



Principal's Weekly Update: Monday 29th July 2024

Dear Parents, Guardians and Grandparents

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

Renaissance

The trouble with righteous indignation is that you don't have time, as you seek personal justice, to consider that you could be *wrong*. So, it was with fire in my mind that I set off for 333 Church Street to fight my cause and to have my water reconnected, on a Sunday. On arrival at midday, I was most surprised to find the front doors open; the security guard must be good at reading rage as she didn't wait to hear the first draft of my story and referred me straight to customer services where two consultants were immediately available. It was more than a little disconcerting to find a reasonable person who figured out that I *had* paid into a municipal account but, by my own selection, into the wrong one. As I write, the water has been silently reconnected, and I am left substantially moderated and pondering the long-awaited renaissance of the city.

156 days to go

On Friday the College turned 149 years old. Technically we are now in our 150th year but have resolved to celebrate from January 2025. The dash to the donuts on Founders' Day may have rivalled the *Dash* from the gate around the circle and back, but the point was the same. It was extraordinary to have the whole College together and feel the echoes, in our songs and speeches, of generations who battled before us against significant odds to keep the College on track to achieve its noble founding purpose. I know it has worked when our Gold winning Chamber choir is serenaded by the Prep choir and I witnessed the exchange of respect and enthusiasm between the generations. We are indeed fortunate to be free to do what we do here.

Made in Africa

By 2050 people will speak about products *Made in Africa* in the same way that we used to speak about *Made in China*. There might also be a lot of *Made in India* labels as Africa and India are set to be the engines of the world struggling with plunging populations as birth rates lag further and further behind replacement rates. The world will look very different very soon and our children are the lucky ones. I know they don't feel lucky right now, but the waves of opportunity that will belong to the educated and skilled may be unparalleled in the next twenty-five years. For this reason, we trust that our work to provide relevant education of the highest standard has never been more important.

When suddenly happens

In January, we began the year determined to make this the best year ever; 2024 has certainly delivered some incredible moments and some miraculous instances of divine grace, but some families have also experienced deep and enduring loss. While we hope for better economic data and that our politicians will honour the trust they have been given, none of these factors are of any assistance when 'suddenly happens'. Perhaps this blessing for families is what you need today:

"For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Ephesians 3:14-19

Yours faithfully



Allen van Blerk
PRINCIPAL