



Dear Parents

29 July 2022

Our National Pride gets a boost...

When COVID 19 hit, the world came to a standstill, and so did sporting activities. The joy of watching national teams of any sport across the world came to an abrupt halt. For South Africa, this was at the height of just having won a rugby world cup. The country's sporting prowess is one of the most enduring aspects of its human tapestry, as it evokes deep emotions of triumph and unity. Former President Nelson Mandela was one of the first leaders to identify this and use it to get citizens to stand behind its national teams to strive for unity and social cohesion in the face of adversity. Today, South Africa's sporting prowess is why the country is admired the world over.

On Saturday, July 23, the South African women's national soccer team, nicknamed 'Banyana Banyana', clinched their maiden Women's Africa Cup of Nations win, to earn their crown as Africa's football queens. This significant milestone comes following previous efforts to lift the coveted trophy, where Banyana Banyana lost to Equatorial Guinea and Nigeria's Super Falcons twice, in 1995 and 2018. With the competition extended to 12 teams, Africa's queens needed to win six matches to secure their first title, and they exceeded expectations by netting the ball in every single game.

In his congratulatory remarks, President Cyril Ramaphosa applauded Banyana Banyana on making history and winning their first ever title saying, "They promised me that they would bring the trophy home. We cannot wait to welcome you back and thank you for flying the flag."

This sentiment was shared by millions of South Africans, with the Acting CEO of Brand South Africa, Ms. Sithembile Ntombela adding that South Africa's sporting prowess and reputation continues to be one of our strongest associations and key contributor influencing our positive perceptions globally. "As a country that is highly regarded for its democratic transition, sport is recognised as one of the key pillars that have contributed to social cohesion and nation building. The majority of South Africans draw a substantial amount of national pride from the country's sporting accolades. The familiarity of the South African brand is largely associated with the country's sporting prowess, which is one of the key positive contributors to how global audiences perceive us" says Ntombela.

"We congratulate Coach of the year, Desiree Ellis and the entire Banyana Banyana team for their stellar performance. We appreciate how their commitment serves as a reminder on why the world recognises us as one of the few that are able to convert sporting achievements into tools of national unity, and influence. Even in the face of socio-economic challenges Banyana's win is a reminder of triumph and unity," said Ntombela. "Now more than ever Banyana Banyana epitomise the true values of our country's story of resilience even in adversity, significantly so as we celebrate Tata Mandela's birthday this month. Thank you for Playing Your Part to help strengthen our Nation Brand," she concludes.

(<https://brandsouthafrica.com/media-release-banyana-banyana-win-exceptional-performance>)

Believe in Yourself....

BLOOD DRIVE

We had another successful Blood Drive on Tuesday this week. Three 'first time' donors brought the total number of units collected to 24. Thank you to all pupils and parents who generously donated.

GRADE 9 SUBJECT CHOICE FORMS

Please could I remind all Grade 9 parents that the Subject Choice Forms for Grade 10 (2023) were due yesterday. If your child has not returned their form, please could you remind them to drop it off at reception on Monday morning.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Thank you to all our parents who were able to attend the consultations this week. If you were unable to attend and need to discuss your child's progress, please contact reception to make arrangements with your child's teacher(s).

FAREWELL MRS. LOTTER

Our Hostel Matron (Mrs. Annelie Lotter) is returning to Pretoria to be closer to her family. We thank Mrs. Lotter for her time with us and her caring commitment to our hostel boarders. Mrs. Lotter will take up a new role next month and we wish her every success in her new adventure.

WELCOME MRS. JEFFERY

Mrs. Jen Jeffery will take up the reigns as our new Hostel Matron on Monday 15 August. Mrs. Jeffery has many years of experience having served at St Mary's DSG from 2011. Mrs. Jeffery was the Senior House Mistress and subsequently the Head of Boarding; we welcome Mrs. Jeffery and trust that she will have a long, happy relationship with Ridgeway College.

REMINDER (LONG WEEKEND)

Please be reminded that next weekend is a long weekend (Mon 8th Aug & Tue 9th Aug) school is closed.

UPCOMING DATES

- School Photos – Thursday 11 August
- Movie Night – Friday 12 August

KIND REGARDS

Dr. G.W Elliott

EXECUTIVE HEAD

head@ridgewaycollege.co.za



Normal...

***We've forgotten what is normal
The slate is all but clean
There is no going back
After the year that we have seen
Some strive to roll the clock back
And return to days before
People crave for normal
As we steer towards distant shores***

***Was it ever normal
Or just the way things are supposed to be
Perhaps it is an illusion
That all of us do see
What we consider normal
Is soon about to change
As all we have grown used to
Continues to rearrange
- Robert Longley***



Believe in Yourself....

