



CLIFTON

HEADS UP!

News and Memorable Moments *worth celebrating*

SEPTEMBER 2026



FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEADMASTER, MR ADAM ROGERS

There is a profound difference between growing older and growing up.

Every year, we welcome a new group of anxious but excited Grade 8 boys through the gates of Clifton. Four years later, they leave as young men, standing taller than they once did, speaking with greater conviction and achieving something far more valuable than academic results alone: character.

That transformation does not happen by accident.

Throughout history, every healthy society has recognised that boys need rites of passage - meaningful moments that mark the journey from childhood towards adulthood. Whether through ancient ceremonies, apprenticeships or community traditions, these milestones served an important purpose.

They told a young man, "You are changing. You are becoming someone upon whom others can depend." Modern life has lost many of these rituals. Schools therefore have an increasingly important role in creating moments that shape identity, responsibility and purpose.

The Clifton journey is deliberately designed as more than a sequence of grades. Psychologists often speak about the importance of "earned confidence." Unlike praise that is freely given, earned confidence grows from overcoming genuine obstacles. Boys who experience meaningful challenge develop a deeper belief in themselves because they have evidence that they can persevere.

Grade 8 is about belonging. Boys learn that they are part of something larger than themselves - a team, a brotherhood and a tradition stretching back more than a century. They discover that courage often begins with simply showing up.

Grade 9 becomes a year of discovery. Boys begin asking deeper questions: What am I good at? Where do I struggle? Who am I becoming? Through academics, sport, the Arts and service, they start uncovering strengths they never knew they possessed.

Grade 10 often brings the greatest challenge. The Nyamazela 10-day outdoor expedition in particular pushes our boys beyond comfort. It is here that resilience is forged because they learn that they can overcome difficulty.

Grade 11 is a turning point. Leadership is no longer something admired from a distance; it becomes a daily responsibility. Boys realise that influence is earned through trust, consistency and example. They begin to understand that younger boys are watching them, whether they intend to lead or not.

Finally, Grade 12 is the season of stewardship. Matrics become custodians of the culture they inherited. Their legacy is measured less by trophies won than by the example they leave behind.



FROM THE PREPARATORY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, MR ALAN ANGEL

Small, spirited and full of life, our red ants arrive with boundless energy and curious minds. They run, they laugh, ask questions, make mistakes and try again. Carefree and adventurous, they are eager to discover the world around them. As they find their place in the colony, they discover something important - we are stronger together. Everyone has a part to play, we look out for one another and no one walks the Clifton journey alone.

Growing up brings change. In Grade 1, our red ant takes his next step, becoming a brown ant. He begins to understand that growing up is not simply about becoming bigger or better, but about becoming better for others.

He learns responsibility and resilience and discovers that his choices can make a difference. He is given countless opportunities to grow - in the classroom, on the sports field, on the stage, through friendship, service and leadership. Through successes and setbacks, laughter and challenges, he discovers who he is, what he values and what kind of man he wants to become.

Then, one day, the brown ant is ready to help lead the colony. He learns that true leadership is not about being above others but about lifting them up. It is courageous, generous and purposeful - giving more than you take and leaving people better than you found them.

This is the journey of a Clifton boy. From a carefree red ant, to a purposeful brown ant and ultimately to a young man of character - a leader and changemaker, ready to step into the world with courage, purpose and a commitment to make a difference.

Ready to ensure that Clifton is always stronger and better than he found it.



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COLLEGE MOMENTS



GRADE 10's RETURN FROM NYAMEZELA

COLLEGE CAMPS 2026

The Grade 8s combined character development, cultural discovery, community service, and camaraderie. The programme commenced with a two-day overnight camp which focused on building teamwork, resilience, and leadership. Once back in Durban they explored the Harbour Precinct by rotating between a boat cruise at Wilson's Wharf and a guided walk. Boys who completed all activities were presented with their Lamp of Learning Medal.

The Grade 9s spent time at Spirit of Adventure at Shongweni engaged in leadership lessons and activities. On returning to Clifton they were presented with their Captain's Coins as a memento of this significant milestone on their Clifton journey.

After 10 days spent out in the caves and mountains of the Drakensberg, the Grade 10 boys arrived back in good spirits and with over 50 kilometres of hiking under their boots! They were presented with their Nyamezela tie pins to commemorate their achievement.

Following two intense days engaged in leadership training and strategising, the Grade 11 camp at T.O Strand near Port Edward provided our boys with an opportunity to build stronger relationships and experience leadership in action. Their community service was spent at Tent Town. On returning to Clifton they were presented with their Moral Compass coaster.



GRADE 9's ON CAMP



rites of passage *Tokens*

COLLEGE IN *Numbers*

5 CLIFTON BOYS IN THE KZN YOUTH ORCHESTRA AND ALSO IN THE KZN YOUTH CHOIR.

2 CLIFTON BOYS IN THE KZN SOCCER TEAMS (FINN HALEY – U19A AND MIGUEL SUAREZ – U16B)

6 CLIFTON BOYS IN THE KZN DISTRICT TENNIS TOURNAMENT WITH YOUSUF ISMAIL AND ADAM VAN WELIE WINNERS OF THE U15 DISTRICT TOURNAMENT. YOUSUF WAS ALSO SELECTED AS CAPTAIN OF HIS TEAM AND WENT ON TO WIN ALL OF HIS MATCHES.

