

*Saints*

TERM 1 WEEK 5

# WEEKLY ROUNDUP



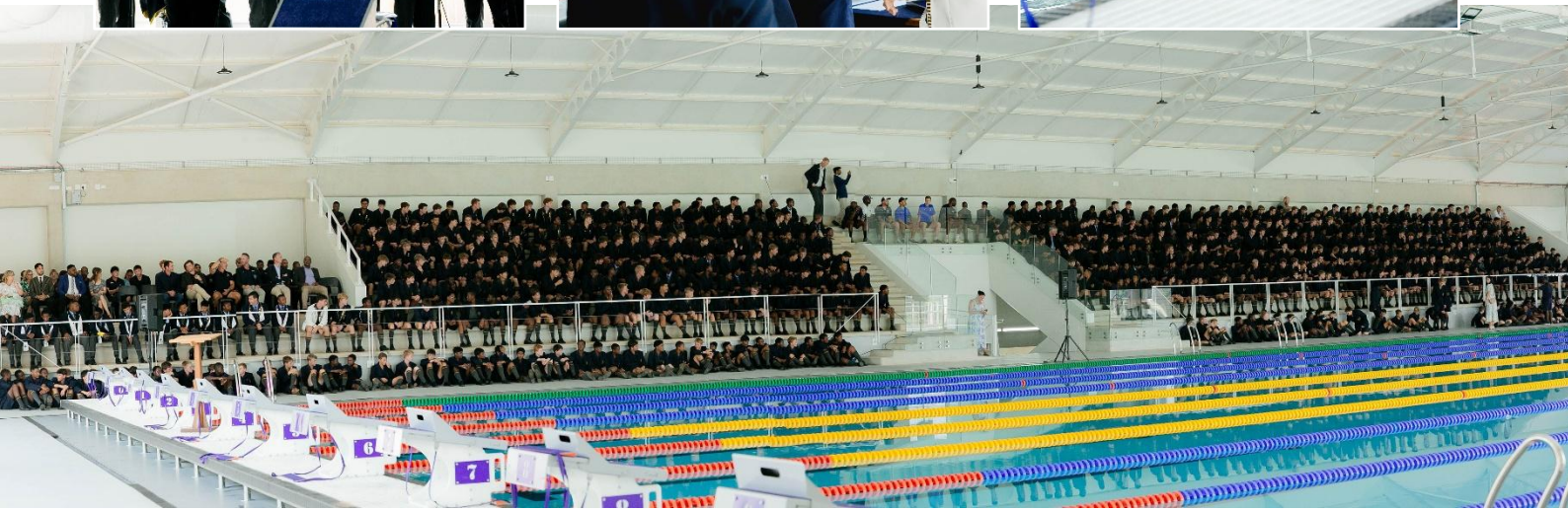
# AquaPark Sneak Peek

After more than a year of watching Jolivet cricket field carefully transform into South Africa's premier swimming destination, the St Charles College staff and boys were allowed a sneak preview of AquaPark on Tuesday morning.

Our Principal, Mr Allen van Blerk, hosted two assemblies; firstly, the Scrummies, Junior Primary and Senior Primary staff and boys, and our administration staff, were introduced to the facility and then the senior school staff and boys filled the stands. There was a moment to appreciate the incredible work that has gone into the construction of this facility, and also an opportunity to listen to our magnificent Chamber Choir. This week's Principals Assembly also saw the announcement of new leaders who will join our prefects, and we welcomed their parents to the special occasion.

It was themed a sneak preview and we thank the AquaPark team for allowing us to have a quick visit. We can't wait for the official opening. This facility is for our city, our province and our country...let dreams take flight! - Mr Rowan Irons (Director of Sport)

***Philippians 4:13. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."***



# Prefect Announcement

The appointment of new prefects is always a significant moment for St Charles College, as it marks the recognition of young men who have shown maturity, reliability and a genuine commitment to serving the school community.

We are proud to announce the appointment of **Azai Vally, Léo Beullier, Radley Isaacs, Nathan Vambe, Lethokuhle Sibiyi, Stephen Pech** and **Cameron Maud** to the prefect body. Each of these boys has demonstrated consistent dedication to the values upheld by the College showing respect for others and modelling the behaviour expected of St Charles gentlemen. As they step into their new responsibilities, the prefects carry with them the quiet guidance of the Prefects' Creed, which encourages leadership rooted in kindness, fairness, and dignity.

