



UPLANDS PREPARATORY 2025

SCHOOL MAGAZINE



Today's thinking child is tomorrow's achiever

Preparatory 2025

Contents:

Chairman of the Board's Report	2	67 Minutes for Madiba	44
Executive Headmaster's Report	3	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Evening	45
Preparatory Headmaster's Report	3	Ash Wednesday	46
Chaplain's Report	4	First Holy Communion and Baptism	47
Uplands Outreach	5	Ascension Day	48
Uplands Foundation	6	Carols by Candlelight	49
Uplands Parent Teacher Association	8	Eisteddfod	50
UPPA News	10	Marimba Bands	51
Staff Photographs	12	New Sacristans	52
Kitchen Staff	14	Community Service	53 – 56
Housekeeping Staff	15	Boarding and Tour de Maths	57
Grounds Staff	15	MJ Zwane	58
Tribute to Busi, Keren and Precious	17	Founders' Evening	60
Boarding Report	18	Spirit Week	62
Foundation Phase Report	18	Once Upon a Twist	64
Senior Phase Academics Report	19	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	65
House Report	20	Uplands has Talent	66
Sports Report	21	Gavin Sinclair Innovation Centre	67
Learning Support Unit and Culture Report	22	Matthew And Me Initiative	68
Art Report: Grade 3	23	Incredible Dog Show	69
Art Report: Grade 4	25	PTA Quiz Night	70
Art Report: Grade 5	26	Uplands Christmas Market	71
Art Report: Grade 6	28	Uplands Santa Dash	72
Art Report: Grade 7	31	Grade 1	73
TLC Production	36	Grade 2	78
The Travelling Bookshop	37	Grade 3	82
VR Education Visit	37	Grade 4	87
Poetry Festival	38	Grade 5	93
Author Refiloe Moahloli visits Uplands	38	Grade 6	99
On Cue Productions	39	Grade 7	105
Barefoot Day and Books2U Book Fair	40	Sports	113 - 126
A Spring in our Step	41	Foundation Phase Prizegiving	127
First Additional Language (FAL) Day	41	Senior Phase Prizegiving and Academic Awards	131
Heritage Day	42		
Congratulations, Bafana Bafana!	43		
Debating Nations Tournament	43		

Chairman of the Board's Report

To the Uplands Family: Parents, Pupils, Team and Community.

On a beautiful autumn evening in May, we gathered once again to celebrate Founders and the remarkable journey of Uplands. As we move steadily toward our centenary in 2028, we do so united as one school: Prep, Pre-Prep, College, Outreach, staff, parents, past pupils and friends. Nearly 97 years after our founding families laid the first stones, the flame they lit continues to burn brightly.

It is my privilege to share that Uplands continues to go from strength to strength.

January 2025 saw the highest pupil enrolment in our history, with waiting lists across much of the campus. The first phase of our solar installation was completed, and during the April holiday the entire campus operated off solar power – a great achievement and meeting of goals. Our endowment fund continues to grow, strengthening our ability to expand scholarships and invest in future infrastructure. The campus itself reflects the care and dedication of our operational teams, and preparations are already underway for our 2028 centenary celebrations.

Most recently, we celebrated the outstanding 2025 IEB National Senior Certificate results. This cohort, whose high school journey began during the disruption of the global pandemic, concluded their schooling careers with exceptional resilience and achievement. Their results reflect not only their perseverance and commitment, but the unwavering standards and guidance of our academic staff.

The Class of 2025 achieved a 100% pass rate, with 98% earning Bachelor's Degree passes. Nearly a third of all subject results were awarded an A symbol, and 80% of results were above 60%. Multiple subjects performed above the IEB national average, with several

achieving distinction rates that speak to depth of understanding and academic excellence. We are particularly proud of those pupils who ranked in the top 1% nationally in their subjects, as well as those recognised on the IEB Outstanding Achievement List for sustained top-tier performance.

These results affirm the strength of our academic culture: high expectations, structured support, innovation in teaching, and a belief in what young people are capable of achieving when challenged and encouraged.

This year, one of our central themes has been inclusion. When we truly include everyone, we unlock possibilities none of us could discover alone. Each individual on this campus contributes meaningfully to the whole. In a world that can feel increasingly fragmented, we must consciously choose community. Through diversity of thought, background and experience, we become stronger together.

Alongside this commitment to inclusion sits a challenge reshaping our global landscape at unprecedented speed: Artificial Intelligence.

In just over two years, AI has shifted from novelty to daily reality. Predictions suggest that within a few short years, systems may outperform humans across multiple intellectual domains. From an educational perspective, AI is already influencing how learning is delivered and assessed.

It is easy to feel daunted by such rapid change. Yet history reminds us that disruption also creates opportunity. The transition from horse-drawn carriages to automobiles transformed entire industries and gave rise to new ones. AI represents a similar inflection point. It is powerful and inevitable, but it must not be feared. The question for our pupils is not whether

AI will shape your world. It will. The question is how you will differentiate yourselves within it.

Our role as a school is to cultivate adaptability, empathy and resilience. We must strengthen what makes us uniquely human. Beyond data and logic lies experiential intelligence – the ability to apply lived experience, reflect, find meaning, and make principled decisions in complex situations. Machines may process information at scale; humans bring conscience, depth and purpose.

And at the foundation of all of this lies one enduring quality: kindness. Kindness binds the community. It strengthens culture. As Bob Kerrey observed, unexpected kindness is one of the most powerful and underrated forces for human change.

As we look toward our centenary and beyond, I am confident not only in the strategic direction of Uplands, but in the character of our community. You can be proud of where your school stands today and optimistic about where it is headed.

Let us embrace innovation without losing humanity.

Let us pursue excellence without losing empathy.

Let us remain adaptable, inclusive and kind.

Together, we continue to build something enduring.



Mr Greg Dane
Chairman

Executive Headmaster's Report

As we reflect on 2025 in this edition of the Uplands magazine, I feel proud and thankful for everything our school community has achieved. Uplands continues to be a place where tradition and innovation work hand in hand, and where every pupil is encouraged to grow and thrive.

This year has brought many highlights. Academically, our pupils have worked hard and performed well, supported by dedicated staff and a curriculum that now includes more innovation and interactive learning. In sport, our teams have shown great skill and teamwork, with strong results and even stronger character.

Creatively, our pupils have embraced opportunities in drama, music and art, adding colour and energy to school life. These moments have helped build

confidence and connection across our community.

Our sustainability initiatives took off this year, with pupils getting involved in rewilding and sustainability projects. It's been encouraging to see their care for the environment grow through hands-on learning.

The Uplands Outreach programme continued to expand, strengthening ties with local schools and sharing resources to support education beyond our campus.

None of this would be possible without the people who make Uplands what it is. Our staff have continued to grow professionally, our families have offered steady support, and our pupils have shown resilience, kindness and determination.

Thank you to everyone who played a part in making 2025 a successful and memorable year. Together, we've built something meaningful, and I look forward to what we'll achieve next.

Mr Sean Carlisle
Executive Headmaster



Preparatory Headmaster's Report

A Year of Growth, Achievement and Kindness at Uplands Prep

Prizegiving at Uplands Preparatory School is always a special moment in the calendar — a time to pause, reflect, and celebrate a year of effort, growth and achievement. While the event recognises academic, cultural and sporting success, it also reminds the school community that true achievement lies not only in results, but in the journey and the character developed along the way.

Looking back on 2025, it is clear that this has been a year of purposeful progress. Teaching and learning across all phases have been strengthened through improved alignment, clearer best practices, and a continued focus on developing critical thinking rather than simply content recall. This approach ensures that pupils are not only learning, but truly

engaging with their education in meaningful ways.

Beyond the classroom, pupils have flourished in all areas of school life. Participation in sport has grown steadily, reflecting both enthusiasm and commitment. The cultural programme reached a highlight with the outstanding production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, showcasing the creativity and talent within the school. Debating also proved to be a strength, with pupils progressing to national finals — a significant achievement that reflects both skill and dedication.

The physical environment of the school has also continued to evolve. Upgrades to learning spaces and improvements to the hall have enhanced the overall educational experience, ensuring

that facilities support the high standards Uplands strives to maintain.

