



FROM THE HEAD'S DESK



The month of June started with the new format for parents/teacher consultations. This created an opportunity for Messrs Muhuru, Garande and myself to speak with parents of F3 students concerning pertinent issues surrounding their son's lives at the College. SDC representatives were also present and were able to communicate with the assembled groups regarding participation in school events.

This F3 event was followed by a virtual consultation between subject teachers of F2 students and their parents. Again, this was well received and we will continue to improve our partnership with parents concerning the communications of the development of their sons and daughters at the College.

Both F2 and F4 Ignatian evenings were well attended and I thank all parents who made the effort to come along on cold evenings, taking time out of their own busy schedules. These events make our community so much stronger.



Our 1st XI in action during the Hammer & Tongues Soccer Tournament.

Our co-curricular programme has been as busy as ever, with all students involved in both clubs and sporting activities. From public speaking, debate and chess to golf, volleyball, football, hockey and rugby, our students have excelled. Congratulations to our First XI Football team for winning the St George's College Hammer and Tongues Tournament for the second time in three years and to all our teams on the final weekend of the first half of the term dazzling us all with their skills against our worthy opponents from Falcon College.

By now, all students should have received their branded water bottles. These are not "fashion accessories" but a means by which we can begin to

eliminate the use of "one use plastic" from our campus and inculcate a culture of looking after our common home, one of the most pressing global issues of our time.

Our Inter House Music event was a great success, with the Beit Hall packed with students appreciating the talent that we have at the College. Well done to Johanny for winning this contest.



1st XV Rugby members during the conclusion of our fixture against Falcon College.



Scenes from our Interhouse Music Event.

The stand-out event for me was the way our students responded to the Blood Transfusion request for life saving help. Over 80 staff and students literally gave their blood to assist others in need. Truly men and women for and with others.

May I draw everyone's attention to the two compulsory support days on **25th July** and **1st August** and also to make a date in your calendars for our musical "**Jesus Christ Superstar**", staged in front of our floodlit castle.

This will be held in the evenings of 5th, 6th and 7th August. Our first major outdoor production in thirty years and a fitting way to celebrate our 130 years of existence.

J. Farrelly
Headmaster

SGC@ 130 years

In this issue:

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Students participating in our 130th Celebration Blood Drive.



HISTORY ARTICLE:

Some Daily Life comparisons at St George's!

Teaching staff: 60 years ago, out of a total staff teaching complement of 29, 12 were priests or Jesuit scholastics, 15 were lay men, and three were women. Nowadays out of a total teaching staff of 90.....

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History Article continued:

1966 & 2026 – some daily life comparisons at St. George’s!

Teaching staff: 60 years ago, out of a total staff teaching complement of 29, 12 were priests or Jesuit scholastics, 15 were lay men, and three were women. Nowadays out of a total teaching staff of 90, the corresponding numbers are two, 48 and 42!



1967 – Teaching & Admin staff.



2025 - Teaching staff.

Boarders and Day Scholars:

There was total of 606 pupils in 1966, including Hartmann House, with 60% of them being boarders. 44% of the boarders came from beyond our borders, with one boy travelling from Tonga in the South Pacific, while another came from Brazil! These days, there are no boarding facilities at Hartmann House, and, out

of 124 boarders at the College, 10 live outside the country. The boarders back then were allowed only one or two exeat per term, while the majority of day scholars rode to school, some from as far as Hatfield. A few utilised the then functioning city-wide regular bus services, but none would have driven themselves by car! Incidentally, day scholars were known then as ‘dayskis’ and were seen by some boarders as being useful only for the sandwiches which their loving mothers had provided them with for their break, and which often ended up being devoured by the ever-hungry boarders!

Girls: There were none in at the College, and even the female teachers took their teas and lunches separately!

Daily Timetable and Saturday School. The class timetable back then was geared to what was predominantly a boarding institution. With the exception of Fridays, when there was a period of Cadet training from 08:15 to 08:50, morning school ran from 08:30 to 12:10, Monday to Saturday. Afternoon classes, Monday to Friday, were from 1:30 pm to 14:50. On Tuesdays Cadet training followed until 16:30, and on Wednesdays, games for all followed after class. Sports events against other schools/institutions took place on Saturday afternoons.