We congratulate our new prefects and look forward to the positive contribution they will make to the life of the College as they serve with integrity and purpose.

– Mrs Claire Beckedah  
(Head of the Sixth Form)





# Valentines Day

Rose deliveries, kind gestures, pen pal letters, laughter and friendship could be found across our campus today as our boys from Scrummies through to Matric celebrated Valentine's Day!





**Valentine's Day was celebrated with colour, smiles and meaningful purpose in the Junior Primary.** Boys arrived at school dressed in red and white civvies, bringing a cheerful sense of fun and excitement to the day.

In keeping with the spirit of Valentine's Day, the focus was placed on showing love through action. The boys were encouraged to extend their care beyond themselves by donating pet



food in support of animals in need. These generous donations will be delivered to our local SPCA, helping to provide comfort and care to animals awaiting loving homes. This initiative offered a valuable opportunity to teach boys that love is not only about words or gifts, but about compassion, responsibility and thinking of others. By showing kindness to animals, the boys learnt that even small acts can make a meaningful difference.

We thank our Junior Primary families for their support in making the day both joyful and purposeful, and for helping to nurture empathy and generosity in our boys.  
– Mrs Lauren Riley (Head of Junior Primary)

## *Saints* Sport News

### Saints Shine at Midmar Mile

In a week of searing temperatures in Pietermaritzburg, Midmar Dam was the right place to be on the weekend, for the 53<sup>rd</sup> edition of the iconic event. Shane van der Linde led the charge for the Saints, with an incredible 10<sup>th</sup> place finish in the main race, with a time of 19:56sec.

Service is an important pillar of our school, so we were proud to have a strong contingent of volunteers from St Charles College assisting with the start area on Saturday and Sunday.



## Water Polo News

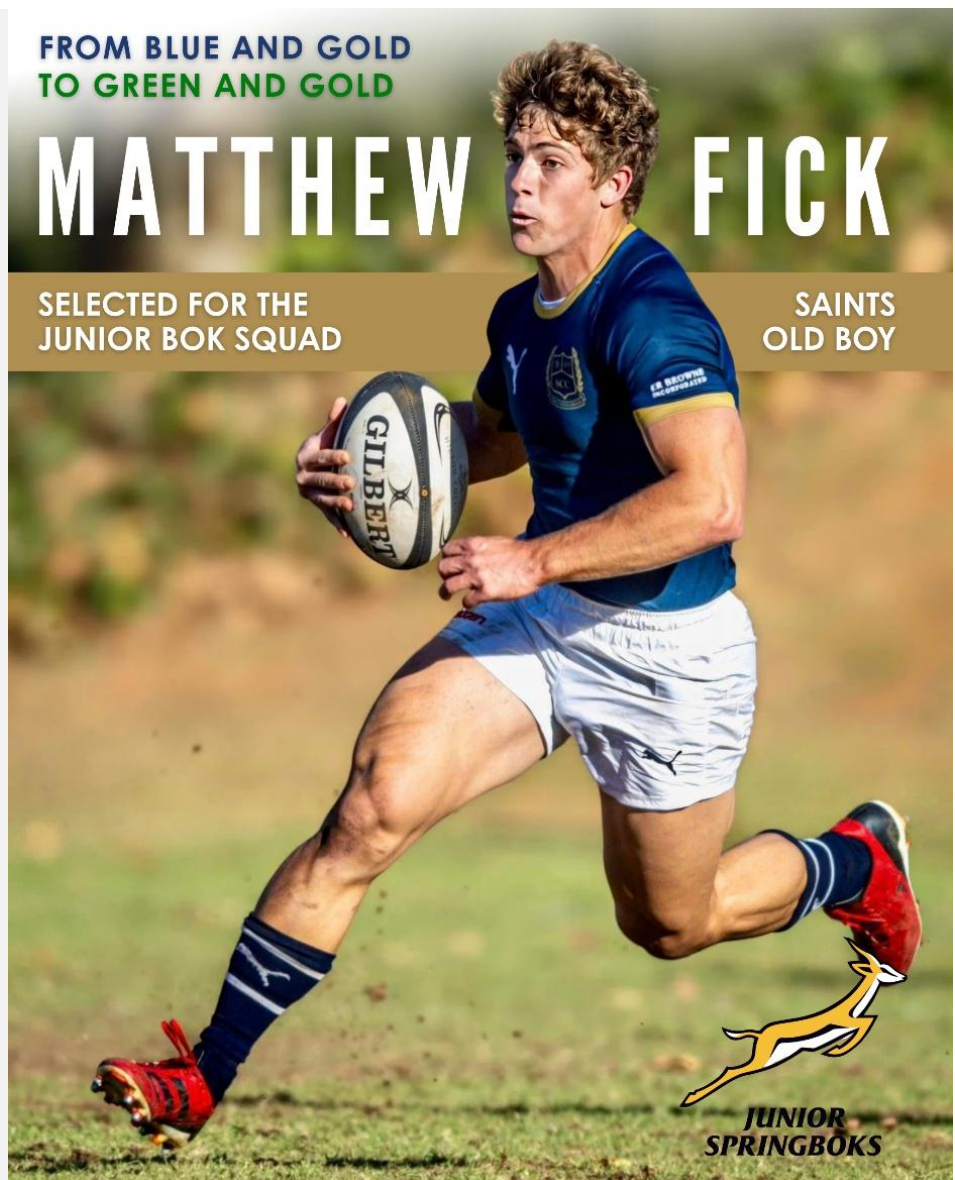
Staying with aquatics, our water polo teams took on Michaelhouse on Saturday. We were warmly hosted, and we sincerely thank Michaelhouse for accommodating us by allowing each of our teams to play two matches. This provided an excellent opportunity for our boys to spend extended time in the pool, gain valuable match experience, and learn from a series of tough and competitive fixtures.