As with every year, there is a sense of both celebration and farewell. The school bids goodbye to several staff members who have made meaningful contributions to the community. Sankie Baraza brought energy, warmth and musical vibrancy into classrooms and performances, while Lee Robyn served the Senior Phase with care and dedication, particularly in debating. Both leave with the school's gratitude and best wishes.

A special farewell is extended to Dylan Badenhurst, whose eight-year journey at Uplands reflects growth, commitment and passion for education. From his early days as an intern to his role as

Foundation Phase Sports Co-ordinator, Dylan has had a lasting impact on pupils and colleagues alike. His legacy is evident in the confidence and enthusiasm of the children he has guided, and his future in education looks exceptionally bright.

The theme for 2025 — KIND — has been more than just a word. It has been a guiding principle shaping the culture of the school. Conversations with visiting educators from leading independent schools reinforced what makes Uplands truly special: not only its facilities, academics, sport and culture, but its ability to nurture well-rounded, kind individuals. This remains one of the school's proudest achievements.

The partnership between parents and the school continues to play a vital role in this success. Their ongoing support, trust and involvement enable Uplands to fulfil its purpose and create an environment where children can thrive. Equally, the guidance and commitment of the Executive and Board ensure that the school continues to grow and improve behind the scenes.

At the heart of the school are its dedicated staff. Their commitment extends far beyond the classroom — from early mornings to late afternoons, and through countless moments of care, encouragement

and support. Their work shapes not only academic outcomes but also the character and wellbeing of every pupil.

For the pupils themselves, 2025 has been a year of growth in many forms. While awards recognise achievement, success is equally found in resilience, creativity, friendships and personal development. Effort, attitude and kindness remain the true measures of progress.

An inspiring reminder of this came through the story of trail runner Ryan Sandes, who completed the Mont Blanc race in 2023 after four previous attempts. Rather than viewing those earlier efforts as failures, he saw them as opportunities to learn — emphasising that true failure lies only in not trying. This message resonates strongly within the Uplands community: perseverance, courage and a willingness to grow are key to success.

For the Grade 7 pupils, this year marks the end of an important chapter. As they prepare to move on to the College, they carry with them not only memories, but also the values instilled during their time at Uplands. The idea that “legacy is not what you leave for people, but what you leave in people” serves as a meaningful guide as they step into new challenges and opportunities.

As the year draws to a close, the Uplands community can reflect with pride on a year filled with achievement, growth and, above all, kindness. It is this spirit that continues to define the school and shape the young people who pass through its gates.

Mr Scott Hauptfleisch

Head: Uplands Preparatory School



Chaplain's Report

The Uplands Chaplaincy in 2025 has been nothing short of a great success and a significant season of building for the future. It has laid strong foundations for all we hope to do and become — as a Preparatory School and as a school with a wide and ambitious vision.

The Chaplaincy is led by myself as Chaplain, alongside our dedicated Grade 7 Sacristans. This year, 16 Sacristans served — a remarkable group of young leaders who stepped into their roles with enthusiasm, responsibility and heart. It has been

a tremendous privilege to mentor and grow them in spaces where they can shine their light, serve others, and exercise meaningful influence within the school community.

We continue to run weekly chapel services that are engaging, age-appropriate, and spiritually informative. Alongside these, a wide range of events and initiatives take place throughout the year, creating consistent opportunities for worship, reflection, service, leadership development, and community building across both the Foundation

Phase and Senior Phase.

All Grade 4 - 7 pupils have a dedicated 30-minute session with the Chaplain each week. This provides an excellent opportunity to work through a curriculum focused on values, ethics, morals, and the life, example and legacy of Jesus Christ - who continues to empower us through His Spirit to shape the world in the way we live today.

From Pancake Races to the Pancake Evening, generous donations were raised for the Uplands Prep Hope

Fund. We marked the beginning of Lent with a meaningful Ash Wednesday celebration, beginning our 40-day journey towards Easter, which was acknowledged and celebrated during the Term 1 holidays.

In May, we held our combined Ascension Day Service with the whole school on the Webster Lawn - a special and unifying moment as one community.



Our end-of-year Carol Service was exceptional. Despite gloomy weather, the hall provided a warm and joyful atmosphere, filled with festive spirit and community celebration.

One of the most significant developments this year was the election of the 2026 Sacristans. A new system was introduced, tested and successfully implemented. Fifteen new Sacristan Leaders were elected, with the role of Head Sacristan shared between one boy and one girl - Samuel Hauptfleisch and Sofia Dimitrou.

These newly-elected Sacristans led the final chapel service of 2025 - the Grade 7 Farewell Chapel - which was a solemn and special occasion marking the end of the year.

Overall, 2025 has been a year of momentum - strengthening what already exists while building intentionally for the future of Chaplaincy at Uplands.



Reverend Matthew Jennings
School Chaplain

Uplands Outreach

Education That Inspires Communities to Grow

Education is complex and the challenges are many - yet the potential for success is infinite! At Uplands Outreach, we keep coming back to two questions:

What is our focus? How do we make an impact? The answer in 2025 started and remained with the people and the communities we serve in Mpumalanga.

Our focus in 2025 remained on the professional development of school leaders, teachers and learners. When school leaders grow professionally, schools succeed. When teachers are supported, learners thrive. This enduring focus has continued to deliver real, measurable impact.

Our impact in 2025 grew because our work is grounded in evidence. We draw upon the principles of andragogy and pedagogy in shaping our professional development activities. Long-term relationships with school

leaders sit at the centre of Uplands Outreach's work, strengthening both our programmes and ability to respond to what the schools need.

Our achievements in 2025 included the holistic School Leadership for Excellence programme, the Continued

Professional Development programmes for teachers, the SMILE conversational literacy programme at Uplands College, the Mathematics Proficiency programme, the Digital Literacy programme, Coding and Robotics and our exciting new Early Learning pilot programme. We



also implemented several 'quick win' projects with our partner schools, which provide both practical and psychological support to our programme participants. It is immensely gratifying to see the school promotions that are underway with our programme graduates.

Thank you again to the generosity of our donors and the Uplands community. With your help, Uplands Outreach continued to grow, expanding into new schools and circuits, building stronger collaborations and delivering sustainable site coaching school

visits and addressing challenges in the system. Thank you, one and all!

Mrs Violah Moya
Head: Uplands Outreach



Uplands Foundation

As I write this, another Lowveld year is drawing to a close, and I am once again reminded how fortunate we are to call Uplands home. At Uplands, we are more than just a school — we are a community — and through the Uplands Foundation, we remain deeply invested in the lives and futures of our pupils.

We live in a country where access to quality education, and the opportunity to attend a school such

as Uplands, remains a privilege. The purpose of the Uplands Foundation is to nurture a spirit of giving. The Uplands Foundation supports our pupils through bursaries and scholarships, strengthens our campus through capital development priorities, and extends our reach through the Uplands Outreach community. Every donation is an extraordinary act of kindness, echoing Desmond Tutu's words:

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it is those little bits of good all put together that overwhelm the world."

2025 has been a year of meaningful progress for The Uplands Foundation. Our grateful thanks goes to Lynette Carlisle who contributed hugely to a major milestone - the successful completion of the five-year Alumni Database Project. From 2020 to 2025, fragmented physical and digital records were transformed

into a unified, functional system on DevMan3, capturing over 3,000 new records and more than 9,000 updates. This database will underpin the Uplands Past Pupils Association's first Monthly Giving Campaign to be launched in 2026 and marks a significant step forward in Uplands' advancement capacity.

Alongside this work, we continued collaborating closely with Uplands leadership and the Centenary Committee in preparation for our Centenary celebrations in 2028. With the groundwork now laid, 2026 will mark the start of the active planning phase, as we begin putting the real initiatives and projects into place. The Uplands Foundation remains committed to deepening community engagement and building a lasting culture of giving.

Throughout the year, the strength of relationships has been at the heart of everything we do. We saw this clearly during the Founders and Friends Weekend and, later in the year, at a special gathering for the

Friends of Uplands, where Executive Head Mr Sean Carlisle and I had the privilege of thanking a number of supporters for their exceptional and consistent dedication to Uplands. It was a deeply meaningful reminder of how much these quiet, faithful commitments shape and sustain our community.

