# Sisterhood in Service 2027

Welcome to a new occasion in the life of our School: the inaugural 'SISTERHOOD IN SERVICE' – The Annual GHS Leadership Induction.

This morning, we formally mark a moment of continuity and renewal. Each year, the leadership mantle is passed from one group of young women to the next — and with it, the weighty but noble responsibility of service. At Girls' High, leadership has never been about badges or titles; it has always been about character. It is about courage, empathy, self-discipline, and the willingness to put the needs of others before one's own. In a few moments, our new leaders will stand before us and commit themselves to serving their school and their peers with integrity and vision – a solemn and an inspiring moment, culminating in the formal appointment of our new Head Prefect.

To our incoming leaders: tonight marks the beginning of your journey. May you lead not from above, but from among; not for yourselves, but for others. And to the rest of the school: may you receive your new leaders with respect, with kindness, and with the enthusiasm that makes GHS such a proud and spirited sisterhood.

Since 1920, generations of young women have passed through GHS. Each generation has inherited something from those who came before it: not merely buildings, badges and traditions, but a reputation, a set of values and that distinctive spirit which makes Girls' High the school that it is. None of us owns that inheritance. We receive it, hold it in our keeping for a time, strengthen it where we can, and eventually entrust it to those who follow.

Today, another generation steps forward. The young women whom we appoint this morning will serve GHS in different ways. Some will represent the voice of our learners; some will care for and counsel their peers; some will lead our Houses and our school spirit; and others will carry the particular responsibilities of the Prefect body. Their offices will differ, but the principle underlying all of them is the same. Leadership at GHS is service. I reiterate what has already been said to the girls whose names will shortly be called: enjoy this moment and be proud of it. But remember that today is not simply a recognition of what you have already achieved. It is an expression of the confidence that your School is placing in the person we believe you can become. And to the girls whose names will shortly be called: enjoy this moment and be proud of it. For the next year, something precious is being placed in your keeping. May you prove worthy of that trust.

**Reflection by the Outgoing Head Prefect:**
Good morning, GHS. As we gather for this special assembly, it feels right to pause and reflect on what true leadership really means. Today, we celebrate those who have served, and we welcome those who will step forward to serve next. Leadership is not about titles or applause; it is about character, courage and care.

The reading I am about to share is drawn from the words of the US writer and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson. His reflections remind us that success in life – and in leadership – is measured not only by what we achieve for ourselves, but by the kindness, strength and service we offer to others. "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honourable, to be compassionate; to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well. To know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived — that is to have succeeded."

Let us now bow our heads and pause in gratitude. We give thanks for all the girls who have led us with strength, kindness and vision this past year. We honour the lessons they have taught us — lessons of responsibility, compassion, and resilience. We now open our hearts to the new leaders who will rise today. May they carry their duties with courage, wisdom and humility. May you all, as their peers and juniors, support them generously, cooperate with them sincerely, and encourage them joyfully. And for those who had hoped to lead but were not chosen, may they find strength in knowing that leadership takes many forms, and that every contribution matters. May our school be a place where service shines brighter than pride, and where together we grow – today, tomorrow and always – in sisterhood and in spirit.  Amen.

**Appointment of the three Grade 12 RCL Representatives**
Good morning, ladies and gentlemen and girls. We begin today with the appointment of the Representative Council of Learners for 2027, who will be personally congratulated by Miss Doda. The RCL occupies an important place in the life and governance of GHS. Its members represent the learner body, provide a formal channel through which learner perspectives can be heard, and carry the responsibility of representing those views thoughtfully, constructively and responsibly.

1. Kailah Naidoo
2. Kailey Naidoo
3. Amkelo Zondi

Ladies, congratulations. GHS has placed its confidence in you. Please serve your fellow learners with maturity, courage and fairness.

Within the RCL, two young women will carry particular responsibility for guiding and coordinating its work during 2027.

- Deputy Chairperson of the RCL: Sisanda Bhengu
- Chairperson of the RCL: Aphelele Radebe

**Appointment of the Peer Counsellors**

Leadership is not always exercised publicly. Some of its most important work takes place quietly: in a conversation with someone who is struggling, in noticing the girl who has become isolated, in listening without judgement, and in knowing when a friend needs the assistance of an adult. Our Peer Counsellors occupy that very special place in the pastoral life of GHS. They are entrusted with the confidence of their fellow girls and are expected to serve with empathy, discretion, kindness and sound judgement.

