

125 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

ADVANCEMENT OFFICE NEWSLETTER

Issue 05

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boyshigh.com



The Impact of Giving

At Pretoria Boys High School, we want every boy to make the most of his education, take part fully in school life and grow into his potential. > p. 6



Gentlemen's Evening

In 2026, Pretoria Boys High School proudly celebrates 125 years of excellence, tradition, and brotherhood. > p. 9

Ben Southwood

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER



Mr. GJ Hassenkamp,
Headmaster
Pretoria Boys High School
headmastersecretary@boyshigh.com

As the school celebrates its 125th anniversary this year, a number of very special events and functions have taken place since the start of the year. These include eleven different functions and events including concerts and assemblies, six sports festivals and Old Boys Dinners in Perth, Sydney and Auckland (with London and Amsterdam to come).

The most significant celebration for the year, however, was held over for the school's Founders Day Weekend. This very important weekend also doubled up as the Old Boys Weekend with not only the annual Old Boys Dinner taking place but also all of the six 10-Year-On Reunion weekends. What was additionally special this year was the fact that for the second time in the school's history a 70-Year-On Reunion was also held. To have Old Boys having finished here as far back as the 1950's returning to

PBHS 125 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

the school is truly significant and testimony to what this school stands for and what it means to be a Boys High boy.

On the Saturday night of the Old Boys Weekend, the largest function of the year was held where one thousand two hundred Old Boys gathered for the Annual Old Boys Dinner. It was a grand and classy affair representing everything our school stands for as we celebrated the 125 Year Anniversary of the school. As far as the school is aware, one thousand two hundred old boys is the largest old boys gathering held by any school in the country. We are in fact not aware of a bigger old boys gathering anywhere in the world. We are also not aware of any school in the country that has held a 70-Year-On Reunion. Both these factors once again talk to the unique and very special institution that Pretoria Boys High School is.

" 1,200 Old Boys at one dinner. "

In reflecting on the year I believe, we as a school can be very proud as we celebrate the remarkable milestone of our 125 Year Anniversary. As South Africa and public school education continue to navigate complex and challenging times, proud institutions like ours, with strong values, significant histories and supportive communities remain more important than ever and continue to give us hope for the future.

In reflecting on the year, I would like to thank those who have supported the school in allowing PBHS to celebrate this milestone of a year in the magnificent manner in which we have. Without the support of dedicated Old Boys, generous sponsors, committed parents, a supportive community, hardworking staff and our loyal boys, nothing of what we have presented this year would have been possible. Thank you to everyone who has supported the school this year. Together with your continued support we look forward to the next 125 years as Pretoria Boys High continues to lead the way in being a flagship school.



MESSAGE FROM THE ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

A YEAR OF CELEBRATION, GENEROSITY AND SHARED PURPOSE



Mr. Julian Cook,
Head of Advancement
Pretoria Boys High School
businessmanager@boyshigh.com
boyshigh.com

As we approach the conclusion of what has been a truly remarkable year in the history of Pretoria Boys High School, we reflect with immense pride and gratitude on all that has been achieved during our 125th anniversary celebrations.

Beyond the many memorable occasions and milestones that have marked this special year, 2026 has demonstrated something even more extraordinary: the unwavering loyalty, generosity and collective spirit of the Boys High community.

Through the enthusiastic involvement of our Old Boys, parents, friends, corporate partners and supporters, our Advancement Office has enjoyed an encouraging year

of progress across our fundraising initiatives. Every contribution, whether financial, practical or simply an offer of time and expertise, has reinforced the remarkable strength of the community that surrounds our School.

What makes these achievements particularly meaningful is the shared understanding that we are not merely supporting the needs of today, but investing in the opportunities and experiences of generations yet to come.

As we share the highlights of this final quarter, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has played a part in making 2026 so special.

BEST WISHES TO THE MATRIC CLASS OF 2026

As the Matric Class of 2026 begins their final examinations, the Advancement Office wishes the boys every success. This milestone represents years of hard work, growth and perseverance, supported by the families, teachers and wider PBHS community who have walked alongside them.

We encourage the boys to approach their examinations with confidence, trust in their preparation and take each paper one step at a time. As they prepare for the next chapter, we look forward to welcoming them into the Old Boy community and seeing the many ways they will continue to make their mark. To the boys and their families, we wish you all the very best during this important time.