Our Matric traditions continue to reflect the values of gratitude and legacy. The Class of 2025 added six Knob Thorns to the growing Matric Indigenous Forest – trees grown in our own nursery and planted as part of our ongoing rewilding project. With the continued generosity of the Van Der Westhuizen family, this living legacy, begun by the Class of 2020, continues to grow with each graduating class. The Giving Back in Matric initiative remains a cornerstone of our work, offering families the opportunity to pay it forward by supporting bursaries for future pupils.

Term 4 brought with it a celebration of excellence in action. Our

inaugural Uplands Santa Dash and the ever-popular Uplands Christmas Market were both wonderful reminders that when care and commitment are poured into the details, something truly special emerges. Thank you to every Santa, elf, reindeer and festive runner who joined in the fun!

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude for the Board, Uplands leadership and our wider community for their ongoing support and shared vision. The completion of the alumni database, the groundwork laid for the Centenary, and the growth of new giving initiatives represent important steps toward long-term sustainability. Together, we continue to build a legacy of generosity, connection and opportunity for future generations of Uplanders.

Mrs Sally Greathead
Head: Uplands Foundation



Uplands Parent Teacher Association

Building Community. Creating Impact. Supporting Excellence.

The Uplands Parent Teacher Association (PTA) continues to serve as a dynamic link between parents, staff and the broader school community. Our purpose extends beyond fundraising - it is about strengthening connections, enriching school life, and quietly supporting the environment in which our children learn and grow.

A Year of Meaningful Momentum

Throughout 2025, the PTA remained actively involved in supporting school events across all phases, including sports days, productions, festivals and community gatherings.

Our hospitality initiatives at concerts, plays and major school events have become a much-loved part of the Uplands experience. Whether serving refreshments at the Foundation Phase Play, supporting DAM (Drama, Art and Music), contributing to the Christmas Market, or assisting at Founders' Weekend, the PTA's presence continues to bring warmth, energy and a sense of belonging to each occasion.

These moments are about more than sales - they are about families connecting, parents engaging, and the unmistakable spirit that defines Uplands.

Supporting the School in Tangible Ways

Beyond events, the PTA has continued to invest in projects that directly enhance the school environment and learning experience.

A significant milestone this year was the PTA-sponsored upgrade of the audio and visual system in the Prep Hall, meaningfully elevating assemblies, productions, prizegivings and daily teaching for both the Preparatory and Pre-Preparatory phases.

In addition, the PTA supported the recording and video production of the Pre-Prep Concert, ensuring that these special milestone moments are professionally captured and preserved for families. These initiatives reflect our commitment to enriching not only infrastructure, but the lived experience of our children and their families.

Signature PTA Initiatives

Several key initiatives remain central to the PTA's work:

Marvellous Moms

A beautifully curated celebration honouring the women of Uplands. This elegant morning of inspiration



and connection not only celebrated our community but also strengthened volunteer engagement.

Burger & Quiz Night

A much-anticipated fixture on the Uplands calendar, Burger & Quiz Night continues to bring parents and staff together for an evening of laughter, friendly competition and camaraderie. It is a wonderful example of how the PTA blends “fun-raising” with fundraising, strengthening relationships while supporting school initiatives.

Used2BYours (U2BY)

Our sustainable pre-loved uniform platform continues to support families while promoting circular thinking within the school environment. With refreshed energy and growing awareness, U2BY remains one of our most valued initiatives.

Uplands Merchandise

From sports fixtures to school festivals, Uplands merchandise allows families to proudly show their school spirit and sense of belonging.



Uplands Classifieds

The Classifieds platform connects families and supports parent-run businesses, strengthening our internal community network and encouraging local enterprise.

The Annual Art Project

This much-loved initiative celebrates creativity while contributing meaningfully to school projects - reflecting the blend of culture, talent and purpose that defines Uplands.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the coming year, our focus remains on:

- Growing inclusive community events
- Increasing parent volunteer engagement
- Supporting strategic school development initiatives
- Strengthening collaboration between parents, staff and leadership
- Ensuring that every initiative adds tangible value to the Uplands experience



We remain committed to projects that are visible, meaningful and aligned with the heart of the school.

A Message from the Chair

It is both an honour and a privilege to serve this remarkable community as Chair of the Uplands PTA.

Uplands is more than a school - it is a shared space where our children develop confidence, friendships deepen, and traditions are formed. The PTA's role is to quietly strengthen that experience behind the scenes.

To every parent who buys a burger at a play, supports the Classifieds, purchases merchandise, contributes to Used2BYours, volunteers at an event, or simply shows up, thank you. Your participation builds far more than funds. It builds belonging.

Together, we are shaping an Ultimately Uplands community - one defined by generosity, excellence and shared purpose.

Sanele Thothela
Chair: Uplands PTA



UPPA News

The past year has been one of momentum, connection and purposeful growth for the Uplands Past Pupils' Association. Our aim remains simple and clear: to stay meaningfully engaged with our community, to support and develop our past pupils, and to nurture the camaraderie that sits at the very heart of UPPA.

Reflecting on the year that has been, we must recognise the strength of the team behind UPPA. I am continually encouraged by the committee's shared commitment to adding real value, along with the genuine spirit of collaboration that drives everything we do. Much of the work happens quietly behind the scenes, but it plays an important role in ensuring our alumni remain connected.

A particularly special milestone this year was the official opening of The Uplander. What began as a vision has quickly become a vibrant and well-used multi-purpose

space for both alumni and the wider school community. With the boardroom area now complete and further enhancements underway, it is already doing exactly what we hoped it would: creating a space where connection, conversation and shared experiences can flourish.

Our events calendar once again reminded us how powerful it is to bring people together. The annual UPPA Cricket Day was well supported and thoroughly enjoyed, a true reflection of the enduring friendships and camaraderie within our network. The Golf Day was another highlight and expanded this year to include a ladies' padel tournament and a ladies' lunch, both of which brought fresh energy and broadened participation in a meaningful way. These events are far more than social fixtures; they are intentional opportunities to strengthen relationships and create lasting touchpoints within our community.

We were also delighted to host a combined reunion for two milestone year groups during Founders' Weekend. It was a wonderful celebration of what makes Uplands unique: that deep sense of belonging which extends well beyond one's school years. Seeing past pupils return to campus, reconnect and immerse themselves in the life of the school was a powerful reminder of the continuity we are privileged to help preserve.

Throughout the year, we have continued to celebrate the achievements of our alumni, sharing their academic, professional and personal milestones. Recognising these stories not only honours individual accomplishment but also inspires current pupils by demonstrating the enduring impact of an Uplands education.

A particularly meaningful moment was welcoming a new generation



of Uplanders whose parents once walked these same pathways. Through small but symbolic gestures, such as gifting books to legacy families at the start of their children's journey, we acknowledge that for many, Uplands is far more than a school; it is a shared story across generations.

None of this would be possible

without the engagement and support of our past pupils, committee members and the broader Uplands community. Our goal is to bring the UPPA community together, and that can only happen through participation, connection and shared purpose.

As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude for what has been built

and confidence in what lies ahead. Together, we honour the past, strengthen the present and ensure that the Uplands story continues for generations to come.

