performance.

While we have had our share of successes, we also faced some tough moments. These challenges have been valuable learning experiences, helping us to grow stronger and more resilient. Each setback has been a stepping stone, teaching us the importance of perseverance and continuous improvement.

To build on the momentum of this season and to keep the excitement alive, we are exploring options to prolong our squash season. Here are a few ideas:

We are looking into organizing additional matches with local clubs and schools. These fixtures will provide more opportunities for our players to gain experience and enjoy competitive fixtures. Another exciting possibility is arranging a squash tour. This would involve traveling to different locations to play against a variety of teams. Not only would this provide valuable match experience but it would also be a great opportunity for team bonding and exploring new places.

We believe that the success of our team is built on the foundation of collaboration and input from everyone involved. Therefore, we encourage you to share your thoughts and suggestions on how we can enhance our squash program.

As we wrap up this season, we want to express our deepest gratitude to all our players, parents, and supporters. Your dedication and energy have been beneficial in making this season a memorable one. Let's carry forward the lessons we've learned and the spirit we've built into the next chapter of our journey.

The SPC Equestrian team has had another successful year. This year, the riders were allowed to participate in Qualifiers in all regions, which allowed them to improve their points and increase their chances of achieving SANESA Colours. The riders proved their competence in various disciplines, namely Showjumping, Working Hunter, Performance Riding, Equitation, Working Riding, Dressage, Prix Caprilli, In-Hand classes and Vaulting. They have had to deal with injured horses which is always disappointing when one feels so ready for the big day. There have been injured riders too, another disappointment and huge frustration. After lots of blood, sweat, tears but also huge smiles, the riders can sit back in the saddle and pat themselves on the back. It takes a lot of commitment, perseverance and teamwork on a different level.

It gives us pleasure to congratulate the following riders on being selected to ride at the finals on 27-28 July at Kyalami Equestrian Park:

Karina Govender: Showjumping PR (A and B Team)

Holly Page: Showjumping HR (B Teams)

Triana Govender HR (B Team)

Jamie Frayne: Showjumping (A and B Team)

Ella Mayne: Working Hunter and Working Riding (A Teams)

Georgia Otto: Dressage HR (B Teams)

Michelle du Preez: Dressage PR (A Teams)

Olivia Morris: Dressage PR (A Teams)

We look forward to hearing about their successes and wish our riders all the best for the finals!

CROSS COUNTRY



We would like to celebrate our Cross-Country athletes who had an outstanding 2024 season, delivering some fantastic results!

Here are the best place finishes for each athlete:

Declan Richardson: 7th out of 74 runners

Ntando Mbatha: 7th out of 57 runners

Ian Van Heerden: 29th out of 74 runners

Leago Maselela: 8th out of 69 runners

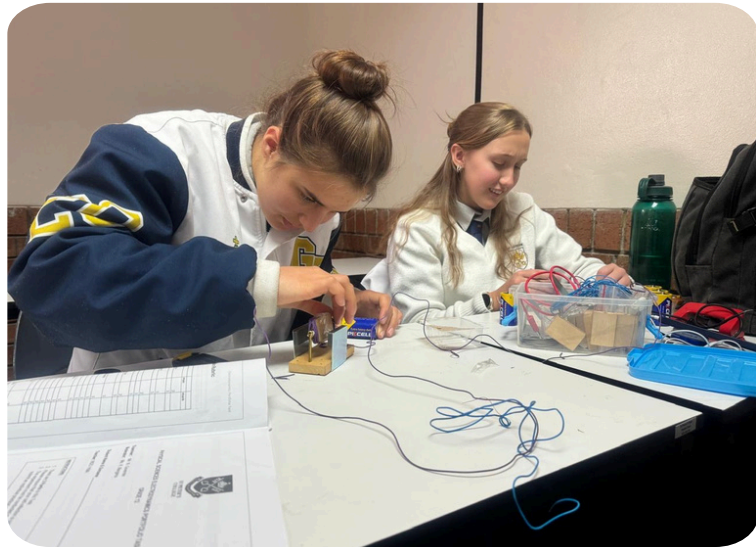
Tristan Meyer: 19th out of 80 runners

Lewela Mabitsela: 66th out of 109 runners

Kiara Govender: 37th out of 85 runners

Georgia Comodikes: 39th out of 85 runners

A huge congratulations to Declan and Ntando for qualifying to compete in Inter-District Championships.



French – DELF exams

Several Grade 10 and 11 students wrote A1 and A2 DELF exams. One student achieved a “B” symbol and the rest of the students attained distinctions. 27 students also went on tour in April and attended a language school in Antibes where they received a certificate of completion for their language course in the following levels: A1, A2 and B1.

