

DSG

Newsletter Term 3 #34 | 21 November 2019



**THE DIOCESAN SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS**



Dear Parents and Friends of DSG

As another successful year at DSG draws to a close, and my time of departure draws nearer, I find my mind often drifting to the 'lasts' and the many experiences that are uniquely DSG. What a special place this is and how privileged we all are – girls and staff – to briefly be part of DSG's history!

EN AVANT

During the course of this year, we formed our own Advancement Office with DSG Old Girl, Alison Wienekus, at the helm. She heads a wonderfully energetic and talented team:

Head of Advancement and Foundations role:	Alison Wienekus
Marketing:	Vanessa Holmes
Social and Digital Media:	Cindy Fumbata
Communications and PR:	Faye Hardisty
Admissions:	Lisa Hobson
Marketing and Communications support:	Stephen Penney

Stephen Penney leaves the team at the end of this year to work full time for St Andrew's College and Faye Hardisty is returning to Kenya at the end of February. I thank Stephen for his loyal and unwavering service to DSG; fortunately, he is just across the way and remains a colleague, so farewells are unnecessary. As a result, DSG will soon be advertising for a Communications and Design specialist to join the team.

The timing of the formation of the Advancement Office is a deliberate strategy by management and Council to ensure that we are well-prepared for DSG's 150th celebrations in 2024. On the back of the normal day-to-day duties of such an office, including alumni relations and reunions; upkeep of media platforms, marketing, communications, etc. they are hard at work preparing for this momentous year, plans of which they will launch in the second half of next year. It is worth noting that the Grade 8s starting at DSG in 2020 will be the Matrics in DSG's 150th year. What an exciting prospect for them!

I, together with many staff and all the girls in the senior school as of today, will no longer be working and learning at DSG in 2024. We will, however, be exceptionally proud and grateful to have walked a small part of DSG's life journey with her and we will most certainly be en masse participants in the celebrations.

Warm regards

Shelley Frayne

Headmistress

Introducing Mr Jannie De Villiers

Over the past few weeks, we have been sending you links to our series of interviews between 2019 Headgirl, Julia Basson, and incoming Head, Mr Jannie de Villiers. As term draws to a close, as do our newsletters for the term, this will be the final link we send in this format. However, the interviews do continue and will be posted on DSG social media more frequently over the next week and a bit.

Part 5 covers transformation, inclusion and equality, so click on this link to hear the actual interview:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6o5NY_hWOQ

Below is a taster of what you can expect to hear about via our social media platforms:

Part 6

Julia: There is lots of talk about preparing young people for the 21st century. How should education be adapting in order to do this?

Jannie: The answer to this question can be very complex, but also easily Googled. However, for me, it still boils down to the two objectives that I have always regarded as the acid test for quality education: Are we teaching learners to think and to care? In the 21st century, the most prominent constant is going to be change. This means that the top competency with which we should equip our pupils is the ability to learn effectively, because that is the essence of adaptability. Although the 21st century is likely to be overshadowed by AI, big data and algorithms, it will be our values and relationships and how we hold onto these, that will distinguish us and give our lives the meaning that will make us truly happy, healthy and fulfilled. If we add to all that the skills to effectively harness technology and the internet, we should have a sporting chance.



Part 7

Julia: Any thoughts about moving to Grahamstown / Makhanda?

Jannie: To move from beautiful Knysna to Makhanda with its problems requires a strong sense of calling and purpose. As a family, we believe that we were guided to this moment, in this place, and we therefore moved to DSG, Grahamstown and the Eastern Cape with the intention to add our penny's worth in service of this school, as well as the broader community. The streets in town are less than encouraging, but we are attracted by the beauty and history of the people and the greater environment of the Eastern Cape and the possibilities of its future. We work like short-term pessimists, but believe like long-term optimists.

Part 8

Julia: What is your view on academic / play ("life") balance and its importance in maintaining a happy and healthy school environment?

Jannie: I believe in balance, period. This includes the balance between work and play, but when it comes to that, first prize is to find a day job that gets you confused between the two.

Julia: As the incoming Head of our school, what message would you like to leave with the DSG community?

