

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

From the Headmaster

Mr R E Daly

I have already highlighted all the awards that this school has received since the start of this term, the acknowledgement of The Western Cape Education Department in different categories with the culmination of 1st place for the Allan Gray Circle of Excellence in the country. The term ended with the parents giving their full support to our campus development, a R8 million project improving security, science and life science labs, consumer labs as well as the building of an “astro” and redevelopment and upgrading of both hockey, cricket and rugby fields. I am sure that when one looks back at 2013, it will be seen as the defining moment in the next major phase in the growth of the school. I include the introduction given by the Chairman of the Governing Body at the Campus Meeting below.

This term has seen a range of new things, the new times to accommodate the new curriculum, the dedicated cultural afternoon, the completion of the Seaview clubhouse and its use on Fridays for prayers by our Muslim pupils, the start of our indigenous garden and our rebranding programme. All of these are adding such amazing value to this school. I must salute the amazing staff, all of them, the academic, admin as well as amenities personnel. Their pride in this school makes this the amazing place that it is.

From the Chairman of the Governing Body, Dr A Müller; (his address to parents at the Campus Development Meeting)

Dear parents, teachers, members of the Governing Body, School Executive members, Mr Daly, a warm welcome to all of you. Thank you for taking time to attend this very important parent meeting. In the life of an institution, organisation, individuals, there are SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS that happen from time to time. In most of your lives it was perhaps the day you got married, the birth of your first child, promotion to a position at your work that you have aspired to for many years. These were moments which do not repeat themselves on a regular basis, but when it happens it brings about a significant change in your life.

In 1948 DF Malan introduced apartheid which took this country on a course of human indignity and gross violations of basic human rights for 42 years. In February 1990 the announcement by FW de Klerk in parliament of the unbanning of political movements and paving the way to elections where everybody could vote for whom they wanted brought about the dawn of true democracy in this country. These two moments were very significant moments in the history of South Africa which changed the face of our nation.

The school that your child attends today The Settlers High School equally went through similar significant moments. In 1990 98% of parents voted to open the school for all races. In 2004 Mr Ahmed Kathrada inaugurated the Freedom Bell. These events also changed the face of this school.

In 2012 the Headmaster, the School Executive and the Governing Body looked towards the future of this institution. We had to do a lot of introspection. This school has a very proud history, we even have it captured in a book but we had to ask ourselves if we were still relevant in the South African context, where do we fit into the future of the community that we serve. How true are we to our ethos?

Dear family of the Settlers High School, you are here tonight to become part of a very proud, proactive and progressive history of this institution. Mr Daly, the school executive and Governing Body have developed a future plan which will put this school on course to much greater heights. The Governing Body elected by you, the parent body, are proposing this far- reaching plan. In fact we believe if we do not embark on this project our school will stagnate and in future become irrelevant. I therefore want to encourage you to apply your minds to this very progressive master plan for The Settlers High School and at this point in time become part of a proud history of one of the best schools in South Africa. Please remove yourself from thinking mundanely, do not remain in the here and now, elevate yourself to the future where the decision we make tonight will be proudly looked upon by the generations to come.

As a parent I believe I can depend on you to say YES WE CAN to Project 50 and the Campus Development!

WELL DONE SETTLERS

The Allan Gray Orbis Foundation has announced their Circle of Excellence membership for 2013. This is a prestigious list of schools. Their ranking of their top 100 schools was recently announced and The Settlers High School is ranked 1st with the next Western Cape school at 10 (Rondebosch Boys)

Here are the top 20 schools:

- 1.The Settlers High School**
- 2.Pretoria High School for Girls**
- 3.St John's College**
- 4.Capricorn High School**
- 5.St Andrews School for Girls**
- 6.Eunice High School**
- 7.Collegiate High School for Girls**
- 8.Hudson Park High School**
- 9.Khanyisa Education Centre**
- 10.Rondebosch Boys' High School**
- 11.Clarendon High School for Girls**
- 12.Durban Boys' High School**
- 13.Durban Girls' High School**
- 14.St Mary's Diocesan School for Girls Pretoria**
- 15.Alexander Road High School**
- 16.Christian Brothers College Mount Edmund**
- 17.Metropolitan Raucall**
- 18.Pinelands High School**
- 19.Westerford High School**
- 20.King Edward VII High School**

Pastoral Report – Mrs L Hall

We started this year with the launch of the theme for 2013 **No Excuses** by Mr Smuts. The acronym for this theme is **DNPTY** and looks at

D – Determination To tackle all tasks and challenges with determination.

