Graeme College



2023- In celebration of 150 years of excellence



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 20 March 2024

Message from the Deputy Headmaster

Graeme College is incredibly proud to be part of the Makhanda community. We are obviously very much a community orientated school and our relationship within our community is incredibly important. We aren't an affluent school and we value relationships above all else. It makes us so proud to host events which make our community proud but we also love bringing the community together on our campus. Events like the Family Fun Fair, our annual rugby festival and community runs/ walks are such an important aspect to those relationships. We absolutely loved the rugby festival which has grown hugely over the years. Watch this space - 2025 is going to be bigger and better than ever. The recent CANSA walk on our campus is also a perfect example. The event is run by Pick n Pay, Vox, CANSA and assisted by Round Table. There were also so many incredible sponsors behind the event as well. It was HUGE! And maybe caught us all a little off guard this year - again watch this space in 2025. We were thrilled to provide the venue for the hugely important event, and would like to congratulate all involved! The events don't seem to stop. We have just finished our Founders' Weekend and the Winter Sport season has just kicked off. It's always amazing how the Winter sports codes manage to bring a school together. Weekly war cries and big crowds on Saturdays are just another reason for our community to get together on a weekly basis.

We would like to thank our community for always supporting us. Being the school we are, we can't exist without the love and support. And hence, we will always support our community wherever we can as well. So many companies support these events on our campus and we can never say thank you enough. Our rugby festival has far more than a thousand participants and we don't charge any player to participate. We rely on the various sponsors to create the spectacle that we had this last weekend because of that support. We are a community school and nothing makes us prouder. Together we can achieve so much and thrive in Makhanda. This is a great place to live and Graeme College will always be on the forefront of supporting our local businesses and people.

Academic

Interhouse Quiz:

On Tuesday 19 March the Academic Portfolio Committee introduced what they hope will be an annual Interhouse Quiz! Chulumanco Mashiqana and his team did an amazing job, unaided by any staff. It was most enjoyable, but at the end of the day, no one could keep Vernal down! They were closely followed by the Neilson team. What a different academic activity and it generated so much fun and energy for the day.

Mini Careers Week:

The Grade 11s and 12s have been privileged to attend a number of different talks this week. Stenden South Africa, Rhodes University and Just Milk/Cookhouse Creamery have all had a chance to present various ideas and career opportunities to our learners who are about to leave school. The idea behind this is to try to get our young Graemians to start to think about the future so that they can keep as many doors open for themselves as possible. Graeme College would like to thank these esteemed institutions and businesses for taking the time to come and make the presentations to the young men of Graeme College.

HIGH SCHOOL TOP ACHIEVERS:

We are so pleased to present the Top 10 academics at the end of Term1! It has been such a busy term, and there have been some truly fantastic results. We hope that as the year progresses that the Graemians try and better these results or challenge the order of the results. More academic celebratory news will follow at the beginning of next term.

TERM 1 2024		
GRADE 12 TOP 10	GRADE 11 TOP TEN	GRADE 10 TOP TEN
 Chulumanco Mashiqana Joshua Scheepers Makabongwe Mancam Sideeq Flannegan Samuel Hockly Sikelela Mazitshana Cameron Doyle Liyema Mbayoti Anga Maci Olweth'uthando Mhlope 	 Noah Tabensky Cullen Goliath Nicholas McKeown Jesse McConnachie Leon Mwepu Lutwesiwe Kobese Imiso Mpalala Joy Mukenge Ajay Jeggels Lungako George 	 Jayden Brits Leroy Adriaan and Liyema Merile Andrew Muir Likhona Cakata Larson McKaiser Liam Bodill Linamandla Lento Hamish Haakonsen Mihlali Ngqinzi
GRADE 9 TOP TEN 1. Kits McConnachie 2. Luphawulwethu Madolo 3. Ruben Bodenstein 4. Sizo Klaas 5. Joshua Danilatos 6. Jedd Youthed 7. Nicholas Cock 8. Mbulelo Gama 9. Ethan de Wet 10. Michael Pretorius	GRADE 8 TOP TEN 1. Zachary Spengler 2. Anesipho Mraji 3. Mawande Mayalo 4. Likhanye Ndevu 5. Kungawo Tali 6. Okuhle Gongqa 7. Gino O'Brien 8. Jayden Conroy 9. Sinenhlanhla Cishe 10. Avuyisiwe Mnandi	

