

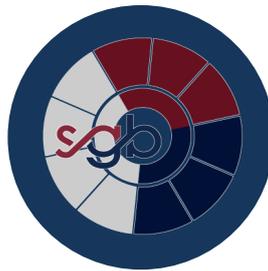


# SGB

WESTVILLE BOYS'  
HIGH SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER | ISSUE THREE 2021



## SGB MEMBERS LEAVING

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to three members of the SGB at the end of 2021, as their boys finish high school and move onto greater things.

WBHS and the SGB would like to express our utmost thanks to **Brian Dickinson** who has brought his legal expertise to the SGB for many years and has assisted in dealing with disciplinary hearings and contractual legal matters. Brian remains a member of the Old Boys committee so we will continue to see him and hopefully be able to draw on his expertise and experience in the years to come as a co-opted SGB member.

We would also like to thank **Emma Dunk** who has acted on the SGB in numerous capacities and has proved an invaluable resource, including providing an invaluable perspective in public relations. Emma will continue as her role on the SGB at WGHS and we look forward to the ongoing collaboration between our schools.

Lastly we would like to give our thanks to **Peter Watt** who acted as the Deputy Chairman in 2021. Peter has provided invaluable leadership from the outset in our transformation journey at WBHS. We are grateful and fortunate that he has agreed to continue the work started in this important role in a co-opted capacity.

## GOODBYE AND WELCOME

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to a number of educators that are leaving us – we hope they leave us having grown in their time here and wish them all the very best in the future and of course will be happy to welcome them back for a visit anytime! We also welcome new members of staff and look forward to the value that they will add in the new year

As a result of these three resignations WBHS SGB will be holding elections early next year and we invite anyone who would like to support WBHS to contact the school and make themselves available.

It is planned that the Election will be held on 3 February 2022 using the same process that is was conducted in 2021, with voting in the long room being available all day.

We would really encourage all parents to come into the school that day and cast their vote.

We need to achieve a quorum for the election to be valid. Further details will be published early in the new year.

**SCHOOL  
GOVERNING  
BODY  
ELECTIONS**

**2022**



## TREES & DUNBAR ROAD ENTRANCE

Many parents may have noticed that WBHS have been cutting some of our more established trees down in certain areas on the campus (most noticeably at the Dunbar Road entrance).

Guy Coombe, Deputy Headmaster and Chairman of the SDC (Strategic Development Committee) provides some context from the School's side -

The decision to cut down trees has not been taken lightly, it has been coupled with nostalgia and sadness. We have found ourselves in a position where infrastructure is being damaged by some of these trees; roofs, paving, cars, underground storm water systems and as a result of this we had to take action.

The number of invasive trees on the property, the poor positioning of indigenous trees, wrong choice of tree for designated areas, as well as a fair number of diseased trees has led to a thinning and planned cutting programme.



We have selected the dead and dying trees, invasive Level 3 and some invasive level 2 trees that are affecting the infrastructure negatively.

We will not be removing all these trees at once, as the wildlife habiting those trees will have transition trees close by to make new homes. In addition we are carefully re-planting indigenous trees that will never need to be removed because we are selecting trees with longevity in mind, as well as the potential expansion of school infrastructure.

To date we have purchased and planted 3 x Vepris Lanceolate - White Ironwood / Forest White Ironwood already carefully selected for paved areas, and will be ordering an additional 2 Vepris Lanceolate, 3 Harpephyllum Caffrum - Wild Plum and 3 Chionathus Peglerae – Giant Pock Ironwood to be planted strategically on the campus. In addition to the replacement of the trees will be the removal of 'corporation creeper', which has dominated the undergrowth, and the planting of indigenous shrubs and ground cover.

There is a commitment that WBHS will be a School with many indigenous trees which will be around for generations to come.

DIVERSITY

CULTURE

EXCELLENCE

## TRANSFORMATION

The Transformation Conversations have continued at WBHS, mainly within the three task teams – Engaging Diversity, Creating Culture and Driving Excellence. These teams include staff, SGB members and learners (Blue Tie leaders and LRC reps).

There have been various plans made towards staff development workshops during the course of the year, which have unfortunately been disrupted by Covid, like so many other activities.

We have most recently engaged with Cohesion Collective, which is a specialised Equality, Diversity and Inclusion consulting firm. We are now working towards securing dates in the school calendar for 2022 so that the process of diversity engagement can be furthered amongst the staff and learners.

The ongoing desire is to make WBHS a place of inclusion, and to engage with diversity as something to be valued, so that we can develop Cultural Intelligence within the entire school community.