N – Never give up To see all things through to the end.

P – Positive attitude To do all things with self-belief and commitment.

T – Be part of a Team Nothing happens in isolation and the team around you contributes to the outcome.

Y – Give Your 100% Give your absolute best in all you do.

The theme encompasses all aspects of school life looking at values such as accountability, punctuality, commitment, perseverance, thorough preparation to name but a few. We will be focusing on these different aspects throughout the year and ask you to please support us and discuss these values with your children.

Excellent discipline and teamwork was displayed during the Inter-house Gala, Inter-house Athletics and Inter-schools Athletics. The learners displayed exemplary behaviour, a positive spirit and pride in our school. We came second in both the cheering and the athletics and will have to put in a concerted team effort for 2014 to achieve success.

We celebrated Valentines' day with red socks. The learners could pay R5 to wear red socks. We collected R1000 which we handed over to Mr AJ Spieringshook who is part of the Red Sock Friday team. This team is raising funds for charity by cycling up to Pietermaritzburg and then running the Comrades Marathon the day after arriving there.

Our first Leadership camp for RCL and Class representatives was held on the weekend of 15 to 17 March 2013. Mrs Ingpen, Mrs Hall and 38 learners spent the weekend at St Helena Bay learning about leadership and team work. Seven golden nuggets that were shared with us are:

1. If it's meant to be, it's up to me.
2. For everything in life whether it is good or bad there is a reward.
3. Trapped in every follower there is a leader.
4. The decisions you make determine your destiny.
5. It is your attitude at the beginning of a task that will determine your success or failure.
6. Attitude attracts.
7. Let's make it happen

The feedback received from the campers was really positive and we hope to make this an annual event.

Mrs Abrahamse once again arranged a very successful Career Expo for the school in March and The Standard Bank Rocking Road Show presented a career show to the Matric group, in February. The organisers commented on the spirit and talent of our learners.

The one area that is cause for concern is the number of learners who arrive late for school. Lateness impacts directly on learning. This term 547 learners were late at least once. This translates to approximately 40% of the school. Of these, 20 were late ten or more times and 80 were late between 6 and 9 times. Realising the road works on the bend to Tygerberg hospital contributed to the problem and traffic from Kuilsriver being a huge problem, we appeal to all parents to discuss the importance of punctuality with your children and to make every endeavour to ensure punctual arrival for school in future. A further concern is that we are entering the rainy winter months when traffic seems to be a lot more problematic than in summer. So please try to anticipate problems, leave home earlier and plan to be punctual.

The School Council meeting held on 8 March 2013 approved some changes to the School Code of Conduct and these changes were ratified at the Governing Body meeting held on Monday 18 March 2013. The changes are as follows:

2.12 MATRIC UNIFORM(*applicable to boys and girls*)

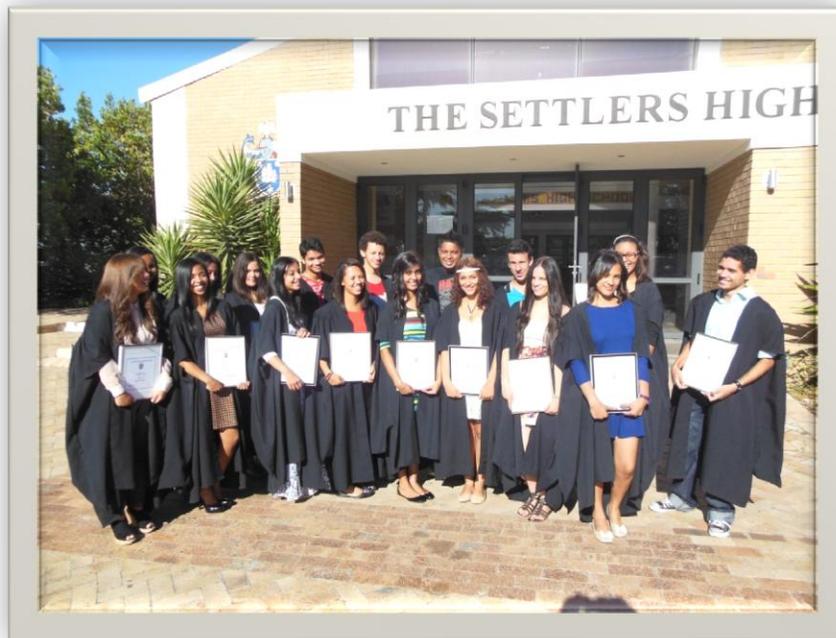
- 2.12.1 *White matric cardover may be worn in summer and winter but not over a long sleeved cardigan*
- 2.12.2 *The year may be embroidered on the back below the logo by the stockists only at an extra cost*
- 2.12.3 *White long sleeved matric cardigan may only be worn with winter uniform.*
- 2.12.4 *The long sleeved cardigan may not be worn outside the school grounds without a blazer*
- 2.12.5 *The matric tie may be worn with winter uniform.*
- 2.12.6 *The official matric scarf (navy and white) is only obtainable from the stockists and may only be worn in Winter*
- 2.12.7 *All other rules regarding jerseys, cardigans and pullovers apply*

