

Daily Update, Saturday 24 July 2021, 9:30am



ST CHARLES COLLEGE
S O U T H A F R I C A

Dear Parents

Before we begin

Tomorrow the full complement of boarders will return to the College, followed by the whole College on Monday. I imagine you are considering the merits of a home-style haircut or going to check if the barber has returned to work. Before we are overwhelmed with the busyness of practical preparations it could be very important to take a moment to write down what we have learned through this crisis.

There are some things for which I would never have thought I would be grateful like trucks on the highway and even the taxi industry. There are some pictures that I don't want to forget, like just how many people live in desperate poverty within five kilometres of where I live and work – because that cannot go unaddressed.

As South Africans we have become used to complaining about local and national government not doing their work, but the experience of standing guard in the middle of the night to protect local infrastructure should alert us to the founding principles of democracy which demand the active involvement and co-operation of every citizen and those who are elected to govern. In all of this, the middle held and that should make those who are voted to positions of serving the public realise the privilege of their responsibility. I think that we shall be more confident in reminding them should they forget.

Over the next few days as we reintegrate into daily life, we will need to take time to listen to the stories of those around us as we work through the anxiety and trauma of what has happened. This is no less true for children so don't leave them out of your conversations – they also worry and think and the best that we can do sometimes is just let them speak it through. Today we can be distracted by the Springboks and the Olympics and the many things we have to do, but let us be grateful for what we have survived and committed to doing what we can to push this country in the right direction.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allen van Blerk', written over the words 'Yours faithfully'.

Allen van Blerk
Principal