Mr Malcolm Deacon

Chair: Uplands Past Pupils Association



Staff Photographs



Annelie Malherbe



Asanda Mkhonto



Bev Carlse



Bongani Mavundla



Brian Dengler



Claudia McCarthy



Cyril Jele



Danielle Steenkamp



Debbie van Rooyen



Derienne de Klerk



Dylan Badenhorst



Emily Anders



Esti Gous



Estie Smit



Gabsile Nkosi



Gary Viljoen



Jacques Müller



Jane Ndlovu



Janet Tecklenburg



Jayde Carlse

Staff Photographs



Jesse Knapp



Jo-Anne Choonara



Kayla Daniel



Ladya van Antwerpen



Lee Robyn



Loraine Codd



Lorin Hauptfleisch



Lorraine Berends



Maria Southey



Marischa Landman



Maryna le Roux



Michelle Barry



Michelle Shelton



Minette Collins



Moné Gates



Nombuso Mashego



Nthabiseng Nkuna



Phumzile Mabandla



Piers Cruickshanks



Ryan McCarthy

Staff Photographs



Sally Wiggill



Sam Arntzen



Sankie Baraza



Sean Barry



Shea Viljoen



Shoain Shelton



Siphokazi Macingwane



Sue Gibbs



Suné Minnie



Tamaryn Fargher



Taryn Berry



Thulani Mngomezulu

Kitchen Staff



Marlaine (Molly)
Robberts



Bheki Khoza



Cecilia Chiloane



Mapule Nhlanhla



Marike Chiloane



Suzan Mabuza

Housekeeping Staff



Cindy Maluka



Elizabeth Senyage



Leah Mshwane



Lucia Mkhathswa



Millicent Maluka



Nomsa Sehali



Precious Khumalo



Pretty Makhabane



Pretty Selepe

Grounds Staff



Ben Matsane



Bongani Gumede



Calvin Lekhuleni



Chissomo Zenas



Chris Joubert



Clinton Baloyi



Dewey Benside



Donald Makoena



Elias Mgwenya



Elson Mathonsi



Eugene Du Preez



Freddy Chave



Freddy Ndlovu



Happy Maphanga



Joaqeem Pequino



Joseph Tamele



Mfundo Nkosi



Nations Ndou



Nhlanhla Sithole



Nkosinathi Malele



Roinhlanhla Mashele



Sipho
Mthethwa



Sydney Lekhuleni



Thabang Segopane



Themba Nkosi



Themba Sibiya



Thobani Ndlovu



Thobisi Zwane



Treatwell Zitha



Triedwell
Makhabane

Tribute to Busi, Keren and Precious



In Loving Memory of Ms Busi Mgwenya

We share the sad news that one of our longstanding employees, Ms Busi Mgwenya has passed away. For two decades, Busi was an integral part of the Uplands family, serving in our housekeeping department. Busi touched countless lives with her gentle spirit and warm, friendly manner. She was a keen flower arranger and ensured our functions were adorned with flowers from the Uplands gardens.

Our thoughts and deepest condolences go out to Busi's family, friends, and all who knew her. She will be deeply missed.

Miss Molly Robberts
Head Chef: Uplands Preparatory



Celebrating the Life and Ubuntu of Keren

As we mourn the loss of our beloved Keren Gear (affectionately known as Kerry or KG), we celebrate her tremendous energy and the light she brought to our community. Having joined Uplands in 2014, Keren made an indelible impact on the Uplands community in her Admissions and Marketing role and more recently, as the Donor Relations coordinator for Uplands Outreach.

She was well-known and loved by staff members, parents, pupils, alumni, Uplands Outreach participants and the greater Uplands and White River community. Kerry was kind, loving and strong - she cared about everyone and made us laugh. Her wonderful ideas, Excel skills and excellent editing talents were hugely appreciated.

Rest in peace, Kerry – you will be forever missed.

Mrs Violah Moya
Head of Uplands Outreach



In Loving Memory of Precious

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of our beloved Grade 000 teacher helper, Zanele Mbeye, affectionately known as Precious.

Precious was a gentle, nurturing presence in our classrooms and a much-loved member of our Uplands family for 11 years. During that time, she touched the lives of so many children and families with her warmth, kindness, and quiet devotion.

Jacqui, who worked closely with her, said it so beautifully: "She really loved her job and being around the children. She loved sitting with them, and she always believed that all children are special."

This touching reflection captures so much of who Precious was to all of us - warm, present, and deeply committed to the children in her care.

Please keep her children - Sphesihle (21), Nomagugu (14) and Khaya (7) and her family in your thoughts and prayers. She will be deeply missed.

Ms Janine Stott
Head of Uplands Pre-Preparatory

Boarding Report

Prep Boarding continues to thrive as a lively and close-knit community. Numbers have remained strong, and the houses have settled comfortably into their rhythm, offering a warm and structured environment where pupils feel secure, supported and truly at home.

The spirit of adventure remains an important part of the programme, with regular outings and shared experiences giving boarders the chance to step outside their usual

routes. These trips, along with everyday moments spent together, have strengthened friendships and created a strong sense of belonging.

Afternoons often see the lawns come alive with energy as boarders make the most of their time outdoors before heading in for supper and evening prep. These simple, time-honoured routines continue to form the backbone of boarding life, balancing fun with responsibility.

The common spaces within the boarding houses have developed into welcoming hubs where boarders can relax, connect and wind down. With ongoing attention to comfort and atmosphere, Prep Boarding remains a place where tradition is valued and every child is encouraged to grow in confidence and independence.

Mr Sean Barry
Head of Boarding



Foundation Phase Report

This has been another exciting year of growth and change in the Foundation Phase. We said a fond and sad farewell to Mrs McCarthy, who taught in Grade 1 for many years and led the Foundation Phase with warmth and wisdom. Her deep love for the children, and the friendships she built with colleagues and the community, helped create a happy, caring environment. She was formally thanked for her contribution to Uplands in a farewell assembly at the end of Term 1.

We were delighted to welcome Mrs Gibbs and Mrs Shelton to the Grade 2 and Grade 3 teams respectively. They have already

made a meaningful impact, bringing passion, commitment and a genuine love for the children. We also welcomed two new interns, Miss Ndlovu and Miss Southey, who quickly found a special place in the hearts of both pupils and staff. In Term 2, Mrs Fargher joined the Grade 1 team, teaching across both classes and getting to know all our Grade 1s. Her dedication, kindness and professionalism have been greatly appreciated.

It has been a full and vibrant year. We began with interhouse athletics and swimming, the Foundation Phase camp-out, story-telling under the stars and a busy Term 1 sports calendar. This set the

tone for the months ahead, which included further sport fixtures, memorable outings, fun days, and the much-loved Foundation Phase production *Once Upon a Twist*.

Our teachers attended two NumberSense courses and a range of other professional development opportunities. We continue to embrace creative Thinking Skills, designing lessons that encourage lateral thinking and problem-solving. Our classrooms are filled with colour, imagination and pupil-created projects, and are always abuzz with active, engaged learning.

Our staff are versatile, skilled and

professional, pouring their energy into planning, teaching, coaching, administrative tasks, supervision and countless hours of behind-the-scenes support and guidance for our children. Their commitment to excellence is evident in every aspect of school life.

As the year draws to a close, we say goodbye to Mr Badenhorst, who began his journey at Uplands as an intern and later became our Foundation Phase Sports

Co-ordinator; to Ms Baraza, our Music teacher; and to Miss Ndlovu. We thank them sincerely for their dedication and the inspiration they brought to our children.

Reading the Foundation Phase reports at the end of the year is always a privilege, highlighting the growth, resilience and achievements of our pupils both inside and outside the classroom. I remain extremely proud of our Foundation Phase team and, most

importantly, of our children, who continue to approach school with excitement, confidence and joy.

Thank you to our parents for their unwavering support and for partnering with us to ensure that every child is given the best opportunities to reach their full potential.

Mrs Sally Wiggill
HOD: Foundation Phase

Senior Phase Academics Report

Uplands Academics continued to take a well-rounded approach in 2025. Our pupils performed well in the International Bench-marking Tests and our past pupils continue to acquit themselves well in the College, but also, importantly, in other schools further afield to which they might have applied.

Our Inquiry-Based Learning programme continued. Uplands-led and designed, while drawing on the work of leading educational experts from around the world, this approach provides pupils with opportunities to engage in real-world challenges. It allows them to

bring their theoretical learning to life through practical applications, models and displays.

Tour de Maths continued to be a highlight, taking Mathematics outdoors where pupils ran back and forth as groups went head to head to see who could prove themselves the Maths legends of their Grade. Pupils are more involved, working on vertical learning walls – taking ownership of their classroom space.

Mr Piers Cruickshanks
Deputy Head: Senior Phase Academics



House Report

House Spirit Soars in 2025

The 2025 school year at Uplands Preparatory was bursting with vibrant house spirit and healthy competition, as Fuller (Ndlovu), Ogilvie (Ingwe), and Webb (Insele) battled it out across a wide array of disciplines. The houses gave their all, from the sports fields and cultural activities to merit points, demonstrating teamwork, determination and unwavering pride.

