

THE GREEN MACHINE

VOLUME 3 • OCTOBER 2025



From the Principal's desk

As we approach the close of this busy and memorable third term, I'd like to pause for a moment and reflect on the breadth of life at Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School. The rhythm of a term is often so fast and full that we hardly take time to step back and marvel at what has been achieved together. This has been a term to remember — especially for a newcomer to GHS, like me – one in which (I'd like to think) tradition, innovation, celebration and hard work have all sat side by side in a way that only the mighty 'Green Machine' of GHS can achieve.

In the academic sphere, our girls have once again distinguished themselves. GHS teams and individuals excelled in a range of Olympiads, debating competitions, inter-school quizzes, and the like, consistently placing among the top performers – including in the Eskom Young Scientist Competition and even the International Astronomy and Astrophysics Competition! Their successes are not measured only in medals and certificates, but in the critical thinking and intellectual curiosity that such endeavours inspire. These achievements affirm what we know to be true: that GHS girls are not only dynamic on the sports field and stage, but also thoughtful scholars, well-equipped to contribute to the conversations and challenges of the future.

Speaking as a history enthusiast, two anniversaries this term were special: the 105th anniversary of our founding, and, the very next day, the centenary of our beloved red-brick school building, opened on 5 August 1925. To the very day, we honoured those sturdy walls that have sheltered generations of GHS girls. Alongside these milestones, our Reunion Day held a few days' earlier was nothing short of magnificent, with nearly 400 Old Girls filling the Sylvia Vietzen Community Centre with warmth, laughter and heartfelt stories of their GHS journeys.



On the fashion front, the school's social calendar has been alive with colour and energy. Our Grade 11 Season's Ball at the Golden Horse Casino was a magnificent occasion — elegant, spirited and a true celebration of GHS style. Equally inspiring was the Matric Art Exhibition in the McDowall Centre – an event that offered a showcase of our girls' creativity, depth and originality, reminding us once again of the extraordinary talent within these walls.

On the sporting front, history was recently made with the official launch of rugby at GHS, building on the success of the rugby clinic at Hilton College, which saw over 80 of our girls take part with enthusiasm and pride. Of course, the growing success and prominence of the national ladies' team offered an obvious inspiration. Next up – I am eyeing the introduction of pickleball on our renewed tennis courts! Basketball once again brought us glory, with our First Team surging to victory at the Val Fowler Tournament, reclaiming the title for the first time in five years. Our spirited derby day against Westville Girls' High School and growing commitment to new sporting codes tell us that the GHS sports story is one of both tradition and bold new beginnings.

Spirit, of course, is never in short supply at GHS. The girls threw themselves wholeheartedly into Spirit Week, lifting morale across the campus and showing that 'cheerfulness with industry' are alive and well at our school. For example, in the staffroom, the 'Anything but a Bag' challenge was won by the ever-creative Mr Reddy, who on that day brought his lunchbox to school in a microwave! It is that same spirit which fuels our commitment to growing opportunities: the rolling out of boarding scholarships this term marks an important step forward, broadening access to a GHS education, with, hopefully, more to come from 2026 onwards. The Old Girls' Guild is also enjoying a resurgence, and a get-together at the Wanderers' Club in Sandton will be taking place on Saturday, 25 October – no doubt with many more such events to follow.

Our Old Girls continue to inspire. This term we welcomed Bhavna Nunthkuma (Class of 2012), Anele Ndlovu (Class of 2003), Leanne Pechey, née Hughes (Class of 1986) and Nicola Channing-Pearce (Class of 1986) — each one a reminder of the diverse and remarkable paths that begin at GHS. On 23 October, we look forward to hosting the acclaimed conversation strategist, Nozipho Tshabalala, née Mbanjwa (Class of 2005), in the Media Centre, for the official launch in KZN of her book, *After the Fires*.