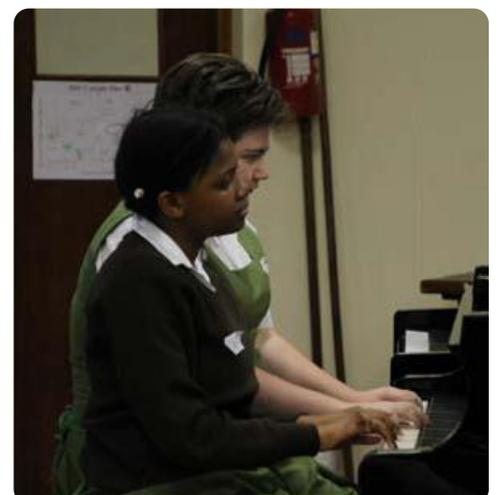
Jannie: Let us enjoy the journey of learning; of trial, error, reattempting and mastering.
 Let us take our work seriously, but laugh at ourselves.
 Let us show compassion and courtesy to others.
 Let us build trust and earn respect.
 Let us strive for excellence, but not for perfection.
 Let us love and bring out the best in each other.
 Let us glorify God in every endeavour.

Thank you to Jannie, Julia and our marketing team for putting together this enlightening and informative series of videos. We trust you all feel excited about welcoming Jannie and his family to DSG and to Grahamstown/Makhanda

Senior Open Concert

A large and very appreciative audience supported the last of the Senior Open Concerts for the year on Wednesday night. The programme was varied and the performances very well prepared. Thank you to all our performers for being willing and having the courage to share your music, thus giving pleasure to others.

Salomie Rocher



Grade 8 Chemistry Prac with Indicators



Life Sciences - A-level Class Prac Session



Important Information for Matric Parents

At the end of the last examination for our girls (for most of them, English P2), it has become a tradition for excited moms and dads to wait outside to meet their daughters.

May I ask that this year, parents wait at the boom gate and do not come close to the hall? The reason for this is simply that we have eleven girls with time concessions who will be writing still and the noise outside is both deafening and unfair to them. Your support in this regard will be appreciated.

As the girls walk out of the hall, it has also become a tradition to leave their shoes in a line leading to the gate. The shoes are donated to charity. Parents are welcome to photograph this once all the girls have finished writing.

I would also like to flag the following vital information regarding the results:

- Release of NSC results **7 January**
- Closing date for Re-mark applications **13 January**
- Re-mark results released **6 February**
- There are NO supplementary examinations.

To access the results on the IEB web site, your daughter will need her ID number and her examination number. At the bottom of the page of her results will be the re-mark application form and details for on-line payment. This is not a cheap exercise. On average, we have about 25 girls applying for re-marks every year and an average of four symbol changes while about 10 have minor percentage increases that do not change the symbol.

Dionne Redfern

Please note that we will not be issuing a newsletter next week, but will rather be publishing a special edition on the last day of term as we welcome back our intrepid Journey travellers and say a last farewell to Ms Frayne, Ms Redfern and Mr Wright.

Lifestyle Sport

Lifestyle Sports' girls getting their fitness on with some core work and high-intensity cardio step... There's no better way to approach studying for the exams than with a heavy mind and a healthy body!

Lindsay Davy



John Jones Fish River Journey

No doubt the parents of the Grade 10s are receiving regular updates on the progress of our students as they undertake the challenging, life-changing Journey, where every individual has to dig deep into their physical, mental and emotional reserves. However, for the rest of us, I am pleased to report that all the participants are in fine fettle, with a mood of determination, tolerance and team work being prevalent in all the groups. We are told that there is an overwhelming sense of fun and enjoyment and energy levels remain high, even after a day of tough activity. In the absence of any electronic devices, the boys and girls are spending their down time chatting, playing cards, participating in ball games and generally have a fun-filled time. Below is a link to some 360° photos taken by Mr Euvrard that you might enjoy, to get a sense of the atmosphere and stunning scenery that our pupils and staff are enjoying.

<https://momento360.com/e/uc/45893b24493b4517a2ea82aa7ad9a0f2>

For the rest, enjoy the photos. We continue to wish our Grade 10s strength, courage, tolerance and laughter as they continue with their great Journey.



Sport

Dear Parents

Although there is not very much to report back on this week, we do wish Emma Kruse and Natalie Morris well as they travel to Sasolburg this weekend to represent Eastern Province Athletics in an inter-provincial meeting. Also, a reminder about the sports camps in January before school starts; please get in touch if you require more information.

As we near the end of the year and our competitive sports programme has wound down, I thought I would update you of some developments in school-level sport. There is much discussion in the wider arena about these issues and we in the sports department want to offer a considered opinion regarding our over-arching policy regarding sport at DSG. We certainly do not want to make the mistake of following trends that may not be in the best interest of our girls or that contradict our aims and policy. Here are three areas that are of concern: specialisation in sport, process versus outcomes, and participation, and they are all intrinsically linked.

Specialisation in school sport: As the competitive nature of school sport increases and winning seems to have become more important to many, there is a growing trend in girls' schools where players are made to specialise in one sport from the age of 13. Girls who choose to play more than one sport face the risk of being dropped from high performance squads and subsequently, any chance of playing in an A team or 1st team. Reports indicate that this approach results in a 50% drop-out rate post-school of some of our most talented sports women.

