



Ref: Principal's Weekly Update. 1 June 2026

Dear Parents, Guardians and Grandparents

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

A 'Do Good Things' strategy requires extra energy but it's worth it

The past couple of weekends have taken a big bite out of our energy reserves, but when good things we planned more than a year ago actually happen, we need to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of two communities who have sacrificed a lot to give all the boys an opportunity to participate in a grand hospitality exercise.

Thank you especially to the families who hosted our boarders so that we could offer space to our St Stithians guests. These weekends are a key teaching tool and fulfil the original ideal of creating friendship through sport – not only for the boys, but for the parent community too, as we travel and host while your sons grow through the College.

The Senior School travels this weekend to St David's for our last whole-school winter fixture, and these exchanges are an opportunity for every boy in the school to go on a tour. We have directed the College's resources to ensure that the costs are almost entirely covered by school fees.

Lessons in handling pressure

The nail-biting finishes of this season's winter sport matches have left our nerves in shreds, but you have to admire the composure of the boys across the College as they stepped onto big stages and acquitted themselves exceptionally well. I am not sure that my heart will take these last moment draws and victories much longer, but the fact that we have come through so many of these narrow spaces speaks volumes about the growing belief of the boys and the confidence they are deriving from good conditioning, preparation and exceptional coaching – and that is something to commend.

An economy that wants to grow

We seem to have spent the year waiting while the war with Iran speedily ended and realising that we are way too dependent on a global economy that is susceptible to political misadventure. History tells us that these painful inflexion points are precisely the moments when radical alternatives are birthed, and I can feel the positive effect of massive infrastructure investment by the national authorities. Our country is poised for growth so please make sure you vote to ensure that this trajectory survives.

A no-nonsense approach offers hope

The planned blockade of the main Highways on Saturday was thwarted by the arrest of the instigators, who were detained for inciting violence and public disruption. That seems like a first for our country – preventative law enforcement. We saw it in parliament when rabble-raising was stopped before it started, and now in the greater landscape – positive signs that there is some momentum behind the positive direction in which we are leaning.

A.I. partnership announcement later today

We are meeting with interested parties this afternoon to announce a research partnership with an exciting new entity, Equitas, to manage the integration of A.I. in our teaching and learning. We are not talking about the abysmal cycle of students submitting ChatGPT drivel – rather, how A.I. can give teachers diagnostic maps so they can target assisting students where the students most need it. For those who wanted to do more but, humanly speaking, could not get to the level of student knowledge in close to real time, this is a revolution and a moment to be marked in the progression of excellent educational practice.

Waiting for better days

Sometimes we have to wait for change to come that is out of our hands. This does not come naturally to me, so instruction from scripture speaks directly to me:

"Be still in the presence of the Lord and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes." PSALM 37:7

It is incredible to know that though many parts of life seem to be falling apart, the ultimate outcome rests with One who is never surprised and knows what He is doing.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allen van Blerk'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'A' and a circular flourish.

Allen van Blerk
PRINCIPAL