



# PRETORIA BOYS HIGH

NEWSLETTER NO: 125  
1 OCTOBER 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER – HOPE!

I recently attended the Annual Headmaster's Conference of Public Boys' Schools of South Africa. One of the topics discussed was the matter of mental health in school leaders and the issue of 'hope' and 'optimism'. There was much food for thought for me from this discussion which I know is just as relevant to all of our boys, not to mention the staff and parents.

There is, no doubt, a strong need for many of our boys to have a spirit of hope after the frustrations and various let-downs they have experienced over the past eighteen months.

It is important, however, to realise that hope and optimism are not the same. The differences are subtle but powerful, so we need to be careful not to confuse them. **Optimism is an attitude** of a somewhat unfounded belief that the world will change for the better.

**Hope**, on the other hand, **is a belief** that together we can make a difference. Hope can thus be a human strength and adopting it can help you through even the most challenging of experiences.

Hope influences decision making and provides motivation. It is more than just a state of mind. It is an inner resource. Without it, how would one find motivation to pursue goals and the resilience to pick oneself up when things go wrong?

Hope is closely linked to resilience. Hope is being able to formulate goals for oneself but in particular, having the belief that such goals can actually be achieved. Hope does not fade in the face of difficulty. In fact, hope often endures despite difficulties. Difficulties such as Covid! While all of us will, at some stage, experience such challenges in life, hope allows us to remain positive, even in the most difficult circumstances.

Hope is more consistent than optimism. It is not simply the thought that all will be well but a deep-seated belief in yourself, that the future will be better than the present. Choosing to be hopeful gives you strength, regardless of what is happening in your life and what you can't control in your life. Having hope is more powerful than being optimistic and helps prevent you from giving up, even when the going is tough.

Covid has given us many ups and downs. More importantly, life is full of ups and downs. No matter how privileged we are, we will always face challenges. Covid has in many ways been a leveller for all of us. But hope makes us resilient and it is powerful. It encourages self-belief. It motivates one to keep going. It often is the last thing to hold on to when everything else is taken away. When one speaks with hope, people will listen. An important additional reason to be hopeful is, therefore, the hope one will inspire in those around us.

My message to you at the end of this busy but largely positive term, as the full functionality of the school has, for the first time in eighteen months, started to fall into place, is that we have every reason to be hopeful.

## **FAREWELL TO FOR MR REELER**

One of the highlights of the term was the fitting, if not belated, farewell arranged for Mr Reeler. With Mr Reeler departing the school in June last year while the country was under Level 4 Lockdown restrictions, an appropriate farewell was not possible. On Thursday, 23 September, the school held two separate functions to give Mr Reeler the send-off he deserved, after having served this school so well for ten years. A special assembly was arranged during the day where all the staff and boys were afforded this opportunity. On the same evening a function for those with whom Mr Reeler worked, outside of the school, was arranged.

### ***Excellence in Boys Schools Education***

At the assembly for Mr Reeler, I shared with the school the results of a research project carried out under Mr Reeler. The project was called Excellence in Boys Schools Education. Together with nineteen other prominent boy's schools in the country, Boys High entered into the research project. The schools involved in this project include both private and public schools. We have had a lot to do with many of these schools who are very well known to the majority of you. The research focused on six specific areas:

1. School Climate, Character and Culture
2. Growing the Whole Person
3. Leadership of the Educational Programme
4. Strategic and Operational Alignment
5. Student Experience and Outcomes
6. Teacher Professionalism

The results of this project was released to the school earlier this year where it was pointed out that our school had achieved the highest score of all the schools involved. It was further pointed out that, considering that similar types of research had taken place throughout the globe, involving very similar types of boys' schools, Boys High would be very prominent in the top cluster.

The above feedback is testimony to the leadership Mr Reeler offered this school during his time in office. It was important for us to be able to share this feedback with him at assembly, as it is important to share it with you.

## **3<sup>RD</sup> TERM REPORTS AND FINAL EXAMINATIONS**

Your son's third term report will be emailed to you today. The parent portal is no longer active, therefore, the reports will be emailed only. No paper copies will be available this term. For the Form I's – IV's, your sons end of year examinations will commence a mere four weeks after we return ([Form I-IV exam timetable](#)). For the matrics this is two and a half weeks ([Form V exam timetable](#)). With the resumption of extramural activities, the last term promises to be as busy as ever. If your son is to achieve the results of which he is truly capable, a well-planned study timetable and disciplined time management will have to be a priority. Please take the time to reflect on the results your son has produced this term and where need be, assist him in his preparation for the final exams.

