



KINGSWOOD COLLEGE

Senior Head Newsletter

Monday, 22 June 2017

Dear Kingswoodian Family

“Building a Cathedral”



The playwright, Dorothy Sayers, wrote “It was the Zeal of thy House” which is a play about the trials and tribulations of building Canterbury Cathedral in the 12th century.

No cathedral can be built without the vision of the original architect who, because of the length of construction time of such a grandiose and splendid edifice, is never going to see the final product. Architects, designers, artisans all put time into their areas of expertise, knowing that they are contributing towards something which they also might not see but which will outlast them in the centuries ahead – possibly even long after their own names have disappeared in the mists of time.

For a number of years, I have used this metaphor when interviewing Grade 7 pupils when I ask them what they will contribute to this great school. I give them the vision of the

Cathedral of Kingswood and invite them to share in the ongoing building of this special place of beauty. I invite them to join the myriad skilled artisans who are giving of their time and their skills to ensure that our imposing Cathedral is enriched and improved.

And so the various School Committees, the Council Sub-Committees, the groups who organise a variety of extra mural activities, take up their tools of trade every year to enhance the Cathedral – and we are grateful and appreciative. Likewise parents, academic staff, as well as the grounds and support staff and the Old Kingswoodians, have a role to play in contributing to the constant construction of this Cathedral. In talking to Grade 8s at the beginning of the



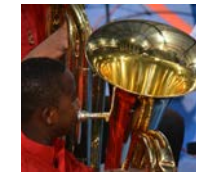
year, I stress to them that it is not necessarily bricks and mortar that builds a school. Building must also take place in the hearts and minds of all pupils at the school. An impressive cathedral is about the people!

As we stand at the eve of our 125th year, it is inevitable that the next nineteen months will be filled with pride, but tinged with nostalgia and appreciation of the vision and determination of the giants who went before us. We are in the foremost position in education because of the Cathedral Builders over the last 123 years. Even more important, have been the Cathedral Thinkers who have seen the vision and prevailed on others to buy into it. It is humbling to reflect on the previous College Heads and Headmasters of the School, the hundreds of teachers, the thousands of pupils, the tens of thousands of parents who have made significant contributions in so many different ways.



KINGSWOOD COLLEGE

Celebrating 125 in 2019



Building cathedrals needs all the skills which are necessary in this 21st Century World - inquisitiveness and a desire to do things differently; relationship building and, above all, resilience. At Kingswood we call it 'Never Give up'. Without it, cathedrals cannot be built. There are plenty of people who offer opinions as to why something can't be done and why it is not worth the effort. They are the ones who will never see the grandeur of a cathedral nor marvel at the workmanship and the passion which has gone into its conception and bringing its splendour into reality.

There is a story of the three stone cutters who were asked what they were doing.

The first said: 'I am cutting stones.'

The second kept on hammering while he said: 'I am doing the best job of stone cutting in the entire country.'

The third stonecutter said: 'I am building a cathedral.'

I like to pose the question to pupils as to which stone cutter they are. Answers to these questions will presumably change over the course of their lives but those who see the bigger picture will no doubt be happier and more fulfilled in their future careers.

At the end of matric, Grade 12 pupils fill in an exit questionnaire. There are two pages of questions and the pupils are asked to comment. In many instances, their advice as to how their school might be improved reveals a great deal about themselves.

In answering the question: What do you enjoy most about the school? Most comments revolve around sport, extra-murals and friends. Some comments show insight. I particularly enjoyed the insight of one pupil who said: 'The person I have grown up to be.'

The 'third stonecutters' are fortunately far in the ascendancy and many comments about 'making a

difference' and 'leaving the school a better place' are in evidence. A number refer to the opportunity of assisting their Grade 8s through their first year at senior school and trying to be a good role model and mentor to their junior.

