

Tel: +27 (12) 348-1221  
Fax: +27 (12) 361-1917  
Cell: +27 (82) 458 0250  
Twitter: @ShaneKidwell  
www.stalbanscollege.com  
Email: kidwells@stalbanscollege.com

Shane Kidwell BA (UP) HDipEd (PCE) LDP  
**Headmaster**



110 Clearwater Road  
Lynnwood Glen  
Pretoria 0081

✉ Private Bag X01  
Lynnwood Ridge  
0040  
South Africa

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Dear Parents

Welcome back to Term 1 of 2018. One can feel the energy and excitement around the campus and I am delighted that we have started the year on such a positive note in every respect. Our staff have recently been on a staff conference where we had a packed programme which included presentations from members of the faculty at the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) on innovation and creativity in schools and we were also introduced to facilitators from the Centre for Being and Belonging who will be interacting with every level of the College as the year unfolds. Our focus for the year will revolve around ensuring that every member of our community feels like they belong and that our diversity continues to strengthen us as a community as we take time to listen and understand each other more.

St Alban's College has always been an innovative, forward looking institution and we are excited about revisiting many of the principles which have made us determined to ensure that we prepare young men for the future. Every one of our boys began their school journeys with incredible potential and with curiosity and unfortunately the school system can very easily erode or even erase this mindset. It is critical that we build into our system, mechanisms to enable boys to develop the gift of intrinsic motivation. We need to continue to encourage them to be curious, to be comfortable being uncomfortable and most importantly we need to allow them to make mistakes. If our young men can develop the love of life-long learning at a young age, it is going to catapult them into the future with confidence and a sense that nothing is impossible. There is no doubt that our world needs a different type of innovative thinking and problem solving and we find it particularly invigorating to see our young men wanting to grapple and solve some of the complex problems facing their generation.

It has also become evident that schools like ours cannot only focus on the formal curriculum if we seek to develop young men who are going to thrive in the future. The World Economic Forum, in their latest study in the Future of Jobs report, has indicated that soft skills will play a bigger role as we head into 2020 and beyond and it is incumbent on schools like ours to ensure that we allow our young men to become more self-aware and develop the emotional intelligence to deal with uncertainty, volatility, complexity and the ambiguity of modern life. A recent study shows that young people are becoming less empathetic than ever before. American College students showed a 48% decrease in empathic concern and a 34% drop in their ability to see other people's perspectives. This will certainly not hold our sons in good stead in the future and we will need to partner to ensure that our young men are more in tune emotionally and prepared to interact and empathize with other perspectives if they are to be successful adults.

I have to say that I am always excited when I interact with your sons, because they give me hope for a brighter future. Our leadership team, led by Greg Kirkcaldy, has already made a powerful start to the year and I have no doubt that they will lead with humility and pride as they seek to build on a strong foundation from previous years. Our 110 new boys enjoyed some time away with staff and prefects on the New Boys' Camp and I am excited by the energy and sense of expectation amongst these young men who have originated from 48 different preparatory schools from around the country.

### **Matric Results 2017**

Our Matric results at the end of 2017 have proved to be excellent and I am delighted that so many of our boys excelled in their final examinations:

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



We had ninety-seven candidates who achieved 137 distinctions: six candidates achieved 7 distinctions, two candidates achieved 5 distinctions and four candidates achieved 4 distinctions. Fifty-four candidates completed the examination with at least 1 distinction.

Pieter Snyman achieved the highest aggregate : he earned a level 7 (80% or above) in seven subjects with an aggregate of 90.1%. He was closely followed by Duncan Rudolph and Reevelen Dass. The other candidates who achieved a level 7 in seven subjects were Thomas Scholtz, Christopher Grabow and Jason van den Berg.

### **National Achievements:**

Congratulations are extended to **Pieter Snyman and Duncan Rudolph** for earning a well-deserved place on the **IEB's list of Outstanding and Commendable Achievements**. The criteria for making this list is to achieve within the **top 5% of candidates for 5 subjects** and to achieve a mark of over **80% for Life Orientation**. Only **84** candidates from the **11 464** full-time candidates who wrote the IEB examinations are on this list. A brilliant effort by Duncan and Pieter.

Congratulations also to the following boys who achieved marks that were in the **Top 1% of candidates in that subject in the IEB:**

- **Duncan Rudolph** for Geography and Life Sciences
- **Justin Leonard** for Geography and Mathematics
- **Pieter Snyman** for Information Technology and Physical Sciences
- **Reevelen Dass** for Information Technology
- **Jason Van Den Berg** for Physical Sciences

We are really proud of all of these young men and wish them well as they start their University careers.

### **Inter-House Gala**

I would like to thank all our parents who attended the Inter-House Gala last week. It was a wonderfully warm and affirming start to the term, and the year, and I appreciated chatting to many of you at the post-gala function on Moshate. We will be having many more functions throughout the year where parents can join us as we build community and relationships in an informal way and I would encourage you to join us if you have not already experienced the camaraderie which is evident at these events. My congratulations to the boys who were magnificent on the day, and we specifically congratulate MacRobert House on their first win of the year.

I look forward to engaging with you as well as partnering alongside you as we seek to raise young men who are trendsetters, critical thinkers and collaborators who will impact the future world in a positive way.

All the very best for the year ahead and please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to chat about something.

Yours sincerely



**Shane Kidwell**  
Headmaster