



DE LA SALLE HOLY CROSS COLLEGE



4 September 2018

Dear Parents

Welcome back as we enter the final term of 2018. I hope the children have returned refreshed after their August holidays and that you were able to share some important family time together as we begin the preparation for Advent and Christmas.

This year has been an exciting year for our school community as we welcomed Mr Berndsen our new Headmaster of our Junior School. The innovative educational thinking and leadership of both Mr Berndsen and Mr Murray have made it a very positive year for the College.

As you walk into a school you immediately get a “feel” about the place you have entered. The physical appearance of the school, the greetings you receive, the voices of the children at play, it is an intangible warmth that needs to be upheld, cherished and experienced every day.

On the 19th of January 2018 on a beautiful highveld summer evening, we launched #TheShift. This came about after our strategic planning exercise and in collaboration with all members of the school community. We said on that night that we wanted to move boldly forward to “future proof” our children as they step into the 21st Century and to prepare them for our ever changing, fast-paced world. We want to amplify our strengths whilst keeping our history, faith and ethos central to all we do, propelling the College forward to be ‘ahead of the game’. Thank you to all those who were able to join us on the 2nd of August when we updated everyone on what had been achieved during 2018 and what is yet to come!

As 2019 approaches our present grade sixes and sevens, our “Amavulandela” of our new Junior High are ready to be part of this new venture within the College. The staff lead by Mr Ruan Liebenberg have been appointed. The new Junior High will embrace Project Based Learning in conjunction with other teaching methodologies. Working with Onsite Education the staff are having ongoing training to facilitate our Project Based Learning, these integrated studies will bring new dynamic learning opportunities. Elevate Education will assist the students with study and time management skills. The grades seven, eight and nine will go on separate camps in February 2019. The purpose of these camps is to allow the grades to bond as a group. The grade nine camp will concentrate on activities and advice for the pupils in making important subject choices for Matric. The grade nines will be buddies to the new grade sevens and our newbies Grade seven and eight concert should be great fun, so join us for a great evening.

These holidays we built and equipped our two new Grade RR classes and prepared the new playground space kindly given to us by the Holy Cross Sisters on the Convent ground. The teachers and assistants have been appointed and we look forward to the sound of even younger voices on the campus. Both classes are fully subscribed and we have a waiting list for places.

Our Wellness Centre continues to look after the emotional needs of the school community. Counselling, courses, discussion groups and coffee mornings continue in a welcoming environment. In 2019 the services of a part time dietician, registered nurse and adolescent life coach will add to our bouquet of services.



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We have moved up several gears this year with the homework policies, thinking schools approach and changes to assessment policies at the junior school. As I write this in the August holidays the Matric Winter School is taking place for our matric students in preparation for their final exams.

We promised to look at improving our digital integration footprint and are pleased to inform you that there is an improved technological presence throughout the College. Coding/Robotics continues to grow in popularity and tablets, definitive boards and google classroom are in daily use.

From 2019 in addition to Computer Application Technology we will be offering Information Technology as an Elective Subject offering from Grade 10 upwards.

A generous budget for staff development allows all staff to upgrade their qualifications, attend conferences and seminars. Staff will have access to Onsite an exciting curated learning platform. Content curation is the process of sorting vast amounts of web and enterprise based content and presenting it in a meaningful format.

Communication is always a huge challenge for all organisations. We are at present moving over to the Ed-Admin system. This comprehensive programme includes parent and pupil portals, electronic reports (already introduced at the high school) and a new on line health and safety system.

The extra mural life of any school is very important for the enjoyment and opportunities given to the students. On the cultural front our new directors of music and culture will be appointed from January 2019. Successes and opportunities were enjoyed by all our Choirs, Pipe band and Marimba bands. Legally Blonde and the Junior School Concert were fabulous, the best shows in town we believe! Our first ever combined cultural evening was held highlighting the talent and enthusiasm in the College for the arts.

On the sporting front many innovations including 15 man Rugby in the junior school and Boys Hockey and Golf in the high school were introduced. We moved up a league for Swimming, Netball and boys Tennis in the high school.

Our Alumni Association continues to make significant growth and is making an increasing contribution to the College. A new committee of past pupils with innovative new ideas continues to explore ways to support and honour our past pupils.

Please join us at the "Saints at the Table" as we continue to explore the important area of Transformation and Diversity with students, parents and staff.

The College has created a Bursary Foundation that will be funded, among other ways, by donations from past pupils, parents and other donors. The initial purpose of the Foundation (which we hope to expand on in the future), will be to provide partial support for parents of children already enrolled at De La Salle Holy Cross College, who may require temporary financial assistance with school fees.

As we said at the launch so "what next" under #FutureShift. We continue to plan and make admissions towards the closure of Road Nr3 to create a united and safe campus for De La Salle Holy Cross College. Please find herewith the links for the posters displayed at the launch highlighting the progress made in #TheShift, we have also included the links to the speeches made on the night.

<http://www.delasalleholycrosscollege.co.za/2015-03-29-16-10-56/de-la-salle-college-resources#theshift>



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May our five core principals, faith in the presence of God, concern for the poor, social justice, and respect for all persons in an inclusive community be our compass as we strive onwards to continue “shifting” for the betterment of all. None of this would be achievable without the energy, commitment and support of all the members of our De La Salle Holy Cross College community, we are so grateful to you all.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Harris
College Principal