Our 'Orchestra from Scratch' concert provided a joyful opportunity for our girls to play alongside other local musicians, ranging in age from 9 to 99 years old. Dozens of our young musicians earned acclaim in the national Eisteddfod, while the upcoming visit of Marissa Groenewald, rope-running world record holder, to our Sports and Cultural Awards Ceremony promises to end the term on a high note.



We also celebrated Women's Month in true GHS fashion: with style, fun and reflection. From make-up sessions and fashion shows, to style tips from Edgars and even full-body massages for our female staff, it was a month of acknowledging and celebrating the important roles of women. Meanwhile, the male staff met over coffee to reflect on our responsibilities as men working in an all-girls' school — a small but significant step in building understanding and shared purpose.

Campus life has been refreshed in other ways, too. The opening of the Coffee Box trailer overlooking the Shelagh Bowness Astroturf has given staff and girls alike a new hub of connection. The long-awaited repairs to the Bev Shuttleworth swimming pool are complete and the pool is at last filled up and ready for use. We are proud, too, to unveil a redesigned school website, a modern reflection of our vibrant and evolving community.

Most importantly, there is a palpable sense of renewed energy and interest in GHS. Over 600 visitors attended our recent information session aimed at 2027 entrants to GHS, and our stated commitment for the future is to improve everything we do — from classrooms to the boarding establishment, from processes to facilities. We are asking bold questions, such as: 'Why do we do things this way? Could there be a better way?' We are committed to finding creative avenues to raise funds and to exploring new learning opportunities for our young ladies.

In short, this has been a term of celebration, reflection and forward momentum. As we head into the final stretch of the year, I want to thank our girls for their enthusiasm, our parents for their continued support, our Old Girls for their loyalty, and our staff for their professionalism and dedication to the school. Together, we are shaping not just a school, but a living tradition — one that honours its past while striving boldly for the future.

With gratitude and optimism,

Matthew Marwick
Principal





Sport

This term has been a blend of remarkable triumphs and important lessons. As we wrapped up much of the sporting calendar to allow our learners to focus on exams, GHS sport continued to demonstrate depth, talent, and resilience. We remain committed to enhancing the sporting glory of GHS. With the dedication of our coaches, staff, parents, and learners, the future of sport at GHS is bright.

Participation and Spirit

Despite exam-season pressures, our learners continued to excel across codes, showing grit, sportsmanship, and commitment. A variety of sports were offered, including squash, table tennis, tennis, basketball, soccer, water polo, cross country, athletics, and hockey.

Inter-house Competitions

Netball, hockey, squash, table tennis, cross country, and the ever-popular Grade 10 Inter-class Gym routine kept the school spirit alive. The level of competition and creativity in the gym routine was outstanding this year, with Class 10F lifting the trophy.

In addition, learners also participated in the internal-school league, where they challenged one another for various titles and awards to be presented at the upcoming Sports Awards Prize Giving.



Derby Day vs Westville

We had the privilege of both hosting and being hosted by Westville for the annual Derby Day. The following results reflect our successes across 25 fixtures:

- Played: 25 | Won: 21 | Lost: 3 | Drew: 1

Standout performances included:

- U14A Netball winning 31–4
- U16B Hockey securing a 6–0 victory
- 1st Team Soccer triumphing 7–1
- 1st Team Basketball overcoming Westville 34–16

Athletics

Our athletes proudly represented GHS at the aQuelle Night Series at the Msunduzi track, competing across three events. Many achieved top 3 finishes in their respective age groups, showcasing the depth of talent in our athletics programme.

Basketball

Basketball at GHS had an outstanding term:

- Val Fowler Tournament: The 1st Team claimed this historic trophy for the 24th time overall — their first win in eight years. Congratulations to Zemvelo Phewa, named Finals MVP.
- PeacePlayers Festival: The PeacePlayers (Stayers) Team were crowned winners of the 7th Annual PeacePlayers Girls' Basketball Festival, with Sbonga Ngubane named Festival MVP.
- Junior NBA at College: Both our teams reached the finals, displaying the high calibre of basketball at GHS. We proudly brought home gold and silver medals, with Sharon Mangundu receiving the MVP award.
- Looking ahead: We wish our U16 Basketball Team all the best as they compete in the Waverley Summer Shoutout Tour this holiday.