ADDITION TO BRAIDS RULE(*applicable to girls hair rules*)

- 2.1.9 Braids are allowed on condition that they are not more than 0.5 cm thick plaits using three strands to a maximum of approximately 35 cm long and all braids must be the same length.

The counselling department under the guidance of Mrs Abrahamse is available to see the children regarding problems, but also to give guidance regarding studying as well as career guidance. Please encourage your children to make use of this service.

The general appearance of our learners is good. They have to wear winter uniform for Founders Day on 24 April 2013 and the official change over to winter uniform will be 2 May 2013.



Our 2012 matrics receive their Academic Honours

Academic Report

From the Headmaster

I wish to congratulate all pupils who have succeeded in these exams.
The results are as follows.

Grade 8: 258 candidates,
2 A Aggregates (0,8 %),
11 Not passed (4,3%)
Pass Rate: 95,7%

Grade 9: 268 candidates,
8 A Aggregates (3,0%),
38 Not passed (14,2%),
Pass Rate 85,8 %

Grade 10: 262 candidates,
11 A Aggregate (4,2%),
189 University Requirements (72,1%)
17 Not Passed (6,5%),
Pass Rate: 93,5%

Grade 11: 218 Candidates,
9 A Aggregates (4,1%),
176 University Requirements (80,7%)
11 Not passed (5,1 %),
Pass Rate: 94,9 %

Grade 12: 228 Candidates,
7 A Aggregates (3,1 %),
161 University Requirements (70,6%)
9 Not passed (4,0 %),
Pass Rate: 96,0 %

A Aggregates (in order) including Top 10 Candidates (non A Aggregates in italics)

Grade 8: Josh Amos, Charne Arendse, Zoe Arendse, *Meggan Schouw, Celena Pieters, Lauren Fortuin, Hlonelwa Lutuli, Aaqeelah de Kock, Faheemah Ismail, Nikita Mabota.*

Grade 9: Mohini Anand, Chad Damon, Carme Wardle, Ruth Jantjies, Ghete Klaasen, Charnelle Khoza, Tyler Lakey, Kayla Barendse, *Rushke Pedro, Ivanka Noble.*

Grade 10: Allison Arendse, Sandrine Mpazayabo, Keenan Jacobs, Christine Ile, Daanish Jacobs, Stephanie Less, Ambre Carolissen, Kyle Taylor, Robin Fortuin, Daniel Frier, Joshua Carolus.

Grade 11: Don Maisels, Nadine Moore, Tauriq Latief, Andrew James, Ishrat Undre, Melissa de Lilly, Zaakirah Davids, Gavalen Flandorp, Chad Leukes, *Chelsea Roux.*

Grade 12: Tiffany Agulhas, Tracy-Lee Mentor, Farhanah Latief, Mikayla Morris, Bradleigh Marks, Kaylynne Voges, Orlando van Schalkwyk, *Chelsea Williams, Michaela Moses, Tayla George*

Academics

Miss W Horn

To quote Einstein “He who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead; his eyes are closed.” We have provided some moments for our learners to stand in awe and opened their minds to the wonders and opportunities out there for further study through our broad approach to learning inside and outside the classroom..

Certain tools have been put in place in order to facilitate the improvement of our academics. The following information is available on our website: the exam and test timetable for the whole year, the content for exams is posted at least two weeks before each exam or test.