Process versus outcomes debate: Is the coaching at schools and the direction of schools' sports programmes focused on the process of developing skills and creating an understanding and love for the game, or are we overly fixated on the end result. This affects the way we approach training sessions, inter-school matches, are prepared to travel at great expense around the country with our top teams, and the manner in which our coaches treat their players. A recent report came to us of a school that in order to obtain the best possible results, advanced nine talented U13 players into the U14 team, depriving the good U14 players the chance to play for their team. The instances of unacceptable coaching behaviour in school matches are well documented. A number of schools are also employing heads of individual sport codes who have no academic responsibility and their contracts are short-term with performance clauses included in them, which is pushing us further down the outcomes-based road.

Participation: If we are process driven, all players get a fair opportunity to participate and at school level, one would think this is an obvious principle to follow. However, if we are instead obsessed with the outcome and it is always about results, players are not afforded fair opportunities. Touring becomes a real issue when players travel with their team at great expense to their parents, only to sit on the bench for the entire tour; disappointingly, this is viewed as an acceptable practice by many.

It is obvious from the above that at times results to schools have become more important than education, and we must ask what pressures are being brought to bear on schools to win at all costs and to retain or obtain a certain 'ranking'?



By following an outcomes-based approach in school sport the concerns are that:

- Young girls risk burn-out when being made to specialise so early;
- The enjoyment of sport and being given the opportunity to develop a love of sport (all sport) and to lead an active and healthy lifestyle after school, is potentially being damaged.
- The consideration of the child, is her best interest being served or that of the school?
- Most importantly, the possibility of psychological damage being incurred when a girl is not given a chance to play, despite being selected for a team; being dropped from a team, despite being one of the best players in her age group; or being faced with coaches who are demanding a “win at all cost” attitude. Our girls are young, they are still developing physically, mentally and emotionally. Teenagers are fragile in many ways and can easily lose confidence and/or motivation. We cannot forget this.

Unfortunately, the concept that the quality of a school can be judged by its sporting results often prevails, and any school is confronted by the expectations of parents, school councils, alumni, the public, and of course, the girls themselves. At DSG we accept that there is a certain expectation on outcomes, but we need to hold true to what we consider to be imperative: our girls’ well-being is paramount, and girls will be cared for and nurtured. Girls who show particular aptitude will be encouraged and supported, but we do not believe that early specialisation is in the girls’ best interests. Girls will play in their age-appropriate teams unless there are exceptional circumstances, as per our sports policy. Girls who are selected as part of a squad for any sport will be given an opportunity to play in every game/match.

Our ultimate aim is that girls develop a love for sport at whatever level they choose to play and that they will continue

playing after school and right throughout their lives, or at least they will look to lead a healthy and active lifestyle. We would like school sport to be an enjoyable experience – taking into consideration that an enjoyable experience can involve hard work, effort and giving of one’s best. We would like our girls to be competitive and that they be recognised as worthy competitors, but never at all costs. We would like our girls to learn about sportsmanship, losing with dignity and winning with humility. In short, we strive to lead a process-driven sports programme and not one based on outcomes.

There are no easy answers to the issues raised above, and the conversations polarise opinion. Sport in Grahamstown also has its pros and cons when compared with the bigger centres, which I won’t get into here, however, what is clear, is that because most of our girls are boarders, they learn to make their own decisions and have to take responsibility for their own sport from a relatively young age. Further, the communal life they live encourages strong team spirit and a camaraderie seldom seen elsewhere.

We believe DSG sport is in a good space and we can hold firm to our beliefs and values as we navigate what will undoubtedly be a challenging path in the future. We will also strive to stay on top of sporting developments both locally and nationally, and will continue to question and challenge our thinking and those of others.

In closing, I would like to thank our parents for the strong support you always give your daughters and us in the sports office. Should you wish to discuss our policy or have ideas, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Warm regards

