



CLIFTON  
DURBAN

# HEADS UP!

News and Memorable Moments *worth celebrating*

MARCH 2026

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEADMASTER, MR ADAM ROGERS

Our recent College Open Evenings, attended by more than 200 prospective Grade 8 boys, served to showcase our facilities, staff and most importantly, our Clifton gentlemen. Many prospective parents remarked on our boys' confidence and it got me to reflect on how we, at Clifton, go about developing this confidence.

At Clifton, confidence is cultivated intentionally through a balanced approach to education that values academic effort, character development, and participation in sport, the Arts, service activities and leadership opportunities. Our teachers and coaches play a crucial role in shaping confidence. When boys see adults who believe in their potential and hold them to high standards, they are more likely to develop belief in their own abilities.

Some other ways that confidence is achieved is through a sense of community. When a genuine sense of community is nurtured within a school, it creates an environment where confidence flourishes and trust becomes the foundation of everyday learning and decision-making.

At the heart of our school is a sense of community, a network of boys, staff, families, and Old Boys who share the goal of supporting our boys on their journeys to becoming men.

One of the characteristics of a strong school community is a sense of belonging. When our boys feel that they are known, valued, and supported, they are more willing to participate in class, try new activities, and express their ideas. Being part of a team, a house or a shared school tradition helps boys feel that they belong. When boys feel accepted and supported by their peers, they are far more likely to step forward, take risks and grow in confidence. This is one of the reasons why we insist on compulsory involvement in a school team sport and attendance at significant sports and artistic events. It is important for our boys to feel that they are part of something bigger than their individual selves.

Undoubtedly the highlight of my first term at Clifton was our first Friday Night Lights hockey fixture against Kearsney College on Friday 13 March in which our First XI fought hard to secure a 4-1 victory. I don't believe that this win would have been as considerable had it not been for the support of the Clifton gentlemen, the DGC ladies, staff, parents and Clifton supporters who voluntarily came out in considerable number to share in the school spirit and pride that was palpable on that evening.

A strong community does not happen by chance. It is built day by day through acts of encouragement, respect, and cooperation. When these efforts come together, they create a school environment where confidence grows, trust deepens, and everyone has the opportunity to thrive. It has been a jam-packed First Term of meaningful school events and next term promises to be the same with plenty of home and away derby events and touring opportunities - not just for our A teams, but for all our sportsmen. We encourage you to follow us on tour as we continue to build our Clifton community and wear your Clifton colours with pride. Until then, enjoy the upcoming Easter break with your boys and make the most of the time to connect and recharge!



## FROM THE PREPARATORY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, MR ALAN ANGEL

Trust and confidence lie at the heart of every successful school. They shape how we teach, support and connect with each boy. When a boy enters a classroom feeling safe, curious and encouraged to embrace challenges, he discovers his own confidence. When families see their children valued, nurtured and celebrated, trust grows, forming a strong, lasting bond between home and school.

Excellence at Clifton is not reserved for special occasions; it is evident in the consistently high standards we uphold academically, on the sports field and through our cultural activities. Equally important is our commitment to developing young men of character who demonstrate integrity, resilience and respect. Through a balanced approach to learning, sport and culture, boys discover their strengths, build confidence and cultivate values that will serve them long beyond school.

The Clifton journey is at its strongest when our school and each boy's home, work together. Open communication and active family engagement create a supportive environment where boys can thrive. At Clifton, trust and confidence are a daily commitment. We ask you to believe in us, as we dedicate ourselves every day to proving that your child could not be at a better school.

It is our privilege to guide your sons and our responsibility to demonstrate, through our actions and standards, that this trust is well placed. Enjoy the holiday with your sons!



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# COLLEGE MEMORABLE MOMENTS

## FRIDAY NIGHT *Lights*



Congratulations to the First XI Hockey Team on their 4-1 win over Kearsney College in the first Friday Night Lights fixture on 13 March, in front of a capacity crowd of Clifton supporters. This was followed up by a 2-2 draw against Maritzburg College the next day.



Congratulations to Taylor Seiler (Grade 12) on his selection to the SA Men's Water Polo side.

All the more impressive considering that he is still a schoolboy!



## AFTER SAINTHOOD *Production*

The annual dramatic production, *After Sainthood*, took place in the Sutcliffe Theatre from 23 to 25 March. It was a stunningly performed coming-of-age theatrical performance exploring the rite of passage from adolescence to adulthood, which determines what shapes masculinity in the transition from boyhood to manhood.

## A SOLID *Start*



Our rugby season has got off to a positive start with our First XV beating Howick High School (45-0) and Amanzimtoti High School (45-07). Congratulations to the members of the First XV squad who were capped in a ceremony that was held at Riverside Sports Complex on 12 March.

## COLLEGE IN *Numbers*

### 70

Speakers from 15 different schools that participated in the Clifton Clash Debating Competition organised by the boys themselves under Debating Captain Benjamin Gooch.

### 4

Clifton representatives (Mikhil Govind, Kaylen Naidoo, George Gooch and Satya Munthre) are attending the Youth Leadership Summit in Sterling, VA, USA from 10-19 April 2026.