FINISH STRONG CLASS OF 2026!

GIVE TODAY. DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT.

HELP US UNLOCK R10 MILLION
– LET’S KEEP THE MOMENTUM
GOING

In our previous newsletter in July, we shared the exciting opportunity for Old Boys and the PBHS community to support the funding of the newly built Innovation, Coding and Robotics Centre. We would like to sincerely thank all those who have already contributed to this initiative and helped us take the first steps towards making this opportunity a reality.

This final drive for 2026 is an opportunity to help unlock the R10 million Rand-for-Rand commitment to this important project.

A Donor Family Foundation has committed to match any fundraising contributions Rand-for-Rand, up to a total of R10 million, towards the costs of this newly built state-of-the-art-facility. That means every rand donated can unlock another rand from the Foundation.

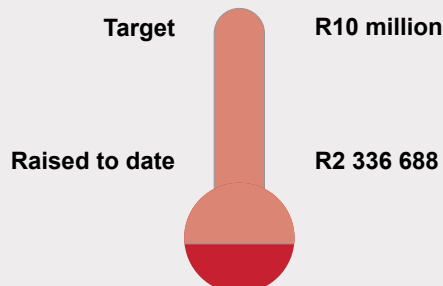
As we make our final fundraising push for 2026, we invite Old Boys, parents and all PBHS community members to be part of this exciting and favourable opportunity.

Whether your contribution is large or small, your support helps unlock the Foundation’s commitment and takes us one step closer to making the Innovation Centre a reality.

GIVE THROUGH YOUR DONOR-ADVISED FUND (DAF)

For alumni based in the USA, a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) offers another convenient way to support Pretoria Boys High School. Our established **Friends of Pretoria Boys High School Fund** with Myriad USA, is able to receive grants from US donors’ DAFs through Myriad USA. Myriad USA accepts a wide variety of assets, including non-cash assets, and they work with individuals, companies, foundations, and professional advisors to facilitate tax-efficient giving today and legacy planning for the future.

Every R1 donated unlocks R1, up to R10m



Watch the innovation, Coding and
Robotics Centre fly-through



Donate Now

International Donors

Headmaster's Email

If you have a DAF, you can therefore recommend a grant to support PBHS without making a separate personal donation.

If you would like to discuss this giving option or find out how to make a DAF grant to PBHS, please contact Mr J. Cook businessmanager@boyshigh.com or Kaitlyn Vargas donations@myriadusa.org

Ways To Give



POWERING OUR FUTURE

A TRANSFORMATIONAL SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT

What began as an ambitious R2 million initiative to provide our boarding houses with reliable, independent electricity has evolved into something truly extraordinary.

Through the remarkable generosity, expertise and commitment of Old Boys and business partners, Pretoria Boys High School is poised to benefit from a state-of-the-art solar energy installation valued at R7.7 million, at no additional capital cost beyond the R900,000 already raised by our boarding houses.

The project will incorporate 200 kWp of additional solar panels, 450 kW of inverter capacity and 940 kWh of battery storage, integrating with our existing solar infrastructure into a centralised energy system.

Beyond providing our boarding houses with dependable electricity, the installation could deliver annual savings approaching R1 million, substantially reducing the school's dependence on municipal supply and strengthening its long-term financial sustainability.

Importantly, the system has been designed for future expansion, ensuring that its benefits can grow alongside the school's evolving needs. This extraordinary initiative exemplifies the power of our school community working together towards a shared vision.

Every rand saved on electricity is another rand available to invest in our boys, their education and the future of Pretoria Boys High School.

- R7.7 million system value
- R900 000 raised by the boarding houses
- 200 kWp panels
- 450 kW inverters
- 940 kWh storage
- About 1m saved a year



EVERY RAND SAVED ON ELECTRICITY IS ANOTHER RAND AVAILABLE TO INVEST IN OUR BOYS.

THE IMPACT OF GIVING

OPENING DOORS, CHANGING FUTURES

At Pretoria Boys High School, we want every boy to make the most of his education, take part fully in school life and grow into his potential. Thanks to the generosity of our community, the School can offer financial assistance and bursary support when a family's circumstances make that difficult.