Thank heavens for the Cathedral Thinkers in our midst. They realise that this school is more than an institution. Not only does it evoke a sense of permanence, but it continually reminds us of a vision so strong that it will continue over time. The Cathedral Thinkers realise that a good school is a source of inspiration enabling others to aspire and visualise beyond their own brief tenure at Kingswood so that they can also leave a legacy which future generations of Kingswoodians will experience and appreciate.

As we enter a reunion weekend for the classes of 1977 and 1987 we thank them for the immense contribution they have made to building "our Cathedral". We hope they have a wonderful weekend in reuniting and returning to their old school.

Continuing on the theme of cathedrals, a much younger one was built, just over 10 years ago, in the form of the Lebone Centre. On Wednesday, I attended the annual AGM and Trustees' meeting of the ICDP Trust and Lebone Centre, and once again, was in awe of the tremendous work they are carrying out in our community with regard to literacy, early childhood development, reading programmes, parent workshops and so much more. We salute the staff of the Lebone Centre for the outstanding and selfless work they are conducting.



Kingswood College Pupils assisting with Lebone Centre Family Maths Event

A quote from Mother Theresa of Calcutta was shared at the Lebone Centre AGM and it reminds us of important aspects as we build our cathedral, *"If you judge people, you have no time to love them. Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier. Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."*

Last week we welcomed back Mr John Birch who became the Choirmaster and Organist at Kingswood in 1969 (just after the Chapel was built) and was appointed as the first Director of Music in 1970. It was wonderful in chatting to hear the interesting stories John and his wife Deidre relayed to me about their time at Kingswood. He has been a “third stonecutter” at Kingswood.



Rev Tim Marshall, Mr Stephen Holder (Director of Music), Mrs Deirdre Birch, Mr John Birch and Mr Paul Guthrie (Head: Senior School)

On Thursday, I was fortunate to attend a Transformation Summit for school leaders of Grahamstown, hosted by Rhodes University. There was fruitful feedback from all parties regarding the university and our relationship with it. It was an interesting and informative meeting.

Congratulations to Kate von Holdt who reached the milestone of 100 caps for the 1st XI Hockey Team, which is an outstanding achievement. On Saturday before the 1st team game we congratulated Kate! It was another weekend of enjoyable sport and well done to all our teams.



Emma Fraser, Kate von Holdt and Mr Paul Guthrie (Head: Senior School)

On Friday, the examinations for Grades 10-12 started and Test Week for Grades 8 & 9. We wish them well and hope they approach these assessments with enthusiasm and determination to succeed!

Have a good week!

