

Saints

TERM 1 WEEK 6

WEEKLY ROUNDUP



Middle School Awards Ceremony

On Thursday morning, our Middle School celebrated its academic achievements from the 2025 Final Examinations.

The ceremony was a fitting tribute to the hard work and dedication of our boys, showcasing some truly remarkable results. The readers spoke with confidence and sincerity, their words resonating with heartfelt gratitude and pride.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to everyone involved in making this event possible. It was a wonderful team effort that came together beautifully, reflecting the spirit of collaboration and excellence that defines our school community.

"If you ever feel like giving up, remember this: Every great achievement started as an idea, a dream, and a small step forward. You may not be the smartest in the class today, the fastest on the field, or the most talented artist, but if you work diligently, consistently, and passionately, you will improve. And that improvement is excellence. Excellence is a journey, not a destination. It is something you strive for daily, in both small and big ways. Whether it is by studying harder, practicing longer, helping a friend, or standing up for what is right, you are building the foundation for a life of excellence, because excellence is not about being the best in the world; it is about being the best version of yourself." – Mr Murray Cole-Edwardes (Head of Middle School)



Prep Inter House Gala

Our Year 4 to Form 1 Inter-House Swimming Gala was a wonderful morning that truly captured what school sport is all about – inclusion, participation, and house pride.

This gala is designed for swimmers of all abilities, and importantly, times are not recorded.

The focus is not on personal bests or records, but on involvement, encouragement, and contributing to your house in whatever way you can. It was inspiring to see every lane filled with boys eager to represent their house and give their best.

Each event was met with loud cheering and enthusiastic support from the sidelines. Boys swam with determination, while teammates created an electric atmosphere with chants and encouragement that echoed around the pool.

The gala concluded with the ever-popular Staff vs Boys relay, which brought huge excitement and plenty of laughter. The competitive spirit was alive and well, and the pool deck was buzzing as both teams raced to the finish in front of an animated crowd.

Congratulations to Smith House, who were crowned overall winners on the day for their consistent participation and effort. A special mention goes to O'Meara House, who deservedly received the Spirit Cup for their outstanding enthusiasm, unity, and encouragement throughout the gala. Well done to every boy who participated.

The morning was a powerful reminder that sport is at its best when everyone is included, every effort is valued, and house spirit shines brightly. – Mr Matthew Coombes (Head of Prep Sport)



Saints Represent

St Charles College is incredibly proud to congratulate Form 6 pupil, Shane van der Linde, on his outstanding achievement of being selected for the KZN Open Water Team.

This selection follows a remarkable open water swimming season in which Shane consistently demonstrated determination, discipline, and resilience against some of the strongest competition in the country. His season was fittingly capped by an exceptional performance at the Midmar Mile, where he secured an impressive 10th place finish in a highly competitive field, recording a superb time of 19 minutes and 56 seconds.



Shane's passion for swimming, combined with his unwavering dedication to training and continuous improvement, is truly commendable. His work ethic, commitment to excellence, and love for the sport have been evident throughout the season, and it is inspiring to see these qualities translating into well-deserved results at the highest level.

This milestone is a testament not only to Shane's talent, but also to the countless hours of hard work, early mornings, and perseverance he has invested in his swimming journey. We are immensely excited about what lies ahead for Shane and have no doubt that this is only the beginning of many more achievements in the sport.

Well done, Shane – your St Charles College family is exceptionally proud of you, and we look forward to supporting you as you continue to make waves in the swimming world.
– Mr Brett Croeser (Head of Swimming)

Sport News

Clifton T20 Tournament

The boys in Blue and Gold got off to a red-hot start at the annual Clifton T20, beating Maritzburg College by 50 runs. Having lost the toss, the Saints were put into bat, with Ryan Clarke and skipper, Thando Zama, setting up the innings in magnificent fashion with a 78-run second-wicket partnership (off 49 balls). Caleb Sharpe and Lebo Mokoena also closed the innings well with 37 runs coming off the final 21 deliveries. Maritzburg College set about their chase of 160 to win and struggled to get momentum. At 56/8 in the 13th over the contest shifted more to the bonus point threshold of 120 runs, and although in-form Schirge played well for his 41 runs, the Saints bowled out their opponents for 109. Lebo Mokoena was in charge with the ball, returning figures of 3 for 8.

The Saints were unable to back up their excellent start when they played against Northwood later in the day, and then the playoffs decider against Westville was a rain-affected game that was ultimately decided on run-rate and the Saints, having played very good cricket, narrowly missed out.



Back at home, the block fixture was against Hilton College, with cricket, basketball and water polo being played. In overcast conditions, with some games being abandoned, the bowlers took full advantage, with 3 standout performances highlighting a day of shared results. St Charles College Head boy, James Dickason, led the charge taking 6 wickets for 15 runs to help the 4th XI to a comfortable victory. In the U16B team Ethan Walsh also claimed a fifer, while U14A all-rounder, Matthew Clarke achieved his first SCC bowling accolade, his 5/20 helping his team over the line.
– Mr Divan van Wyk (Head Coach)

Water Polo in AquaPark

Saturday, 14 February was not only special because of Valentine's Day, but more importantly because it marked the first official fixture hosted by St Charles College in AquaPark. Our boys had eagerly anticipated the opening of their new swimming complex, and the atmosphere certainly delivered. The stands were filled with enthusiastic support as our players gave everything in the pool, refusing to back down against strong Hilton opposition.



We are grateful to Hilton College for making both their A and B sides available, allowing for a full morning of competitive water polo. The day was filled with excitement and anticipation as we experienced firsthand how this outstanding new facility will help develop and grow water polo at St Charles College. We look forward to hosting many more schools and events in what promises to be a special venue for our programme. The 1st team water polo game was won by Hilton, 13 - 4.
– Mr Jacques Richter (Head of Water Polo)

1st Team Basketball

Hosts St Charles College produced a composed second-half display to secure a 60 – 47 victory over visitors Hilton College in a tightly contested basketball clash on Saturday. The opening half was a chess match, with narrow leads changing hands as both sides mixed up defensive looks in an effort to disrupt rhythm.

St Charles College ran their offensive sets crisply and repeatedly found open shooters beyond the arc, but a frustrating 1-for-13 return from three-point range kept the hosts from breaking clear before the interval.

That script flipped decisively in the third quarter. The Saints drained three consecutive three-pointers to ignite the crowd and stretch the margin, and with momentum firmly on their side, they went on a telling run

to establish a comfortable lead. Hilton responded with a full-court press late in the fourth period, chasing quick scores as the clock ticked down. St Charles College, however, stayed calm under pressure, moved the ball well and created open looks to close out the contest.

The win sends St Charles College into a busy stretch, with the Saints heading north to compete at the St John's College Tournament in Johannesburg, before turning their attention to the fiercely contested KZN Top 10. – Mr Darren Holcomb (Head Coach)



Prep Cricket vs Cordwalles

On Saturday, we faced Cordwalles Preparatory School in what proved to be a morning of highly competitive and entertaining cricket. There were exciting contests across the board, with several matches going down to the final overs.

The U9 age group deserves particular praise for the noticeable improvements they have made. Their understanding of the game, teamwork, and overall confidence continue to grow each week, a testament to their hard work at practice. The standout fixture of the day was undoubtedly the 1st XI match. Cordwalles won the toss and batted first, but the St Charles bowling attack was outstanding from the outset. With disciplined lines and relentless pressure, they dismissed Cordwalles for 102, a superb collective bowling performance. In reply, our Saints faced an equally determined bowling effort from Cordwalles. Runs were hard to come by, and wickets fell at regular intervals as the pressure mounted. The match ebbed and flowed, with tension building as it headed for a dramatic conclusion. With the game going down to the wire, some calm and composed batting in the closing stages saw St Charles edge past the target, securing a thrilling win by just one wicket. A fantastic example of resilience and composure under pressure. A fitting way to head into mid-term.



Well done to all the boys for their effort, sportsmanship, and commitment throughout the week. – Mr Matthew Coombes (Head of Prep Sport)

Mini Cricket

Our Year 1 and 2 boys enjoyed mini fixtures against Ridge School, marking their first opposition matches of the year. There was a real buzz of excitement as the boys proudly wore their kit and represented their school. For many, this was their first experience of playing against another school, a big moment!

It was fantastic to see the enthusiasm, big smiles, nervous energy, and growing confidence as the matches unfolded.

Most importantly, the boys played with great spirit and thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. – Mr Matthew Coombes (Head of Prep Sport)



Year 0 Dads 'n Lads

Saturday marked a memorable milestone for our Year 0 boys as they took to the oval for their very first Dads 'n Lads event. For many, it was their first experience playing sport on the big field, and what a special way to begin!

The boys enjoyed a modified game of T-ball, perfectly suited to introduce them to the fundamentals of striking, running, and teamwork in a fun and supportive environment. From the very first hit off the tee, there was no shortage of enthusiasm, determination, and big smiles.

What made the morning truly special was the wonderful spirit shown by both the boys and their dads. There was laughter, encouragement, high-fives, and plenty of proud moments shared. It was fantastic to see every family participating wholeheartedly, creating an atmosphere filled with excitement and connection.

Events like these are about far more than just sport. They are about building confidence, creating lasting memories, and strengthening the bonds within our school community. Saturday was not only a successful introduction to the oval for our Year 0 boys, but also the beginning of what we hope will be many more Dads 'n Lads moments in the years to come.

Thank you to all the dads who made the time to be there, your presence made the morning truly meaningful. - Mr Matthew Coombes (Head of Prep Sport)





Head Prefect Evening

The Coach House was alive with energy as the Head Prefects and top student leaders from thirteen different schools gathered for an evening of conversation, collaboration, and connection.

Our own top five leaders were well prepared and served as true ambassadors of the college by hosting this event with such professionalism.

The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, with students from across the region mingling easily and sharing their experiences of leadership.

Throughout the evening, discussions unfolded around key themes that are central to effective student leadership. Topics such as discipline, time management, unity, and role modelling sparked thoughtful engagement, with each school contributing its own unique insights.

What made the evening particularly special was the openness with which ideas were exchanged. Laughter, lively debate, and meaningful reflection filled the room, creating a sense of camaraderie among the participants. By the end of the event, new friendships had been formed, fresh perspectives gained, and everyone left feeling inspired and motivated for the year ahead.

The Head Prefects' Evening once again proved to be a valuable opportunity for young leaders to learn from one another and strengthen the spirit of collaboration between schools. – Mrs Claire Beckedahl (Head of Form 6)



Year 3 Outing to Phezulu

Our Year 3 boys embarked on an unforgettable adventure to Phezulu Safari Park, immersing themselves in the rich culture and breathtaking beauty of South Africa.

The morning began with a thrilling game drive through the reserve, where the boys explored the fascinating ecosystems and



symbiosis of the region. Guided by knowledgeable staff, they gained a deeper understanding of nature. Upon descending into the Valley of a Thousand Hills, we were treated to traditional Zulu dancing, offering a glimpse into their vibrant culture and customs. We learned about the significance of these dances in Zulu weddings and celebrations. Our hosts also shared insights into the traditional beehive huts and kraal, allowing us to appreciate the rich heritage of the region.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the Reptile Park, where the boys indulged their fascination with creatures great and small. They learned about crocodiles, tortoises, and snakes, with hands-on encounters that sparked excitement and wonder.

A fantastic morning of outdoor learning, perfectly aligned with our term theme of South Africa's people, culture, and wildlife! - Mrs Gail du Toit

Year 2 Visit to Tala

Our Year 2 boys enjoyed an unforgettable day out at Tala Game Reserve this week! The excitement began as we set off on our game drive, where the boys were thrilled to spot giraffe, rhino, and zebra in their natural habitat. Seeing these magnificent animals up close brought their classroom learning to life and sparked wonderful curiosity and conversation.

After the adventure of wildlife spotting, the boys cooled off with a refreshing swim in the pool, followed by a relaxed picnic together in the beautiful surroundings. Laughter, sunshine, and shared snacks made for a perfect ending to a special day.

It was a memorable outing filled with discovery, friendship, and plenty of smiles!
- Mrs Debbie Sorour



Bike Day in *Scrummies*

At Scrummies we believe in keeping our little learners moving, exploring and growing and one way we do this is through termly Bike Days. Learning to ride a bicycle is more than just a childhood milestone – it's a powerful way to support overall development!

Regular riding helps build strong leg muscles, core strength and cardiovascular fitness, setting children on the path to a healthy heart and active lifestyle. It also develops balance, coordination, spatial awareness and motor skills – all essential foundations for growing bodies and confident movers. Aerobic exercise like cycling boosts oxygen flow to the brain, stimulating neurons and supporting concentration and creativity. But the benefits go far beyond the physical. Cycling also encourages independence, imagination and problem-solving as children explore their surroundings, navigate obstacles and learn important safety skills. Best of all, it creates opportunities for meaningful quality time with friends, outdoor adventure and a lifelong appreciation for fresh air and healthy living.

– Mrs Bronwyn Kusel (Head of Pre-Primary)



Letters From our Pen Pals

This Valentine's Day, our Year 2 boys were delighted to receive a very special letter!

It has become a bit of a Year 2 school tradition, for our boys to exchange letters with their pen pals from St Johns D.S.G. around Valentine's Day. There was great excitement as envelopes were opened, kind words were read, and new friendships were celebrated.

This annual activity is a wonderful way for our children to practise their letter-writing skills, express thoughtful messages, and build confidence in communication – all while experiencing the joy of connecting with others. – Mrs Debbie Sorour



Are you *following* us online?

Give us a like... Click on any of the icons to be directed to our respective social media page.



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



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)
Lessons Commence (Grade 000 - Grade 12)	14 January (Wednesday)
Mid-Term Exeat (Friday and Monday No School)	20 February - 23 February
Human Rights Day (21 March)	21 March (Saturday)
End of Term	27 March (Friday)
TERM 2	
Easter Weekend 03 April - 06 April (Friday - Monday)	
Staff and Boarders Return	20 April (Monday)
Lessons Commence	21 April (Tuesday)
Freedom Day Public Holiday (27 April)	27 April (Monday) School Day
Workers' Day (01 May)	01 May (Friday) School Day
OLD BOYS' REUNION WEEKEND	15 May - 16 May (Friday and Saturday)
Mid-Term Exeat (Friday and Monday No School)	22 May - 25 May
Youth Day (16 June)	16 June (Tuesday) School Day
End of Term	26 June (Friday)
TERM 3	
Staff and Boarders Return	20 July (Monday)
Lessons Commence	21 July (Tuesday)
FAMILY DAY	25 July (Saturday)
FOUNDERS DAY	26 July (Sunday)
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)
End of Term	17 September (Thursday)
TERM 4	
Staff and Boarders Return	28 September (Monday)
Lessons Commence	29 September (Tuesday)
Mid-Term Exeat (Friday and Monday No School)	30 October - 02 November
End of Term (Pre-Primary, Junior Primary and Senior Primary)	26 November (Thursday)
End of Term (Middle School and Upper School)	27 November (Friday)
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