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Dear Parents

It is always a privilege to welcome our families back after an extended Christmas break. 2017 at St Alban's College has started in the most magnificent fashion and I have thoroughly enjoyed my initial interactions with staff, boys and parents. After having worked in an entirely different environment for 8 years, it has been refreshing to walk back onto our beautiful campus, to engage with diversity, passion and pride and to reconnect. St Alban's is a special place and it is so because of the people and the relationships which have been nurtured here over time.

Our country has recently experienced a drought and after some good rain a feeling of hope and optimism fills the air. In many ways welcoming new students into our community brings the same feeling of rejuvenation and excitement. We welcomed 116 New Boys onto the campus at the start of the year and I have been overwhelmed with the positive and affirming way they have settled and been welcomed by the community. So often we can be buffeted by the pessimism of the world around us that we forget the beauty and growth right in front of our eyes. There is always something to complain about but I have been overwhelmed by the optimism and laughter which surrounds me at the College. Our New Boys originate from 47 different preparatory schools and this wonderful injection of diversity and expectation is wonderfully powerful and affirming for our school. The fact that we accept boys from such a wide range of institutions is certainly a strength of St Alban's. It reminds us that we are all different and that in our differences there is strength and community, camaraderie and hope for a better future. This is an exciting space and I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know your sons as they begin the year with hope and expectation.

Orateng Koikanyang, our newly appointed Head of School, recently indicated to me that he thought that the new intake of Form 1's were immensely respectful and I reminded him of the fact that respect invites respect and that it is our duty and responsibility to lead like we would like to be led. It is a feather in our student leadership's caps that our Form 1's are finding it easy to settle and find their rhythm. Only recently did I watch a tearful Meryl Streep receive another award to celebrate her magnificent acting career. On receiving the award she tearfully spoke of a performance which stunned her to the core – it was that moment when the now, United States President, imitated and mocked a disabled reporter. Someone he outranked in privilege, power and the capacity to fight back. Streep indicates that 'it broke her heart'. I am heartened that the St Alban's way is certainly not to perpetuate disrespect and I am proud of the way our prefects and senior leaders purposefully integrated and mentored our Form 1's on the New Boys camp. The year ahead promises to be one filled with hope and much learning and I look forward to journeying with your sons.



Class of 2016 Matric Results

It is always good to celebrate and it is wonderful to share with you the Matric results of 2016. Some year groups just get on with things and make what seems challenging look simple. Our Class of 2016 was one such group. Not only was 2016 a very good year for the College community in every respect, but our Class of 2016 closed out with a set of results in the IEB National Senior Certificate Examinations that were outstanding.

- 118 Candidates completed the Examinations and 118 Passed
- 113 Bachelor Degree Passes and 5 Diploma Passes
- 187 Subject Distinctions Achieved
 - Bjorn Ter Haar & Sunghyun Park - 8 distinctions
 - Romario Ferrão, Marcello Leita and Matthew van Coeverden de Groot - 7 distinctions
 - Darren Allingham, Brandan Booysen, Kieran Clancy, Gabriel Da Silva, Alec Hugo and Chris Stevenson - 6 distinctions
 - Leonard Debeil, Conrad Lamprecht, Gabe Smith, Paul Teitge, Bradley van der Merwe and Joshua van Heerden - 5 distinctions
 - 66 out of the 120 candidates will take home a certificate that has at least one distinction.
- Top 5% of candidates nationally in 6 Subjects - Bjorn Ter Haar (Dux Scholar)
- Top 1% of candidates per subject nationally
 - Marno van der Westhuizen – Afrikaans
 - Toni Rossouw and Matthew McDonald - Business Studies

It takes a school with vision to prepare a young man for life



ISASA



ibsc
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- Matthew van Coeverden de Groot - English and Life Sciences
- Leonard Debeil - Geography
- Darren Allingham - Life Orientation
- 75% of all subject symbols above 60%
- 82% of candidates wrote Core Mathematics with 30% achieving distinctions
- Other subjects with more than 20% distinction symbols: Accounting, Afrikaans, Business Studies, IT, IsiZulu, Life Sciences, Mathematical Literacy, Music and Physical Sciences

The Foundation, Council and Headmaster wish to congratulate the College Class of 2016 on a job well done, and to applaud the Academic Staff for their professionalism and dedication.

I am astounded at the wonderful camaraderie amongst our staff at St Alban's. This is a wonderfully eclectic team who are talented, compassionate and hard-working in every way and I look forward to working along-side them as we progress.