Each learner has received a Program of Assessment that outlines all tasks, test and exams per subject for the year. Please use this to help your child with time management and prioritising of work so that all tasks are handed in on time and they give themselves ample opportunity for preparation for tests and exams.

As part of our endeavours to improve the quality of learning, extra or alternate academic events have been offered this term.

The grade 11 and grade 12 learners wrote the Science, English and Maths Olympiads.

The grade 10 Life Science group went to St James and Kirstenbosch gardens to complete a practical activity on ecology.



Fun at the Science Expo



Early morning study sessions

On Saturday 2 March 2013, over 400 learners from 5 different schools were exposed to the Science Faculty at UCT here at our very own campus. All g10, g11 and g12 learners doing Mathematics and Physical Sciences at our school were invited to attend. Refer to the activities blog for a full report on this venture.

We are very proud of the Afrikaans Debating team. They took part in the Debatsfees, as part of the Woordfees in Stellenbosch, and won the trophy in their category, Ou Hande. The team members were Kim Abrahams (Gr.12), Allison Arendse (Gr.10), and Tatum Jacobs (Gr.9).

Two learners have been accepted for the Young Biologist training course at the two Oceans Aquarium from 1 to 7 April 2013. Only 50 learners were accepted for course.

The guidance department has given study skills grade head lessons to grade 8s and 9s. Further individual intervention will follow after the control test results and parent evening.

Extra tuition is available in Mathematics with Mr Nicholls from Monday to Thursday from 14:30 to 16:00. Learners of all grades can go on any day and ask for help with the work they are covering in class. The science department offers tutorial type lessons from 06:50 to 07:40 for grade 11 on Tuesday and grade 10 on Thursday. The Grade 12's can attend a peer tutoring session for Physical Sciences every Wednesday from 15:00-16:30 in lab 1 and they can also attend tutorial type lesson on a week 2 Friday afternoon from 15:00-16:30 with Ms Horn.

Career day: We hosted most of the tertiary institutions in our Hobbs Hall, where they each set up a display area. There were members of the institution on hand, to answer questions, hand out pamphlets and information and to highlight the varied choices learners have when deciding on a place to study.

Career guidance and bursary information: Please contact Mrs Abrahamse at al@settlers.org.za if you require information about bursary opportunities or information to point you in the right direction about career choices, interest tests and university requirement.

The education of your child is a three way effort between the parent, the learner and the educator.

The following is an extract from an article written by L Clark (IOL, 12 October 2012)

Good parenting is more important than a good school to a child's academic success, according to a study. Youngsters do best when their parents help them with homework, emphasise the importance of education and attend school events, researchers found. Children with supportive parents – even if they attend poor quality schools – tend to outperform pupils at good schools whose parents take little interest in their education.

The findings prompted the researchers to warn that improving social mobility cannot be achieved only by 'fixing' the school system. Initiatives were also needed which aimed to enhance parents' involvement. Researchers examined information on 10,585 teenagers drawn from 1,000 randomly selected secondary schools in the United States.

The study considered their academic performance and the quality of parental involvement in their lives – so-called 'family social capital' – as well as the quality of their schools – 'school social capital'.

Parents were considered to be passing on high levels of social capital if they regularly checked homework, talked about school with their children and attended parents' evenings and other events.

These are thought to be ways parents pass on knowledge and values to their children. Meanwhile, schools with high social capital ensured the classroom environment was conducive to learning and kept truancy and disruptive behaviour to a minimum.

They also offered plenty of extra-curricular activities and made regular contact with parents. Teachers at these schools reported high levels of morale.

The researchers, from North Carolina State University, found that while good schools did help to raise achievement, the influence of families was stronger. Teenagers with high levels of family capital but low school capital tended to do better in exams than pupils with high school capital but low family capital, according to the study, published in the journal Research and Social Stratification and Mobility.

Dr Toby Parcel, who led the study, said: 'While both school and family involvement are important, the role of family involvement is stronger when it comes to academic success.' She said the findings emphasised the crucial role parents play in children's education.

'Our study shows that parents need to be aware of how important they are, and invest time in their children – checking homework, attending school events and letting kids know school is important. That's where the payoff is.' - Daily Mail

CONTACT MANCO REPORT – Miss T Magson

The new school year began with an Orientation day for the two new staff members under the guidance of Mrs Basheer. We welcome, Mrs van der Heyde- Afrikaans, Miss Coetzee- English and Afrikaans to the Staff of The Settlers High School. Miss Gericke left us at the end of February to continue her studies and in her place we welcome Miss de Villiers. We hope that they will all be very happy at The Settlers High School and we look forward to their valuable contribution. Miss Kalis has also recently joined the English department in the place of Mr Greyling.

