



16 March 2016

Dear Parents

We have reached the end of a short and busy term and, for many, we have an equally busy holiday to follow. We have chronicled the highlights of the term through each edition of *Clifton Calling* and the reading of these makes for an impressive record. As I reflect on that which makes our school such a wonderful place in which to work, I turn to two moments of the past weekend that encapsulate the journey that our boys undertake from boyhood to manhood.

As is our tradition, our Matric Dance was held on the final Saturday of the term. The dance is a special rite of passage for our young men and I am always warmed by the way in which the boys transform from the schoolboys of the Friday to the young men of the Saturday. I have no doubt that the many parents who joined us at the start of the evening all experienced a moment of pride, as they saw the Clifton Matrics and their partners arrive at the school and then enter the Ken Mackenzie Hall with such dignity. I have attended many Matric Dances at many schools and this was up there with the very best: the decor was splendid, the boys understood the courtesy and decorum required of the evening so very well, they managed to bring just the right measures of suave enthusiasm that befit young gents, and all had a great deal of fun. I left proud of them and proud of a school that allows them this self-confidence and maturity.

On Sunday I moved from the magnificence of the dance to the creative toil of a play rehearsal for the Prep School boys. As we worked on our interpretation of *Romeo and Juliet*, I was reminded on countless occasions of the spontaneity and vitality of our younger lads. These Prep boys will, in time, be the Matrics who will walk down the red carpet and introduce their partners to the hosts of the Dance. On that Sunday morning, it seemed hard to comprehend that the squirming, chattering, hard-to-focus bundles of energy who were on the stage would become those men. But that is the journey that this school offers and that is the range of experience that all of our boys will have.

We, their teachers and parents, should enjoy every minute of watching them grow.

It remains for me to thank everyone for the successes and the joys that we have experienced and to wish you a restful and reflective holiday. May our Christian families celebrate a blessed Easter and may all be safe. For those on our roads, please exercise care.

Yours faithfully

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EXECUTIVE HEADMASTER

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