New staff

As you are aware, I have only just joined the team at St Alban's but so have a number of other staff members and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce them to you:

Krinesan Moodley joins us from WHPS as the Director of Hockey and I have no doubt that his experience and wonderful relationships with boys will impact, not only on the hockey field but in every aspect of life at the College.



Kevin Smith joins us from Crawford Pretoria, but has also taught at St Stithians and Michaelhouse. He is a senior Mathematics Teacher and his expertise will boost an already powerful Mathematics Department.



Twanette Knoetze joins the Mathematics Department from Cornwall Hill College.



Melanie de Kock joins us from St Paulus, also in the Mathematics Department. She has also taught at PBHS for a number of years. I have no doubt that she will continue to be successful here.



Michael Strachan strengthens our EMS Department and his enthusiasm and quiet strength will certainly allow us to grow in this area.



Romanda Potgieter joins the Afrikaans Department.



Phumudzo Muravha joins us as an intern in the Maths Department.



Ilse Marlow has been appointed as the Music School Administrator.

David and Goliath

We played a Cricket, Water-polo and Basketball fixture against Pretoria Boys High this past weekend and I was struck by the fighting spirit of a number of our teams. This fighting spirit and belief is perhaps personified by the U14 Waterpolo fixture in which we narrowly lost 4-3. These young men took on the might of Pretoria Boys who have more than 160 boys in their U14 Waterpolo division and narrowly lost. This is an example of the stereotypical story of David and Goliath, as we only have 11 boys signed up for U14 Waterpolo this year!

In the David and Goliath story, the battle is won miraculously by an underdog who, by all expectations, should not have won at all. There is an important lesson in this, for battles with all sorts of 'giants'. The powerful and the strong are not always what they seem! We certainly know and understand this, particularly after our winter Rugby victory over this goliath of a school last year. I am delighted with the positive and courageous way we approached all our games this past weekend and I look forward to supporting our teams as the season progresses.

Facilities

As you may be aware, the College Chapel has recently been condemned. We are currently using the Hamilton Hall as our chapel venue while we build a roof over the amphitheatre to allow for a more comfortable and suitable venue for school gatherings while a new chapel is being built. I will keep you informed with the progress being made with regard these facilities.

Condolences

Our condolences are extended to the Musto Family on the passing of Peggy.

Peggy Musto (1924 - 2017) passed away on 15 January aged 92. Mother of David (Class of 1972 and Member of Staff 1983 - 2010), Grandmother of Neil (Class of 2004) and wife of the late Dr Bertie Musto, she was one of the original "Tea Bags" - a name coined by David Swanepoel to describe that group of hard-working Mothers who busied themselves with any and every task that a young St Alban's College needed assistance with. From teas to diaries, functions, plays, Chapel kneelers and many other things, these Mums gave willing and devoted service over many years. Peggy was one of these Mums. She was fiercely loyal to the College and, in her later years, enjoyed the many music concerts and appreciated being invited back to Speech Day and Prize Giving. Her unwavering support and commitment to all things Albanian will never be forgotten.

Congratulations

St Alban's is an exceptional school and I feel privileged to follow in the footsteps of our previous Headmaster, Tom Hamilton, who served the College with dedication and passion for the major part of his professional life. Tom has taken up an exciting opportunity at the Bafokeng Institute and I attach a letter from him for your reference. We wholeheartedly congratulate him on this appointment and I have no doubt that he will continue to have a major impact on education in South Africa.

As we face the year ahead, I would urge you to continue to support your sons in and out of the classroom. There will be times of happiness and celebration ahead as well as times of anxiety, achievement and disappointment. This is the fertile soil which will allow our sons to learn and grow and ultimately develop the resilience they will need to face the future with confidence. Please be assured that our staff will be there, no matter the circumstance, to support and nurture your son through the situation he finds himself in. I look forward to getting to know all of you over time and I wish you every blessing in the year ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have an issue you wish to discuss.

Much has changed since I was last involved with St Alban's, both at the school and within myself, and I look forward to ensuring that we partner positively, to fulfil our mission of 'preparing young men for life'. As indicated earlier, we celebrate the College's successes on a number of levels, none more so than our Matric results but as we journey into a new year, we need to focus on more than just success. Success is a façade, shallow and meaningless, **significance is real, deep and life changing**, and it will be our aim to ensure that we forge ahead significantly into 2017.

God bless.



Shane Kidwell
HEADMASTER