Academic

- 3. Matthew Lamont
- 4. Tseliso Matsoso
- 5. Kenzo Prince
- 6. Uyapha Madodonke
- 7. Jed van der Merwe
- 8. Lusenathi Manzana
- 8. Sheraad Russion
- 10. Lavuya Vayi
- TOP 5 EFFORT
- Slater Hart
- Jayden Isaacs
- Abakhe Luwaya
- Liyema Madiza
- Aqhama Sam

Pink Walk

CANSA strives to raise awareness of cancers affecting South Africans and encourages everyone to be aware of symptoms, changes in their bodies and to go for cancer screening, in order to detect cancer early. A fun and visible way to bring awareness of cancer to our local community, was to participate in CANSA Pink Walk, held last night at Graeme for the first time. Pick n Pay Grahamstown was a massive driving force behind this incredible campaign and Graeme is proud to have hosted the event.





















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Academic

Mathematics 100 Club

Anesipho Mraji of Grade 8MP was recently inducted into the Mathematics 100 Club for his end of term test based on Number Systems, Fractions and Integers. Well done! Keep up the good work!



Junior School

Notch Kings of the week.



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Junior School

Junior school annual Rubics Cube Competition. Well done to: GUSTAV JORDAAN - OVERALL WINNER - 26 seconds LIAM VIEDGE 2ND- 35 seconds





















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Junior School

The Junior School said farewell to our fantastic Grade 4 teacher, Mrs Candice van der Meulen, this morning. The boys gave us beautiful words to describe Candice: 'energetic', 'kind', 'caring', 'enthusiastic', 'friendly' amongst others. All of them, and then some, are true. Mrs van der Meulen has touched so many lives during her time at the school and for that we are very grateful. Candice has expressed a desire to be more available for her two young children, which we cannot fight! Many blessings to you Mrs van der Meulen, as you start the next chapter of your life. You will be missed!







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Junior School

Breaking news! Last year, not a single learner from Graeme College made it to the second round of the South African mathematics challenge. This year? A proud 18 students moving forward!!! Congratulations to all our brilliant mathematicians.



Debating

The Debating 1st team managed to reach the semi-finals of the Rhini Debating League and therefore placed 3rd overall.

Five debaters have also been selected to attend debating trials on 18 May. They include Noah Tabensky, Ali Rizvi, Jesse McConnachie, Liam Bodill and Roman Prevec.



Fishing Club

Fishing Club:

26 bass were caught by the fishing club when they went on an afternoon bass fishing trip at one of our Old Graemain boy's farm. The boys had so much fun!

"Fishing is not about the fish you catch, it's about the memories you make." - Unknown













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Old Graemians

Robert Blane matriculated from Graeme College in 2010.

He began his piloting career in 2012 where he completed his Private and Commercial Pilots licenses.

In 2013 he began to work as a bush pilot flying into short and critical airfields where he flew passengers to and from many game reserves.

In his off time during this period he completed his Flight Instructor's Rating.

In 2014 Robert was a bush pilot in season and out of season he was a flight instructor in Johannesburg. In 2015 Robert worked in West Africa to fly a multi-engine turboprop aircraft called a Beechcraft 1900D. He flew for the United Nations Humanitarian Service flying food in and around remote locations. Robert then flew for the Red Cross in West Africa doing medivacs and finally flew for the French Military completing a few unclassified missions.

In 2017 he flew for Airlink in South Africa and Southern Africa.

In 2019 Robert joined EVA AIR, a long haul airline based in Asia. He flies all around the world. Robert flies the Boeing 777-300 ER which is the largest multi-engine aircraft in the world. This aircraft can carry 430 passengers depending on the configuration.

Robert has completed more than 6 300 hours of flying!