### 1

African Schools' Debate Champion. Congratulations to Mohammed Mujahid Hansa (Grade 12) who, with his partner, won the Debate Grand Final of the African Individual and Debating Championship.

### 256

Runs scored by Muhammed Malek (First XI) at the Independent Schools Cricket Festival which saw him top the run scorers list.

### 5

Congratulations to the under 15A Water Polo Team on their 5th place at the National Championships held in Johannesburg. This is an improvement on their 9th place finish in 2025.

### 100%

Congratulations to Jung An (Grade 12) on his mark of 100% in Round 1 of the SA Mathematics Olympiad.

# PREP MEMORABLE MOMENTS



## THE IMPORTANCE OF *Play*

Play is an essential part of learning in Grade R. Through play, children explore their world in a natural, joyful way. They build balance, coordination, confidence, and social skills without even realising they're learning. On their bikes, they learn to take turns, solve problems, take small risks, and celebrate each other's successes. In Grade R, play isn't just a break from learning, it is learning.



## THE DASH FOR *Eggs*

Our Grade 1–3 swimmers took part in the very first *Dash for Eggs Fun Gala*, an exciting new initiative introduced to bring fresh energy and enjoyment to our junior swimming programme. The “dash for eggs” element added a playful twist, inspiring lots of laughter, teamwork, and spirited cheering from the poolside. Families and staff created a wonderfully supportive atmosphere as swimmers challenged themselves and embraced the fun of this new event. The gala not only highlighted the joy of participation but also strengthened camaraderie among the squad.

Griffen Jones

Yusuf Jooma

Peter Coutsoudis



## AHOY, *Maties!*

Our Grade 00s set sail on a morning of adventure at their Pirate Picnic, complete with treasure-hunting, fun and imaginative play on the high seas. Dressed in charming pirate accessories and brimming with imagination, the boys spent the morning exploring, discovering, and engaging in playful activities designed to spark creativity and curiosity.



## GREAT *Sport*

Our 2026 Prep rugby season got off to a super start as our boys took on Glenwood Preparatory School in a set of friendly opening fixtures played in great spirit and cheered on enthusiastically by our families.

## PREP IN *Numbers*

**4** Wickets in 4 balls taken by Rocco Armour at the U13A Cricket vs St Andrews Grahamstown

**5** U10A Water Polo Team score against DPHS (5 – 2)

**21** Goals scored by Hudson Mun-Gavin at the Grey Junior U13 Water Polo Tournament

**4** Wickets for 14 runs taken by Joshua Govender (U13E Team vs Highbury)

**67** Boys in our Senior Primary Choir

**22** Years of service to the Prep School by Mrs Wendy Meyer

# CLIFTON COMMUNITY



## CUM LAUDE *Old* BOYS

Our Clifton Cum Laude stars are shining bright! Huge congratulations to **Huven Moodley (left)**, **Jack Lawlor (centre)** and **Verdashan Moodley (right)** from the Class of 2025 on their outstanding achievements. We caught up with these three Old Boys to hear how their first few months after Clifton have been and what advice they have for the current Matrics as they begin their own journeys beyond school.

Jack Lawlor is currently studying Mechanical Engineering at Stellenbosch University and plans to complete his undergraduate degree before exploring options for a master's in a related field. University life has been incredibly busy, and the pace of lectures, tutorials and assignments has been a definite step up from school. Jack says Clifton prepared him well for the transition, particularly when it comes to managing workload and staying disciplined. One of the biggest adjustments has been the independence that comes with university life and taking full responsibility for his studies. His advice to current Grade 12s is to build strong study habits early and pursue a field they genuinely enjoy.

Verdashan Moodley has begun his studies at the University of Cape Town, where he is pursuing Statistics, Data Science and Computer Science. He says it is hard to believe that only a few months ago he was wearing the Clifton uniform for the final time. The transition to university has been exciting and fulfilling, and he is enjoying the challenge of a new academic environment. While he has not yet settled on a specific career path, Verdashan knows that whatever he chooses must feel meaningful and rewarding. His advice to the Matrics is to appreciate their time together and to put in maximum effort for Trials to make Finals easier.

Huven Moodley has begun his studies in Medicine at the University of Cape Town and says that even within the first month he felt confident he had chosen the right path. He hopes to specialise in Orthopaedic Surgery in the future, gaining experience both in South Africa and internationally before eventually establishing a practice locally. Huven is also passionate about medical technology and plans to tailor his medical school journey to gain experience in this growing field. His advice to our Matrics: embrace independence, take responsibility for your learning, and explore your passions to grow and make meaningful choices.

**THE CLIFHANGER SCHOOL SHOP**

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## A *Palm Sunday* MESSAGE

Palm Sunday (March 29), is the start of Holy Week. Holy Week asks us to walk the full journey; from celebration to betrayal, from hope to darkness, and onwards to the empty tomb. What are you going to do to journey with Jesus this week? You are encouraged to connect with your local church and their services that help you make a faithful response. Do not rush past the hard parts this year. Sit with Jesus in Gethsemane. Let His surrender speak to your own struggles with control and fear. Easter is coming - but it comes through the cross. The resurrection is only glorious because of what it costs.

" The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna!' 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!', 'Blessed is the King of Israel!' - John 12:12-13



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