The year kicked off with great energy on the sports fields, where house spirit was on full display during athletics, swimming galas, cross-country, netball, hockey, rugby, soccer and cricket. Every event saw pupils stepping up, not only to compete but also to cheer one another on: a true celebration of sportsmanship and camaraderie.

The cultural front brought its flair, featuring poetry, general knowledge quizzes, and the hotly contested Dance-Off. This showcased the depth of talent across all three houses. Each performance was a proud reminder of the creativity and expression that thrives within our school community.

Merit points continued to be a cornerstone of house pride, earned through academic excellence, exemplary behaviour and community service. Pupils consistently rose to the challenges, contributing to their houses' standings through daily dedication in

the classroom and beyond.

In 2025, the introduction and planting of House trees were announced. This fell in line with our efforts to improve and uplift the house identities.

Fuller House – Baobab Tree

The Baobab is a symbol of strength, resilience and generosity. Just as this tree provides shelter, nourishment, and life to many in the harshest of climates, Fuller House is called to be a source of strength and care for one another. We are reminded that growth comes with patience, deep roots, and a willingness to share our gifts with others. This tree will stand tall as a beacon of endurance and kindness, reflecting the spirit of Fuller House for generations to come.

Ogilvie House – Jackalberry Tree

The Jackalberry tree is deeply rooted in African soil, providing shade, fruit and a gathering place for both people and animals. Like the Jackalberry, Ogilvie House thrives when its roots are strong, its branches open to others, and its fruit is shared generously. Ogilvie is called to give of themselves: their time, their talents and their encouragement so that their whole community grows together. This tree will remind us to remain grounded, to uplift one another, and to flourish in unity, reflecting the spirit of Ogilvie House.

Webb House – Coral Tree

The Coral Tree, with its striking red blossoms, is a symbol of beauty, courage and renewal. Webb House embraces the call to nurture with boldness and joy. Just as the Coral Tree brightens the landscape with colour, so too they are called to brighten the lives of others with acts of kindness, encouragement and hope. This Coral Tree will remind us always to grow with courage, to stand strong in the face of challenges, and to nurture beauty and resilience in all we do.

It has been inspiring to witness how the house system brings out the best in our pupils, fostering not only a healthy competitive spirit but also a strong sense of belonging. Congratulations to every Fuller, Ogilvie and Webb pupil for your contributions this year. Whether it was through scoring goals, dancing on stage, earning merit points or supporting teammates and friends, your efforts have made 2025 a year to remember.

Congratulations to Fuller on being awarded the House of the Year! You can be very proud of your efforts.

Let the spirit of Ndlovu, Ingwe and Insele continue to roar proudly into the future!

Mr Jacques Müller
Head of Houses



Sports Report

The 2025 sporting year has been one marked by commitment, growth and outstanding achievement across all disciplines. Our pupils embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and determination, and the results speak to a culture of excellence that continues to grow within our sports programme.

We began the year with a highly successful Athletics and Swimming season. Both codes saw exceptional participation and a significant number of personal milestones achieved. It was particularly encouraging to witness so many pupils striving for personal bests, demonstrating resilience, discipline and pride in their individual progress.

The Rugby and Netball season brought its own excitement and memorable moments. A major highlight was the successful tour to St Stithian's, which proved to be both competitive and developmental for our teams. The experience strengthened team cohesion and provided valuable exposure to high-level competition.

Our Hockey season continued the upward trajectory of the year. The girls' tour to Bloemfontein was

a standout experience, offering quality competition and meaningful team growth. The boys proudly represented the school on the King Edward tour, showcasing determination and skill throughout. In league play, our girls' first team achieved an outstanding 2nd place finish in the Ehlanzeni League, with one of our U12 players earning the prestigious Player of the Year award - a testament to both individual excellence and strong team performance.

Soccer reached new heights this year with our first-ever tour to Eswatini. This historic tour proved to be a resounding success. The team finished 1st in their pool and secured an impressive 2nd place overall, a remarkable achievement that reflects both preparation and perseverance.

Our Cross-Country and Mountain Biking programme once again provided pupils with the opportunity to excel in individual sporting codes. These disciplines continue to develop grit, independence and mental strength — qualities that extend far beyond sport.

We concluded the year with our Cricket season, where our boys proudly attended both the

Independent Cricket Festival and the prestigious Matthew Prior Cricket Festival. These platforms offered invaluable exposure and capped off the year on a high note.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our parents. Thank you for entrusting our coaches and staff, for your encouragement from the sidelines, and for the sacrifices you make to ensure your children can participate fully in school sport.

To our staff and coaches, your dedication, professionalism and commitment to demanding excellence while nurturing young athletes do not go unnoticed. Your passion continues to shape not only better sportsmen and sportswomen, but well-rounded young individuals. 2025 has been a year of pride, growth and achievement. We look forward with confidence and excitement to building on this strong foundation in the years to come.

Mr Shoain Shelton
Head: Sports Department



Learning Support Unit

At Uplands Preparatory School, we continue to embrace this powerful truth as the foundation of our Learning Support philosophy. In an ever-evolving educational landscape, where the academic, emotional and developmental needs of pupils are becoming increasingly complex, we recognise how fortunate we are to have a dedicated and highly skilled Learning Support Department at the heart of our school.

Our dynamic, multidisciplinary team includes Educational Psychologists, Remedial Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists and Occupational Therapists. Working closely with teachers and parents, the Learning Support Unit (LSU) develops personalised learning pathways that ensure every child receives the specific support they need to thrive. This collaborative model allows us to respond proactively to challenges and to support pupils holistically – academically, emotionally and socially.

Education is changing rapidly. Curriculum demands are increasing, classrooms are more diverse than ever, and there is a growing awareness of the importance of early intervention and individualised support. Our Learning Support Department enables us to meet these changes with confidence, ensuring that no pupil is overlooked and that each child's strengths are recognised and nurtured.

Through individualised strategies and targeted interventions, we address barriers to learning across all subject areas. We understand that the path to success is rarely linear. Some pupils require structured remediation, others benefit from adaptive learning techniques or therapeutic support. Whatever the need, our approach is grounded in respect for each child's unique pace and profile. Our goal is not simply academic improvement, but the development of confident, self-aware pupils equipped with the skills and

strategies necessary for long-term success.

As we move into 2025, the LSU remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting every pupils' individual journey. Progress is not about comparison – it is about steady, purposeful movement forward. We celebrate each milestone, however small, and remain inspired by the courage and determination our pupils' show daily.

Uplands is privileged to have a Learning Support Department that not only responds to the demands of modern education, but leads with compassion, expertise and vision. Together, we will continue to foster growth, emotional well-being and resilient mind sets in every child entrusted to our care.

Mrs Lorin Hauptfleisch
Head of Learning Support Unit

Culture Report

What a phenomenal year it has been for Culture at Uplands Preparatory in 2025!

Throughout the year, our pupils were given countless opportunities to grow in confidence, creativity, and collaboration. From our magical production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* to the Inter-house Dance-Off that took place in Term 4, our children truly embraced every moment on stage and beyond.

Term 3 saw our debating teams reach the finals in Johannesburg, incredible participation in FAL Day,

meaningful outreach through Barefoot Day, and the continued impact of our Lunchbox Project, where pupils pack and donate lunchboxes every second week. These moments reflect not only talent, but heart.

In Term 4, Culture continued to flourish with our very first Debating Tour, Interhouse Culture Quiz, and an energetic Inter-house Dance-Off where every pupil participated and earned house points. Our Individual Music Concerts created space for new performers to shine, and carols

filled the season with joy and harmony

Culture at Uplands in 2025 has been about more than events – it has been about belonging, confidence, generosity and school spirit. We are incredibly proud of our pupils and grateful to our staff and parents for their continued support.

Here's to a year where creativity thrived, and every child had the chance to shine.

Mrs Marischa Landman
Head of Culture

Art Highlights

A Year of Creativity and Colour

The Art Studio at Uplands Preparatory School was alive with energy, colour and imagination throughout 2025. From bold first sketches to ambitious final artworks, pupils across Grades 3 to 7 embraced creativity with confidence, curiosity and joy. Each project encouraged self-expression, skill-building, and a love for making art.