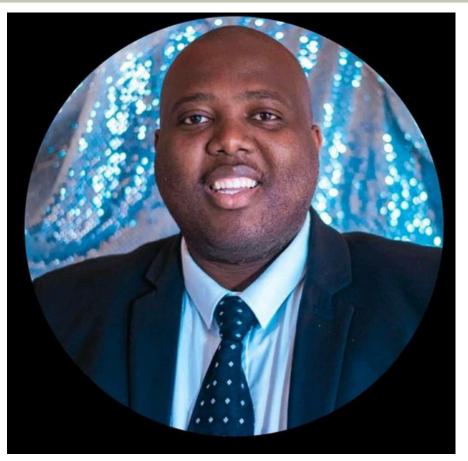
Robert is also a keen vehicle enthusiast and enjoys going to the gym and traveling.

Fly high, Robert! We are sure to follow your career with great interest.



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Old Graemians



We are so proud of Chuma Beja (OG 2014)!

Chuma has recently qualified to officially register as a Chartered Accountant!

At school, Chuma belonged to The Leopard's Voice, where he obtained full colours for Choir. He took

Mathematics, Accounting, Life Sciences, Business Studies, IsiXhosa and English.

Chuma completed his Grade 12 year in the Top Ten of the Grade.

Thereafter, he enrolled for a Bachelor of Commerce Degree majoring in Accounting. A Bcom Honours followed where he majored in Accounting, Auditing, Tax and Finance.

In March 2021, Chuma began his Chartered Accounting Articles of 3 years at Price Waterhouse Cooper. In April 2021, Chuma sat for the first SAICA qualifying Board Exam (ITC) and passed on his first attempt. In December 2022, he sat for the second and final Board Exam (APC) and passed on his first attempt. In February 2024 of this year, he completed his articles at PwC and became eligible to register as a qualified Chartered Accountant.

In March 2024, Chuma was offered the opportunity in London, UK, to be an Assistant Manager in Business Assurance.

Congratulations, Chuma. You will no doubt leave your mark on the world.

Grade 2s

To end off the term the grade 2 class had a little picnic They all brought treats to school and shared it amongst each other.





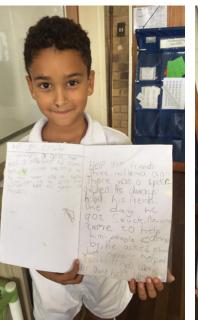




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Grade 2s

The Grade 2 class had so much fun writing their own stories based on a book we used for shared reading. They had to write their own story, edit each other's storylines and read theirs to the class.





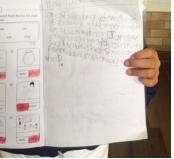
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Some incredible signed sports memorabilia on the online auction! Our auction website is now live! Link: https://bit.ly/42E9ANS

Please support the online auction. A 2009 Kings Jersey signed by the team .

Two Sunrisers jerseys, one signed by the team and one signed by their Capt Aidan Markram Link: bit.ly/42E9ANS

YOU'RE INVITED!

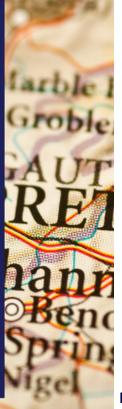
Old Graemian get together in Johannesburg



Come and reminisce and have a catch up! Venue: Wahoo Aquatic Centre (516 College Lane off Maxwell drive Sunninghill) Date 29 March 2024 Time 13:00

Mr Watson, along with the 1st team rugby, 1st team squash, U16A and U14A rugby coaches will all be there.

RSVP by 23 March 2024 to Dylan Schneigansz Cell: 0788659476 D.schneigansz@graemecollege.co.za



If you are in Johannesburg this Easter we would love you to join us!

Community Engagement

Sunbeams Educare Centre Drive

The Community Outreach Portfolio spent term 1 collecting various items for the brand new Pre-School in Joza. Sunbeams Educare Centre has provided a much needed early childhood development program for the children in Joza. The centre is open for 12 hours a day Mondays to Fridays.

The boys collected paper, crayons, colouring in pencils, glue, toys, reading books etc.

Mrs Noluvuyo Budaza was blown away at the generosity of the Graeme College family.