Chris Hibbert

Director of Sport



DSG Sports Dates for 2020

Term 1

9-11 Jan.	Hockey – East Cape Residential Camp
12-15 Jan.	DSG Sports Camp (basketball, netball, squash, swimming, tennis, water polo)
19 Jan.	Tennis – Settlers Cup (Grahamstown) – 1sts
25 Jan.	Basketball – Comets Tournament (PE) – 1sts
25 Jan.	Water polo Derby vs Kingswood
29 Jan.	Tennis vs PAHS – 1sts & 15A
29 Jan.	Basketball vs SAC & SAP
31 Jan. - 2 Feb.	Water polo - Brian Baker Tournament @ Kingswood – 1sts
1 Feb.	Basketball – Kingswood Quadrangular – 1sts
1 Feb.	Water polo Derby vs Woodridge (A)
5 Feb.	Tennis vs VG - 1sts & 15A
5 Feb.	Basketball vs SAC & SAP
7 Feb.	Tennis vs Pearson (H) – 1sts
7 Feb.	Tennis vs Kingswood (A) – 2nds
7-8 Feb.	Swimming - A League Gala (PE)
7-8 Feb.	Water polo - Alex Road Festival) – 2nds & U16A
7-8 Feb.	Water polo - Jason Murray Tournament (East London) – U14A & U14B
12 Feb.	Tennis vs Kingswood - 1sts & 15A
14 Feb.	Athletics - Sarah Baartman Champs (PE Oval)
14 Feb.	Tennis vs GHS (H) – 1sts
15 Feb.	Water polo Derby vs Pearson and Alex Road (PE)
13-16 Feb.	Water polo - Oakhill Chukka Festival (Knysna) – 2nds
14-16 Feb.	Squash - Dave Hodgson Festival (H) – 1sts
17 Feb.	Swimming – Pearson Prestige Gala (PE)
19 Feb.	Tennis vs Kingswood – U15B & U15C
21 Feb.	Tennis vs Collegiate – 1sts (A) & U15A (H)
22 Feb.	Water polo Derby vs Collegiate and Kingswood (H)
23 Feb.	Swimming – River mile (Bushmans)
24-26 Feb.	Swimming – Interhouse Gala

Half term - 27 February to 2 March

27 Feb. - 1 Mar.	Tennis – Independent Schools Tennis Tournament (Pretoria) – 1sts
28-29 Feb.	Tennis – Clarendon/Selborne Tournament (East London) – 2nds
27 Feb. – 1 Mar.	Water polo – Old Petrians Tournament (Jbg) – 1sts
27 Feb. – 1 Mar.	Water polo – Shaun Fuchs Tournament (Jbg) – U15A
5 Mar.	Athletics - Makana Brick Nite Race
5-7 Mar.	Athletics - East Cape High Schools (East London)
6-7 Mar.	Hockey - EP opening weekend festival (PE) – 1sts
6-7 Mar.	Netball – Madibaz Netball Tournament – 1sts, 2nds, U16A
7 Mar.	Hockey - EP opening weekend festival (PE) – U14A

7 Mar.	Swimming – Top 8 Gala (PE)
13-14 Mar.	Hockey & Netball - Alex Road U14 Festival (PE)
13-14 Mar.	Netball – Despatch Festival – 1sts & U16A
14 Mar.	Hockey – Westering Festival (PE) – U16B
14 Mar.	Netball – Westering Festival (PE) – U15A
13-15 Mar.	Hockey – Greg Beling Festival (East London) – 1sts
20-21 Mar.	Hockey & Netball Derby vs Kingswood
27-29 Mar.	Hockey – Rob Taylor Festival (East London) – U14A & U14B
3 Apr.	Hockey & Netball vs Westering (H) – 1sts & U16A
4 Apr.	Hockey & Netball Derby vs Framesby (PE)
5 Apr.	Hockey – SPAR Festival (H) – 1sts

Holidays – 9 April to 4 May

8-12 Apr.	Hockey, Netball & Squash – St Stithians Easter Festival – 1sts
9-11 Apr.	Hockey – Woodridge U16 Festival – U16A

Term 2

8 May	Hockey & Netball Derby vs Victoria Girls (H)
9 May	Hockey & Netball Derby vs Cambridge (East London)
15-16 May	Hockey, Netball & Squash Derby vs Collegiate (Port Elizabeth)
22-23 May	Hockey, Netball & Squash Derby vs Clarendon (H)
29-30 May	Hockey & Netball Derby vs Pearson (Port Elizabeth)
5-6 Jun.	Hockey, Netball & Squash Derby vs Queenstown GHS (H)
8 Jun.	Squash vs Kingswood (H)
12 Jun.	Netball vs Kingswood (H)
13 Jun.	Hockey vs Kingswood (H)

Half term – 18 June to 30 June

Provincial hockey, netball and squash tournaments take place over this time.

11 Jul.	Hockey & Netball Derby vs Woodridge (H)
18 Jul.	Hockey & Netball Derby vs Kingsridge (King Williams Town)

Holidays – 7 August to 31 August

7-10 Aug.	Hockey – DSG U14 Hockey Tournament (H) – U14A
7-10 Aug.	Hockey – Top 12 tournaments (Bloemfontein & Paarl) – 1sts & U16A - tbc