



ST BENEDICT'S  
COLLEGE



60 years old! What a magnificent achievement, particularly when one considers that St Benedict's was often referred to as a small Catholic School in Bedfordview. Birthday celebrations are well underway with a lot planned throughout the year. Over and above the College celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> birthday; Hockey, Rowing and the Pipe Band celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> birthdays while Rugby and swimming celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

Upon reflection of those early days, the school has grown immensely with many changes to infrastructure as well as a growth in numbers. 2018 will be no different with the conversion of the hockey astro turf from a sand-based to a water-based astro which is planned to take place in January. Basketball will see a third court being added to their complement which will certainly assist our ability to host an increased number of matches at the school. Starting blocks will be added to the 50 meter outdoor pool in time to host the inter-high boys school gala in February. The new College library will be completed by the end of the first term with state of the art equipment and resources.

As Headmaster of the College, it is a privilege to be part of this auspicious occasion. I lead a dynamic team of dedicated and committed staff in guiding and educating young men in a safe, academically enriching and Catholic environment. Our boys are dedicated and constantly give of their best in pursuit of being a "Light in the World" (Matthew 5: 13-16).

'Veritas in Caritate' is the schools' motto which refers to a holistic education with a caring approach that believes in fostering positive and dynamic relationships between the boys who attend the College and the boys and their teachers. "From new boy to headboy, we all belong here" is a line from the school song which epitomises this oneness and collegiality. In 2018, we will be introducing a new mentoring program emphasizing this child-centred philosophy. "Turning Boys to Men" will be at the forefront of this new approach, empowering the boys to learn from one another. Coupled with this, we see the return of the House structure which should go a long way to giving the boys that competitive edge which they will require in the workforce.

Sport at St Benedict's takes place during school hours and the unique integrated day ensures that the Academic day is divided offering the boys the chance to participate in a variety of sporting disciplines – ensuring that the boys participate in a sport every term and get the necessary exercise teenage boys require. They are also encouraged to involve themselves actively in a wide range of Cultural Activities while being mindful of the Catholic ideals and practises that govern the school. These four cornerstones make up the essence of St Benedict's.

The class of 2017 produced some pleasing results in the National Senior Certificate. Their results are reflective of their hard work throughout their high school career and these results are justifiably deserved. The class of 2017 produced 206 distinctions at a distinction ratio of 1.75 per boy.

With a learner complement of 1400 across the campus, St Benedict's remains one of the largest private Catholic Boys School in South Africa. The College offers 5 classes per grade in grade 8, 9 and 10 while in



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grade 11 and 12 there are 6 classes per grade. Class sizes remain low with a maximum of 25 boys per class.

The arrival of January signifies new beginnings which, in turn, brings with it new opportunities and possibilities; increased hope, and greater aspirations. I would like to use this opportunity to welcome every new boy to the St Benedict's team and I trust that 2018 will prove to be an outstanding year. May the St Benedict's community be showered with God's blessings in its 60<sup>th</sup> year.