We thank our boys and their families for always supporting where they can. We can honestly say that Graeme College is the most consistent school in our town in terms of community engagement.

These leopards have kind hearts!



Community Outreach Portfolio food donation to Food for Futures. The Community Outreach Portfolio boys donated canned food items towards Food For Futures. They also collected funds at Pick 'n Pay and bought canned food for Food For Futures. An estimated R5000 worth of canned food was donated this morning to Mary Birt and Monique from Food for Futures.



MARIMBA BAND REHEARSALS Monday: 14h00 - 14h45 Grade 6 and Grade 7 Group Wednesday: 13h30 - 14h15 Grade 4 and Grade 5 Group

Music

STEELBAND REHEARSALS
Monday: 14h00 - 14h30 Beginner Steelband

14h30 - 15h00 Intermediate Steelband

Tuesday: 13h30 - 14h15 Senior A Steelband

14h15 - 15h00 Senior B Steelband

Friday: 14h00 - 15h00 Senior A Steelband

The choir performed in the Masicule Choir spectacular. Well done on a stunning performance! We are so proud!





Two of our Graemians are ready to break a leg...

Late last year a small group, led by Reneé van Rensburg, founded the Makhanda Players Dramatic Society. Auditions for the first production were held in early 2024 and Christopher McLean and Chulumanco Mashiqana were cast in two of the ten roles in the stage production of Agatha Christie's The Unexpected Guest - Christopher in the role of Julian Farrar, and Chulumanco in the role of Sergeant Cadwallader. The cast has been hard at work during rehearsals and the show runs from 21 - 23 March at the Kingswood Foundation Hall. Tickets are available from <u>www.quicket.co.za.</u>









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The culture and diversity committee organised a fellowship night where the boys studied in a bible session where they went through the Book of Luke. They also had an Easter egg Bible quiz and closed the night off with a friendly game of basketball.







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Tennis

Our U/13 tennis team are currently on tour in Cape Town. Look at the beautiful scenery as they play beneath the beautiful backdrop of the mountains. Good luck boys!

















Humans of Makhanda Grocott's Mail.

Graeme College bids farewell to mastermind behind Rugby Day Festival

By Nothando Yolanda Tshuma

As Graemeans kickstart their 2024 Rugby Day festival on Thursday, 14 March, following the success of the 2023 tournament, which was also part of the school's 150th birthday celebrations, this year, the festival began with Graeme's U16A boys playing against Selborne, securing a 19-0 home ground win.

While the school celebrates the victory, the mastermind behind this annual 3-day event, Nico van der Meulen, will bid farewell to both the school and tournament as he is on the brink of retirement.

Having matriculated at the school in 1977, van der Meulen returned to teach at the school in January 1987.

During that time, he was also the school's 1st XV rugby coach for sixteen years, from 1988 to 2005. In 1998, he started Rugby Day, and due to the massive success of that event, he accepted the challenge of making it an annual one.

Every year, van der Meulen quietly and single-handedly made every detailed arrangement and gave his eager helpers their instructions.

This ensured that the event ran like clockwork every time – van der Meulen had "his finger on the pulse" at all times.

"The success of the Graeme Rugby Day has exceeded my initial goals," says van de Meulen, meaning that he did not expect the event to gain so much attention when he initially introduced it in 1998.

He has been a significant growth of the sponsors, more than he imagined when he introduced what was then a one-day rugby festival.

The initial concept aimed to gather schools at a central location for competitive play, sparking widespread interest among other schools to join.

Van der Meulen highlighted the universal love for rugby among schools in Makhanda, including

Humans Makhanda



Nico van der Meulen, Educator and Founder of Graeme College Rugby day. Photo: Nothando Yolanda Tshuma.

Kingswood College, St Andrews College, and Graeme College.

Contrasting this year's three-day rugby event with the inaugural one in 1998, the significant efforts invested in planning over the years validate its evolution into a festival.

With van der Meulen retiring in June 2024, Watson praised his pivotal role in establishing and nurturing the event, now recognised as the premier schoolboy rugby festival in the province. Although van der Meulen plans to oversee this year's organisation, his trademark dedication ensures a seamless execution.