“Throughout 2025, our pupils explored, experimented and expressed themselves fearlessly — producing artwork filled with colour, confidence and creativity.”

Grade 3: Discovering the Joy of Art

Grade 3 pupils began the year with eye-catching graffiti name designs, proudly celebrating their individuality through colour and shape. Their exploration of colour theory came to life in vibrant colour-wheel lions, while chalk pastel bee artworks revealed beautiful blending and growing technical control. Watercolour resist bug drawings added an element of surprise and excitement, and a first introduction to clay allowed pupils to create charming coiled bowls. The year ended on a high note with textured printing and joyful mixed-media fish collages bursting with colour and personality.

“ From first sketches to final masterpieces, creativity flourished. ”



Graffiti



Colour Wheel Lion





Chalk Pastel Bee Drawing



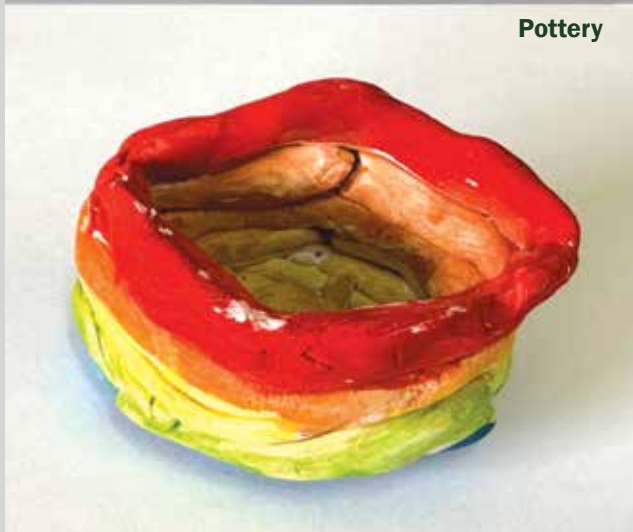
Fish Collage



Watercolour Resist Bugs



Pottery



Grade 4: Confidence, Colour and Creativity

Grade 4 artists dived enthusiastically into graffiti lettering before creating striking acrylic ink animal portraits. Inspired by Pablo Picasso and Cubism, pupils constructed imaginative cardboard animal sculptures that showcased inventive thinking and problem-solving. Jellyfish resist artworks explored warm and cool colours with stunning effect, while Van Gogh-inspired koi pond paintings captured movement through bold, expressive brushstrokes. Collaborative paper mâché food sculptures brought the year to a playful and creative close, highlighting teamwork and artistic flair.



Picasso's Bull-Inspired Cardboard Sculpture



Acrylic Ink Animal Portrait



Watercolour resist Jellyfish



Acrylic Van Gogh-Inspired Koi Fish Pond

Graffiti

Grade 5: Skill, Detail and Artistic Growth

Grade 5 pupils impressed throughout the year with their enthusiasm and dedication. Graffiti name artworks and Keith Haring-inspired Pop Art pieces filled the studio with movement and joy. Focused pencil studies developed strong shading and tonal control, leading to beautifully detailed Georgia O'Keeffe-inspired skull drawings. Expressive oil pastel animal eyes demonstrated sensitivity and realism. The year concluded with ambitious paper mâché food sculptures, where teamwork and imagination took centre stage.





Georgia O'Keeffe-Inspired Art

Paper Mâché sculpture project

Pop Art

Grade 6: Bold Thinking and Artistic Voice



Grade 6 artists showed remarkable creativity and confidence. Graffiti designs and Pop Art animal portraits using acrylic inks were full of character and colour. A standout mixed-media portrait project allowed pupils to communicate meaning through symbolism and layered materials. Depth and composition were explored through three-layered artworks, followed by exciting printmaking using engraved milk cartons. The year ended with powerful and personal reinterpretations of *The Creation of Adam*, showcasing strong artistic voices and courageous ideas.



Graffiti



Fragmented Faces (mixed media project)



Silhouette with foreground and background





Printing using a Milk carton and a Pasta maker



Michelangelo's The Creation of Adam-inspired Art

Grade 7: Expression, Depth and Mastery

Grade 7 pupils embraced artistic freedom and experimentation. From bold graffiti and expressive mixed-media transfers inspired by Brandi Hofer to delicate botanical gelli plate prints, their work reflected maturity and originality. Pupils explored depth through layered compositions and brought ideas to life through sculpture in clay, wire and cardboard. Inspired by William Kentridge and Nelson Makamo, charcoal and symbolic mixed-media artworks - and even stop-motion animations - allowed pupils to share deeply personal narratives through art.



Brandi Hofer-Inspired Project



Botanical Monoprints



Silhouette with foreground and background



Sculptures – clay, wire and cardboard Charcoal



Charcoal



Charcoal and watercolour



Uplands Preparatory Pupils Spread Joy with Uplands Outreach

This year, Uplands Preparatory joined Uplands Outreach in a creative project that brought community and art together. Pupils explored radial patterns and painted them onto small rocks, adding vibrant colour and intricate designs.

The activity encouraged artistic expression and a sense of purpose, as each rock contributed to spreading joy in the community. Pupils loved being part of something meaningful and seeing their creativity make a difference.

This collaboration shows how art can connect people and brighten lives. The painted rocks now stand as colourful symbols of community spirit, creativity and compassion, qualities our pupils embody every day.

Uplands Preparatory Shines at the 2025 Nelspruit Eisteddfod

This year, the Uplands Preparatory Art Department proudly showcased the creativity and talent of its young artists at the Nelspruit Eisteddfod – and the results were nothing short of exceptional. With 30 entries submitted across various categories, our pupils demonstrated skill, imagination, and a deep passion for the arts.

Their hard work paid off with an impressive collection of awards: 11 Gold certificates, 16 Silver certificates, and 3 Bronze certificates. Each piece reflected the individuality and dedication of our pupils, and the adjudicators were clearly captivated by the



“ A year of bold ideas, brave creativity, and joyful self-expression. ”



quality of the work presented.

A special highlight of the event was the selection of two outstanding artworks for display at the prestigious Gala Evening in Nelspruit. Congratulations to Arianna Tecklenburg and Georgia Greenaway for this remarkable achievement – a testament to their talent and artistic maturity.

We also commend Lesego Monareng, who earned two Silver Certificates – one for her Fine Art entry and another for her Photography submission. Her success across different artistic disciplines speaks to her versatility and commitment.

The Art Department is incredibly proud of every pupil who participated. Your creativity continues to inspire, and we look forward to seeing your artistic journeys grow even further in the years ahead.

2025 has been a truly exceptional year in the Art Department. Our pupils have taken creative risks, developed confidence, and produced outstanding artworks that reflect imagination, skill and heart. We celebrate their achievements and look forward to seeing their artistic journeys continue to unfold.

Mrs Janet Tecklenburg



“ Colour, confidence, and imagination filled the Art Studio in 2025. ”



TLC Production

Ticket To The Moon Performance

On Wednesday, February 26th, we had the pleasure of welcoming Ticket to the Moon to our school for a magical storytelling experience! They performed *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, bringing the classic tale to life with humor, energy and valuable life lessons.

The children not only learned about recycling and the idea that the grass isn't always greener on the other side, but they also laughed, cheered, and fully immersed themselves in the performance. The hall was filled with joy, and it was truly a show to remember!

Mrs Marischa Landman



The Travelling Bookshop

Uplands Preparatory recently had the incredible opportunity to host the Travelling Bookshop for a special Book Fair event, and it was an experience that sparked excitement and joy to pupils, teachers and parents alike! The colourful and cosy set-up of the Travelling Bookshop was a sight to behold. Shelves were lined up with an extensive range of books, from exciting adventure tales to heart-warming stories, informative non-fiction, and engaging picture books for younger readers. There was something for everyone, from Pre-Preparatory pupils to teenagers, as well as teachers and staff.



Mduduzi from Travelling Bookshop was on hand, offering personalised recommendations and encouraging young readers to discover books

that matched their interests. For those unsure where to start, the books were organised in fun, easy-to-navigate sections like “Best for

Adventurers,” “Mystery and Magic,” and “Books That Make You Think,” making the hunt for the perfect read even more exciting.

