



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

15 JANUARY 2016

• SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS •



Congratulations to the matric class of 2015!

From the head's desk

Dear parents

The school year starts with a flurry of activity, and the teachers and girls are already working with pace and intensity. The news at the beginning of a school year is about new pupils, new teachers and the matric results of the previous year.

We welcome the new Form Is and the girls new to St Mary's in other forms. You will meet Revd Claudia Coustas, our chaplain, in this newsletter. We extend a warm welcome to the following new members of staff: Alison Andrew, English; Lucy Hathorn, Life Orientation; Robyn Hoffe, Mathematics; Kim Jacobs, Physical and Natural Sciences; Christa Kgamphe, sport; Tinhiko Nkuna, History; Clare Searle, e⁴; Letitzia Thompson, Mathematics; and Michael Watt, Music. We also welcome the following interns: Emilana Adriano, Jessica Bucher and Mbali Nkambule.

The matric results were superb, and we were delighted with the individual achievements and those of the group as a whole. We have tracked the details of our academic results since the introduction of the National Senior Certificate and what is evident is that our results have been consistently excellent over many years. Some highlights include the subject averages all being above IEB averages, the five top achievers on the IEB list, 30% of the class achieving an average of 80% or more, and 98% achieving an average of 60% or more. A summary of the results appears on our website. We are very proud of the class of 2015.

I want to make special mention of our matric teachers, who are passionate about education, each girl's success and providing best practice in the classroom.

Dates to Diarise

Friday 15	14h30 17h30	Jazz band workshop Form I and Form V get-together Boarders' closed weekend
Sat 16	07h00 08h30	U14/U15 St John's regatta Old Mutual/Roedean Water Polo Prestige Cup Form V Mathematics lesson - compulsory
Sun 17	10h00	Jazz band workshop
Mon 18	09h30 18h00 18h00	Boarders' Eucharist PTA AGM Tour de Maths
Tues 19	07h30	Form I camp departs
Wed 20	18h00	Matric prayer service for Form V girls and parents
Thurs 21	07h30	Eucharist: chaplain's licensing service
Fri 22	12h30 14h30 19h00	Form I camp returns Summer Splash St Mary's social
Sat 23	08h00 09h00	U16/U19 St Mary's regatta Summer Splash
Mon 25	18h00 19h00	Marking and referring squash clinic PTA meeting International Mozart Festival rehearsal
Tues 26	16h30 18h00 19h30	Board meeting Exchange information evening Chanticleer Singers concert
Wed 27	13h30 19h30	Grayston expo Odeion String Quartet ensemble performance
Thurs 28	07h30 18h00 18h00	Old Girls as present parents breakfast Form I parents' information evening: e ⁴ Form II parents' information evening: bush school
Fri 29	08h00 11h30	AISJ U19 basketball tournament National Aquatics Festival

But matric results do not necessarily guarantee success in tertiary studies or a chosen career. To achieve this one needs capacity for hard work, self-discipline, organisational skills, leadership skills and the ability to think creatively, and so we place much importance on these aspects of self-development at St Mary's School. Involvement in the co-curricular programme, speaking publicly, serving the community and taking the lead are all encouraged on a daily basis. St Mary's girls

develop confidence and time-management skills from their varied involvement and, ultimately, this equips them to face the challenges of further study and the workplace.

Deanne King

Headmistress

From the chaplain

As we prepare for 2016 with both its opportunities and its challenges, I find Paul's words in his letter to the Colossians (1:116-17) give me a sense of "grounding":

"[In Christ] all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers - all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

Before the world existed at all, its present state aside, Christ is. Christ is our constant, our source, and the source of all we are, have and can do. The entire, infinitely complex cosmos holds together in Christ - to use the colloquial: he's "got" us. What a relief!

Paul encourages his readers to "continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven" (1:23). Let us remain in Christ - held together in unity and love, aware of our source and our centre: our God of love.

May 2016 be a blessed year for the whole St Mary's family and all for whom we care.

Revd Claudia Coustas

Chaplain



Meet the chaplain

Revd Claudia Coustas has taken up the post of chaplain at St Mary's from January 2016. St Mary's is a familiar context for her - she attended St Mary's from Grade 1 and matriculated in 1998. Prior to being ordained, she qualified as an industrial psychologist and worked for a small consulting firm for five years. She began studying theology, and over time, God guided her in a different direction: she felt called to full-time ministry within the church. She worked for St Michael and All Angels Anglican Church, Weltevreden Park,

as a youth pastor for just over a year, before attending the College of the Transfiguration, the Anglican seminary in Grahamstown, for a year. She was ordained deacon in January 2013, and priested a year later. She returns to St Mary's, having just completed a three-year curacy at St Stephen's Anglican Church in Sunninghill. Claudia's hobbies include attending boot camp or gym, walking and hiking, and generally being outdoors and, in particular, reading and spending time with friends and family.



Understanding accommodations for examinations

In accordance with the Constitution and policy guiding education, pupils with certain physical difficulties or specific learning difficulties may apply to the IEB for accommodations. The aim of which is to enable candidates with specific barriers to learning to demonstrate their true ability in the examinations, without changing the construct of the assessment. Accommodations must not give a candidate an advantage over other candidates.

Barriers to learning are significant long-term disabilities that compromise examination performance. An accommodation will not be granted for low cognitive functioning, or to a pupil who has difficulty with the language medium.

Any queries regarding the process of applying for accommodations must be emailed to Heidi Burkhalter, the school's educational psychologist, at heidi.burkhalter@stmary.co.za. Please note that applications must be made to the IEB by the school and may be lodged as early as the Form I year, with a deadline of October of the Form IV year.

Penny Mullan
Deputy headmistress

PTA Club 100 winners for Term I 2016

100%: Samara Mayet - Grade 5: R27 450

20%: Julia Bell - Form V: R7 600

10%: Lalage Nuttall - Form V: R3 800

All girls (turning 16 or older this year) who are interested in being confirmed, please hand in a completed confirmation form available from reception, before the end of school on Friday 21 January. Feel free to chat to Revd Claudia if you have any questions.

Physiotherapy is now available at the school during the term, from 13h00 to 16h00 on Mondays in the Health Centre. This service is provided by Leigh Johnston of Leigh Johnston Physiotherapy, based at 100 Athol Street, Waverley. The practice itself is open Monday to Saturday, by appointment only. Leigh's clinical interests include back and neck pain, headaches and sports injuries. Appointments can be booked with Leigh directly by text on 082 379 2428, by phone at 011 440 1044 or by email at johnston.leigh@gmail.com.