



ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL WELKOM

Educating for Life

5 March 2026

RE: Parents Circular 2/2026

Dear Parents

It is with a deep sense of sadness, loss and nostalgia that I write my final circular at St Andrew's as I conclude my tenure as principal. As I often say, time and tide wait for no one, and now those words apply to me.

By the end of this term, the farewells will have been said, and the school will move forward under new leadership and with renewed energy. It has been a wonderful privilege to serve this school for the past 12 years, and as I hand over the baton, I do so with confidence that will St Andrew's will grow from strength to strength.

1. Academics:

By the end of this term, all the assessments done during the term will culminate in a mark for a specific subject, which will then reflect on the academic report. These reports will be issued on the first Friday of the second term (10 April 2026).

Parents will then have the opportunity to discuss these results with their children, and should there be any concerns, our parents will have the opportunity to come to school the following Tuesday, 14 April 2026, to discuss these matters with the relevant teachers.

We want to encourage our parents to make use of this opportunity and to involve our learners in the discussions so as to find solutions and possible interventions. It is of the utmost importance that any shortcomings are addressed as soon as possible to ensure that our children's academic progress is guided in the right direction timeously.

If there ever comes a day when we
can't be together, keep me in your
heart, I'll stay there forever.
- Winnie the Pooh



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Anglican Diocese of the Free State

C/o Hamlet Road & St Andrew's Way, St Helena, Welkom
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2. Finances

As always, parents are reminded of their obligation to pay school fees diligently in order to ensure the continued financial sustainability of the school. We extend our sincere appreciation to the vast majority of parents who meet their commitments faithfully. At the same time, we respectfully remind parents who are in arrears that open communication and a clear commitment to the resolving of outstanding balances is essential in order to avoid legal action.



We are pleased to report that the school's finances are currently stable and that enrolment numbers have exceeded last year's projections. Looking ahead, a focused and proactive marketing strategy for 2026 will remain a priority to further strengthen our financial sustainability and continued progress.

The Board of Governors will consider possible salary adjustments for staff at the next Board Meeting.

3. Excursions



Our Grade 8 camp will take place from the 13th – 15th of March 2026 at Camp Unity in the Bloemfontein region. Our learners will be accompanied by three teachers, who will be there in a supervisory capacity, while the staff of Camp Unity will be in charge of team building activities.

Our Grade 12 Sesotho learners, accompanied by Mrs Setai, will also be going on an academic excursion to Johannesburg. Here they will have the opportunity to engage with the author of their prescribed book, which will also give them insight in the work to be prepared for their final examinations. This excursion will take place on the 14th of March 2026.

Furthermore, our Grade 12 class will depart on their excursion to St Lucia on the 23rd of March and return on the 27th of March 2026. The purpose of the trip would be of an educational nature, but of course there will also be enough fun-filled team-building activities to make this a memorable adventure.



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We want to express our sincere appreciation to all our teachers for taking on the huge responsibility of accompanying our learners on these field trips, and by doing so, exposing them to new places and opportunities for personal growth.

4. PTA Social

Our traditional social function takes place on the 13th of March 2026 at 1 Toronto. As in the past, we will provide the fires, pap, sauce and music. Our parents and their families must bring everything else required for a picnic on the grass.



Please also remember to provide for the children in terms of treats, as there will be no tuckshop available.

We are relying on the goodwill of our parents with regards to the “entrance fee” of R20 per vehicle that will be charged at the gate. The expectation from the PTA is therefore, that our parents will make this donation of R20,00 per vehicle, to at least cover some of the expenses of the evening. Please be accommodative of our council members who will be on duty at the gate.

For safety sake, we request that traffic be restricted, as far as possible, on the tar road in front of the main hall. Fires will be lit in that vicinity, and we will have children playing there. Please adhere to this request.

5. Staff Matters:

It remains important to keep our parents informed regarding staff-related matters, as we know that quality teaching is pivotal in high-performing schools.