Ms Phumzile Mabandla

VR Education Visit

A Mind-Blowing Experience!

Our Uplands Preparatory pupils embarked on an unforgettable journey without ever leaving school! The much-anticipated VR Education visit brought learning to life in the most immersive way possible. From exploring the

depths of the ocean to zooming through space, each grade experienced virtual adventures that complemented their learning themes. The excitement was contagious — there were screams of amazement, pupils ducking and

reaching out, and friends gripping each other’s hands as they were transported to new worlds! VR Education remains a highlight of the year, and we cannot wait for the next adventure!

Mrs Danielle Steenkamp



Poetry Festival

Our Uplands Preparatory Annual Poetry Festival 2025 was once again filled with fun, frivolity and festivity. Our three proud houses offered up some of their best poetry to inspire, shock and entertain us. Roald Dahl and Kenn Nesbitt featured heavily on the menu.

The teachers battled it out too, but it was the Ogilvie teachers who took centre stage with some great Minion Banana-ing. An exciting development was the addition of group poetry by some of our talented pupils. Overall, much excitement was had and



our final clicking of fingers and congratulations belonged to Webb House.

Mr Brian Dengler



Author Refiloe Moahloli visits Uplands

On the 6th of August, we were thrilled to welcome Refiloe Moahloli to Uplands! Refiloe is a celebrated children's book author whose stories are available in many different languages. Her visit brought stories to life and truly ignited a love for reading among our pupils.

Thank you, Refiloe, for inspiring young minds and reminding us of the magic that can be found in books.

Miss Siphokazi Macingwane



On Cue Productions

We were thrilled to welcome OnCue Productions back to Uplands this year! Their talented team once again brought the magic of live performance to our campus, entertaining and inspiring our learners. This year, we were treated to two exciting shows: the Foundation Phase enjoyed a colourful *Wizard of Oz*-themed adventure, while the Senior Phase was captivated by the mystery and intrigue of *Sherlock Holmes*.

Mrs Marischa Landman



Barefoot Day

The Uplands community came together for a meaningful cause - Barefoot Day! Gently-used shoes were donated to support those in need. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every pupil, parent and staff member who contributed towards this initiative. Your kindness and generosity will bring warmth and comfort to the feet of children in our community who need it most. The donated shoes will be distributed to needy schools in our community.

Mrs Danielle Steenkamp



Books2U Book Fair

Uplands Preparatory recently hosted an exciting book fair in partnership with Books2You, featuring a fantastic selection of books for every reader. Special thanks go to Straw from Books2you, whose helpfulness and enthusiasm made the event run smoothly and enjoyably for everyone. Attendees enjoyed browsing through a wide range of genres and great personalised recommendations. The book fair was a wonderful opportunity for pupils, parents and teachers to celebrate their love of reading, and we are grateful to Straw and the Books2you team for making it such a success.

Ms Phumzile Mabandla



A Spring in our Step

As the days grow longer and the air turns warmer, we welcome the season of new beginnings. Spring reminds us that, no matter how long the winter, growth and renewal always follow. Whether it is planting a garden, starting a new chapter, or simply taking time to breathe in the fresh air, this is the perfect season to embrace change and let life bloom.

Here's to fresh starts, blossoming dreams and brighter days ahead. Happy Spring, Uplands Community!

Mrs Jayde Carlse



First Additional Language (FAL) Day

We kicked off Heritage Week in true Uplands style on 22 September - with laughter, learning, and loads of fun. Our Uplands Preparatory Foundation Phase children enjoyed a vibrant day of cultural celebration, with 12 exciting activity stations featuring traditional Zulu and Afrikaans games. From bracelet beading and decorating Zulu huts to water balloon games, slip and slide, “gryp ’n lekker,” and even sweet-hunting in flour, there was joy and energy everywhere.

Our little ones embraced the day with enthusiasm, and our amazing teachers joined in the spirit of unity and fun, each leading a group with pride and passion. At Uplands, we are proud to celebrate our heritage, nurture respect, and inspire a love for our diverse South African culture.

Ms Estie Smit and Ms Nthabiseng Nkuna



Heritage Day

On the 24th and 25th of September 2025, Uplands Preparatory came together as one vibrant community to embrace and celebrate the wonderful diversity of cultures that make Uplands so special. From diverse traditions to unique stories, every culture adds its own beautiful thread to our shared heritage. At Uplands, we are proud to honour and learn from each other, fostering respect, unity and pride in our differences. Here's to celebrating the past, present and future, together as one.

Mrs Jayde Carlse



Congratulations, Bafana Bafana!

The Uplands Community stood together, united in spirit, pride and passion, to cheer on our national heroes. Bafana Bafana has officially qualified for the FIFA World Cup, for the first time since 2002 (excluding our proud moment hosting in 2010). This is more than just a win on the pitch; it is a powerful reminder of what unity, resilience and belief can achieve. Let this historic achievement ignite a new generation of dreams, inspire every young athlete and remind us all that South African spirit knows no bounds.

Well done, Bafana Bafana – Uplands and the nation is behind you!

Mr Thulani Mngomezulu



Debating Nations Tournament

Our Uplands Preparatory debaters recently participated in the Debating Nations Tournament, hosted by the National Debating League at Holy Family College from 19 – 21 October 2025. While the overall results were not quite what we had hoped for, our debaters performed exceptionally well and achieved the following outstanding results:

- **Jasmine Magonyane** – 30th Best Speaker Nationally (Junior Division)
- **Peter Bakker** – 11th Best Speaker Nationally (Junior Division)
- **Grade 4/5 Team** – 15th Place Nationally
- **Grade 6/7 Team** – Top Mpumalanga Team (Senior Division)

We are incredibly proud of their efforts, growth and representation at this national event.

Mr Lee Robyn



67 Minutes for Madiba

“ What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived.
It is what difference we have made to the lives of others. ”

– Nelson Mandela

Uplands Preparatory honoured Nelson Mandela's legacy by dedicating 67 minutes to serving our community - one minute for each year of his life devoted to South Africa.

Though Mandela Day fell during the holidays, our spirit of Ubuntu remains strong! Each grade made their mark:

Grade 7 - Helped wash the staff cars with a smile

Grade 6 - Spread joy at Rustig Retirement Home

Grade 5 - Distributed socks and chocolates to the staff at Coolmore Farms as a gesture of appreciation

Grade 4 - Baked muffins to share with the elders in the community

Grade 3 - Visited Macademia Retirement Home

Grade 2 - Made and distributed sandwiches to those in need

Grade 1 - Helped at home, at school, and picked up litter

Together, we're building the change we wish to see!

Mrs Marischa Landman



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Evening

To celebrate Shrove Tuesday, a Pancake Evening took place on the lawns outside the Jos Driver Hall on the Uplands Preparatory Campus. It was a well-attended and special time, with the children playing on the fields while the parents and staff picnicked at the tables on the lawn. The Uplands College Boarders popped across for pancakes, adding to the merry atmosphere.

A big thank-you goes to the kitchen staff who prepared a few hundred pancakes and also to the staff who volunteered to serve pancakes in the evening. A special thank-you to everyone for the donations received that went to the Staff Hope Fund to support those in need.

Reverend Matthew Jennings
School Chaplain



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is celebrated annually all around the world, marking 40 days to Easter Sunday where we observe and give thanks to God for Jesus coming and dying for us. It is a time to remember that "From dust we were created and to dust we shall return" - signifying the brevity of life and our need to be living for God and turning from what is not of Him. When community members received ashes on their foreheads, it was said that we ought to "turn away from sin and believe the Good News."

We had three Services to commemorate this significant day - Senior Phase Preparatory had a Service before the Foundation Phase Preparatory gathered, and finally College gathered mid-morning to share in this special tradition and service.

God is good, and we give thanks for our community and the free access we now have to God through His life and death.

Reverend Matthew Jennings
School Chaplain



First Holy Communion and Baptism

Our annual Uplands Preparatory First Holy Communion and Baptism service was nothing short of special, as it was hosted on the 29th of March in our Josh Driver Hall at Uplands Preparatory for some of our Grade 4 to 7 pupils. It was a delightful occasion and having the families present of the children who were having their first communion and being baptised made for a wonderful occasion.

