

**FROM THE HEAD'S DESK**

October has settled into a quieter rhythm following the hectic activities in September. We hosted the annual Swimming Gala at Les Brown Pool at the beginning of the month.

Our Team performed well, placing fifth overall. Water Polo Teams are also showing strong signs of



Our SGC Swimming Team at the Gala.

improvement across all age groups. Cricket, Volleyball and Basketball Teams have achieved some strong results across age groups in recent weeks.

The Chess Team also performed well in a recent tournament. Well done to all boys involved in these efforts and staff involved in helping these young men to constantly improve.

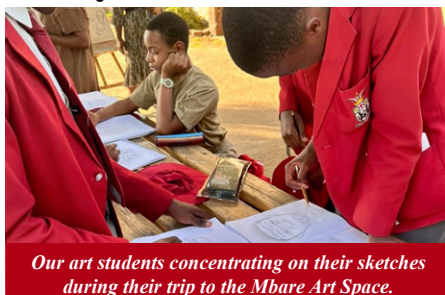
The F3 Ignatian evening was again a worthwhile evening of collaboration with parents. Thank you to



all parents who were in attendance.

The overall turnout was very low (40%) which is not encouraging in our efforts of formation with these young men.

Thanks to the Art Department for organizing their visit to the Mbare Art Space. Very encouraging to see our students gaining different experiences in a variety of environments.



Our art students concentrating on their sketches during their trip to the Mbare Art Space.

As we approach the end of October, our thoughts are focused on the end of year examinations that start the week beginning 10th November. Good luck to all the students and we are confident that they will give of their best. **AMDG.**

**Mr John Farrelly
(Headmaster)**

SGC@ 129 years**In this issue:**

- Swimming Gala at Les Brown Pool.
- Form 3 Ignatian evening
- Art Department Mbare Art Space visit.

Key dates to note:

- 10 November: End of year exams.

**HISTORY ARTICLE:
Historic swimming pool gate**

97 years ago, when the first swimming pool at St George's was built, an imposing screen wall was also constructed around it, complete with a College crest and gargoyles. Central to that wall was a beautifully crafted wrought-iron gate, set into an arched gateway, and made on site by a Brother Matthias Schönbrod.

Continued on page 2,

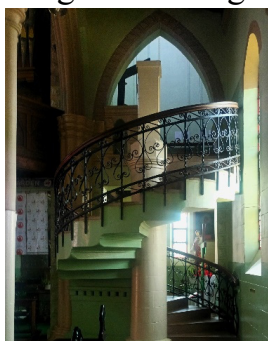
History Article continued:

97 years ago, when the first swimming pool at St George's was built, an imposing screen wall was also constructed around it, complete with a College crest and gargoyles. Central to that wall was a beautifully crafted wrought-iron gate, set into an arched gateway, and made on site by a Brother Matthias Schönbrod. Described in a

Old swimming pool, early 1930s, with decorative gate and perimeter wall.



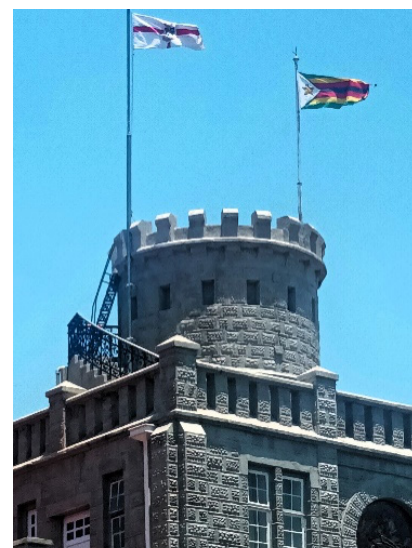
Jesuit publication, the *Zambesi Mission Record* in 1930 as “a craftsman with skill in architectural design and draughtsmanship and in executing delicate traceries in copper and iron”, Br. Schönbrod, a



Choir loft stair railings, Catholic Cathedral.

German by birth, had first arrived in the country in 1913. Over the next 12 years, he worked on various mission related building projects, including the Catholic Cathedral which was consecrated in August 1925. In addition to supervising the building work on that site, he made the intricate wrought-iron railings that can still be seen on the circular stairs up to the choir loft.

Then, after moving to the Hartmann Hill site in late 1925 with a couple of other Jesuit Brothers, each of them craftsmen with differing building skills, he not only assumed the role of building site supervisor again, but applied his metal working skills once again, this time to the railings leading up to the College Tower that was completed in late 1926.



Schönbrod railings leading up to the Tower.

From St. George's Br. Schönbrod was posted to Kutama Mission where his building expertise



Br. Schönbrod – laying of the Kutama Church foundation stone, Sept. 1929.

included a church which he designed and which was put up by the local villagers under his direction. Opened in 1931, that church was so solidly built that, when the Jesuits wanted to demolish it in the late 1960s to make way for a new church, they had to call in the military to use explosives to demolish the church tower.

¹ Some of the original gargoyles may be seen in the Bulawayo Wing foyer.

History Article continued:

Returning to the history of the pool gate, when a new swimming pool was built at the College in 1968, and demolition of the old pool begun, the gate was moved and set into the new perimeter wall on northern side. There it was formally opened on 27 October 1968 by the then Minister of Local Government, Mr. Mark Partridge, himself an Old Georgian and notable swimmer and water polo player in the late 1930s.

Now, given the alterations going on to create new change rooms for the growing number of girl students at the College, the historic gate is about to be relocated again, this time to the north western side of the pool, adjacent to the Sports Hall

that is currently under construction. Central to the gate, as it has been since it was first lovingly crafted by Br. Schönbrod, is the College crest that was in use in the late 1920s. Hopefully, it will remind current and future generations of swimmers just how historic the old gate is in the wider historic context of a school that is about to turn 130!



Opening of new pool, 27 October 1968.



Pool gate awaiting re-installation.

Article written by Mr John McCarthy (College Archivist)