Soccer

- The 1st Team Soccer finished as silver medalists at the aQuelle Riverwood Tournament after a narrow loss to St Anne's in the final.
- They also competed in the annual Midlands Cup, playing five matches, drawing one, and once again reaching the final where they lost to St Anne's.
- Dream Team Selections: Nyaniso Khoza, Athi Radebe, Grace Shwala, and Amileh Nxumalo
- Player of the Tournament: Akhona Hlophe
- Provincial Honours: 15 of our soccer players were selected for the KZN Inland Soccer squads. We wish them every success as they represent the province in East London during the holidays.



Water Polo

Our water polo teams competed in the league hosted by St Mary's DSG, recording valuable wins while gaining experience and growing as a squad.

A special congratulations to Kristen Burt, who earned selection to the KZN Water Polo squad.

Table Tennis and Squash

It has been another strong term for these codes:

- GHS faced off in friendly fixtures against our "brothers down the road", gaining great match practice.
- Congratulations to the following learners who were selected for the KZN Table Tennis Team:
U14: Veya Pillay, Gemma Parbhoodeen
U18: Kritika Totaram, Nitara Totaram, Keona Pillay

Looking Ahead

As the term closes, our focus now shifts to preparing for the 2026 sporting season. We are determined to build on the successes of this year, grow participation, and continue developing our athletes across all codes.



The Great GHS Cook-Off

The school hosted its annual Great GHS Cook Off, where the kitchens came alive with the aroma of Italian cuisine. Grades 10, 11 and 12 Consumer Studies learners competed under the theme La Dolce Vita — a celebration of Italian food in all its richness and flavour.

The competition was judged by a distinguished panel: Ms Jackie Cameron, founder of the Jackie Cameron School of Food and Wine; Mr Renzo Hamblin, partner at Hamblins' Catering; Mr Lee Hankey, founder of The Break Room; and Mr Gregg Oosthuizen of Sagewood Café. Their expertise and creativity brought insight and inspiration to the event.

The evening was further enhanced by a performance from the GHS string ensemble, whose music created the perfect atmosphere for a celebration of skill and creativity.

The young chefs cooked with confidence, flair and imagination, transporting the audience to the heart of Italy. Their passion and ability left the school community proud and eager to discover what the next Cook Off will bring.



HSS Cultural Show

The Hindu Students Society (HSS) hosted its annual Cultural Show, a much-anticipated event on the school calendar. The event attracted a large audience and showcased the many talents of learners through a lively and engaging programme.

The evening showed the creativity, dedication and teamwork of the HSS members, who worked with staff to present a show that was both entertaining and culturally rich. Colourful performances and a cheerful atmosphere made the event enjoyable for everyone.

The Cultural Show once again showed the importance of cultural expression in the school community and how it helps to bring people together and appreciate diversity.

Founders' Day

On 4 August 2025, the school celebrated its one hundred and fifth anniversary. For over a century, it has been a place of learning, guiding young women with knowledge, care and determination.

Generations of learners have gone on to achieve great success as doctors, scientists, scholars, athletes and more, becoming women of strong character and ambition. The school honoured its founders and all those who walked its halls with curiosity and courage.

Staff and pupils came together to celebrate the Green Machine in true GHS style. The colour run was the highlight of the day, bringing everyone together in laughter and bursts of bright colour. Picnic areas provided the perfect space to relax and the whole school enjoyed a special treat of doughnuts. The day was filled with joy, sunshine and a true sense of community. The festivities allowed us to reflect on the past that shaped the school, celebrate the present, and look forward to a future built with care, hard work and quiet strength.



2025 Reunion Day

The school welcomed back its cherished Old Girls, filling the school's halls with warmth, laughter and memories. A moving assembly set the tone, during which several Old Girls delivered heartfelt speeches. They reminisced about their own school days, shared cherished memories and offered words of encouragement and inspiration to the current learners, reminding them of the core values, resilience and spirit that define a GHS girl.

Following the assembly, guests enjoyed tea in the beautiful gardens of the Library Quad, the perfect setting for catching up and sharing stories. Tours of the school allowed Old Girls to retrace familiar corridors, classrooms and landmarks, bringing their history to life and evoking memories of past achievements, friendships and milestones.

The highlight of the day was an elegant luncheon at Norma Burns Hall. Conversation flowed freely, laughter resonated throughout the room and memories were as rich as the exquisite food, which delighted all in attendance. The occasion was a wonderful opportunity for staff, current pupils and Old Girls to connect across generations and celebrate the enduring legacy of the school.

Few occasions are as treasured as those when Old Girls return to celebrate the spirit of GHS. The day was made even more special as it coincided with the school's one hundred and fifth anniversary, reminding all of the remarkable journey and lasting impact of this esteemed institution.



A Red Brick Legacy

On 5 August 2025, the school celebrated an important milestone, marking a century of its enduring legacy. The Principal, Mr Marwick, joined by the Deputy Principals and the poised Learner Leaders, reflected on the centenary of the school's iconic red brick buildings.

On this day in 1925, five years after the school first opened its doors to eager young learners, the builders completed the cornerstone of what would become a lasting legacy. One hundred years later, the school remembered this moment and reflected on its journey through generations of pupils, staff and alumnae.

The day highlighted not only the passing years but also the values and achievements that continue to define the school. It was a reminder of the privilege of being part of a living legacy. Brick by brick, decade by decade, the school has never simply rested on its past; it has commemorated, inspired and grown, showing the strength, vision and dedication that have shaped it over the years.



33rd Val Fowler Basketball Tournament and Colour Run

The school celebrated a fantastic victory at the 33rd Val Fowler Tournament, held from 7 — 9 August, defeating Liv Village 31 to 22 and securing the school's 24th tournament win. Liv Village came second, while St Mary's Waverley placed third. The tournament brought together talented teams from across the region, showcasing skill, determination and excellent sportsmanship.

The event was not only about competition but also about fun and community. Learners and visitors enjoyed the sunshine, a Colour Run, inflatables and a variety of stalls hosted by local vendors, creating a lively and festive atmosphere.

The GHS players showed great teamwork and perseverance, making the tournament an exciting and memorable occasion. Families, staff and supporters were able to come together, celebrate school spirit and enjoy time with the wider community.

The 33rd Val Fowler Tournament not only celebrated sporting success but also highlighted the values of camaraderie, resilience and pride that are at the heart of GHS.



GHS Celebrates Women's Month

In celebration of Women's Month, GHS treated all the ladies in the school, including teaching staff, administrative teams and the estates staff, to a well-deserved pampering session. They enjoyed relaxing massages from Livwell and a stylish fashion showcase presented by Irene's Model Agency, supported by Edgars.

The event was made even more special by the generosity of the Edgars team, who provided professional makeup sessions, fashionable clothing, as well as gifts and vouchers. The occasion gave the ladies a chance to relax, feel appreciated and enjoy a moment of indulgence for all their hard work.

Male Staff Discussion

While the ladies of GHS were being celebrated for Women's Month, Mr Marwick invited the male staff to a coffee session to discuss an important topic: 'Working at GHS: Protecting Your Role, Reputation, and Responsibility as a Man in Authority.'

The discussion focused on the particular responsibilities of working as a man in an all-girls' school. Staff considered the importance of maintaining professionalism, earning trust, keeping clear boundaries, avoiding common errors and adhering to safeguarding policies.

The session also emphasised the need for mutual support among colleagues and the shared responsibility of creating a safe, respectful and positive environment for both learners and staff. It provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on the critical role each member plays in upholding the school's values and ensuring the well-being of the school community.