Paul Guthrie

Head: Senior School

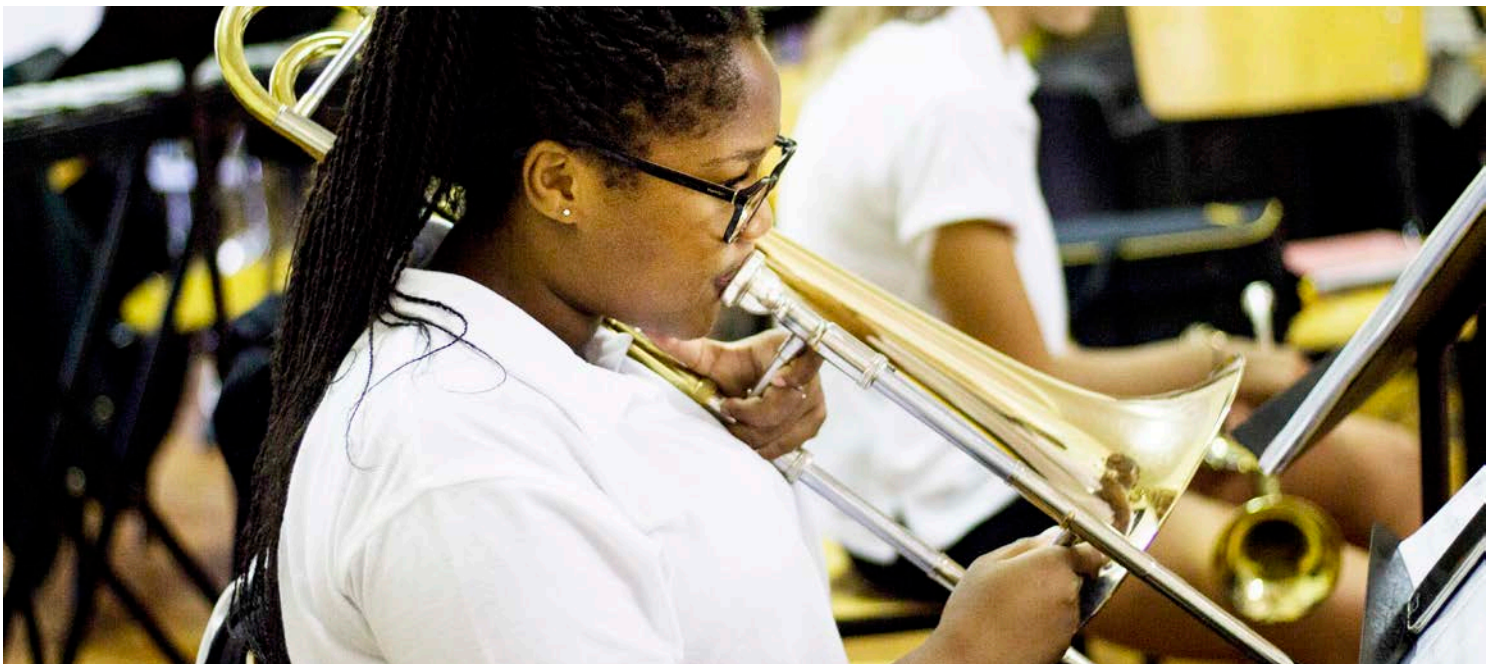
To see the full list of **Sports Results** for the last week please click on the following link:
<http://bit.ly/2l61dbR>



Julia Kinghan's (Grade 11) artwork titled "A walk in the park" is on display in Mr Paul Guthrie's office this term. What a magnificent artwork!

MUSIC

There will be a Sundowner concert in the Chapel this Thursday, 25 May at 17h00. Note the venue change - the Junior School newsletter mentioned the Music School as the venue. Please check with your children to see if they are involved. The Bach Concert scheduled for 2 June has been postponed.



MARKETING CALENDAR

KINGSWOOD COLLEGE

DORDRECHT, MOLTENO AND STERKSTROOM PROSPECTIVE PARENTS INFORMATION EVENING

Junior School Head, Mr Derek Braans will be hosting a Prospective Parents' Information Evening in the Dordrecht, Molteno and Sterkstroom area to provide you with an opportunity to learn about the Kingswood Co-Educational offering.

About Kingswood College:

Kingswood, founded in 1894, is an independent Methodist boarding and day school that caters for girls and boys from pre-school to bridging year (post matric). Set on beautiful grounds, Kingswood offers its pupils a well-rounded education, with wonderful facilities available in both the academic, cultural and sporting spheres.

DATE: 31 May 2017

TIME: 18h00 (Presentation from 18h30 to 19h30)

VENUE: Strydfontein, home of Liezl and Henry Stretton

Please RSVP to Liezl Stretton on liezl@jelly.co.za or call 082 465 9271 on or before Monday 22nd of May 2017.

EDUCATING FOR LIFE



KINGSWOOD COLLEGE

Grade 8 Information Evening

The Kingswood College Senior School Head invites all parents of Grade 7 pupils wishing to join our Senior School in 2018 to an information evening. Come and hear what pupils can expect as they move into the Senior School environment, and how you as parents can support them.

DATE: Tuesday, 6 June 2017

VENUE: The Wyvern

TIME: 18h00

To RSVP please email Danél Pruissen at d.pruissen@kingswoodcollege.com or phone 046 603 6627

"EDUCATING FOR LIFE"