Watson says that Graeme College acknowledges van der Meulen's unwavering commitment and wishes him the best in his retirement.

This year's Rugby Day festival commences from 14 to 16 March.

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15 March 2024

PO Box 281, Grahamstown, 6140

We held our Mini Rugga Day on Friday 8 March and it was a huge success. Thank you to the parents who helped so much. A lovely Friday evening was had!

















Rugby results vs Daniel Pienaar Technical High School: 14a lost 14-33 14b lost 73-0 15a lost 15-14 15b lost 7-0 (game stopped) 16a won 38-10 16b won 12-7 3rds drew 24-24 2nds lost 15-33 1sts lost 19-29



Well done to our u13A side who won 17-5 against Gonubie in the Rugby Festival.



Team chats with Mr Xonxa! Lots of smiles as our U16A team have been performing so very well!



Mr van der Murlen and his grandson Our little leopard might need some more convincing to get into this whole rugby thing!





There was much excitement for our festival as we welcomed so many different teams to our campus and our town. The Graeme College Rugby Festival has been a highlight of our school's calendar, and we were thrilled that the 25th edition in 2024 was a huge success. We are very grateful to our sponsors. A big thank you to the following:

Graeme College Rugby Festival 2024 Sponsors

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS FOR THEIR VALUED CONTRIBUTION

- GBS MUTUAL BANK
- · BUCO
- MTN
- . DAISY
- PICK N PAY GRAHAMSTOWN
- JC LISTER & CONSTRUCTION
- HYUNDAI
- RAYNERS AGENCIES
- KEMPSTON
- CHIP & DIP- VDW BRANDS
- LONA
- GRAHAM HOTEL
- SPAR
- KS AUTO SPARES AND TOWING
- vox
- SETTLER CITY TOYOTA
- JACK'S BAGELS
- KELSTON
- STANDARD BANK
- B&E INTERNATIONAL
- TYREMART



Results from Day 1: U14A Graeme College 10 - 14 Selborne College U14A Brandwag 33 - 0 Cambridge U14A Pearson High School 48 - 0 Port Rex U14A Stirling High School 10 - 17 Muir College U15A Brandwag 26 - 3 Cambridge High School U15A Stirling High School10 - 7 Muir College U15A Pearson 46 - 0 Port Rex U15A Mary Waters 26 - 17 Port Alfred U15A Graeme College 26 - 15 Selborne College U16A Pearson 17 - 12 Port Rex U16A Brandwag 52 - 7 Cambridge High School U16A Stirling High School 22 - 19 Muir College U16A Graeme College U16A 19 - 0 Selborne College

Results from Day 2: U14A Nico Malan HS vs Dale College 52-1 U14A Union HS vs Daniel Pienaar 0-78 U15A Kingswood College vs Marlow 5-22 U15A Nico Malan HS vs Dale College 7-5 U16A Nico Malan HS vs Dale College 20-14 U14A Kingswood College vs Marlow 0-57 U16A Union HS vs Daniel Pienaar 5-37 U15A Union HS vs Daniel Pienaar 5-69 U14A Queens College vs Framesby HS 26-33 U15A Queens College vs Framesby HS 17-13 U16A Queens College vs Framesby HS 26-33 U16A Kingswood College vs Marlow 31-47 Graeme 2nds vs PAHS 1sts 19-12 Port Rex vs Mary Waters 12-13 **Union High School vs Daniel Pienaar 6-43** Kingswood College vs Marlow 29-14 Dale College vs Nico Malan HS 29-32 **Grey High School vs Hudson Park HS 44-5**

Results from Day 3: Cambridge vs Muir College 24-21 Stirling High School vs Framesby 0-43 Queen's College vs Pearson High School: 11-19 St Andrew's College vs Brandwag 34-19 Graeme College vs Selborne College 7-14

Athletics



Three of our athletes represented at the Sarah Baartman District Eastern Cape Athletics Championships held in Komani, 7 - 9 March. This was the their 2nd appearance at provincial level. We had high hopes for them but they didn't perform to their full potential.

