



ST GEORGE'S
PREPARATORY

Newsletter

Dear St George's Family



It is always exceptionally difficult to leave a school as the authentic nature of schools is to provide a safe and caring environment for all members of that community. St George's Prep School, which has grown from the original family home, *Knockfierna*, further cements the homely experience that is St George's Prep. It was for this very reason that it was with a heavy heart and mixed emotions that I typed my letter of resignation last week.

Whilst crossing the Hall Quad literally 10 minutes before I penned this newsletter, one of our Grade 2 boys asked me as I walked by, "Sir, are you leaving?" To which I responded with a polite, "I am, and I am feeling a little sad about it. What do you think?" He shrugged his shoulders with a non-committal response. His mate, however, ever outspoken, as I have been accustomed to over the past two years with this particular lad, responded: "Sir, I'm kind of sad but also kind of happy, 'cos you get a new office and school and live in a new place and that's kind of exciting!" Boy, if only we could all look at the world through the eyes of an 8/9-year-old!

Yes, I am excited and looking forward to a new office (but it will never be able to match my current one), school, town etc., but I am also acutely aware of what I will be leaving behind. For the past 6 and half years, St George's has been not only my place of work but also a place where I have been able to witness the amazing growth of so many boys and girls. In some ways, it is quite fitting to be leaving with my first cohort of Grade 1's, the 2015 Grade 1 class who soon will be the Grade 7 leavers. It is from toothless smiles, quirky pigtailed and oversized tracksuits that this class emerged, and their growth is the perfect summary of my time here at St George's Prep.

I am so pleased that my youngest son, Jonathan, shared just short of two years with me here at the Prep, as I was privileged to experience the St George's as a dad, and what memorable moments those were! As with all great novels, life bears many chapters and for me the St George's chapter was raising teenage boys to hopefully become young men of stature, integrity, empathy and kindness. So, you may well ask, why is Mr Hall/Alex leaving? The truth is, to begin a new chapter in my life where new challenges lie and this time with two university-going sons. Having the family spread over two provinces rather than three is far more appealing right now, and of course the winelands too, does present other benefits for a dad with sons at this age!

I am pleased that I am fortunate enough to complete a full calendar year with Curro Holdings and I am greatly optimistic that the positive changes that have already happened will continue to bear fruit long after my departure. The decision by the Board and Curro collaboratively to make the wonderful St George's offerings more affordable to the Gqeberha community has already been demonstrated through the restructured fee payments and also zero increases on school fees since 2019.

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I share this Irish blessing every year at the Grade 7 Leavers' Dinner and I believe it to be fitting to close this week's newsletter:

*"May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand."*

As always God bless and stay safe.
Kind regards

Alex Hall - Campus Head

Twitter- [@AlexHallZA](https://twitter.com/AlexHallZA)

Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/AlexHallZA>

LinkedIn- za.linkedin.com/in/alexhallza

Staff News

We welcome **Mrs Lee-Ann Chetty** as our new Marketer and Admissions who joined us last week. Lee-Ann comes to us from Curro Westbrook where she has been based for 5 years. Lee-Ann is a wife and mother to a 3-year-old son. We wish Lee-Ann many happy years here at the George!



School Matters

APOLOGY: ST GEORGE'S PREPARATORY

We are aware that some of our parents have received calls/notifications regarding incorrect outstanding balances on their accounts. Please note that this is an unfortunate systems error.

Should you have any queries regarding your payments, please contact engage@curro.co.za.

Please accept our apologies in this regard; the matter is receiving the highest priority.

Alex Hall

Reminder – Navy Wide Brim Hats Compulsory for Summer Terms

It has come to our attention that some boys and girls are wearing non-school caps and hats to school. I would like to remind parents our navy wide brim hats are compulsory for all in the summer months. Our school cap is worn for certain sports activities where the wide brim hat cannot be worn and in winter Terms. The school hat and our school caps are available to buy from Birch's Schoolwear and our Second Hand Clothing Shop.

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Message from our Preloved Clothing Shop

Parents – please note if you wish to donate/sell school clothing, please ensure the following:

1. The clothing is washed, ironed and neatly folded into a bag.
2. Clothing needs to be of good condition to be re-sold in the Shop
3. Anything that cannot be re-sold or in good condition will be donated.

We are still looking for volunteers to help in the running of the Clothing Shop, an hour a week. It is a lovely way to get involved in the school life of your child. Please contact Ms Pattison (prep@stgeorges.co.za) if you are interested.

A reminder that the **Preloved Clothing Shop** (our 2nd Hand Clothing Shop) remains an **Online Shop**.

Link: <https://bit.ly/2ndHandClothingOrderForm>.

Term 4, 2021 Calendar

(please note that these events are subject to change due to Covid Regulations)

Monday 8 November	Inter-House Tennis (U/9 TO U/11) 14h15 to 16h20	[POSTPONED]
Wednesday 10 November	Grade 7 Business Day Product Hand-Out	
Thursday 11 November	Senior Studio Concert (18h00)	
Monday 15 November	Inter-House Cricket (U/12 & U/13) 14h15 – 16h20	
Tuesday 16 November	Inter-House Cricket (U/9 to U/11) 14h15-15h15	
	Inter-House Cricket (U/10 & U/11) 14h15 – 17h00	
Wednesday 17 November	Grade 7 Conservation Outing to Shamwari (TBC)	
Thursday 18 November	Ensemble Concert (18h00)	
Friday 19 November	Grade 000 2022 Meet and Greet	
	Missionvale Outreach	
	Extra-Curricular Activities & Learning Hub ends	
Tuesday 23 November	Grade 6 & 7 Exams	
Wednesday 24 November	Grade 6 & 7 Exams	
Thursday 25 November	Grade 6 Leadership Day Trip	
Friday 26 November	Grade 7 Leaver's Dinner	
Monday 29 November	Grade 7 Final Assembly (12h30)	
Wednesday 1 December	Grade 00 and 000 End of Term Concert	
Thursday 2 December	Grade R Graduation	
Thursday 2 December	10:30-11:30 Grade 1 Prize-Giving (One Parent to attend)	
	12:00-13:00 Grade 2 & 3 Prize-Giving (One Parent to attend)	
Friday 3 December	10:30-11:30 Grade 1 Prize-Giving (One Parent to attend)	
	12:00-13:00 Grade 2 Prize-Giving (One Parent to attend)	
	Term 4 Ends for Learners	
Wednesday 8 December	Reports will go live on Engage Portal	
	Term Ends for staff	
Wednesday 12 January 2022	Term 1, 2022 commences	

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A Peek at the Prep

We post photographs, events, announcements etc. on our Facebook page, Twitter and Instagram Accounts regularly – keep up to date with all that the Prep and Pre-Prep get up to – click on the links below and like, follow and share!



FACEBOOK



TWITTER



INSTAGRAM

Hats off to our Spotlight Drama pupils who performed and recorded their Trinity Performance Arts exam to be submitted digitally over the weekend!



We painted the Campus Pink last Friday to support the Virtual Algoa FM Big Walk for Cancer. Well done to all our Preppies for supporting this worthwhile initiative and awareness campaign



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What joy to be able to listen to our Junior Musicians last week after such a long performance break



Animal Welfare Collection

We are privileged to be able to support such a wonderful organisation, [Animal Welfare Society \(Port Elizabeth\)](#) - thank you for the tireless work and service you offer to those animals that cannot help themselves. A huge THANK YOU to all who donated and helped with the collection of donations for the AWS. They are most grateful for every little bit of love that comes their way.



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Wow, finally our boys are getting out onto the cricket field



Grade 4 Bridge building assignment – well done Preppies!