Recently, an Old Boy made a once-off gift to support a Form 5 pupil and his family. He asked to remain anonymous. The gift settled the pupil's outstanding school fees, so the pupil could finish his final year and prepare for his exams without that worry hanging over him.

We can't share the family's circumstances, but we can tell you what it meant to them. His parents said it lifted an enormous weight from their shoulders and let their son focus on his schoolwork. They also wrote:

"This is the kind of generosity that stays with a family, and we will never forget it."

For the donor, it was a single gift. For this family, it meant their son could finish his school career with his head up.

"We sincerely hope that when our circumstances allow, our family will be able to do for another deserving young boy what this Old Boy has done for our son."

- Parent of a Form 5 pupil



Stephan Jonker

SUPPORT THAT CHANGES A BOY'S DIRECTION

Sometimes the full effect of a gift only shows years later. A Form 4 pupil recently wrote to the Headmaster, Mr Hassenkamp, about the boarding bursary that shaped his time at Boys High.

In Form 1, he went to Mr Hassenkamp for help with finding a boarding bursary. He was involved in choir, Big Band, orchestra, athletics, rugby, soccer and squash, but he wasn't yet an exceptional athlete. The Headmaster looked past what he had already achieved and saw the potential of what he might become. In the pupil's words:

"You were looking at my potential."

That belief opened a door. Today he is a South African Schools Champion in the 2000m Steeplechase, a Gauteng Champion and an ASA silver medallist. He is also the first boy in Boys High history to win a national cross-country title, and he has earned the chance to represent South Africa.

He understands that what he received was far more than a bursary. He said:

"You were one of the first people to see potential in me and to believe in me before I had anything to prove."

He went on to write:

"Sometimes, all a young person needs is one person to say, I believe in you.' For me, that person was you. "

- Form 4 boarder, bursary recipient

He hopes to do the same for someone else one day, by spotting potential, creating an opportunity and helping another young person believe in himself.



Why this matters

Bursaries and scholarships are how Boys High keeps its doors open to boys with promise, whatever their family's circumstances. A bursary gives a boy access to everything the School offers, in the classroom, on the field, on stage and in the boarding house. Assistance at a difficult moment keeps a boy in the School community when he might otherwise have had to leave. Both depend on the Old Boys and friends of the School who choose to give.

The Old Boy behind this recent gift will stay anonymous, but what it did for this family will last. His gift is part of a long tradition at Pretoria Boys High, where Old Boys, their families and the wider PBHS community keep investing in the boys who follow them.

Be part of it

If you would like to support bursaries or assistance for boys at Boys High, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the Advancement Office at advancement@boyshigh.com.

To everyone who gives, supports and believes in our boys, thank you. Your generosity helps a boy today and shapes the man he becomes, who may one day help someone else in turn.

Donate Now

CEO CYCLE CHALLENGE

South African Hall of Fame presents the third annual CEO Cycle Challenge | Garnering support for 57 Pretoria Boys High learners

Business leaders swapped their desks for stationary bicycles at the third annual CEO Cycle Challenge, bringing corporate South Africa together in support of the futures of the children benefiting from The South African Hall of Fame Legacy Project. Hosted by the South African Hall of Fame in collaboration with Nashua, the challenge took place at Nashua's head office in Woodmead from 31 August to 4 September 2026. Teams of four completed 25-minute rides, combining friendly competition with fundraising for the Legacy Project.

The cycling brought energy, encouragement and plenty of team spirit. Its lasting value, however, lies in the support it generated for the children, and the relationships it strengthened with companies willing to invest in their futures. For Pretoria Boys High School, the challenge connects a national corporate initiative with a purpose felt directly within its school community. The Legacy Project supports 57 boys who are building their futures through the education, friendships and opportunities available at Boys High.

A visit from the Legacy Project boys was a meaningful moment during the challenge. It gave participants an opportunity to meet the young people behind the cause and brought the purpose of the fundraising into focus. For the boys, it was a chance to see business leaders and their teams giving their time and energy to support them. That connection matters. Behind the number 57 are individual young men with different talents, ambitions and goals. Their years at school provide opportunities to develop those abilities, learn responsibility and gain confidence.

Support for the Legacy Project helps them benefit from an experience that reaches beyond the classroom into sport, culture and the wider life of the school.