Peter Watt, Chairman of the Transformation Committee



WESTVILLE BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

TRANSFORMATION  
Conversation

## SCHOOL FEEDBACK MECHANISM

Some members of the SGB have been asked to intervene on behalf of parents with certain educators and management and although we are generally happy to do so, we would like to take the opportunity to make sure that the feedback process is clear to all parents. For any issues relating to the broader education and classroom activities, the first port of call is your son's grade teacher. If this issue is not resolved, this can then be escalated to the Head of the Grade or subject or department (as is appropriate). Should this not prove to be solving the issue an appointment can be made to see the appropriate Deputy Headmaster, after which a conversation can be arranged with the headmaster.

As was articulated in our first newsletter of the year, the SGB members are primarily involved in the governance of the school and are not involved in the day-to-day management of the school and therefore won't be able to resolve any issues without involving people identified in the process described above anyway. The SGB and SMT's strong encouragement is to have a conversation as early as possible rather than let issues develop. All of our staff are fully committed to the boys and we want to make sure that everyone at the school develops to fulfil their potential and find their purpose.



**THE GRIFFIN LEGACY**



## **CLASSROOM REFURBISHMENT**

The WBHS Educational Trust has approved a capital investment in excess of R1.5m for the first phase of the refurbishment and modernization of our classrooms will be occurring over the holiday period.

The teachers and boys will see a significant difference to the learning environment as a result of this refurbishment and we will provide an update on this in our first Newsletter of 2022.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents who contribute to the Trust and encourage those that do not – to consider a small monthly donation, or a large donation if you are able. The Trust has some fantastic plans to improve our boys' education.





Westville Old Boy's Association, in conjunction with Westville Boy's High School would like to announce the imminent launch of the Griffin Academy.

The Griffin Academy will offer personalised coaching to WBHS learners, potential WBHS learners, other secondary school-goers and Westville community members.

The purpose of the Griffin Academy will be to help young people to become the best that they can in their chosen activity through the provision of top-quality **PAID FOR** coaching, using existing WBHS and community facilities.

The Academy aims to provide services in sports, cultural and academic areas and aims to **SUPPLEMENT** existing school programmes offered at WBHS.

These services will be offered to WBHS pupils & coaches outside of existing school sports, academic and cultural timetables and are for the children of parents who are prepared to **PAY FOR** these services.

The Academy will be self-funded through a share of revenue from the fees paid for services, with the income being split between coaches, facility hire, operational & administrative management and a proportion being fed back into the WBHS Foundation.

The Griffin Academy will operate with a specific operational model, utilising an online booking and payment system and will be rolled out for various services over the next 12 to 18 months. The Griffin Academy will operate with very clear rules for both attendees and coaches in order to ensure transparency and longevity with the key principle that this is to supplement existing WBHS programmes outside of normal school activities for WBHS pupils and coaches.

The Griffin Academy will be managed by an elected Board with representatives from Westville Old Boy's Association, WBHS Governing Body and Westville Boy's High School (these will include the WBHS Governing Body Chairman and the Director of Sport at WBHS).

The launch of Griffin Academy will formally commence in January 2022 with the launch of the Griffin Cricket Academy, co-ordinated and managed by newly appointed WBHS Director of Cricket, Wayne Scott. Please look out for the details of the dates of the commencement of these services and how to get involved.

We are really excited by the opportunity this presents and want to make sure that the Griffin Academy is operating for the benefit of WBHS and the Westville community, 50 years from now.

The Griffin Academy will be administered through the Westville Old Boys Association, and has the following key aims:

- To supplement sport, cultural and academics at WBHS and within the broader Westville Community
- To provide people, the ability to further enhance their sporting, cultural & academic skills
- To provide development opportunities for WBHS (and Westville Community) coaches
- To provide the ability for coaches, teachers and specialists to receive some additional financial income
- To optimize the utilization of the facilities available at WBHS and within the Westville community
- To re-invest into WBHS through the WBHS Foundation



## ON A FINAL NOTE

2021 has been a really challenging year for our educators and boys as we have moved through various phases of lockdown, school sport on then off then on again and of course the associated heartache of loss as a result of the pandemic and the associated personal and economic hardships. Despite this we are grateful for the massive support our parents have given to WBHS.

It does not appear as though 2022 will be too different, so we would like to encourage everyone to take some time to relax, and refresh your minds, body's and soul's over this Christmas and holiday period. We will need to be even more resilient in 2022!



WISHING YOU LOVE JOY AND PEACE  
DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON

