

Daily Update, Thursday 22 July 2021, 9:30am



ST CHARLES COLLEGE
SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Parents

Let the future begin

The College is quietly going about preparations to receive our boys back. From offices and classrooms as you walk down the corridors comes the animated sound of teachers digitally negotiating and questioning boys who probably are still in their pajamas far away – but they are all there, which is an outstanding outcome in the circumstances.

This morning we will allow ourselves to be a little excited as our own protégé, Matthew Sates, works on final preparations at the Tokyo Olympics. We congratulate his coach Wayne Ridden, who is a coach of the SA Aquatics Olympic team, for the years of dedication it has taken to get a 17 year old boy from Pietermaritzburg South Africa to the world stage. Matthew will swim at 13:15 on Wednesday for the 200m Individual Medley and we will be watching and cheering him on.

On the local scene, we are informed that the poverty line for a human being in South Africa is R 599 per month. The unemployment grant which ended recently was R350 per month. Imagine if we could at least give work three days a month, to those unemployed at a cost of R600 per person – what could be accomplished when people have the dignity of working to stay alive rather than accepting a handout? I am personally tired of those who proceed to state the obvious problems in trying to do this, but my question is what is the value of herding generations through higher education if we can't solve this kind of problem? If it is a matter of will then we need to do better.

I finish this morning with a quote attributed to Nelson Mandela:

“Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.”

I wonder what he would say if he could see us now.

Yours faithfully

Allen van Blerk
Principal