



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Parents

We've reached another year!

Sadly this will be my final Chairman's report. As recently announced, I have decided to step down after five years as a member of the BOG and its Chairman. I have had the pleasure of serving for what will be effectively five years as a member of the BOG. My time to commit to the College has become increasingly limited. I am most pleased that I leave the College under the great stewardship of the rest of the BOG.

As I highlighted in my resignation letter, the last five years as Chairman of the BOG has seen the College achieve material outcomes, *inter alia*:

- The reconstitution of a more diverse and representative BOG;
- The appointment of Toby as Headmaster;
- The enhancement of the College's system of financial controls; and
- The further development of the College's infrastructure such as the establishment of the Astro Turf and swimming pool.

Great strides continue to be made by all stakeholders to enable the College to be future fit for purpose.

I reiterate that the above initiatives, to name a few, have come with a lot of time and effort from my fellow BOG members. I wish to thank them all personally for their commitment to a task who's main reward is not financial, but rather personal satisfaction in seeing the College thrive! Thank you for your generous time.

We continue to live in challenging and yet interesting times in South Africa and the rest of the world. There remains great uncertainty about the future of the world. However, in these uncertain times there remain great opportunities. This calls for great resilience amongst us as a College community. As parents and teachers, we must instill a sense of resilience in our boys. We must continue to instill a strong prayer and faith culture coupled with hard work. Ora et Labora! In uncertain times, we must continue to show up, we must continue to seek opportunities, analyse and understand risks within our environment and how to mitigate them. We must engage amongst ourselves as a College community to constantly find mutual solutions to common challenges.

Against these uncertain times, it is important to thank you the parents for continuing to honour your commitment to pay for your son's school fees. The BOG knows how difficult this can be given the various life challenges we all face. The College does indeed exist because of your commitment. The BOG once again encourages all those parents who aren't up to speed with school fees to please engage with the College to find alternative payment plans within the College's policies.

This year we also celebrated the College's 90th birthday. For many years the College has seen generations of boys walk the school grounds and classrooms, eager to learn, eager to compete in sports, eager to participate in cultural activities and importantly, eager to be upstanding men of society in the future. From the classrooms, the laboratories, the library, the sports grounds, the College has been a place where dreams of boys can take flight. The College has also shown through the years, resilience and adaptability, standing firm and remaining true to its mantra: Ora et Labora. Long may this continue.

The BOG wishes to thank our teachers at the College for their time and effort. We have regrettably seen a number of resignations during the course of this year. We thank those who have left for their service to the College as well.

To the current boys: You are the heart of this institution. You are the reason the College exists, and you are the hope for our future. Carry the legacy of the College with you and know that you are part of something greater than yourselves—a tradition of excellence that spans nearly a century. I would also be remiss if I didn't wish the Grade 12 class of 2025 every success with their exams. Good luck boys. I know you will make us proud.

To the Old Boys: You are the living proof of the success of this College. Your successes are our successes. Your journeys are our pride. Stay connected with the College and remain its ambassadors all over the world!

To the BOG: Thank you for affording me the opportunity to work with all of you and for also raising your hands to be members of the BOG at no cost to the College. Stay the course of continuing to guide the College by providing sound oversight.

To the Christian Brothers' Association: You are the bedrock that keeps Edmund Rice's legacy alive. A reminder of where the College comes from. It's the reason for its existence. Thank you!

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Mr Lorenzo Virgili on his appointment to succeed me as the new Chairman of the BOG. I know that he will be remarkable in his new role.

I wish the College a great future and feel proud to have played a role towards ensuring that it is future-fit!

Warm Regards

Hale Matsipa

Member of:

