



ROEDEAN SCHOOL (SA)

INSPIRING A LIFE OF SIGNIFICANCE

Founded 1903

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Dear Staff, Parents and Alumnae

Term 3 is underway, the girls are back, the campus is alive again and there is a very welcome sense of energy across Roedean. We were delighted to welcome Rev Roger Cameron as Interim Rector at the start of term. Roger, accompanied by his wife Anne, joined our staff for a Eucharist Service on the day before school reopened, where he was blessed by the Bishop of Johannesburg as he began his time with us. It was a lovely way to mark the start of a new chapter.

Roger brings with him a lifetime in education, deep experience in school leadership and, perhaps just as importantly, a wonderful sense of humour. We are fortunate to have him with us during this important period of transition. At the end of September we will say farewell to Lindi Dlamini, who will leave Roedean earlier than originally planned, at her request and with the Board's support, after almost four years of devoted service to the School. There will be an opportunity closer to the time for us properly to thank her and wish her well.

The Board has also been strengthened with the appointment of Sachin Shah and Nenette van der Linde-Barker. Both bring valuable experience, fresh perspective and a genuine commitment to Roedean, and I know they will make an important contribution to the work ahead.

The search for our next Executive Head continues to progress extremely well and remains firmly on track for an appointment commencing in Term 2 of 2027. I look forward to sharing more once the final processes are complete.

Meanwhile, there is much happening at Roedean.

Our Matrics are entering the final stretch of their school journey and we wish them calm heads, strong hearts and every success in the months ahead.

During the August holidays, two groups of girls travelled to Japan. Our sportswomen were busy closer to home too. The Senior School Squash Team finished an excellent sixth at the SA Top Schools Tournament in Pietermaritzburg, our Senior School Tennis Team competed at the National Sun City Tournament, and our Junior School Tennis Team came home as national champions. Congratulations to all the girls, coaches and support teams who gave up part of their holiday to train, travel and compete for Roedean.

Closer to home, the gardens are looking beautiful, and the campus is once again filled with the familiar rhythms of school life: girls dashing between lessons, sport fields filling up, friendships picking up where they left off and laughter carrying across the grounds.

One of the great privileges of my first few months as Chair has been getting to know Roedean more deeply. Every day I seem to discover something else that fills me with joy.

The Roedean Academy is one such example. The commitment made to young people beyond our own gates is a powerful reminder of what this school can and should stand for.

I have also developed an even greater appreciation for the people who make Roedean work every day.

Our teachers give extraordinary amounts of time, thought and care to our girls, often far beyond what appears on any timetable. Alongside them are the many people whose work is less visible but no less important: our security team who keep our girls safe; Capitol Caterers who feed us so well; the housekeeping team who keep the School sparkling; our gardeners who perform daily miracles; the maintenance and engineering teams who keep the wheels turning; and our IT team who somehow keep us all connected.

They are some of the unsung heroes of school life, and Roedean simply could not function without them.

Nor could it function without the support of our parents and Alumnae. Thank you to our parents for your continuing encouragement, patience and support. And a special thank you to our Old Girls for the new second-hand uniform shop, a practical and generous addition to school life. The proceeds of sales here go towards funding our Roedean Academy.

I hope more of our Alumnae will find reasons to come back through the gates. Roedean belongs not only to the girls who are here today, but to generations of women who have called this place their school.

I also had the great pleasure during the holidays of visiting Roedean in Brighton. I returned with a head full of ideas and a renewed appreciation for the remarkable connection between our two schools. More on that another day.

Behind the scenes, important work continues.

The recruitment process for our new Business Manager is well advanced and we expect to have the successful candidate in place before the end of the year. It has been a rigorous and thoughtful process, with one goal in mind: finding the right person to support our hardworking Finance Team and strengthen the School's operational foundations.

Work on the 2027 budget is also underway, alongside planning for the years ahead. The Board's focus remains firmly on ensuring that Roedean is academically strong, financially sound, well led, safe, joyful and a place where every girl feels that she belongs.

And then, of course, there is Blooming Affair on 3 October.

If you have not yet put it in your diary, please do. It promises to be one of those wonderful Roedean days when the campus fills with girls, parents, Old Girls, friends, flowers, food and general happy chaos. I hope to see many of you there.

Finally, a word about my fellow Board members. They give an extraordinary amount of time and care to Roedean, quietly and without fuss, and I could not ask for a more committed group of people alongside me.

A school is never the work of one person or one group. It is hundreds of people doing hundreds of things every day, most of which will never make their way into a newsletter.

It is the girls. It is the teachers. It is the staff. It is the parents. It is the Old Girls. It is the people behind the scenes who unlock the gates in the morning and those still working long after the girls have gone home.

Many hands make a school.

And it is very good to have Roedean back in full swing.

Warm regards

Nicky
Chair of the Board
Roedean School (SA)