Inam Masoma finished in the top ten in the province. C-Jay Jeggels put up a good fight in the U15 400m finals and finished in 3rd place, earning himself an impressive bronze medal.

Keathan Edwards' form could have been better on the weekend. Despite his individual sprinting, he could have been better in the 100m and 200m finals. He was also part of the Sarah Baartman District U15 4x100m relay team, which came first in the finals and this earned Keathan a gold medal.

We congratulate all these athletes for sticking it out against very strong competitors and making their presence felt.

Squash



Ashton Burger took part in the Alan Stapleton Squash Tournament this weekend. He managed to win the under 14 division. Well done on another fantastic achievement, Ashton!

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Templeton Drive, Grahamstown

Our 150 book

Right: Journey through more than 150 years in our Graeme College history. Our book is still available to buy and will be treasured by everyone who buys it- we promise!

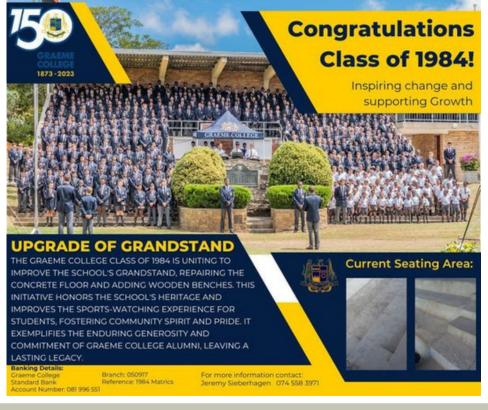
This book is a culmination of years of work by Peter Breetzke & Ernie van Hille. Order Information: Contact Zoe Wille: z.wille@graemecollege.co.za



Miscellaneous

What a great initiative! The class of 1984 have decided as a group to tackle one of the tasks on the Graeme College wishlist.

If you part of the 1984 class and want to find out more please contact Jeremy Sieberhagen (074) 558 3971.



School term calendar

Please take note of our term diary which has a comprehensive calendar of events and what is happening for the term ahead.

Link: https://www.graemecollege.co.za/media/1521/gc-term-1-diary-2024.pdf

The calendar is also available on our school website.

Teen App

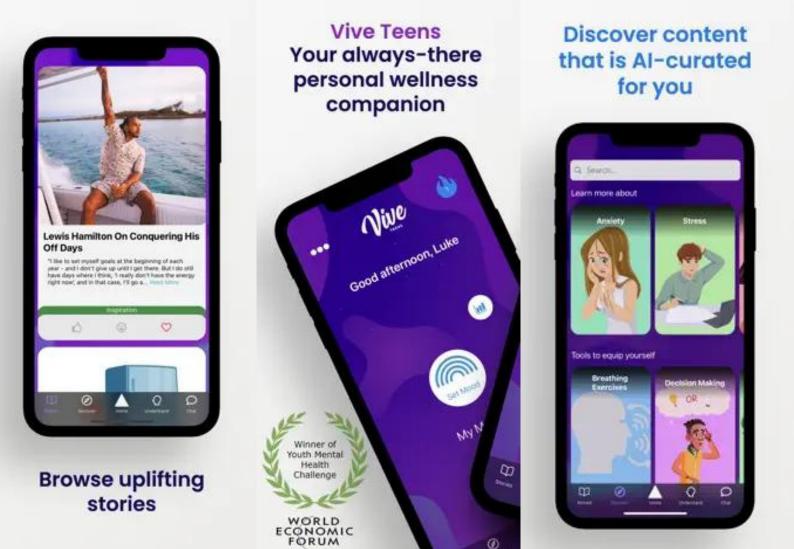
We are delighted to announce that Graeme College has purchased a full membership of the VIVE TEEN WELLNESS application, which will enable ALL our learners to have full access to the app. It is something that we have thoroughly investigated, and feel that this is a massive step in the right direction for the wellbeing of our all learners. We are excited that every learner will have safe space to learn more about mental wellness, and reach out for help if needed, in a number of ways.

VIVE TEEN WELLNESS is an Artificial Intelligence enabled digital platform and smartphone application that was built in South Africa. The first version was launched earlier in 2023, with several schools presently using the full suite of functionality. The schools and learners that have been using the platform in recent months have provided us with very valuable feedback that assisted us in planning the next phase of the roll-out. During 2022 VIVE TEENS has been selected as a winner in the UpLink - World Economic Forum (WEF) Youth Mental Health Challenge where it has competed with over 120 other mental health companies from across the globe.

The platform is expected to launch internationally early in 2024, and as part of that process we are awarding South African schools the opportunity to gain from a locally built application and support the mental wellness of our children.

The Graeme College subscription starts from 1 September 2023, but we would like our learners to download the application in the meantime, and familiarise themselves with it by referring to the various videos and guides.

Here is a link to the video to understand what Vive is all about: https://fb.watch/mcK3MzNNrn/



Plaques for Indoor Sports Centre

Our commemorative plaques allow you to celebrate and appreciate the memories of your loved ones, honour someone special or distinguish your family.

Our granite plaques are enduring and timeless. They are a fitting tribute on our beautiful new Indoor Sports Centre and a valuable contribution to our school.

ADD YOUR NAME INTO THE HISTORY OF THE GRAEME COLLEGE CAMPUS FOREVER:

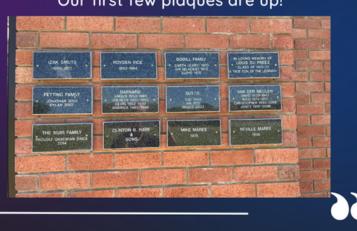
We are selling plaques to add to the new indoor centre... where you can add your name or family name into the history of the building. The idea is to sell 150 plaques only.

Email your request to z.wille@graemecollege.co.za - we will send you more information re payment etc. The plaques will be R5000 each and will be 270mm x 130mm. They are Rustenburg Granite - black/grey. Lettering is 15mm in height. All funds raised will go into the extra building costs as well as equipping the facility with sports and gym equipment.

#G 150 Plaques

Would you like to honour someone special/loved ones or your family through our commemorative plaques? Our plaques at the new Indoor Sports Centre will be the mainstay for putting the finishing touch on a beautiful and historical great buildings at our school, thereby adding your name to the history of Graeme forever. Our commemorative plaques are a dignified and formal means of honouring someone truly special/or your family.

११ # (150 / agues 1873 - 2023 Our first few plaques are up!



G (150 Plaques



Our commemorative plaques allow you to celebrate and appreciate the memories of your loved ones, honour someone special or distinguish your family. Our granite plaques are enduring and timeless. They are a fitting tribute on our beautiful new Indoor Sports Centre and a valuable contribution to our school.



1873 - 2023

Email your request to z.wille@graemecollege.co.za . We will send you more information re: payment etc. The plaques will be R5000 each and will be 270mm x 130mm. They are Rustenburg Granite - black/grey. Lettering is 15mm in height. All funds raised will go into the extra building costs as well as equipping the facility with sports and gym equipment.



Templeton Drive, Grahamstown

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Library

Library times

The library will be open at first break only, every day. If you would like your son to study in the library in the afternoons, you need to write a letter to the school to get permission. Thank you for your cooperation.

2nd Hand Clothing Shop

The Graeme College second-hand clothing shop will be open between 13h00 and 14h00 every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (excluding public holidays and school holidays). Please contact the school should you have any queries.

Google Calendar

Please click on the link below to be directed to the school Google Calendar. The link helps you subscribe to the school calendar which you can add to your phone, tablet or computer. Just click on the 'plus sign' at the bottom right hand corner of the calendar.

Click here for a link: https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/r?cid=public.calendar@graemecollege.co.za

Stay connected

Do you follow Graeme College on the following platforms?

Instagram: @graemecollege @graemeboys

Awsum App https://www.awsum.co.za/download-the-awsum-app-for-schools

Facebook: Graeme College

If you aren't on the GC Community WhatsApp group - you can join by following the QR Code below or communicate with your Class Register Teacher or Mentor Teacher. Thank you.



A big thank you to our boys who offered to be marshals at the Pink Walk!