We wish both Miss Gericke and Mr Greyling all the best with their future studies and thank them for the enormous contribution they made to The Settlers High School.

The staff hosted two teachers from Helsby School in the UK for a couple of days. The Art, Geography and History Departments have developed joint projects that will be ongoing between the two schools. Mrs Ingpen, Mrs van Schoor and Mr Haupt are visiting the UK now with a group of 40 learners from The Settlers and Hector Petersen High who are also involved in this partnership. We wish them well.

The staff was spoilt on Valentine's Day with a small gift and a Valentine's tea with a red colour scheme in keeping with the special day.

To the parents, thank you for your support of our functions and especially for the support at our sports matches. Both the learners and teachers appreciate the interest you show. We look forward to your continued support in the future.



Fun at the Grade 8 Orientation



We cheer our houses

SPORT: Mr B Neethling

First Term 2013

As always, the first term started off at a cracking pace. The athletics practices, as well as cheerleading which started at the end of last year, continued this year with the usual energy and spirit that the Settlers possess.

During the second week of the term, the other sport codes started practising to prepare for the new season.

The school has four new teachers who have been allocated to either manage or coach a particular team, depending on their expertise or preference.

Swimming.

The school's Inter-house swimming Gala was held on the 18th of January where Bain took the honours of winning the competition, Pringle came second and Shaw came third. Shaw House received the Spirit Stick.

Our swimming teams are doing exceptionally well even though we do not have the full complement of swimmers for our team. We have achieved a number of first, second and third places in the Galas that we have participated in.

We would like to congratulate Stacey Wood who was chosen to represent Western Province Aquatics at the Regional Level 2 Group Swimming Championships recently.

Athletics

Our Inter-house Athletics meeting was held on the 24th of January at the Parow Track where Shaw House was the winner in the competition, Pringle was second and Bain House third. Shaw House was the winner in the Cheerleader Competition, winning the Spirit Cup.

On the 15th of February the Interschool's Athletics were held at the Bellville Velodrome. This year we were not only beaten in the athletics competition by Fairmont, but Durbanville came first in the Spirit and the Cheerleaders Competition. In this regard we need to do some serious introspection. There seems to be some athletes who, for various reasons, do not want to participate. Others are shying away from the more competitive and strenuous sport codes. In the past our athletes also trained during the holidays but this year this, for various reasons, this could not happen.

Three of our learners received medals at the Western Province Championships.;

Jodee Johannes	2 nd Long Jump
Gardeo Isaacs	1 st High Jump
Tarryn Solomon	3 rd 400 m

Cricket

Mr Damonse has taken over as Head of Cricket. Even though he was thrown into the deep end, he has done a sterling job in handling this portfolio. One of his tasks as Head of Cricket is to notify and confirm the eight cricket matches our teams play every week. The cricket results have not been the best we have had in the past, but that does not take away the spirit of our learners and the coaches. Sport is not only about winning at all costs, it is about giving your best at all times, it is about building friendships, it is about being competitive. In cricket, bowling and fielding come naturally but batting is very technical and need time and good input from a young age to develop. We need to think of ways and means to improve the batting skills of our batsmen.

The first team is still very young and should be given time to develop their skills as the year progress. They won their last match of the season and this should give them lot of encouragement for the future.

Chess

This year Tiffany Agulhas was chosen as the Western Cape Sportsperson of the Year, an exceptional achievement if one takes into consideration that she was up against the more traditional sport codes like rugby, cricket, hockey, tennis and netball.

Basketball

This code is making remarkable progress, not only at our school, but also throughout South Africa. Our school's U/16A Boys and Girls teams, as well as the First Team Boys and Girls reached the finals of the Western Province Top Schools' Competition. Chadly Jordaan and Dane Ebdon were selected for the Western Province U16 Squad.

Other Sport Codes

Two alternative exercise programs were introduced namely 'Walk for Fun' and Yoga. Sport Manco is pleased in the manner that these programs have been introduced and the way it is professionally presented. 'Run for Fun' will be introduced at a later stage. The number of learners who want to participate in these programs will be limited, and learners must first sign-up for the other sport codes. Only if there are enough learners for those sport will they be eligible to enrol for these programs. We have to ensure that no learners take the easy option and move away from the more traditional sports.