The success of the CEO Cycle Challenge reflects a shared commitment from participating companies, sponsors, donors and supporters. CEOs rode alongside colleagues, teams encouraged one another, and businesses helped extend awareness of the project through their networks. Together, they brought people and resources behind a common goal. Nashua's partnership and involvement as host provided a welcoming platform for this effort. Working with the South African Hall of Fame, it helped bring companies together around a practical way to contribute to youth development.

Now in its third year, the challenge also demonstrates the importance of returning to a cause and sustaining that commitment. The boys' education continues long after the bicycles stop. Ongoing support helps the Legacy Project plan ahead and continue its work as learners progress through school. For the Legacy Project, these corporate relationships strengthen the support available to members of its community. They also show how businesses can share in the responsibility of developing young people, contributing to opportunities that may influence their lives well beyond matric.

The 2026 CEO Cycle Challenge brought that responsibility to life through participation, teamwork and generosity. Its success is a foundation on which to build: stronger partnerships, continued corporate involvement and lasting support for the Legacy Project. For the 57 boys attending Pretoria Boys High School, every contribution forms part of a bigger journey, one that gives them room to grow, pursue their ambitions and, in time, make their own contribution to South Africa. That is the legacy this initiative helps carry forward.

**57 Boys supported
by the Legacy
Project**

NASHUA



GENTLEMEN'S EVENING

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CMH FORD GEZINA

In 2026, Pretoria Boys High School proudly celebrates 125 years of excellence, tradition, and brotherhood. To mark the culmination of this historic milestone year, PBHS will host an exclusive Gentlemen's Evening, bringing together parents, Old Boys, business leaders, and members of the wider school community for an unforgettable evening of storytelling, inspiration, and purpose.

Set against the backdrop of one of South Africa's most respected educational institutions, the evening will honour the rich heritage of Pretoria Boys High School while investing in its future. Guests will enjoy a delicious three course dinner (cash bar available) and an engaging conversation with two distinguished Old Boys and sporting icons:



[CLICK for Individual Seats Via TIXSA](#)

[CLICK for Table Bookings](#)

TICKETS ARE LIMITED

John Smit

Former Springbok Captain and 2007 Rugby World Cup-Winning Captain, respected business leader and parent within the PBHS community.

Chris Morris

Former Proteas International Cricketer and one of South Africa's most accomplished all-rounders, now a sought-after coach, commentator and cricket analyst on the international stage.

More than a celebration, this flagship event serves a meaningful purpose. Funds raised throughout the evening will contribute towards the refurbishment of the Pretoria Boys High School swimming pool.

The facility is experiencing significant water loss through leaks and requires extensive repairs and upgrades. This investment will help restore a vital sporting and educational asset, ensuring it remains safe, functional and sustainable for use for generations to come.

The Gentlemen's Evening offers an intimate and prestigious setting with exposure to an engaged and influential audience. Adding to the excitement of the evening will be an exclusive live auction featuring a collection of premium experiences, rare memorabilia and highly sought-after items generously donated by supporters and friends of the school.

Together, we celebrate 125 years of excellence. Together, we invest in the next 125 years.

Don't Miss This Once-Off Exclusive Event.

- Friday, 23 October 2026
- 17:30 for 18:00 until late
- Pretoria Boys High School
- R1 125 per person | R10 000 per table of 10 (dinner included). Three courses included. Cash bar. Smart casual.

Everyone is welcome, not only Old Boys.

AVANTE X BRANDY –
A LIMITED CHRISTMAS
EDITION:
ONLY 200 BOTTLES

The response to the Avante X Pretoria Boys High School 125th Anniversary Cape Brandy was overwhelming and we'll be launching a limited edition 200 bottles run for Christmas - keep an eye out on our social media pages for the launch date.

This commemorative Cape Potstill Brandy pays tribute to the spirit of Boys High: steadfast, distinguished and enduring. A toast to the men who came before us, those who walk these grounds today, and the generations still to come.

**Not for sale to persons under the age of 18.
Drink responsibly.**

Watch our social media for the launch date:



For any Advancement Enquiries contact:

Mr. Julian Cook,
Head of Advancement
businessmanager@boyshigh.com
boyshigh.com

Ms. Palesa More,
Advancement Manager
advancement@boyshigh.com
boyshigh.com



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Thank you for supporting Pretoria Boys High School and Shell Lynnwood Motors!