These games formed an important part of our ongoing player development, as we continue to work on improving skills, decision-making, and match awareness. Notable matches from the day included a closely contested encounter between our 1st team and Michaelhouse's 2nd team, which ended in a narrow 7 – 6, loss. Our U15A team also put in a strong effort against Michaelhouse's U15B side, going down 5 – 2, while the U14A team faced a challenging match against their U14A opponents, losing 9 – 3.

While we continue to work hard to close score margins, our primary focus remains on laying a strong foundation for long-term development. Encouragingly, we are seeing weekly improvements across all teams, and we look forward to building on this progress as we move into the final part of the season. – Mr Jacques Richter (Head Coach)

SA Junior Boks coach, Kevin Foote, has named a strong squad for their upcoming tour to Georgia, and we couldn't be prouder to have one of our Saints Old Boys representing!

A massive congratulations to Matthew Fick on his selection! Consistency, hard work and well earned!



## Basketball vs Michaelhouse

St Charles College were edged out 51 – 49 by Michaelhouse in a tightly contested first team basketball fixture played at Michaelhouse, in what proved to be one of the most competitive and absorbing encounters of the season.

From the opening tip-off it was clear that neither side would be able to assert firm control.

The game ebbed and flowed throughout, with the largest lead at any stage being just five points. Michaelhouse generally held a narrow advantage, but the Saints remained within striking distance at all times, refusing to let the home side pull away.

Michaelhouse's shooting from beyond the three-point arc was outstanding and ultimately proved to be the decisive factor. Time and again they punished defensive lapses with well-taken long-range shots, allowing them to maintain their slender lead despite sustained pressure from the visitors.

St Charles College matched the intensity of the contest with determined defensive effort and strong work-rate but struggled to find the attacking momentum and consistency required to place the home team fully under pressure. While there were promising passages of play, the Saints were unable to string together enough scoring runs to turn the tide decisively in their favour.

The match built towards a dramatic and unforgettable finish. With Michaelhouse leading by three points in the closing seconds, a Saints' player was fouled on a final three-point attempt launched from near the halfway line. Three free throws were awarded, presenting a remarkable opportunity to force the game into overtime. Unfortunately, the shots did not fall, and the final whistle confirmed a narrow 51 – 49 defeat for St Charles College.

Despite the result, the fixture was played in excellent spirit in front of a fantastic and vocal crowd, who contributed to a superb basketball atmosphere. It was a highly competitive contest that showcased schoolboy basketball at its very best, and one that the Saints will take valuable lessons from as they continue their season. – Mr Darren Holcomb (Head Coach)



## Cricket vs Michaelhouse

It was a beautiful day in the Midlands as St Charles College travelled to Michaelhouse for a full day of cricket. The stage was perfectly set; however, it was not to be our day.

The Michaelhouse bowlers made excellent use of the early morning conditions, and despite some promising starts, the St Charles College batsmen



were ultimately undone by a few costly errors. Those mistakes proved decisive, as the visitors were bowled out for 120.

With the ball, there was plenty to admire from St Charles College. Every bowler showed commitment and effort, but with limited runs to defend, the task was always going to be challenging. Michaelhouse chased down the total, resulting in St Charles College losing by 8 wickets.

The focus now shifts firmly forward. A bounce-back performance is expected from the First XI as they travel to compete in the Clifton T20 Tournament this weekend.

– Mr Divan van Wyk (Head Coach)

## Midmar Courage and a Week of Weather Challengers

Last Sunday, ten of our Prep boys took on the incredible challenge of the Midmar Mile, and every one of them did exceptionally well.

Swimming the Midmar Mile is both exciting and daunting, and it requires real courage to step onto that start line. We are immensely proud of each boy for embracing the challenge and representing the school with such determination and bravery. Well done, boys!



### **School sport this week was unfortunately heavily affected by lightning.**

The A and B swimming gala at Merchiston on Tuesday had to be cancelled, and several cricket fixtures last Friday were also called off due to unsafe weather conditions. Thankfully, Saturday's cricket fixtures managed to evade the storms, allowing a full morning of competitive cricket.

At the A team level, we enjoyed a very strong set of results against Clifton Nottingham Road. The B teams faced a tough challenge against Cowan House A sides, but these demanding encounters provide invaluable experience and exposure to high-quality opposition, which will serve the boys well moving forward.

The standout performance of the week came from our 2nd XI. They faced Cowan House 1st XI in what turned out to be an incredibly exciting contest. After suffering an early injury, our boys were reduced to ten players for most of the match. What followed was a display of grit and resilience. In challenging heat, the team worked tirelessly, threw themselves at every ball, and fought for every run in the field. Their collective effort saw Cowan House fall just four runs short; a remarkable victory built on teamwork and determination.

The 1st XI travelled to Nottingham Road to take on Clifton. The slightly cooler conditions were welcomed, and our bowlers took full advantage, restricting Clifton to 181 in their allotted overs on what appeared to be a bowler-friendly wicket.

Unfortunately, our batsmen also struggled to build sustained partnerships and lost wickets at regular intervals, eventually finishing on 151, 30 runs short of the target. Credit must go to Clifton for an excellent performance in the field and with the ball, and we thank them for being outstanding hosts on what was a fantastic day of cricket.

Despite the weather disruptions, it was a week filled with courage, character, and valuable lessons, both in the water and on the cricket field.

– Mr Matthew Coombes  
(Head of Prep Sport)



# Year 1 & 2 Dads and Lads

On Saturday, our Year 1 and 2 boys came to school for a much-loved Dads and Lads cricket morning. The boys spent time in mini-game situations alongside their dads or special person, sharing laughs, learning together, and enjoying some precious, unhurried time.

The session was designed as a bonding experience, while also giving coaches the opportunity to model the cricket skills being taught at school. Parents were happily put to the test, and the boys revelled in showing just how much they are capable of. In the midst of over-committed schedules, it was a joyful reminder of the value of connection, play and shared learning.

- Mrs Lauren Riley (Head of Junior Primary)



# Curiosity in action

Linked to this year's theme of *Curiosity*, a discovery in the sandpit led to an unexpected learning adventure for our Year 3 boys.

After uncovering cocoons while digging, Liam and Matthew put forward their "I wonder..." questions. When their search for answers in the library left them wanting to know more, they knew exactly what to do next.



Armed with their questions, they headed off for an impromptu interview with our Deputy Principal, Mr Stewart-Burger – tapping into his wealth of knowledge to help them investigate further.

It was a wonderful example of curiosity in action: asking thoughtful questions, seeking out expertise, and taking initiative in the pursuit of understanding. At St Charles College, we are proud to see our boys embracing learning in such an engaged and meaningful way.

# Collaboration Concert

On Thursday evening, our Choir and Chamber Choir performed at a collaboration concert with our neighbouring schools. Our boys stood out with polished performances that showcased their technical prowess and crowd-pleasing renditions. Although early in the year, the boys demonstrated their confidence and commitment to an appreciative audience.