## **MATRIC EXAMS**

The school would like to wish the Form V's all the best for the final examinations they will begin writing on 27 October 2021. It has been an extremely difficult year for the matrics but one that they have approached bravely and for which they have accepted responsibly. It is the schools wish that the matric exams go ahead without any complications and that all our Form V boys are able to achieve the results they truly deserve.

## **FAREWELL TO STAFF**

Ms van Zyl joined the school in 2016 as an English teacher. During her time at the school, not only has she proved to be an effective teacher in the classroom but she has also added tremendous value to the school outside of the classroom as well. On the extramural side, during her five and a half years at the school, Ms van Zyl has been involved with the Junior City Council, the Film Club and in particular with the Climbing Club, where she has added tremendous value.

Ms van Zyl has made the decision to make a slight detour on her career path and has accepted a position at Parkview Primary School in Johannesburg.

We would like to thank Ms van Zyl for her service to the school. She will be missed by her colleagues in the English department, her friends on the staff and the boys in her classroom and particularly in the Climbing Club.

We wish Ms van Zyl all the best with the new adventure of teaching primary school children and have no doubt she will have the same positive impact there as she had here at Boys High. Good luck and thank you.

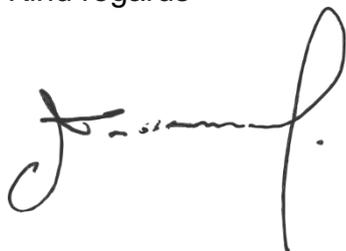
## **CONGRATULATIONS**

We welcome a new addition to the Boys High family, a son, Liath, born on 29<sup>th</sup> September to Barend and Catherine Engelbrecht.

## **ENJOY THE WELL DESERVED BREAK**

After what has been a busy but positive term, we wish you a well-deserved if not very short break. I trust you will be able to create some quality time together as a family. I look forward to seeing you all safe, fit and healthy and full of HOPE at the start of next term as we look forward to what promises to be a short but busy time before the final examinations.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GJ Hassenkamp', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

**GJ HASSENKAMP  
HEADMASTER**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **COVID CASES IN THE SCHOOL**

Positive Covid cases in the school have reduced considerably. We are pleased to report that after having single figure digits for the majority of the term, there were no boys or staff members infected as of Monday 27 September. This is not to say we can become complacent. Nothing could be further from the truth. With the end of year examinations upon us and the anticipated fourth wave expected to arrive before the end of the year, as a school, as families and as individuals we all need to remain responsible. If our boys are to continue to be allowed to attend school, if we are to afford them the opportunities they deserve and if they are to write the end of year examinations we all have a continued role to play.

Despite current Lockdown Level 1 restrictions, uncontrolled gatherings of people remains a sure way to assist in infection and the spread of the virus. Attending uncontrolled gatherings (i.e. parties and nightclubs) remains completely unacceptable. The risk to your son's health and in turn, that of his family and friends and all those with whom he will come in contact when back at the school, remains a real threat. Please ensure that your son takes all the necessary precautions during this school holiday and that they act responsibly at all times.

While the positive Covid cases have considerably reduced, the biggest problem the school has experienced is the management of close contacts, particularly amongst the boarders. The school will continue to investigate ways of managing this problem in a responsible manner and every effort will be made to mitigate the number of close contacts experienced.

### **RESUMPTION OF EXTRAMURAL ACTIVITIES**

For the first time in over eighteen months, the school was able to experience some sort of routine, which has not been possible since the onset of Covid in March 2020. With the release of the Government Gazette on 1 August, which allowed the resumption of school extramural activities as well as tours and camps, schools around the country were allowed to reinstate sporting fixtures and extramural activities. This has come as welcome relief to all concerned.

It has been very obvious to see the change in the mood of the boys as they have been allowed to become active again. A busy boy is a happy and healthy boy. After the resumption of the extramural programme and the winter sports season this term and with receiving permission for the Form II Bush School (albeit a shorter version), the school looks forward to more of the same when we return.