General Comment

The Sport Manco would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the hardworking teachers and coaches for their dedication and commitment. Once again, a big thanks to the parents who come and watch their children play. It makes a big difference for the learners, not only in performance, but also showing that parents care and are interested in what their children are doing. (See Academic Report) Let us take pride in what we do and how to do it well.

CULTURAL REPORT – Mr H Smuts

The first term was, as usual, a busy and exciting cultural term at The Settlers. The term started with the annual *One Act Play Festival*. This year houses had to select a published play and were allowed to adapt these plays for their production. The Grade 12 directors were:

BAIN: Leigh Frantz and Kimberley Foster
PRINGLE: Kyna Izally and Keagan Blight
SHAW: Chad Jacobs & Clayton Kester

All three houses staged superb productions and the results were:

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR: Keenan Jacobs (Bain)
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS: Tholakele Mrubata (Shaw)
BEST ACTOR: Matthew Stuurman and Keanu Hartnick (Bain)
BEST ACTRESS: Hlengiwe Qweshu (Pringle)
BEST PRODUCTION: The Lion King (Shaw House)

Congratulations to all the learners involved with this successful event.

This year The Settlers learners can choose from a variety of 32 different societies. All these societies were launched during the Cultural assembly at the start of the year and learners signed up enthusiastically to participate in these activities.

Cultural Mondays were introduced to ensure that all learners have the opportunity to participate in the cultural activity of preference. Mondays are divided into three cultural slots in order to accommodate all the general societies as well as large performance groups

Both our *Afrikaans and English debating* team proved that they are a force to be reckoned with. The *Afrikaans Debating team* won the “Ou Hande Trofee” at the Woordfees in Stellenbosch.

Besides winning most of their competitions this term, our *English debaters* also hosted an International debating competition and this event was an amazing showcase for our school.

The *Interact society* continued with their various activities. Learners are encouraged to bring an extra sandwich to school on Fridays as well as collect bread tags in order to donate our third wheelchair to someone in need.

Our jazz groups, *The Dynamix* and *Chromatix*, had a busy start to the year. Both bands provided background Music at the Grade 7 Information evening as well the Grade 8 and 9 Parent evening. *The Dynamix* also performed at Jazz on the Lawn at St Joseph’s Marists College.

Learners also had the opportunity to enter the *Tygerberg International Eisteddfod*. These learners and groups are hard at work to present their items at this prestigious competition during the second and third term.

Rehearsals for the *Musical Extravaganza* “The Fifth Element” are in full swing and ticket sales will start during next term. Tickets will be R50 each and will be on sale at the school during first break daily. The *Musical Extravaganza* will run from 8 to 11 May.

The *Music Department* entered the prestigious *High School Jam* competition at the Grand Arena and was once again selected as one of the Top 10 schools that will perform live in the Grand Arena on 24 and 25 August. More details will follow next term, but please diarise these dates, as this is one of the most exciting schools competitions in the country!

Two *choir* members, Jodi Fredericks and Yolanda Mayman, were selected to record a new club single at Milestone Studios. These learners impressed the producers during a choir recording for the ACSA competition and they were very keen to get Settlers learners on board for the release of this new single.

A group of learners from the *Afritwin Society* are currently visiting Helsby High School in the United Kingdom as part of our exchange with this school. We trust that our learners are enjoying this amazing opportunity in the UK.

The second term will be very busy with our *Musical Extravaganza*, the Choir competing in the *Tygerberg International Eisteddfod* as well as the Drama group participating in the *ARTSCAPE YES Environmental Festival*.

Thank you to all our learners, teachers and parents for making this term such a memorable cultural experience.

DATES FOR TERM 2

8 April:	Terms 2 starts
24 April:	Founders' Day 12:30
26 April:	Freedom Day Assembly 12:30
3 May:	Top Achievers Seminar
8 May - 11 May:	School Music Extravaganza
18 May:	PTA Bingo/Midyear Fun
27 May—11 June:	Mid-year Exams
10 June:	Governing Body Finance Workshop 19:30
11 June:	Grade 11 Seminar
21 June:	June Reports issued
21 June:	Last Day of term