



*Learning today,
Leading tomorrow*

St Catherine's School

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From the Head of School's Desk

The first week has already drawn to a close and we have started the new academic year with a bang! For most of us the holiday is a fading memory as we embark on the exciting journey which is the 2019 academic year.

Before I report on the first few days of the Lent Term, allow me to comment on the results of the Senior Certificate examination which was written at the end of last year. Once again, the school achieved a 100% pass rate and all 33 candidates qualified for tertiary study. Our University exemption rate was 85% and the remaining candidates qualified to attend other institutions of further study. Top achievers in the class of 2018 included Xe'nedra de Almeida, Ntokozo Hlophe and Head Girl Hannah Wedel. Come on, boys! You need to step up to the plate.

We are also very proud to occupy our new classroom block. The wing has been named the Aelred O' Donovan wing in honour of the last Dominican Sister to hold the post of Head of School. Sister Aelred served the school with distinction and sadly passed away last year. The block consists of 6 classrooms and it will accommodate the Grade One and Two pupils.

I am pleased to report that we have grown our enrolment once again this year and we are still testing pupils who are looking for admission. Despite the challenging economy we are continuing to experience growth and this reflects on the value that the community continues to place on the quality of our educational offering. For the first time in the school's history we have more than 60 pupils in Grade Eight and the Senior School enrolment now stands at close to 220 pupils. We have established 3 classes in Grade Eight and we plan to continue with this policy going forward.

We welcomed several new teachers to the school family. In the Prep school we were joined by Miss Myburgh who is responsible for a Grade Two class and Mrs Davies who has taken over the Computer Literacy classes. In the Senior School our ranks were swelled by the appointments of Mrs Pinkerton, Mrs Geral, Mr Mokoka, Miss Mateus, Miss Carstens and Miss Rosa. Mrs Louw has also come aboard as the new Head of Department (Languages). I hope that the new additions to our school community will be happy at our school.

Our Grade 8 pupils have been away this week on their orientation programme and reports are that they have enjoyed the experience tremendously. We are expecting great things from the Class of 2023 and they have certainly come up to the mark so far. Our co-curricular activities start next week in both phases and I encourage all pupils to participate fully. Some of the most important educational lessons are learnt on the sports field and in the swimming pool.

Enjoy the weekend!

Mr D.I. Maritz