This was a brilliant start to our 2026 choral concert calendar.  
– Mrs Simone Zartmann (Head of Culture)



# ✝ LOVE SPORT

## HOLIDAY CAMPS AT ST CHARLES COLLEGE

Friday, 20 February & Monday, 23 February

### 8am – 10am

U9 – U11 Swimming  
U12 – U15 Cricket  
U12 – U15 Basketball

### 10:30am – 12:30pm

U9 – U11 Cricket  
U12 – U15 Swimming & Polo

### 1pm – 3pm

U9 – U16 Football  
U9 – U16 Hockey  
U9 – U13 Rugby

R200 per 2 hour session for the mornings  
and R250 per afternoon session.

To book your son's place, please complete  
the form through [THIS LINK](#).

For more information or any queries, please contact [lovesport@scc.co.za](mailto:lovesport@scc.co.za)



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# SCRUMMIES

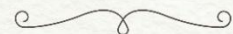
 Scrummies  
Facebook page

 Scrummies  
Instagram page

## Mothers Who Care 2026



PSALMS 138:1  
[1] I WILL PRAISE YOU, LORD,  
WITH ALL MY HEART: BEFORE  
THE "GODS"  
I WILL SING YOUR PRAISE.



MWC is a Christian Group who pray for  
our staff, boys & their families.  
We meet weekly in the  
Gr 8 Boarding lounge  
on a Wednesday at 7:30 am.  
Please join us in person, privately or  
on a WhatsApp call.

For more information please contact  
Shannon Simpson  
C: 082 821 7831  
E: [farmerarmour@yahoo.com](mailto:farmerarmour@yahoo.com)





# ST CHARLES COLLEGE

S O U T H A F R I C A

## TERM DATES 2026

TERM 1	
Administration, Managers, Housemasters and Support Staff Return	07 January (Wednesday)
Teaching and Boarding Staff Return (Staff Development)	08 January (Thursday)
Boarders Return (Grade 4 - Grade 12)	13 January (Tuesday)
<b>Lessons Commence</b> (Grade 000 - Grade 12)	<b>14 January (Wednesday)</b>
Mid-Term Exeat (Friday and Monday No School)	20 February - 23 February
Human Rights Day (21 March)	21 March (Saturday)
<b>End of Term</b>	<b>27 March (Friday)</b>
TERM 2	
<b>Easter Weekend 03 April - 06 April (Friday - Monday)</b>	
Staff and Boarders Return	20 April (Monday)
<b>Lessons Commence</b>	<b>21 April (Tuesday)</b>
Freedom Day Public Holiday (27 April)	27 April (Monday) School Day
Workers' Day (01 May)	01 May (Friday) School Day
<b>OLD BOYS' REUNION WEEKEND</b>	<b>15 May - 16 May (Friday and Saturday)</b>
Mid-Term Exeat (Friday and Monday No School)	22 May - 25 May
Youth Day (16 June)	16 June (Tuesday) School Day
<b>End of Term</b>	<b>26 June (Friday)</b>
TERM 3	
Staff and Boarders Return	20 July (Monday)
<b>Lessons Commence</b>	<b>21 July (Tuesday)</b>
<b>FAMILY DAY</b>	<b>25 July (Saturday)</b>
<b>FOUNDERS DAY</b>	<b>26 July (Sunday)</b>
Women's Day (09 August)	10 August (Monday) School Day
Mid-Term Exeat (Friday and Monday No School)	21 August - 24 August
Senior School Speech Night (6pm)	17 September (Thursday)
<b>End of Term</b>	<b>17 September (Thursday)</b>
TERM 4	
Staff and Boarders Return	28 September (Monday)
<b>Lessons Commence</b>	<b>29 September (Tuesday)</b>
Mid-Term Exeat (Friday and Monday No School)	30 October - 02 November
<b>End of Term (Pre-Primary, Junior Primary and Senior Primary)</b>	<b>26 November (Thursday)</b>
<b>End of Term (Middle School and Upper School)</b>	<b>27 November (Friday)</b>
Grade 6 Open Weekend	27 - 28 November (Friday and Saturday)
Teaching Staff Leave	02 December (Wednesday)
Management and Support Staff Conclude	11 December (Friday)

Updated 18 September 2025