Cadets: Instituted by Fr. Barthelemy in 1898, and subsequently introduced in all other boys’ schools until 1968, Cadet training was an essential part of the curriculum, and was compulsory for all boys from Form 3 upwards. In broad terms, it involved drilling, weapon training, target shooting, map reading, and signalling, and an annual camp was held most years. A key event was the annual Trooping of the Colour Parade, held usually on St George’s Day on Weaver Field.



Trooping the Colour Parade - 1966.



Student desks, circa 1976.

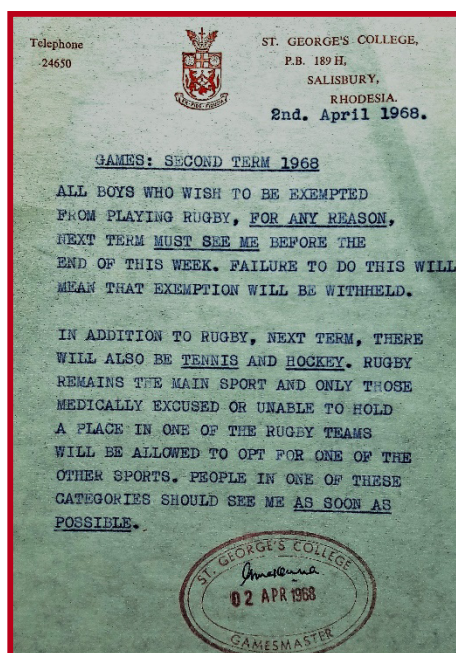
Classrooms: Except for science subjects, pupils stayed in their allocated classroom, and the teachers came to them. While the boarders had a clothing locker by their beds, there were no student lockers as such and, instead, each boy had his own desk in which he kept all his books. Nowadays, of course, pupils move between classes to where their various subject teachers are located, often lugging hefty bags!

Uniforms: Khaki shorts and shirts for the boys – white for best dress, but with a trilby hat and hat-band, and an elasticated striped belt back then. At the back of each classroom there was often a rail with multiple hooks for hats and blazers.

Sports: As may be seen from the adjacent 1968 notice, the main sports options were cricket, rugby, athletics, swimming and tennis, with hockey as a club. Boxing had ceased as a sports option 10



Zambian boarders, 1967.



years earlier. Today, pupils can choose from 15 or more sporting options!

Sports kit: While most aspiring cricketers had their own bat, very few had their own pads and gloves, and thigh pads, elbow guards and protective helmets hadn't been invented. Instead, each team had its own team bag containing a set of stumps, as well as a small, usually rather worn selection of bats, pads, gloves and old practice balls. These belonged to the school and were kept in the Games Room (now the Music Centre) and had to be collected and returned before and after each cricket practice or match. As for rugby, the school

supplied the leather lace-up balls (usually rather scuffed!), while each player was required to have two rugby jerseys, one red and the other white for practices. He also had his own lace-up ankle-high boots with a reinforced toe-cap, and long metal studs. One or two boys even owned their own leather scrum caps, but chest and shoulder padding, as well as gum guards, didn't exist.

Colours: In 1966 Colours and Half Colours were awarded only for sports. All recipients could wear a Colours tie, but there were special Colours blazers only for cricket and rugby. The white blazer for other sports Colours was only adopted in 1968, and the first non-sporting Colours award was for Studies in 1974.

History Article

130
YEARS

School Transport: As may be seen, by comparison the pupils of today travel in luxury!



College Choir returning from a concert, 1963.

Discipline: Prefects could order 'lines' for various perceived misdemeanours in the 1960s, while teachers had the option of ordering 'detention' or, more commonly, corporal punishment in the form of 'cuts'.

The latter process involved the teacher in issuing a 'pink ticket', indicating the number of 'cuts' to be administered, as well as the offence committed. The unfortunate recipient was then required to present himself within 24

DATE 3 / 3 / 64 NO. 6

REASON Talking in class NAME Fynn M.

SIGNATURE P.G.M. Casey S.J.

hours to the Prefect of Discipline for the sanction to be carried out! Corporal punishment was finally done away with in 2016.

Smoking: In a misguided attempt to control the level of smoking amongst the boys in the mid-1960s, when cigarettes were very cheap, the school authorities allowed senior boys to smoke during morning break, and only in the Common Rooms, the idea being that the seniors would then police the juniors. This tactic didn't really work and was done away with after several years, by which time, sadly, a generation of Old Georgians, now in their 70s, passed through the school having acquired a habit which they have long since regretted!

J McCarthy
College Archivist