Rugby Clinic

This term, we hosted our first Rugby Clinic, giving learners the chance to improve their skills and teamwork, and grow their love for the sport. The event marked an important milestone, as rugby was added as the 19th sport at GHS, adding to the school's 18 existing sporting codes on offer.

The clinic was led by experienced coaches and players. They included Flash Malinga, Maritzburg College Educator and Rugby Coach for the UKZN First Team; Sane Mkhize, Old Girl (2015), Junior Springbok Colours holder and former Sharks Currie Cup (Ladies) and UKZN First Team player; Livhuwani Mudimeli, GHS coach and UKZN First Team Rugby Coach; and the UKZN First Team players who joined the session. Their guidance and support made the clinic a great success.

The event gave learners the opportunity to learn from professional players, making it an enjoyable and valuable experience for everyone.



Spirit Week

We began the term with Spirit Week, a GHS celebration of everything that makes our school special. Spirit Week is a time when learners and staff come together to show their school spirit, be creative, and share their pride at being part of the GHS community.

The week began with Bloom Day, when learners and staff filled the campus with colour, wearing bright florals, neon lumos and colourful outfits. The energy was high and school spirit abounded throughout the day.

We also celebrated Secret Agent Day, during which staff and learners dressed as undercover agents. Many wore dark clothes, sunglasses, hats and even moustaches for fun, making the day full of laughter and creativity.

We ended off Spirit Week with the Anything but a Bag Challenge, where learners and staff showed their imagination by bringing their books and belongings in the most creative and unconventional carriers. From baskets and boxes to coolers and even unusual household items, the challenge highlighted the fun and originality that Spirit Week inspires.

Everyone enjoyed seeing the GHS community come together, show their school spirit and celebrate the unique life and energy of the school.



2025 Matric Art Exhibition



Grade 11 Seasons Ball



Societies' News

Envirocare

During the third term, the Envirocare Society held a debate on the pros and cons of commercial hunting, which sparked thoughtful discussion among the members. As spring approached in September, the society welcomed the return of warmth and rain and celebrated Arbor Month. An Arbor Day awareness campaign was held in the library, featuring fun activities such as a spring hat competition and a Kahoot quiz. Members also learnt to make origami flowers from recycled paper, in keeping with the spring theme.

The society began raising funds for a local rewilding programme. Members donated towards tree planting and helped clear invasive alien plants and plant indigenous trees. During one of the meetings, members also learnt about the history of botanical gardening and the importance of these facilities for communities.

The society thanked the hardworking 2025 committee for their dedication and valuable lessons and welcomed the newly elected committee members for 2026. At the end of the term, the society completed an online Pangolin Guardian course, which educated learners on the importance of protecting these vulnerable animals.

Recycling

The Recycling Committee held a farewell party for the matric learners, where they were thanked for their service and presented with a small token of appreciation. New committee members were elected and began their duties once the matrices departed to write their Trials examinations.

During Founders' Day, some members sold products at the picnic. They were able to keep their profits while also promoting the work of the society.

The Recycling Society continues to grow from strength to strength and looks forward to seeing the new committee build on this foundation and introduce fresh ideas in the year ahead.

Library Monitors

The third term was busy for the Library Monitors, as we began the term with Reunion Day preparations. The girls worked hard to ensure that the library displays were attractive and the shelves neat. Many former pupils commented on how lovely the library looked. As a token of appreciation for their efforts, the monitors were treated to hot chocolate, which was warmly received.

After Reunion Day, the process of interviewing and selecting new monitors took place. The society then began training the new monitors for their upcoming duties.

The term also saw a farewell for the matric monitors, who were treated to a tea at the GHS Coffee Box, complete with tea-time treats and a small thank-you gift.

MSA

This term has been a busy and eventful one for the Muslim Students' Association. At the end of last term, the society undertook a fundraising project to support an underprivileged boarding school in Estcourt. A total of R 6 250 was raised, which was used to purchase oats for the learners' breakfast meals and blankets for their comfort. The support brought much-needed relief to the learners, and the society hopes to continue assisting them in the future.

