



# ST GEORGE'S COLLEGE

*Taking history forward*

**HEADS-UP!**  
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## FROM THE HEAD'S DESK



FR Bwanali has left the College to take up other responsibilities and duties within the Jesuit community. The College is grateful for his years of service and wish him all the very best in his new position. Fr Matias has joined the College as Chaplain. We wish him well in his appointment.

Mr Mapungwana has joined the Design and Technology department. He is a very experienced teacher and will no doubt add value to the department and become involved in the co-curricular programme.

I attended the OG dinner in London. There were over 100 OG's present and a great sense of support for what the students are achieving for the College with the vision and direction that the College is following (use <https://shorturl.at/hvFIX> to view video)

There was a busy holiday programme for all our major winter sports. All First Teams toured SA and this gave them excellent preparation for the term ahead. May I thank all the parent committees involved with enabling these tours to go ahead. The College appreciated all the efforts that were made.

We had a Hockey Tournament before the first term ended and a Junior Rugby Festival during the



holiday break. Again, thank you to all parents who were involved.

All results have been published in

## SGC @ 125 Years

### RUGBY AT ST. GEORGE'S – SOME OUTSTANDING TEAMS THROUGH THE YEARS

Now that we are firmly into the winter term and looking forward to a busy sporting schedule across a variety of disciplines, one of the biggest encounters will be the 1<sup>st</sup> XV game against Prince Edward (PE) on 22 July. Billed as OG's Unite Day, it is hoped that, among the throng of spectators, will be Old Georgians gathered from around the world to celebrate, rather belatedly, the College's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. As a sport, however, Rugby has only been played since 1927 when College relocated to Harare, and our first victory against PE, once traditionally our greatest rival, wasn't until 1935!

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## In This Issue

- ◆ Father George Bwanali reassigned
- ◆ OGs London Dinner
- ◆ Some of the greatest Saints Rugby 1st XV's
- ◆ Cricket, Hockey & Rugby SA Tours

## KEY DATES

- ◆ F2 Parent/Teachers Conferences : 11/6/23
- ◆ Civvies Day: 14/6/23
- ◆ CHISZ Soccer Tournament: 15 - 18/6/23
- ◆ F1 Parent/Teachers Conferences 27/6/23
- ◆ F4 Parents Ignatian Evening: 27/6/2023
- ◆ IGCSE Mock Exams: 28/6/2023
- ◆ Red Blazer Golf Day: 30/6/2023



Rugby 1st XV on Tour



Hockey First Team on Tour



Official Launch of St George's Nutri-Active Junior Rugby Tournament



Saints Weekly.

There will be two further compulsory support commitments on the 22nd and 29th of July, after mid-year examinations.

On our return we learnt that two of our students had achieved Cambridge Examination awards for the November series of examinations. Aikunda Kaale achieved the top award in Zimbabwe for AS Physics and Darren Dube (OG 2022) achieved



Darren Dube



Aikunda Kaale

the Top award in Zimbabwe for A level Physics. Congratulations to them both and the Physics Department.



Work in progress at the Art Studios...

Refurbishment and renovation continued at the College over the holidays. The two new Art Studios are progressing and we have an “estimated finishing date” for the beginning of June. There will then be a period required for moving premises, not always easy in the middle of a term. New floors were laid in the Computer laboratories and the D and T classrooms. Further classrooms will have floors re-laid in the August holidays.

**John Farrelly**

**Headmaster** 🌟

## FIRST TEAM SA TOURS





## RUGBY AT ST. GEORGE'S – SOME OUTSTANDING TEAMS THROUGH THE YEARS

Now that we are firmly into the winter term and looking forward to a busy sporting schedule across a variety of disciplines, one of the biggest encounters will be the 1<sup>st</sup> XV game against Prince Edward (PE) on 22 July. Billed as OG's Unite Day, it is hoped that, among the throng of spectators, will be Old Georgians gathered from around the world to celebrate, rather belatedly, the College's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. As a sport, however, Rugby has only been played since 1927 when College relocated to Harare, and our first victory against PE, once traditionally our greatest rival, wasn't until 1935! In all there have been around 170 1<sup>st</sup> team games played between the two great rugby schools, with PE known to have won 100, while another 10 were drawn!

Comparisons are said to be odious, but I thought it might be of interest nevertheless to highlight 10 of the most successful College teams of the past, based on results achieved within their year, starting with the side of 1938. Doubtless, such a focus will also provoke some heated debate among OGS as to my choice, but I hasten to point out that this article in no way suggests that these were the 10 best ever College Rugby sides!

Whilst the 1938 side might have included some of the most fearless tacklers - they wouldn't have dared to be otherwise under the unforgiving eye of the legendary Fr. Weaver - they wouldn't have had a clue how to 'lift in the lineout' and would have been totally outclassed in that department by today's teams. In earlier days also, scrum-halves had to dive-pass in order to avoid being scragged by opposing flankers 'fringing' around the scrum, and their 'put-ins' to the scrum had to be dead straight, rather than angled behind the heels of their own hooker! Not only have the rules changed enormously over the years, but so has the kit – smooth leather balls replaced by hard-to-drop rubberized balls with tiny little bobbles to facilitate handling; heavy ankle-height leather lace-up boots with reinforced toe-caps and metal studs replaced by light-weight synthetic fibre slip-on boots with regulated studs; thick, easy-to-grab cotton rugby jerseys, replaced by close fitting slick nylon jerseys covered in advertising, under which shoulder and chest padding is often worn. And, as for the thick green playing surfaces taken for granted by the teams of today, older generations had to endure fields that weren't nearly as lush, ending the season invariably with scabs on elbows, knees, and, in the case of diving scrum-halves, noses too!