1 KZN ATHLETICS TEAM MEMBER- XAVIER COLLETT WAS SELECTED TO REPRESENT THE KZN U14B BOYS' ATHLETICS TEAM TO COMPETE IN THE NATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPS IN PRETORIA.

PREP SCHOOL MOMENTS



PREP FIRST XI HOCKEY TOUR

Congratulations to our Clifton Prep 1st XI Hockey team, who performed exceptionally well at the 2026 Prep Schools Hockey Festival at Riverside. Special mention must be made of Muhammad Hoosen (Man of The Match v St Johns), and Hudson Mun-Gavin (Man of The Match v KEPS)



DURBAN FROM A DIFFERENT VIEW!

The Grade 2 boys loved their morning at Mini Town where they got to look at and enjoy all the beautiful buildings and landmarks that our city has. Not only did they have such fun out and about but also developed a deeper appreciation for our city and the incredibly rich history we have.

GRADE 7 SCIENCE EXPO

The annual Grade 7 Science Expo took place recently. Our scientists once again produced compelling work showing their capability to formulate hypotheses, test them according to scientific procedures, and record observations clearly.

The research skills on show were most commendable. The Expo also showcases our boys' presenting skills, with introductions, explanations and outcomes given to adjudicators, visitors, teachers, and pupils. Well done to our Grade 7 scientists and teachers.



PLAY AS YOU GROW - Progress Concert

This term, our FP and SP boys took to the stage for their Progress Concerts, with 26 Foundation Phase and 28 Senior Preparatory musicians sharing their talents. From piano and violin to a beautiful harmonium and voice duet, the boys showcased their growing confidence, musicianship and musical expression. We are incredibly proud of the progress they continue to make.

PREP IN *Numbers*

2

CONGRATULATIONS TO ZIYA CASSIMJEE, WHO HAS SCORED TWO HAT-TRICKS IN U13 HOCKEY MATCHES THIS TERM.

7

U13 BOYS WILL REPRESENT OUR SCHOOL AT THE KZN INTER-DISTRICTS CRICKET TRIALS FROM 18-20 SEPTEMBER.

18

SENIOR PRIMARY BOYS REACHED THE FINALS OF THE HORIZON MATHS CHALLENGE AND THE KZN BEYOND MATHS COMPETITION.

96

PREP BOYS ARTWORK WAS SELECTED FOR DISPLAY AT THE NORTH DURBAN SCHOOLS' ART EXHIBITION.

CLIFTON COMMUNITY



Canapes & Conversations

The Clifton team has been on a wonderful roadshow of late, hosting Canapes & Conversations events at Selborne Country Club, Mt Edgecombe Country Club, Harrington House in Hilton, and the Simbithi Country Club (pictured).

Pictured (left to right): Mr Shane Friedrichs (Senior Deputy Principal), Mr Ross Saayman (Past Parent) and Mr Mike Howieson (Commercial Manager)



COURAGE IN ACTION

Cole Nienhuser (Grade 12) showed quiet courage and remarkable composure when he responded to a man in distress on the Umgeni River on Monday, 31 August.

An experienced paddler with former lifeguarding experience, Cole was alerted to the man struggling in the river after being swept from the banks by the spring tide. Without hesitation, he entered the water to help. In a formal statement, the NSRI credited Cole for working alongside paddler and Good Samaritan Tony Botes, using his lifeguarding skills to calm the man, and guide him safely through the deeper sections of the river to shore.

The NSRI commended Cole for his contribution to the rescue team-effort, which ultimately saved the man's life.

Cole's composure, selflessness and willingness to act when it mattered most reflect the character we are proud to see in a Clifton Gent.

MOMS WHO Pray

Group Prayer meetings,
Every Friday Morning
at 06h30 - 07h30

All Welcome



FROM OUR CHAPLAIN - Rev. Kevin Robertson

Michaelmas

"The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them." (Psalm 34:7)

The Michaelmas season reminds us of the Archangel Michael, a symbol of courage, faithfulness, protection and the triumph of good over evil. For us, this is a reminder that we as a school community, are called to stand for what is right, even when it is difficult.

May we all find fresh courage this Michaelmas season, knowing we are held by something greater than ourselves, and therefore have the courage to resist what harms others, the humility to serve, and the faith to trust that God's light is always stronger than any darkness.

ARMAAN LATOO (Class of 2022)



Armaan Latoo (pictured far right) is certainly making his mark in the world of medicine. After Clifton, Armaan completed his A Levels, achieving an exceptional three A* grades before securing a place to study Medicine at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry.

With a long-term goal of becoming a surgeon, Armaan has already gained surgical experience in London, New York, Qatar and South Africa. Most recently, he spent time at New York's prestigious Hospital for Special Surgery, focusing on complex spinal surgery.

Having completed his third year of medical school, Armaan will soon begin an MSc in Biomedical Engineering at King's College London, exploring the exciting intersection of robotics and surgery.

Alongside his studies, Armaan has published research in artificial intelligence in surgery and endocrinology and presented at medical conferences. Later this year, he will travel to Istanbul to present his research internationally.

Armaan has also continued his passion for rugby, captaining his university side and helping Royal Hospitals R.F.C. win the United Hospitals Cup earlier this year.



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