Having said this, Covid has continued to play its role and despite the sport and extramural programme opening up, it has not been without its frustrations. While Covid infections remain a serious concern and the threat of Covid persists, a number of the sporting fixtures were disrupted. The annual 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby match against AHS as well as the cancellation of the SACS Water Polo Tour, being the biggest disappointments.

### **NOTICE PERIOD**

Parents are reminded of the notice period should you wish to withdraw your son from the school. Boarders are required to give three months' notice and dayboys one month.

### **SCHOOL DEVELOPMENTS**

During the course of this year, the school has made a concerted effort to develop and neaten up identified areas around the school.

The following projects have taken place this year:

- Conversion of all main campus lighting to energy saving LED

- Investment in a 300kVA generator that enables the school and boarding houses to continue operating during power outages or load shedding
- Flood prevention solution for Pollock campus
- Resurfacing of Polly Shorts walkway and & adjacent floodwater soil erosion prevention
- Main Drive pedestrian walkway
- Security upgrade at Pollock campus (beams)
- New classroom furniture
- Installation of new CAT classroom for 2022 implementation

Some of the projects planned for the near future:

- Replace old wire fencing inside the campus (Tennis courts, Basketball courts, Abernethy/Mulvenna fields)
- Commencement of pine nursery for gradual replacement of Main Drive pine trees
- Upgrade of east/west sewer lines
- Restoration of main building facade
- Sandstone restoration
- Renovate existing classrooms

In the medium term:

- Commence replacement of asbestos classrooms
- Water consumption reduction partnership, incl. water harvesting from 2 new boreholes
- PV solar energy harvesting

The school will continue to work within the budgetary constraints according to an established infrastructure and development plan as we ensure that the facilities of our magnificent estate remain well maintained and the school is continually developed.

### **FORM V VALEDICTION – 18 OCTOBER 2022**

A letter was sent to all the Form V parents, however, you could click [here](#) for ease of reference:

### **BUDGET MEETING 2022**

Please click [here](#) for information about the budget meeting.

### **SCHOOL CALENDAR 2022**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> term	Wednesday 12 January	Thursday 17 March
2 <sup>nd</sup> term	Tuesday 5 April	Friday 24 June
3 <sup>rd</sup> term	Tuesday 19 July	Friday 30 September
4 <sup>th</sup> term	Tuesday 11 October	Wednesday 14 December

### **START OF 4<sup>th</sup> TERM ARRANGEMENTS**

Term 4 will start with Day 1. The school day will start with registration followed by a school assembly at the front of the school.

### **END OF YEAR ARRANGEMENTS**

As per the examination timetable issued, the final day of exams for the Form I's and II's will be Tuesday, 30 November. A school assembly will follow this. The final day of exams for the Form III's and IV's will be Wednesday, 1 December. This will be followed by a school assembly. Both of these days will end at approximately 11 am. The end of year reports will

be available for collection from the school on Thursday, 9 December between 08h30 and 09h30.

## **HOLIDAY SPORTING ACTIVITIES**

### Water polo

The 1<sup>st</sup> team are taking part in a festival hosted by Pretoria Boys on the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> October. Fixtures are still to be arranged.

### Cricket

The 1<sup>st</sup> cricket team are taking part in the annual Michaelmas cricket festival, which is being held at Maritzburg College. The festival starts on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October until Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

Matches are as follows:

PBHS 1<sup>st</sup> vs DHS 1<sup>st</sup>

PBHS 1<sup>st</sup> vs Maritzburg College 1<sup>st</sup>

PBHS 1<sup>st</sup> vs St Charles 1<sup>st</sup>

PBHS 1<sup>st</sup> vs Michaelhouse 1<sup>st</sup>

The 2<sup>nd</sup> cricket team are taking part in the annual Michaelhouse cricket festival starting on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October until Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

Matches are as follows:

PBHS 2<sup>nd</sup> vs Northwood 2<sup>nd</sup>

PBHS 2<sup>nd</sup> vs Kearsney 2<sup>nd</sup>

PBHS 2<sup>nd</sup> vs Michaelhouse 2<sup>nd</sup>

PBHS 2<sup>nd</sup> vs Hilton 2<sup>nd</sup>

Our U15A team is taking part in the Paul Sommerville cricket festival from Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October until Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October being held at Pretoria Boys.

