

2021

MATRIC
CURRO

*'Why, sometimes I've believed
as many as six impossible things
before breakfast.'*

– Lewis Carroll





HEAD BOY:
Christo
Kotze



HEAD GIRL: Alwande Maphumulo

Grantleigh is a
Curro Select school

Five full years have passed since I first stepped on to the campus of Grantleigh. It has almost been five years since I was in orientation as a learner driver attempting to get their licence, four years since I realised how difficult Physical Sciences would be (and yet chose it as an elective regardless), three years since our last interhouse play, two years

since the blur that was lockdown and online school, and one year since I was elected as head girl for 2021. It is amazing how fast time flies when you are preoccupied with endless assignments and tests on one hand and trying to enjoy your high school years in the same fashion as *High School Musical* on the other. After getting a taste of what high school has to offer (pre- and post-pandemic), it is safe to say that Disney did indeed lie to us. However, I refused to be discouraged by this, and neither should you.

I'm sure all of us have heard speeches or read letters addressing these 'trying and unprecedented times' and so I would like to share a few memories from a time when COVID-19 was not a part of our lives. There are so many fun activities and events that I used to take part in and attend, such as sports fixtures, showcases and all the dances that took place throughout the year. If I could turn back time, I would definitely go back to the netball matches and our annual Loerie Fest (a social event that was organised by the prefect body). There is nothing like cheering your school's team on until you lose your voice, or dancing the night away with all of your friends. I also recall our annual interhouse athletics and swimming galas. Spending all that time in the blistering heat would always be worth it when our house won the spirit trophy, and I'd go home with a sore throat from shouting the war cries. I have come to know and appreciate the value of socialising, and it is quite unfortunate that it took a pandemic to do so.

When COVID-19 hit South Africa and we went into lockdown, I had no idea how we would move forward with our education, but we were fortunate enough to have a somewhat smooth transition to online school - even though it did take a while to adjust. There are so many schools in the country that had to put their syllabus on hold because of the lockdown, and learners who weren't as privileged as us to have access to

online learning facilities. Although I prefer in-person learning, I think we should remember to remain grateful that we could continue with school and be in line with the curriculum.

To the matrics of 2021, I can imagine how difficult and tiring this year was for you. People probably expected us to have a much smoother ride through matric considering that the pandemic hit us in Grade 11, but if anything, I think we had it just as bad as 2020's matrics. A lot of work is taught and preparation for Grade 12 is done in Grade 11 that if it is disturbed, it can severely alter the trajectory of your matric year. Therefore, I would simply like to say that I am so proud of you. Proud that you were able to get through this year despite all challenges that you faced; proud that you (at the time that I am writing this) are writing your prelims and going to write your final high school exams; and proud that those late nights we spent completing our LO and CAT tasks and (for the Art learners such as myself) the never-ending portfolio/paper 2 work) are behind us. To the prefect body and heads of 2021, we did it. Despite the changes we had to make in the way we lead our school, I'm glad that we were given the opportunity to do so. Even if all the plans you had made for this year did not come into fruition, do not beat yourself up about it. There were many times where I felt like I wasn't doing enough as head girl, but then I realised that I was doing the best I could given our circumstances. Therefore, look back on this time as a time of innovation and growth in your leadership skills, and when you pass the baton to the next group, do it with pride.