While staff retention is essential for stability and continuity, there are times when turnover is unavoidable, due to changing personal circumstances. We would therefore like to inform you of a few staffing developments.

Three staff members have resigned due to relocation and the need to scale down their professional commitments.



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Mrs Bekker (HOD and Afrikaans teacher) has stepped down from her position. She has been replaced in the classroom by Ms Berries as Afrikaans teacher, while the HOD position will be filled in due course. In the interim, those responsibilities are being ably managed by Mrs van den Berg and Mrs Janke.



Mrs Hinrichs (Mathematics) will also be leaving at the end of the term after 12 years of dedicated service and an impressive 40-year career as a senior Mathematics teacher. We extend our sincere appreciation for her longstanding commitment and significant contribution to our school and our learners.

This vacancy will be filled by Mr Toffick Nyarko, who brings experience in the Senior Phase Mathematics from both public and independent schools.

How lucky I
am to have
something
that makes
saying goodbye
so hard.



As you are aware, the principal's post that I will be vacating has been filled by Mrs Janke. We are confident that the school will continue to thrive under her leadership.

We express our sincere appreciation to those teachers who have served the school with loyalty and distinction over many years, adding tremendous value to our community. We wish all the departing staff members God's abundant favour and blessing in the next chapter of their journey.

We would also like to reassure our parents that the strategic move to bring Grade R under the umbrella of the Foundation Phase has proven to be highly successful. This alignment has strengthened academic continuity and ensured collaboration within the phase.

Furthermore, the overall oversight of the Preschool is temporarily in the capable hands of Mrs Rademeyer, our HOD of the Foundation Phase. We are grateful for her steady leadership and commitment to maintaining the high standards our parents have come to expect.



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6. Dates to Remember

11 March:	Mini-Expo Gr 1 – 3 Workshop at 1 Toronto
13 – 15 March:	Grade 8 Camp
13 March:	PTA Social at 1 Toronto
14 March:	Grade 12 Sesotho Trip to St Stithians
14 March:	U/12 Lejweleputswa Hockey Trials
17 March:	Board of Governors Meeting
20 March:	School Closes
21 March:	Human Rights Day
23 – 27 March:	Grade 12 Trip to St Lucia
3 April:	Good Friday
6 April:	Easter Sunday
6 April:	Family Day
8 April:	School Starts for Term 2
8 April:	H/S Girls Hockey vs Welkom Secondary School (Home)
10 April:	Gr 1 – 12 Reports Hand Out
11 April:	High School Soccer Clinic
14 April:	Parents Evening
14 April:	H/S Boys Hockey vs Henneman (Away)
15 April:	Formal Assembly
15 April:	Netball Match vs Thotagauta (Home)
15 April:	H/S Girls Hockey vs Bothaville (Away)
15 April:	Expo Gr 4 – 12 Workshop at 1 Toronto
15 April:	Expo Committee Meeting in Council Room
18 April:	Netball Match vs Nanabolela (Home)
21 April:	H/S Boys Hockey vs Welkom Secondary School (Home)
22 April:	H/S Girls Hockey vs Welkom Gimnasium (Home)
23 April:	Netball B & C League Trails at Henneman



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24 April:	Netball A League Trials at Wessel Maree
25 April:	High School Soccer Clinic
27 April:	Freedom Day
28 – 30 April:	Special School Holiday
1 May:	Worker's Day
2 May:	High School Soccer Clinic
5 May:	H/S Boys Hockey vs Henneman (Home)
6 May:	H/S Girls Hockey vs Wessels Maree (Away)
8 – 10 May:	Grade 11 Excursion Camp Discovery
12 May:	H/S Boys Hockey vs Welkom Seconadry School (Away)
13 May:	H/S Girls Hockey vs Goudveld (Home)
13 May:	Netball Match vs Sandveld (Away)
14 May:	Ascension Day
15 May:	Mini-Expo Gr 1 -3 at 1 Toronto



God bless


Mr G Hinrichs
Principal



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