Another highlight was the GHS Societies' Flea Market, which provided an enjoyable and lively day for MSA members while raising funds for charitable causes. This year's event was as successful as previous years', with favourites such as iced coffee, Bombay crush, and mini pancakes selling like hot cakes!

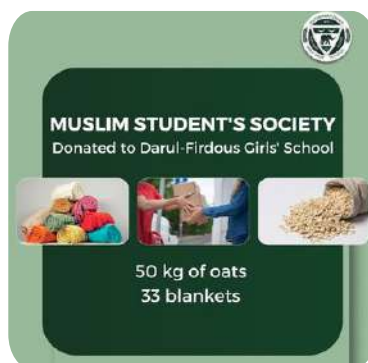
The Founders' Day picnic offered the committee an excellent opportunity to practise their entrepreneurship skills and approximately R 5 300 was raised. The proceeds were donated to the Gift of the Givers Foundation.

During the Bake-Off this year, members attempted the trending 'Lazy Cat Cake'. The afternoon was full of fun, laughter and friendly competition, with groups vying to create the best dessert. It proved to be one of the most entertaining and memorable events for the society this year.

The Green Elly

The Green Elly had a busy third term, hosting two enjoyable afternoons for the school community. On 13 August 2025, a games afternoon was held in the library, which was well attended. Learners took part in a variety of games, including a story-writing challenge, a word recognition game, as well as Family Feud and Chameleon. The games were played in a knock-out format, with the last learner standing emerging as the winner.

On 27 August 2025, the Society hosted a general knowledge quiz using the Kahoot platform, which proved very popular with learners. Prizes were awarded at both events, adding to the excitement and fun of the afternoons.



Interact Society

The third term, though short, has been a busy and productive term for the Interact Society. The girls stayed after school to make educational toys, which were donated to the children at Ekhujabuleni Children's Home. Some members continued knitting squares for blankets to be given to Siphakeme.

The society also visited the Isabel Beardmore Old Age Home in Woodlands, spending time with the residents and spreading 'sweet cheer'. The girls organised a 'guess the song' game, which provided a delightful trip down memory lane for many of the residents. Some members also provided musical entertainment. The visit ended with sweets and chocolates being shared and enjoyed. And as our girls said their farewells, they left behind happy hearts and smiling faces.

Currently, the society is planning another visit to Ekhujabuleni Children's Home in Edendale at the start of the fourth term. An appeal has been made to the girls and staff of GHS for toys, storybooks, board games, stationery and colourful pens, linen, and non-perishable food items. The society has adopted the Ekhujabuleni Children's Home as its main project for 2026, recognising the significant need there. Plans include renovating and decorating the dining hall, TV room, and games room to create a more inviting, comfortable and social space for the children.

The Society extends its best wishes to the 2025 committee and looks forward to welcoming the new committee for 2026.

Entrepreneurship Society

The Entrepreneurship Society held a warm farewell function for the Grade 12 learners, thanking them for their dedicated service and contributions from Grade 9 through to Grade 12. Their commitment and entrepreneurial spirit left a lasting impact on the society.

This year's Founders' Day was a great success, with a wide range of creative and innovative products on sale. The learners were rewarded for their hard work with strong sales and profits, which gave them a real sense of achievement.

A special highlight of the year was the opportunity to take part in the prestigious Val Fowler Basketball Tournament. The girls proudly showcased and sold their products, which were warmly received by the public. It was a valuable and enjoyable experience for all involved.

Learners continue to actively promote and sell their products, and we are optimistic that this term will be a highly productive one for the Entrepreneurship Society.



Debating

Term 3 proved to be an exceptional and rewarding term for the Debating Society, with numerous achievements and opportunities for learners to showcase their debating skills.

The Grade 8 team performed admirably at the GHS Debating Tournament, with Team GHS 2 finishing as Finals Runner-Up. The team of Qhawekazi Mdluli, Sinokuhle Sibisi and Luyanda Zondi demonstrated remarkable teamwork and courage in their first competitive year.

Several learners also received individual recognition. In the Grade 8 Speaker Top 10, Qhawekazi Mdluli achieved 5th place. In the Junior Speaker Top 10, Minenhle Ngcobo placed 2nd, Keyana Chetty 4th, and Amkelo Zondi 8th. Among the Senior Speakers, Inathi Madikizela secured 1st place, Kwanele Dladla 2nd, Iminathi Bacela 6th, and Alwande Shazi 10th.

Best Speaker Awards were also presented, with Minenhle Ngcobo earning Bronze for three awards and Kwanele Dladla and Inathi Madikizela each achieving Gold for five awards. These accolades highlight their consistency, skill and dedication to the craft.

A proud moment for the society was the participation of ten learners in the KZN Provincial Debating Tournament: Iminathi Bacela, Kwanele Dladla, Lyric Dlamini, Lwamiswa Hlongwane, Inathi Madikizela, Qhawekazi Mdluli, Alwande Shazi, Grace Shwala, Sinokuhle Sibisi, and Amkelo Zondi. Representing the province was a testament to their hard work and the growing strength of debating at GHS.

The society aims to expand its presence at provincial and national tournaments, continue developing junior members, and further refine the skills of senior debaters. The committee worked tirelessly to foster confidence, critical thinking and eloquence in all members.

The society is very proud of how far its debaters have come, and remain confident that they will achieve success at Nationals in December.



Performance Company

The Performance Company took to the stage at the Epworth Experidance Show, where they presented a lively and energetic performance. They led with an upbeat Amapiano piece that celebrated joy, movement and the importance of enjoying life's lighter moments. The performance was very well received and brought smiles to the faces of everyone watching.

During the year, the company grew by joining collaborative projects and attending various dance festivals. The dedication, progress and talent shown by each member has been outstanding. Together, our members have enjoyed new achievements, reached much success, and created many memorable performances on stage.

Gospel Choir

The third term began with the Gospel Choir performing at the GHS annual Reunion Day, where the alumnae were delighted by their beautiful singing.

This term, the choir held a workshop to learn new warm-up techniques and improve their skills in preparation for the Eisteddfod. Their hard work was rewarded with a Gold, having achieved 90% for their performance. The girls sang wonderfully and impressed everyone who listened.

As part of the choir's outreach mandate, the members visited Marian Villa Retirement Home. They shared their singing, spent time talking with the residents, and learned much from their stories and wisdom. The choir was also honoured to perform at St Nicholas and Maritzburg College, where the annual collaboration with our brother school created a rich and harmonious sound.

The term ended with a performance at the Sport and Culture Awards Ceremony. Through every song and performance, the Gospel Choir remains committed to using their talents to bring joy, hope and faith to others.



String Ensemble

This term, the String Ensemble performed at the GHS Cook-Off, providing a delightful atmosphere for the event. The ensemble was once again awarded a Gold certificate at the Eisteddfod, reflecting their skill and dedication.

The ensemble collaborated with the Hilton College String Ensemble at the Hilton Arts Festival. The concert took place on the Bell Tower stage and attracted considerable interest from passersby. It was a successful collaboration and one that the ensemble hopes to repeat in the future.

Earlier in the year, the String Ensemble participated in the PCO Orchestra From Scratch concert, joining over 160 musicians in the massed orchestra, which was a remarkable experience for all involved.

The String Ensemble also performed at the GHS Art Exhibition, the String Ensemble concert at TWC, and the GHS Awards Ceremonies. The next performance for the ensemble is the End-of-Year Concert, which promises another grand opportunity where they can showcase their talent.

Wind band

A highlight of this term was the Wind Band's visit to Empangeni, where the musicians had the opportunity to learn how to march as part of a marching band. It was a wonderful experience that allowed them to interact with other high school musicians of a similar calibre.

