



CLIFTON

HEADS UP!

News and Memorable Moments *worth celebrating*

JUNE 2026



FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEADMASTER, MR ADAM ROGERS

Sport occupies a special place in the life of Clifton. Few experiences bring a school community together quite like Friday night hockey or a full Saturday of winter sport fixtures. The anticipation, the excitement, the celebrations and, occasionally, the disappointments are all part of what makes school sport so meaningful.

In an increasingly results-driven world, it is easy to become consumed by winning. Rankings and unbeaten seasons have their place. Success should be celebrated, and every team should strive to perform at its highest level. Winning matters because it rewards hard work and commitment.

Yet schools are not professional franchises, and young people are not merely athletes whose worth is measured by victories. Schools like Clifton exist to shape character and to develop young men who understand integrity, humility and respect for others. If these values are compromised in pursuit of success, then the cost is simply too high.

History remembers many great teams' results, but communities remember something even more enduring: the way those teams played the game. On Saturday 23 May (our Old Boys' Day), something extraordinary happened when our sports teams took on St David's from Johannesburg.

Yes - our 1st XI Hockey team posted an impressive 8-0 victory. And although our First XV Rugby Team did not achieve the same victory - what happened on the field went beyond points and beyond victory or defeat. What we witnessed was something far more powerful: it reminded us of who we are. The First XV Rugby Team showed courage when the game became difficult. They showed discipline when pressure mounted. They showed resilience when others may have expected them to falter. Most importantly, they played not as individuals seeking glory, but as brothers fighting for one another, for their coaches, for their supporters, and for the badge on their chest. Despite not winning, this match is one that will be long-remembered.

At Clifton, we want our boys to compete fiercely and to pursue excellence in everything they do. We want them to experience the joy that comes from winning and the satisfaction that accompanies achievement. But we also want them to understand that who they become matters more than what they accomplish.

Winning is, and always should be, the aim. No team takes to the field hoping to lose. But winning should never come at the expense of a school's values. Results are recorded in history books; values are written on hearts. And long after the scores have been forgotten, it is those values that will define both the men our boys become and the legacy of the school they proudly represent.

Enjoy the upcoming holidays with your sons.

FROM THE PREPARATORY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, MR ALAN ANGEL

It is a privilege to witness the character of our boys revealed not only by what they say but by what they do.

Over the past few weeks, I have been reminded that while results matter, the values that produce those results matter even more. I was exceptionally proud of every Grade 00 to Grade 3 boy who took part in the Clifton Comrades. Each boy ran with courage, determination and a willingness to give of his very best. That is the standard we should expect of ourselves - not perfection but wholehearted effort.

What stood out most, however, was what happened after some of our leading runners had finished their race. Without instruction and without seeking recognition, they chose to encourage and support their peers as they approached the finish line. Rather than focusing on their own achievements, they turned their attention to others. In those moments, we witnessed genuine comradeship and were reminded that true leadership is not about crossing the line first; it is about helping others find the strength to cross it too.

Similar lessons have been evident on our rugby fields. I have admired boys who have stepped beyond their comfort zones, embraced new challenges and represented Clifton with pride, commitment and courage. Some of the most inspiring moments have come not from victories but from selfless teamwork, resilience and a refusal to give up when circumstances become difficult.

At Clifton, we will always strive to win. We will prepare thoroughly, compete fiercely and pursue excellence in all that we do. The scoreboard captures an outcome, not a person's character - long after results are forgotten, people will remember our effort, our conduct, our teamwork and our character.

Results are important. Values are indispensable. The greatest success is achieved when we refuse to compromise one for the other.

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CLIFTON SCHOOL MOMENTS



OLD BOYS'
Weekend



DOWN TO THE WIRE

Riverside erupted in cheers as Clifton's 1st XI Hockey Team recorded an emphatic 8-0 victory over St David's early in the day. This incredible energy continued as Clifton's 1st XV produced a spirited performance but went down in a narrow – and nail-biting – six point defeat (17-23).



TRIPLE *Honours*

Jung An and Mohammed Mujahid Hansa received Triple Honours for Arts (Mohammed for South African Debating and Jung for Music, Grade 8 Violin), Academics, and Service.

CLIFTON ARTS FESTIVAL 2026: CONCERT ON THE LAWNS



The Clifton Arts Festival 2026 closed in spectacular fashion on Thursday 25 June, with a packed Concert on the Lawns, Art Fair, Night Market and Food Fair.

COLLEGE IN *Numbers*

4

COLLEGE BOYS IN THE CAST OF THE UPCOMING YPP PRODUCTION OF 'THE PRINCE OF EGYPT' AT THE PLAYHOUSE (INCLUDING NOAH BASSA IN THE LEAD ROLE).

41

COLLEGE BOYS WROTE THE SECOND ROUND OF THE MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD

1

GRADE 11 WINNER (MDUDUZI THUSI) OF THE BEST SPEAKER AWARD IN THE HELEN JOSEPH ORATORY CHALLENGE AT MARIS STELLA.

3

COLLEGE BOYS (RAHIL GOPAL, KHULA BUTHELEZI, AND YUNAL ANANTH) SELECTED TO REPRESENT DURBAN COASTAL DEBATING LEAGUE AT THE KZN DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIPS.