**Peer Counsellors 2027:**

1. Riana Augustine
2. Lwandile Dlamini
3. Liana Draai
4. Namisa Gwamanda
5. Aze-Ande Hlatshwayo
6. Jessie Hopkins
7. Malia Israel
8. Qhakazile Jongisa
9. Sinqobile Khumalo
10. Zamashandu Khuzwayo
11. Sibongakonke Kunene
12. Busiswa Kuzwayo
13. Geneviéve Le Roux
14. Yandile Makhaye
15. Oratile Molefe
16. Tandzile Msimang
17. Saneliso Mvelase
18. Thulisile Ndleleni
19. Omuhle Ndlovu
20. Aphelele Ngubo
21. Risuna Nkonyani
22. Margaretha Roestorf
23. Khwezi Sithole
24. Amile Zimu
25. Senamile Zondo

- **Head Peer Tutor:** Aria Sathianathan
- **Deputy Head Peer Counsellor:** Hannah Ince
- **Head Peer Counsellor:** Milania Singh

**2027 Prefects**

To be appointed a Prefect of Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School is one of the highest honours that the School can confer upon a learner. It is an honour, but it is also an obligation. A Prefect is entrusted with authority only so that she may use it in service of others. She is expected to uphold the standards of GHS, to exercise judgement with fairness and compassion, to support staff and learners, and—perhaps most importantly—to understand that her example will often speak more loudly than her words.

These appointments follow careful consideration and consultation. They represent the confidence of the School in each of these young women.

**Prefects 2027**

1. Aviwe Bunyonyo
2. Keyana Chetty
3. Sphumelele Chonco
4. Aphelele Dlamini
5. Nolwandle Duma
6. Tara Ender
7. Langelihle Hodi
8. Hannah Job
9. Harmony Joubert
10. Enathi Khanyile
11. Lereece Manning
12. Ntandokazi Masimula
13. Neliswa Mhlongo
14. Minenhle Ngcobo
15. Snethemba Nkabinde
16. Nontando Ntuli
17. Daynae' Pillay
18. Leola Rajah
19. Yuvana Sarupen
20. Nandile Shangase
21. Danika Swart
22. Alizwa Tolibadi
23. Cebile Zond

**THE PREFECTS' PLEDGE**

*We, the Prefects of Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School for 2027, accept the trust placed in us today. We pledge to lead with integrity, to serve with compassion, to uphold the values and traditions of our School, and to place the good of GHS above personal privilege. We will strive to be fair in judgement, courageous in action and worthy in example. We accept that the reputation and spirit of this School have been entrusted, for a time, into our keeping. We will serve it faithfully."*

**Appointment of the 2027 Cheer Captain**

There are some leadership positions whose influence is difficult to miss! GHS spirit is one of the great features of our School, and few girls have a more public responsibility for creating that spirit than our Cheer Captain. She must possess energy, confidence, enthusiasm and the rather unusual ability to persuade more than a thousand GHS girls that they can, in fact, make even more noise.

**Cheer Captain:** Promise-Faith Cebekhulu

**Appointment of the Eight House Captains**

Our Houses occupy a special place in the life of GHS. They create belonging across grades, generate healthy competition, encourage participation and provide countless opportunities for girls to contribute to something larger than themselves. At the centre of each House stands its House Captain, charged with building spirit, participation and pride while setting an example of enthusiasm and service.

**2027 House Captains**

- **Amethyst:** Sinoqobile Buthelezi
- **Citrine:** Payton Vorster
- **Garnet:** Samiksha Maharaj
- **Morganite:** Nosipho Mbona
- **Ruby:** Athi Radebe
- **Sapphire:** Sbongakonke Ngubane
- **Tanzanite:** Thakasani Mthethwa
- **Topaz:** Tessa Dunlop

**Appointment of the Senior Prefects**
From our leadership group for 2027, we have four young women who have been selected as the four senior prefects. Deputy Head Boarder Prefect, Head Boarder Prefect, Deputy Head Prefect

**Deputy Head Boarder Prefect:** Kristen Burt
**Head Boarder Prefect:** Ongeziwe Zulu

**Deputy Head Prefect:** Zita Sewram

**Appointment of the Head Prefect**
Since the earliest years of Girls' High, generations of remarkable young women have been entrusted with the responsibility of leading the learner body of this School. It is an office of considerable honour, but it carries with it something far more important than honour: trust. The Head Prefect must be able to speak for her fellow girls while never forgetting her responsibility to them. She must be capable of standing at the front when leadership requires visibility, but equally willing to work quietly when service requires no recognition at all. She must understand the traditions of this School without being imprisoned by them; respect what generations before her have built while helping GHS to meet the challenges of her own time. Above all, she must understand that the position is not hers to possess. It is hers to hold in trust.

**Head Prefect:** Grace Shwala

There remains one final act. For generations, the Head Girl of Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School has worn the silver Head Prefect's Brooch. It is a small object, but it carries a history far greater than its size. It has been worn by young women who, in their own time, were entrusted with the leadership of this School; women who walked these corridors, gathered in our assemblies, celebrated our triumphs, confronted our difficulties and carried the name of GHS with pride. No Head Girl has ever owned it. She has simply held it in her keeping. For one year she has worn it as the visible symbol of an office entrusted to her; and then, when her time of leadership has drawn to its close, she has passed it to the young woman who follows. And so this morning, as one generation of leadership gives way to another, an old GHS tradition becomes the defining symbol of our new ceremony. I invite our Head Girl of 2026, Olona Duz], to present the Head Prefect's Brooch to the Head Prefect of 2027, Grace Shwale.

I now invite Grace to light this special candle. The lighting of the candle – this manifestation of light and warmth – also symbolises energy, hope, re-birth and LIFE itself.