



MARITZBURG COLLEGE

Patron Report 2026

As I sit down to write my first annual report as Patron of the Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association, I do so with a profound sense of gratitude and privilege. The past year has been one of learning, discovery and, perhaps most importantly, an ever-deepening appreciation of what makes Maritzburg College such an extraordinary institution.

Although I returned to College with a strong understanding of its traditions and culture, nothing could have fully prepared me for the depth of affection and loyalty that exists amongst Old Collegians. Throughout the year I have had the opportunity to engage with OCs across South Africa and abroad. Whether at formal functions, informal gatherings or simply through conversations and correspondence, I have been continually reminded that while boys may leave College, College never truly leaves them.

That enduring connection is one of our greatest strengths.

The role of a Patron is not simply to report on the state of the school, but rather to reflect on the health of the institution that binds us together. In this regard, I am pleased to report that Maritzburg College remains in a strong position.

Academically, the school continues to perform at a level that places it amongst the leading boys' schools in South Africa. The Class of 2025 achieved a 99.6 % pass rate, an 86% Bachelor Degree pass rate and accumulated 343 subject distinctions. These results reflect not only the abilities of our boys but also the dedication of our teachers and the culture of excellence that has been cultivated over many generations.

Yet, as any College man will appreciate, we are not a school that is content with resting on past achievements. There remains much work to be done. We continue to challenge ourselves to improve academic outcomes, expand opportunities and ensure that every boy is equipped to realise his full potential.

At the same time, I am increasingly convinced that the true measure of a school lies not only in its examination results but in the quality of the young men it produces.

The world in which our boys are growing up is becoming ever more complex. The challenges they face are very different from those experienced by many of us during our school years. In such an environment, the importance of schools like Maritzburg College becomes even greater. We must continue to provide young men with a moral compass, a sense of responsibility and an understanding that character matters.

Directing potential since 1863

The values upon which this school was built; integrity, courage, humility, service and respect remain as relevant today as they were in 1863.

Much of our focus during the year has therefore been directed towards strengthening pastoral care, reinforcing positive traditions and ensuring that our boys understand both the privileges and responsibilities that accompany being a College boy. We remain unapologetic in our belief that discipline, accountability and high standards are essential ingredients in the development of young men who will contribute positively to society.

Beyond the classroom, College continues to provide one of the most comprehensive co-curricular programmes in the country. It has been encouraging to witness positive progress across several sporting codes and to see our boys competing with passion and commitment. Equally pleasing has been the continued growth of our cultural programme. Whether on the sports field, the stage, in the music room or in the debating chamber, our boys continue to demonstrate the remarkable breadth of talent that exists within the school.

The physical campus itself continues to evolve. Every generation inherits the responsibility of leaving College stronger than it found it. Significant planning has therefore gone into several exciting development projects, including the proposed redevelopment of the Oliver Cultural Centre and a new multi-purpose sports facility which will include indoor cricket nets and a high-performance gym. In doing this we will free up the Ron Jury centre and repurpose it as a basketball centre (which it was originally built as) this will allow us to move basketball out of the Alan Paton Memorial Hall and use that for functions it was originally designed to host. We are also planning upgrades to the Science and Maths facilities. These projects are not simply about bricks and mortar; they are about ensuring that future generations of College boys have facilities that match their aspirations and abilities. We will be adopting various strategies to fund these projects, but we will be relying heavily on the generosity of our Old Boys as we endeavour to keep Maritzburg College at the cutting edge of education in South Africa and to ensure that we are the school of choice in KZN.

One initiative that particularly excites me is the proposed Ron Jury Scholarship and Fellowship Programme. This project seeks to broaden access to a College education and ensure that deserving young men, regardless of circumstance, can benefit from all that this institution has to offer. It reflects a belief that talent, character and potential should never be limited by financial circumstance alone. This fund which we hope in time will fund up to 10 boys per year group will look to replicate the successes of the Jeppe Theo Jackson Fund and the very successful TAG fund that KES have access to.

As I reflect on my first full year in office, I am struck by how often I have encountered individuals who have given so much of themselves to College. Parents, staff, governors, trustees, benefactors and, of course, Old Collegians continue to invest their time, expertise and resources into ensuring the school's continued success.

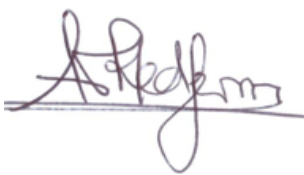
To the MCOBA Executive, the MCOBA Trust, our Honorary Life Members and the many Old Collegians who support the school in countless ways, I offer my sincere thanks. The partnership between the school and its Old Boys remains one of the defining strengths of Maritzburg College. Your support allows us not only to preserve our heritage but also to pursue an ambitious future.

One year ago on our Reunion weekend, I stood before the College community as the incoming Headmaster. I left the campus that weekend feeling privileged to become part of this remarkable institution. Today, after a year of leading the school and engaging with its broader family, that feeling has only deepened. If anything, I am even more convinced that Maritzburg College occupies a unique place in South African education and that its finest years still lie ahead.

The task before us is simple to state, though challenging to achieve: to honour the legacy we have inherited while ensuring that the school remains relevant, dynamic and excellent for generations to come.

I look forward to working alongside the Old Boys' Association as we continue that important journey together.

Pro Aris et Focis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Redfern', written over a horizontal line.

AM REDFERN
Headmaster