Since there were relatively few rugby playing schools in 1938, out of the 12 games played by the 1<sup>st</sup> XV, six were against adult club sides, with only one defeat. During the six school games, two of which were against PE, the College try-line was never crossed! Of the 1938 squad, 15 boys went on to serve in the World War that started a year later – 7 in the Royal Air Force, and 8 in various army units. Nearly all of them became officers, 3 were killed on active service, and two were awarded the Military Cross for gallantry.



1st XV 1949 - 'Goofy' Lawrence (seated right). Aged 91, he lives in Brisbane.

Playing against all of the major schools, most of which in those days were twice the size of St. George's in terms of pupil numbers, the side of 1966 was defeated only once in 13 matches – by 5 points against Umtali Boy's High on Weaver Field. Of the players in the accompanying photo, 10 are still with us, with several still taking an active interest in the affairs of the College. One of them, Rob Berry, played both Craven Week Rugby and Nuffield Schools



1st XV 1938 - three members lost their lives in WW2, while M. Reynolds (3rd from left rear) and T. Riley (5th from left rear) won Military Crosses.

The 1949 team were unbeaten in 9 games, one of which was against a touring Rondebosch Boy's High School. A team of all-rounders, several also earned Cricket Colours and, one of them, Godfrey 'Goofy' Lawrence, went on to play cricket for the Springboks (nowadays known as the Proteas). Now aged 91 and living in Brisbane, as far as is known 'Goofy' is the only surviving member of that team.

The Umtali scrum-half diving to avoid the attentions of the College flankers, Mike Withers and 'Squeek' Smith, Aug 1966.





Cricket for two years running. He was also selected for the SA Schools XI.

As for my selection of outstanding teams for the balance of the period, based on the statistics, the following sides were particularly successful – **1978** (8 wins/2 losses); **1979** (14/3); **1983\*** (8/2); **1986** (13/2); **1989\*** (11/2/1 draw); **1998** (8/2); and **2013** (7/1). Doubtless, as already alluded to, there will be Old Georgians who will challenge my selection, and will argue the numbers, so I would mention the following additional criteria that I used. Increasingly, from the late 1970s onwards, more games were played each season than was the case in earlier years, because more and more sides went on tours, in some years overseas. In addition, there were pre-season festivals arranged under differing titles and sponsors. For the purposes of this review, I have ignored the results from these, and have focused only on games played during the winter term.

*\*Team photos unavailable at time of publication.*

**John McCarthy**

**SGC Archivist** 🌟

## SOME OF THE OUTSTANDING SAINTS RUGBY TEAMS...



1st XV 1966 - Rob Berry seated to the left of the legendary Col. Lind. Several members of this team still take an active interest in the affairs of the College.



1st XV 1978 - Back row: R. R. Kahn, A. Dunlop, M. Babiolakis, T. Ridgeway, N. Brown, R. Kneppers, P. Roche, D. Pate, M. Partridge, M. Gaisford. Front row: R. Godwin, S. Torr, T. Brogan, L. Trocadero, P. Turner Esq., A. Rosselli, J. Partridge, R. McAdam, C. Kahn.



1st XV 1979 - Back row: R. Kahn, G. Bennett, T. Widdows, R. Kneppers, M. Cunningham, D. Chingoka, S. Roche, J. Morley. Front row: M. Babiolakis, A. Dunlop, S. Osterloh, P. Roche, G. Babiolakis Esq., P. Turner Esq., M. Partridge, D. Pate, N. Brown, J. Partridge.



1st XV 1986 - Back row: E. Morley, B. Collett, G. Gurnell, J. Stenslunde, A. Winchester, G. Spence, G. Tarr. Middle row: F. Jardim, D. Bennett, G. Claasen, K. Nduku, C. Cragg, L. Williams, J. Wood. Seated: C. Brown, D. Sharp, B. Tiernan Esq., S. Turk Esq., C. Roberts, S. Elliott.



1st XV 1998 - Back row; M. Kangai, G. Maputseni, T. Mhonyera, K. Kretzman, T. Bendito, P. Zietsman, B. Rickards, M. Ushewokunze, B. Tunduwani, J. Chikuwa. Front row: B. Zakeyo, R. Marshall, S. Nyakunika, B. Murphy Esq., D. Murphy, B. Steyn, J. Morley Esq., W. Chatterjee, C. Kakwira.



1st XV 2013 - Back row: T. Mazorodze, A. Bruce, N. Zinyama, T. Chirikure, C. Nyakudya, T. Mutataguta, T. Kufazvinei. Middle row: F. Mbayiwa, T. Mapfumo, S. Rashai, L. Ngwenya, D. Nyamugama, T. Makumbinde, K. Chisango, F. Moyo. Front row: T. Mujeni, J. Mutukwa, B. Brider Esq., M. Mashaya, G. Murambiwa Esq., I. Bawden, T. Tande.