Afrikaans – Artificial Intelligence

The Afrikaans Department has embraced the use of Artificial Intelligence with the Grade 11 students generating images for the characters in the novel they are reading based on descriptions in the book.

African Languages Afternoon

Every year, the African Languages Department host the Grade 9 African Languages Afternoon. The aim is to expose the students to cultural aspects of Afrikaans and isiZulu and to have fun on the afternoon. The students competed in a Kahoot Quiz about South African culture, participated in Afrikaans karaoke and learnt a traditional Zulu dance. After the activities, the students enjoyed hardbody chicken and koeksisters.



Pit Produksies



The Grade 12 Afrikaans students were exposed to scenes from their novel, *Donkerweb*, and a number of their poems when the team from Pit Produksies visited the school this term. The performance helped the students see the story in action and in their preparation for the examinations.

isiZulu Olympiad

31 students across the grades competed in Round 2 of the isiZulu Olympiad. They attained excellent results and we are proud of the school average of 79%.

Physical Sciences and Life Sciences

The Grade 12 Physical Sciences students applied the knowledge gained in the classroom to build a working motor as one of their portfolio tasks. While our Grade 10, 11 and 12 students put their practical skills to work in the laboratories while completing their Practical Examinations this term.

Cross Curricular Projects

Our Grade 9 students worked in teams to design bridges in a cross-curricular project involving Technology and Physical Sciences. They then put their design to the test to see how much weight their bridges could hold.

Our Grade 8s also completed a cross curricular project which required them to design a board game from recycled or repurposed materials.



AI Hackathon

A number of our Grade 11 students competed in an AI Hackathon organised by the IEB. The Hackathon saw them working in teams to use Artificial Intelligence to try and solve a number of social issues. These issues included the use and adaptation of Artificial Intelligence tools to increase environmental sustainability, create safer communities and provide quality education for all. The three teams chose to look at creating safe environments, whether it was to prevent cybercrime, inclusivity for different-abled passengers in public transport or early detection of dread diseases. Thank you to our HOD of Technology, Ms Ronne, for coordinating the event. We are extremely proud of what our students were able to conceptualise and look forward to them receiving their certificates next term. Without the eager minds of students and their willingness to evaluate their world, this event would not have been possible. We thank them for their enthusiasm and their commitment to St Peter's College.

Geography Outing – Hartebeespoort

The Grade 10 Geography students spent the day in the Hartebeespoort area to learn about Geomorphology and see the processes in action. They had a guest lecture from a Geology professor, went up the Harties Cableway and visited the Hartebeespoort Dam.



History Outing – Apartheid Museum

The Grade 11 historians visited the Apartheid Museum to gain valuable knowledge about the atrocities of Apartheid ahead of their Grade 11 and 12 South African History themes which span the period 1950 to 1994. The visit was informative and enriching for our students.

Commerce Olympiad

A number of our students competed in the Commerce Olympiad. Students could write on one or more of the following subjects: Accounting, Economics and Business Studies. 24 out of 42 Accounting students qualified for Round 2, 43 out of 48 Business Studies students qualified for Round 2 and 2 out of 7 Economics students qualified. Well done to these students - we look forward to seeing their results.



Term Two was quite short but, as usual, the Cultural department managed to jam-pack a vast array of activities between 7 May and 28 June. Highlights from the term are:

1. One Senior and one Junior Team for Debating "broke" (qualified) for Champs and eventually also broke for the SACEE finals which will be hosted by St Peter's College on Saturday, 3 August.
2. Drama hosted a performance of a Matric Setwork (Top Girls) with a Q and A with the director. The senior Drama students also brought two different plays to fruition on our stage.
3. The musicians not only performed at the PA Golf Day but also hosted their termly bootcamp, a special celebration of Mother's Day and ceramics from the Art department and an Evening of Voice.
4. Our dancers competed at the Inter-High Dance Festival, hosted by the college at the UJ Arts Centre and won the Free programme as well as best costume award.
5. The big showcase event was the inaugural Three Cities Arts Festival, which was a week-long celebration amongst schools in Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni and Mogale, of the creative arts. It included an Art exhibition, the Autumn Soiree with the Benoni High School Pipe Band as guest artists, Public Speaking and Debating contest against Krugersdorp High School, the aforementioned Inter-High Dance Festival, a special Drama performance with Sello Maake Kancube in attendance and lastly our SPC Radio attended a session with UJ FM.

CULTURAL NEWS