5

COLLEGE BOYS WROTE THE SENIOR HISTORY OLYMPIAD

20

COLLEGE BOYS WROTE THE SENIOR ACCOUNTING OLYMPIAD

CLIFTON SCHOOL MOMENTS



As our College rugby and hockey teams took to the field against St David's, they had a very special group of supporters on the sidelines: our Foundation Phase boys. Moments like these speak to the strength of our community, where younger boys look up to those who are going before them.



THE SPIRIT OF *Comrades*

The true spirit of Comrades is not found in the fastest finish, but in the hearts of those who refuse to let a friend finish alone. At our FP Comrades event, Kade Pretorius, Maddox Oakley, Griffin Jones and Jesal Maharaj reminded us all that courage grows when it is shared. They embodied everything we hope a Clifton gentleman will become.

MUSICAL

MOSAICS

The Ken Mackenzie Hall was packed to the rafters on Tuesday evening (23 June) as Clifton hosted 'a celebration of Foundation Phase music', sharing our stage with guest choirs from Durban Girls' College, Maris Stella, Durban Preparatory High School, and Our Lady of Fatima.



CLIFTON

GOLF DAY

What a stunning success our Annual Golf Day was, thanks to our incredible Clifton community who turned out in numbers for a magnificent day at Royal Durban Golf Course. Special thanks to our generous sponsors, and the 144 golfers on the day. Pictured: Clifton parent Dave Lucien, with event organiser Barry Mezher (Deputy Principal: Marketing)



CLIFTON GOES GREEN AND GOLD



PREP IN *Numbers*

20

THE NUMBER OF POINTS OUR U13A RUGBY BOYS SCORED AGAINST THE VISITING BISHOPS TOURING TEAM. (FINAL SCORE, 20-22 TO BISHOPS)

10

POINTS SEPERATED CRUSADERS (OVERALL WINNERS) AND TROJANS AT THE FP ATHLETICS DAY.

4

DAYS OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND SONG FOR OUR BOYS TO EXPERIENCE AT THE CLIFTON ARTS FESTIVAL 2026

2

BOYS (NOAH MANYATHI AND UZUKO NTSIKE) HAVE BEEN NOMINATED TO ATTEND THE SOUTH AFRICAN DRAMA ASSOCIATION'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SHOWCASE

CLIFTON COMMUNITY



Top: Zukisa Luswazi, Mike Werth, Christopher Richards-Edwards, Heather Parsonage, Mike Thiel, Fabrice Muhizi, Galidjah Hendricks, Sean Topper
Bottom: Mohamed Dhali, Barry Mezher, Warren Beckworth, Ahmed Paruk

OLD BOYS' REUNION *Dinner*

A special evening of brotherhood, connection, and memories was shared at our annual Old Boys' Week in May.

The highlight was undoubtedly the Reunion Dinner on Friday, 22 May. While the stunning setting of the Sutcliffe Theatre, the beautiful weather, candlelit tables, and sparkling overhead lights all added to the atmosphere, the true magic of the event lay in the heartfelt words shared throughout the night.

Particularly moving were the poignant speeches from Guest Speaker Fabrice Muhizi (first College Head Boy 2006), Executive Headmaster Adam Rogers, and Old Boys' Chairman Byron Johnstone (2008). A highlight of the evening was the celebration of the founding College Class of 2006 as they marked their twentieth reunion milestone - the first Matric class to graduate after the College opened in 2002.

Thank you to past Clifton Headmaster Mike Thiel, past staff member Michael Werth, and founding staff member Heather Goedeke for attending. All played meaningful roles in shaping those early years.

MEMORIAL WALL SERVICE



We held our annual Memorial Service at the Memorial Wall and Garden. This poignant service takes place to acknowledge boys and staff who have passed on and are now commemorated with plaques on the wall. Indeed, the garden itself is meant to be a place of quiet reflection and contemplation - even though it is situated in a busy part of the school. This year a plaque was dedicated to the memory of Moira Campbell - a much loved and respected staff member who passed last year after a long illness.

CANAPES & Conversations with CLIFTON

Clifton Parents & Old Boys are warmly invited to attend the following events with prospective parents

23 July | Selborne Country Club, 17h30 - 19h30

28 July | Mt Edgecombe, Kingfisher Bar, 17h30 - 19h30

6 August | Harrington House, Hilton, 17h30 - 19h30

12 August | Simbithi, 17h30 - 19h30

3 September | Kloof Country Club, 17h30 - 19h30

9 September | One on Hely, Mtunzini, 17h30 - 19h30

Please express your interest in attending to Barry Mezher

- bmezher@cliftonschool.co.za

OLD BOYS' WEEK

Sports



The Old Boys came out on top across most of the matches, with wins in cricket, basketball, golf, and hockey, and a hard fought draw in soccer. The only loss on the night came in water polo, where the Clifton School Gents proved invincible, beating the Old Boys 18 to 13.

At Kingsmead Oval, the Old Boys secured a strong cricket win by 86 runs. Basketball saw a 37 to 23 victory over the College Gents, while golf at Kloof Country Club ended 4 to 1 in favour of the Old Boys. Hockey delivered another dominant performance with a 8 to 2 win, and soccer ended in a competitive 1 all draw.

There was fantastic energy at the padel competition, with a round-robin format delivering quality matchups all day. The Old Boys dominated the standings claiming the top four spots among eight competing teams. Matches were competitive, spirited, thoroughly enjoyed and played exactly as Old Boys' sport should be.



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