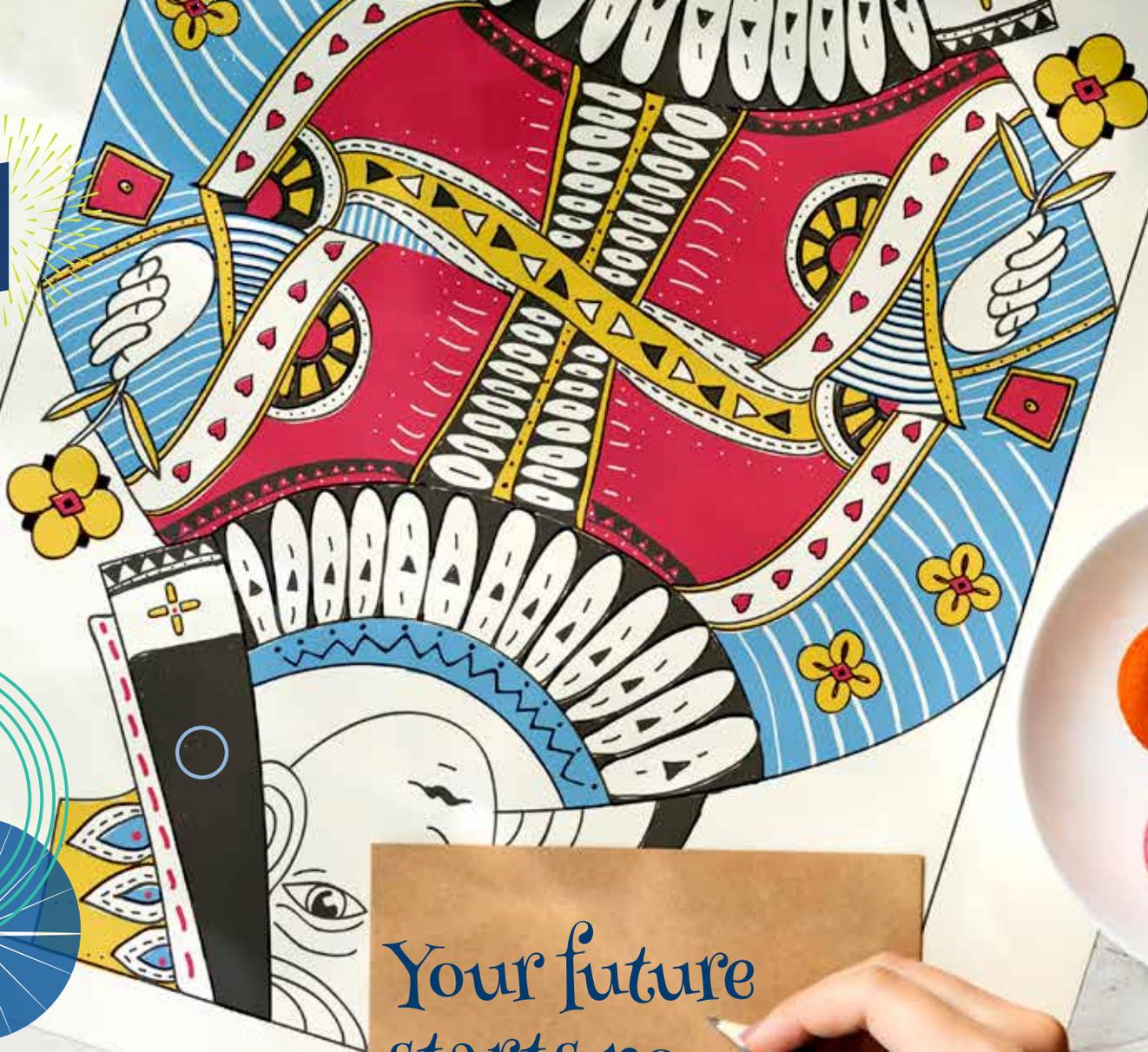
To the matrics and prefect body of 2022, I hope that this next year is one filled with success, fun and most importantly, a consistent sleep schedule. Matric is not going to be easy, so much is happening in such a short amount of time that you might get overwhelmed, especially if you are in a position of leadership and have to balance that with your normal school life. When those times do come, take a step back, breathe and cut yourself some slack. Re-evaluate your priorities and try to manage them in an achievable way given your time constraints. Please remember that if you're tired, both physically and mentally, it is okay to take a break. Sleep, read, take a walk, watch some Netflix or spend time with friends or family. Remember to look after yourself as much as you do your academics. Surround yourself with good people and good energy, because you deserve it.

Lastly, to our Curro family, I wish for nothing but the health and success of everyone, and that this upcoming year is one full of blessings and prosperity.



Please note that the images and captions for the yearbook pages were compiled by the Class of 2021.

2021
MATRIC
CURRO



Your future
starts now



CURRO