

The School turns 59 years old this year. Upon reflection of those early days, the school has grown immensely with many changes to infrastructure as well as a growth in pupil numbers. As Headmaster of the College, it is a privilege to 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, on the whole, are well-mannered, enthusiastic and constantly give of their best in pursuit of being a "Light in the World" (Matthew 5: 13-16). The number of facilities offered at the school have increased considerably from those early years and are comparable with some of the best in South Africa.

'Bennies going places' is a slogan that one will find inscribed on the back of our school buses. It is also a slogan toward which we continually strive on a daily basis. It is our belief that a St Benedict's boy must leave the College with certain life skills that will stand him in good stead in the future. A Bennies boy is well grounded in Catholic values and displays a set of morals that reflects a balanced education.

'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.

Sport at St Benedict's College is compulsory and is accommodated in the academic timetable. Thus the 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 receive the necessary exercise that a teenage boy requires. 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 2016 produced some amazing results in the National Senior Certificate. These boys have performed consistently throughout their high school career and these results are justifiably deserved. The class of 2016 were our largest Matric group to date (137 boys) who produced 329 distinctions at a distinction ratio of 2.4 per boy. We are extremely pleased with these wonderful results and are proud of their achievements. Sean Ingle made it onto the IEB Outstanding Achievers List while Jared O'Reilly and Matthew Pepin made it onto the IEB Commendable Achievers List.

With a learner compliment of 640 boys in 2017, the College remains one of the largest private Catholic Boys School in South Africa. The College offers 5 classes per grade in grade 8 and 9 while in grade 10, 11 and 12 there are 6 classes per grade. Class sizes remain low with a maximum of 25 boys per class. The new classroom block which was completed in November 2015 houses 14 classrooms, a marketing office and a first aid room which are all fully equipped with the latest technology. Attached to the new classroom block, we are currently completing the College Library and Multimedia Centre which will open its doors in 2018.

Each New Year brings with it new opportunities and possibilities, increased hope and greater aspirations. I would like to use this opportunity and welcome every new boy to the St Benedict's team and I trust that 2017 will prove to be the best one yet. May the St Benedict's community be showered with God's blessings.