

# De La Salle Holy Cross College

## InTouch



July 2019



### Message from the College Principal

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

As the cold second term of 2019 draws to a close, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your generosity in so many ways that enriches the life of the College.

### The Classroom – A sacred place

We remind ourselves of the five core principles of our school:



- Faith in the Presence of God
- Respect for All Persons
- Inclusive Community
- Quality Education
- Concern for the Poor and Social Justice

We reflect this week in particular on our Lasallian pedagogy (method and practice of teaching) when giving our children a quality education.

One of the principles is *“The classroom is a sacred place where transformative things happen”*. A sacred place is not only a holy place devoted to a religious ceremony, a room such as a classroom set aside for a particular purpose can also be sacred. Our classrooms should be transformative places where students can change and grow, where they feel respected, appreciated and are able to thrive emotionally and academically.

A second Lasallian principle enables us to appreciate that, *“our children have complex lives, complex needs, different learning styles and diverse perspectives”*. Through our teaching methodologies we aim to promote a culture of independent thinking and creative problem solving in mutually respectful, *“child centered”* classrooms. Sacred places where children take responsibility for what they learn and learn through experience that is permanent, with cognisance of their different needs, abilities, learning styles and diverse perspectives.

### Holy Cross News

The Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Menzingen was founded on 16 October 1844 when Mother Bernarda and two other Sisters made their profession in Switzerland.

Now, 175 years later, the Holy Cross Sisters, the Holy Cross schools, hospitals and other institutions all over the world will be celebrating the founding of the **Holy Cross Congregation**.

The celebrations will commence on 16 October 2019 and continue until 16 October 2020. We congratulate and celebrate with the Sisters on this achievement in serving the young and vulnerable in our world for 175 years.

We also mourn with the Sisters, the death of the first Principal of Holy Cross Convent School, Victory Park - **Sister Mary-Ita Birmingham**. An inspirational lady who left behind a proud legacy at the College. Rest in peace Sr. Mary-Ita and thank you for showing us the way.



### Feast of the Holy Cross – 14 September 2019

On Friday the 13th of September we will be celebrating our feast day with Mass at 8am at St Charles Parish. After Mass please join the Sisters for a family picnic with your children on St Solomon's fields at the High School.



### The Gavan Ryan Aquatic Centre Opening Ceremony – Save the Date!

The morning of Friday 29th of November 2019. Gavan and Brendan Ryan will be attending.



#ShapeShift #GearShift #MindShift #FutureShift

[www.delasalleholycrosscollege.co.za](http://www.delasalleholycrosscollege.co.za)



### Junior High – Gr7, 8 and 9 Survey

Over the past year since we introduced the Junior High model to the College, I have received many positive comments from both students and parents. We have also received constructive criticism and suggestions that we have taken note of and

implemented changes and improvements based on this feedback. I would appreciate your input by asking all Grade 7, 8 and 9 parents to please complete this survey via Google forms by the end of this term, to help me to gauge the service we are offering at the College.

<https://forms.gle/5m9mhoCm5GFubYbH8>

### The Tsholofelo Mission – Phokeng

Last week, teams of teachers from Little Explorers, the Flying Children Foundation and De La Salle Holy Cross College, spent three days in the informal settlements of Phokeng interacting with the children and running training courses for the caregivers in our five nursery schools. Brother Joseph Kiely, his Brothers and volunteers have done amazing work in these communities over many years and we are honoured to be part of it. Due to the generosity of all who attended the **Come Back Give Back Dance** we were able to give them a donation of twenty thousand rand, bless you all!



### Lasallian Awards



The first recipients of the Lasallian Awards travelled to Rome and Paris in April this year. We are in the process of selecting the second group that will travel in 2020. Next year the group will travel to a different exciting destination. The destination is still to be finalised but promises to be a wonderful adventure!

The applicants have to complete a project, be interviewed by a panel and have their Religious Education contribution to the College evaluated in order to be considered for the award.

The topics for the projects this year were:

1. Refer to the 5 core principles as represented on the Lasallian star and explain what it means to be Lasallian.
2. Develop a You Tube Video presenting the history, ethos and holistic educational principles embraced at De La Salle Holy Cross College.
3. With reference to the working document resulting from the Youth Synod in Rome in 2018, *“Instrumentum Laboris”*, write an essay of approximately 2000 words in which you respond, as a young person, to the possible practical implementations of this vision from Pope Francis to encourage and invite the youth to a greater involvement in, and personal commitment to, both their own spirituality and the life of the Catholic Church/faith communities.

During the interviews we discussed areas including how they live out the ethos of the College, what their faith means to them, what they could contribute differently in the life of the College if they were successful and how they live out our motto of *“be first to be of service”*.

These interviews are always very humbling and are an inspirational interaction with these fine young people. They always strengthen my personal resolve to interview all the students in the High School in the course of each year. Some interesting discussion was held around the students wanting more formalised opportunities for service and outreach projects, the pressures of “standing up” for your faith as a teenager in our secular world and the role of the youth in the modern church. They also expressed the need to keep up the support structures in the College such as the Guardian Angels, Matric Buddies, Grade Integrated Groups and The Wellness team.

*“As you live your days, so you craft your life” Robin Sharma.*

May I wish you all a restful August break and safe travels if you are managing to get away over the holidays.

*Yours in Holy Cross LaSalle  
Debbie Harris*