Matches are as follow:

PBHS u15a vs Hilton U15A

PBHS u15a vs Westville U15A

PBHS u15a vs Maritzburg College U15A

PBHS u15a vs Michaelhouse U15A

The U14A cricket team is taking part in the annual Charl van Rooyen cricket festival being held at Kearsney College in KZN from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October until Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

Matches are as follows:

PBHS U14A vs Kearsney U14A

PBHS U14A vs Bishops U14A

PBHS U14A vs DHS U14A

PBHS U14A vs Selborne U14A

PBHS U14A vs Michaelhouse U14A

### Rugby

The 1<sup>st</sup> 7-a-side team will be taking part in the St Stithians sports festival from the 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October, matches are as follows:

13:30 PBHS 1<sup>st</sup> vs Jeppe 1<sup>st</sup>

15:30 PBHS 1<sup>st</sup> vs Jeppe 2<sup>nd</sup>

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October, matches are as follows:

12:00 PBHS 1<sup>st</sup> vs St Albans 1<sup>st</sup>  
14:00 PBHS 1<sup>st</sup> vs St Stithians 1<sup>st</sup>

### Soccer

The 1<sup>st</sup> soccer team will be taking part in the St Stithians 5-a-side sports festival from the 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October matches are as follows:

12:00 PBHS 1<sup>st</sup> vs Jeppe 2<sup>nd</sup>  
14:00 PBHS 1<sup>st</sup> vs Jeppe 1<sup>st</sup>

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October, matches are as follows:

13:00 PBHS 1<sup>st</sup> vs St Stithians 1<sup>st</sup>  
14:00 PBHS 1<sup>st</sup> vs St Albans 1<sup>st</sup>

### Tennis

The 1<sup>st</sup> tennis team will be taking part in the St Stithians sports festival on the 10<sup>th</sup> October. The first match is against St Stithians.

## **SPORTS FIXTURES FOR TERM 4**

### 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021

PBHS vs AHS (cricket & water polo)  
PBHS vs Parktown (basketball)

### 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021

PBHS vs Queens & Randburg (cricket)  
PBHS vs St Peters & CBC Boksburg (basketball)  
PBHS 1<sup>st</sup> at the St Stithians Stayers Tournament (water polo)

### 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021

PBHS vs Jeppe (cricket, water polo & basketball)

### 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021

PBHS vs St Johns (cricket, water polo & basketball)

## **HOLIDAY CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

The Debating Society is holding an Old Boys debate on 4<sup>th</sup> October at Pollock. The debate will start at 14h00 and finish at 16h30.

## **CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FOR TERM 4**

Screening of Zero to Zero Documentary – There will be screening of the documentary “Zero to Zero” in the Abernethy Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> October at 14h00. The screening will be followed by a question and answer session via the Zoom platform. A number of our Cultural Clubs and Societies will be involved and they will have an opportunity to ask questions to Professor Leonie Scholtz, Christa Lategan and Shem Compoion.

### Junior Inter-House Debating

The Junior Inter-House Debating will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October at Pollock from 15h00-17h00. Our junior debaters will be participating in a friendly online debate against Bishops. We are waiting for Bishops to confirm a date.

### Senior Debating

Our Senior Debaters are taking part in the quarterfinals of the SACEE Provincials on 17<sup>th</sup> October.

### Ballroom Showcase

The Ballroom Showcase will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October from 18h30-19h30 in the Abernethy Hall.

### Photographic Society Exhibition

The Wildlife Photography competition closes on 15<sup>th</sup> October. We look forward to the Photographic Society's Exhibition. The date is to be confirmed.

### Mountain Bike Club

Our Mountain Bike Club will be participating in a 6-hour mountain bike race at Eduplex on 16<sup>th</sup> October. The 24-hour Mountain Bike race will be held at Pretoria Boys High School on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November.

## **MISSED WORK**

All work that has been missed by the boys due to isolation is available on Google Classroom. All boys who have had to isolate must ensure that they are up-to-date with their school work when they return to school next term. If there are any problems in this regard, boys must contact their subject teachers or Housemasters. In case of any academic issues or enquiries, due to isolation or self-isolation, please contact Mr van Wyk, the Head of Studies at [avanwyk@boyshigh.com](mailto:avanwyk@boyshigh.com).