Earlier in the year, the musicians had participated in the PCO Orchestra From Scratch concert, joining over 160 performers in a massed orchestra. The band also excelled in their Eisteddfod performance, earning a well-deserved Gold certificate.

This year, the Wind Band performed at Grade 8 Orientation Day, the Sports and Cultural Awards Ceremony, the Senior Speech Day ceremony, and concluded the term with the End-of-Year Concert, thereby showcasing their talent and ongoing commitment to music.



HSS

At the end of the second term, on 26 June 2025, the HSS went on an excursion to Durban. The learners visited the Umgeni Road Hindu Temple and the Vrindavan Eco Village. They were warmly welcomed at both locations and treated to breakfast and lunch, respectively. We were all delighted by the guided tours that were offered, and the trip was both successful and enjoyed by all.

On 26 July 2025, the HSS Cultural Show took place. It was a tremendous success, with the girls delivering a brilliant performance and receiving widespread praise.

On Founders' Day, 4 August 2025, HSS hosted the Colour Run in the BE Park, where picnic activities were also enjoyed. The colour run event was a lively and joyous occasion, creating a memorable experience for all participants.

Funds raised from these events were donated to charitable organisations.

As part of their commitment to selfless service, which is encouraged in the Hindu religion, the learners prepared Diwali gift boxes for the elderly at Aryan Benevolent Homes.

HSS was also approached by other organisations to assist with selfless acts, such as packing food hampers for the Rise Against Hunger initiative. The Society awaited confirmation of the dates to participate in these activities.



Marketing Society

The Marketing Society demonstrated outstanding creativity, dedication, and teamwork throughout the term, ensuring that all major school events were well-supported and professionally documented.

The term initially focused on preserving special cultural and historical moments. Members assisted with set-up and photography at the HSS Cultural Show, and their work continued at the 2025 Reunion Day, where they helped with décor and captured memories of the Old Girls. Furthermore, the society covered the beauty and excitement of the Pietermaritzburg City Orchestra's From Scratch music concert, photographed the Girls for God worship evening, and documented Bloom Day at the school.

Documentation also extended to two special high-profile assemblies. Members recorded the address given by our Old Girl, Mrs. Pechey, whose surprise visit with Simba chips and mascots was a highlight. Following this, the society documented the Oh So Heavenly brand event, where the whole school received roll-on deodorants.

In addition to documenting cultural and community events, the society played an essential support role in major competitive and service initiatives. Members were key contributors to the Interhouse competitions, helping to capture memorable moments throughout the day. They offered extensive support for the Val Fowler Basketball Tournament during Founders' Day — which also involved the Colour Run — by creating promotional reels, conducting interviews, and distributing Milo vouchers to participants. Crucially, the society stepped up for community service when the school received a generous Starbucks coffee donation by Supergroup, with members helping to distribute the welcome drinks to the entire school, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable experience for all learners.

The society concluded the term with involvement in the prestigious Sports and Cultural Awards Ceremony, further showcasing the talent and spirit of the school. This period of high activity also saw the election of new heads for the society; the outgoing leaders were honored with a small token of appreciation for their hard work and commitment. Through all these varied experiences, members honed valuable skills in photography, videography, event coordination, and public engagement, solidifying the Marketing Society's position as an integral and indispensable part of the GHS community.



Staff News

Welcome to New Staff



Mr Kyle Ameer

EMS/Business Studies
Educator



Misss Yolande Padayachee

English Educator



Miss Brenda Kelly

Librarian

Farewell



Mr Johan Marx

Estate Manager
10 Years Service



Mrs Myra Bohmer

Librarian
12 Years and Service



Mr Francois Glasgow

Maintenance coordinator
4 Years Service



Miss Natessia Naidoo

Life Science Educator
4 Years Service



Mrs Stephanie Botha

Consumer Studies
Educator
1 Year Service



Mrs Jessy Maistry

Accounting/EMS Educator
and Head of grade 9
18 Years Service