## **APPEARANCE AND HAIR**

When your son returns to school in the new term, please ensure their uniform is correct and their appearance is in line with the school rules. Please take note of the regulations that pertain to a boy's hair style as per the school's Code of Conduct (see the two points below). These rules will be strictly enforced as from the start of term. **Boys whose appearance is not up to standard will be sent home on the first day of term until such time that they meet with the school's requirements.** Boys whose appearance is not up to standard, will not be allowed to represent the school at extramural activities.

1. Hair must be cut to an acceptable and uniform length and must always be neat and clean. There should not be a significant difference in length of the hair on the sides and the top of the head. Fringes must be above the eyebrow. While taking the boy's culture into consideration hairstyles must be conservative by nature.
2. No hair products such as gel and/or dyes are permitted and no unusual styles will be permitted. Boys may not perm or straighten their hair.

## **USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES DURING THE HOLIDAYS**

Due to current Covid protocols, the school's facilities may not be used without the supervision of a staff member. For this reason, the school's facilities will unfortunately not be available to boys, old boys or parents of the school during the school holiday.

## **BOYS ACHIEVEMENTS**

Our warm congratulations go to the following boys:

### **Cultural Colours Awards**

#### **Boys Highlights**

Half Colours            Arno de Bruin, Johann Kok, Kaveer Nagessar  
Full Colours            Pedran Wessels (re-award)

#### **Library**

Full Colours            Kaveer Nagessar

#### **Music**

Half Colours            Simon Holm, Nathan Pretorius, Michael Robertson  
Full Colours            Arno de Bruin, Loren Ehlers, Michael Matchett, Wandile Mvakali,  
                                 Thato Nako, James Plant, Robert Sneddon, Kehan Taljaard, Jurie-  
                                 Kemp Van der Watt, Henry Zhang  
Honours                 Loren Ehlers

#### **Photographic Society**

Half Colours            Vincent Peters, Callen Stephen

#### **Science Club**

Half Colours            Mark Serfontein

#### **Wildlife Society**

Full Colours            Matthew Kingsley, Anrich le Roux

#### **Social Outreach**

Full Colours            Jonathan Pretorius

#### **Public Speaking**

Half Colours            Paballo Raphela, Liam Gillesen

### **Service Colours – Water Polo**

Half Colours            Radovan Dolezal, Andries Fourie, Joshua Le Roux  
Full Colours            Oliver Binks, Matthew Gall, Kian Kurz, Shane Webber

#### **Debating**

Our senior and junior debaters participated in the South African Council for English Education (SACEE) debating tournament. The seniors were placed second out of 75 participating schools and the juniors (Team A) were ranked ninth out of 65 teams.

#### **Geography Olympiad 2021**

Gold (top 5% in the country) – James Banyard and Jonathan Davies  
Silver (top 10% in the country) – Keagan McIntosh, Pieter Pretorius  
Bronze (top 15% in the country) – Dylan van Malsen

#### **Maths Olympiad**

The following five boys qualified for the third round of the maths Olympiad held at Boys High on 28<sup>th</sup> July – Noam Beney, Adam Isebeck, Johann Kok, Robert Snedden and Gerhard van Zyl.

## **House Play Festival**

The results for this play festival were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Solomon
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Hofmeyr
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - School
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Abernethy
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Sunnyside

## **Inter-House Chess**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Abernethy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Arcadia
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - School
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Armstrong
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Sunnyside
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Hofmeyr
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Matheson
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Solomon
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Town
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Rissik

## **Pipe Band Awards**

Most improved piper	Terence Jenkins
Most improved drummer	Matthew Meyer
Piper's efficiency award	Matthew Kingsley
Drummer's efficiency award	Sphe Siyaya
Most dedicated bandsman	Matthew Meyer
Exceptional leadership skills award	Eduard Plint

## **OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Squash**

The following boys have been selected to represent Northerns in the Inter-Provincial tournament to be held in October: Jarrod Cousins (U19A), Gareth Craigen (U19A) and Teagan Primmer (U19B).

### **Powerlifting**

Neill Haywood competed in the Powerlifting Nationals Competition held at Menlo Park High School facilities over the past weekend.

Neill is a super heavyweight and competed in the Under 19 Teenage 3 category. Neill came in 1<sup>st</sup> position in this category.