We believe, as a school, that our foundation is Jesus Christ. So, taking communion is a reminder of all that He has done for us and the importance of Him in our lives. The baptisms which took place at the service also remind us of our union with Him. This is a significant milestone for our children who were involved, and is a great rite of passage in their journey at Uplands.

Reverend Matthew Jennings
School Chaplain



Ascension Day

A time to remember and be encouraged



Every year on Ascension Day, which always falls on a Thursday, our Prep Senior Phase and College come together to remember something very special - Jesus's return to Heaven after completing His time on earth. It's a moment that reminds us of who He is and what that means for us today.

Jesus's Ascension isn't just a part of history; it reminds us that He is still active, still present, and still leading us. Even though we cannot see Him the way the disciples did, we know that He is with us, helping us, guiding us, and working through us in our school and our world.

As a school community, this gives us real confidence. We know we're not doing life alone. Jesus is with us - in our friendships, our learning, our challenges and our celebrations. He gives us the courage to keep going, the strength to do what's right, and the compassion to care for others.

Ascension Day also reminds us that we have a role to play. Jesus left His followers with a mission: to carry on His work by showing love, grace, justice, forgiveness and kindness. That mission hasn't changed. In our school, we try to live this out every day - in the way we treat each other, the way we serve, and the way we grow.

So as we celebrate Ascension Day each year, we lift our eyes and hearts, knowing that Jesus is not far away. He is with us, cheering us on, and calling us to make a difference.

He is good. He is near. And He is working in us and through us.

Reverend Matthew Jennings
School Chaplain



Carols by Candlelight

Carols by Candlelight is a truly wonderful, inspiring and wholesome evening. It is a time to come together as we enter the Advent season and build up to Christmas, which is all ultimately about Jesus Christ having come into this world to reunite us to Himself, out of love for us

“This is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as a propitiation for our sins”.

1 John 4:10

With Nine Lessons about the birth of Christ the Messiah (Emmanuel, God with us), and Nine joyful songs, plus three songs by the Choir, with picnic blankets spread all across the hall (due to the weather), it was a very warm and special occasion. We are so grateful to those who came to join us.

Reverend Matthew Jennings
School Chaplain



Eisteddfod

Uplands Preparatory Choirs Shine at the Eisteddfod

Both our Junior and Senior Choirs took to the stage at the Nelspruit Eisteddfod, and what a joy they were to watch and hear.

The Junior Choir were bubbly, energetic and full of excitement! Their performance radiated joy

and showcased the hard work and dedication they have put in over the year. The Senior Choir gave a polished performance with a wonderful level of musicianship, dedication and stage presence. Alive with movement and spirit, they truly brought the music to life.

We are so proud of all the singers for their commitment and passion. You have represented Uplands with excellence, energy and heart.

Mrs Marischa Landman



Uplands Senior Choir



Uplands Junior Choir

Marimba Bands

Throughout the year, our Grade 7 Marimba Band brought energy, rhythm and joy to many school events and special occasions. Their dedication and enthusiasm for music created memorable moments for both pupils and staff alike.

At Prizegiving, the group performed their final song together, a beautiful and fitting way to end their marimba journey at the Prep. Their performance reflected not only their musical growth, but also the teamwork and spirit they developed over the years.

We thank our Grade 7 marimba players for the wonderful contribution they have made to the cultural life of the school and wish them all the very best for the exciting journey ahead.

Mrs Marischa Landman



Sacristans



Community Service

2025 was another year of giving and caring for the Uplands community. As usual, we focused on the White River community with the four main charity drives throughout the year.

In Term 1, the SPCA was the grateful recipient of the pet food donation; in Term 2, our blanket

drive provided much-needed comfort to orphans during winter; Hospice was supported in Term 3, and we ended the year with our Christmas gift donation to bring a little bit of joy to the orphans in Term 4. This year, we also supported the College Debs with their Shav-a-thon project to raise funds for Cancer. Mr Viljoen and

Mr Badenhorst raffled their hair to the delight of all the Prep school pupils. Thank you to all of the parents and children who continue to make Uplands a place of giving.

Mr Gary Viljoen
Deputy Head Pastoral Care



Community Service



Community Service



Community Service

CANSA Spray-a- Thon

What an Amazing CANSA Spray-a-Thon at the Uplands Preparatory

The event was a massive success, filled with energy and enthusiasm. A huge shout-out to our incredible Uplands College CANSA Debutantes for receiving such overwhelming support from Grades 1 to 7. The Uplands Preparatory staff were absolute superstars, ensuring everything ran smoothly.

A total of 245 pupils demonstrated their support for cancer awareness by either spraying their hair or purchasing raffle tickets. An impressive 667 raffle tickets were sold, showcasing the amazing effort from everyone involved. The Preparatory managed to raise a remarkable R9,940 in total.

A heartfelt thank-you to all our pupils, staff members and parents for your outstanding support. Together, we are making a difference!

Mr Gary Viljoen



Community Service



CANSA Cut-for-a- Cause

**A Day to Remember: Uplands
Preparatory Teachers Take the Cut
for the Cause!**

What a day! After much anticipation, both of our brave teachers Mr Dylan Badenhorst and Mr Gary Viljoen showed true dedication and let our pupils, Tchoky Carlson in Grade 2 and Carter Mckenzie in Grade 6, shave their hair. It is moments like these that highlight the strength of our school community - the laughter, the teamwork and the incredible spirit of giving.

A big THANK-YOU to everyone who participated, supported, and made this unforgettable day possible! Let's hear it for our teachers' courage and our scholars' enthusiasm!

Mrs Monette Stratford



Tour de Maths

This year's Tour de Maths was a fantastic display of brainpower, strategy and teamwork! Uplands Preparatory Grades 4 - 7 put their mathematical skills to the test in a fun, challenging and highly competitive interhouse showdown. From rapid-fire calculations to more complex problem-solving, every round was filled with excitement and determination. After an intense battle of wits, Webb emerged victorious as the ultimate champions! Congratulations to all participants for their enthusiasm and effort.

We can't wait to do it all again next year!

Mr Jacques Müller



MJ Zwane

Independent Schools Athletics Champs

Uplands Preparatory athletes took to the track and field at Penryn for the MJ Zwane Championships, marking the fifth anniversary of this prestigious independent schools' athletics meeting. Named in honour of the late MJ Zwane, this event holds a special place in our hearts, celebrating both athletic excellence and the spirit of sportsmanship.

Our athletes competed fiercely, with resilience, determination and integrity in every race, jump and throw. Their commitment throughout the season culminated in a fitting finale at this memorable event, and we could not be prouder of their efforts.

A heartfelt thank-you to Penryn for hosting a fantastic day of competition. We also extend our deepest gratitude to our dedicated coaches, whose guidance and passion have driven our team forward, and to our parents for their unwavering support. As the athletics season comes to a close, we celebrate the achievements, growth and camaraderie that define Uplands sport.

Well done to all our athletes – your hard work has made us proud!

Mr Shoain Shelton



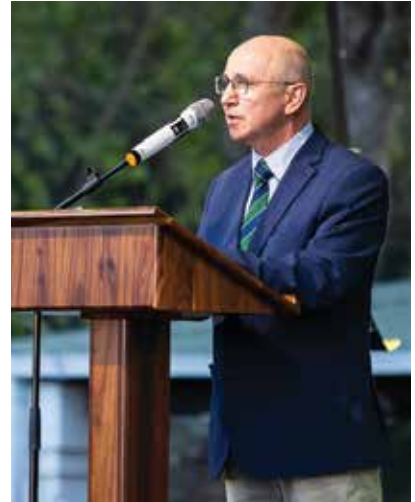
HH Photography & Design



Founders' Evening

What an amazing event Founders' Evening was! As the Autumn sun set over the College oval, our Uplands pupils delivered a spectacular showcase of talent that captivated everyone in the audience. From our endearing Pre-Preparatory dancers and singers to the Preparatory choirs, the musical talent on display, the engaging College drama and the unforgettable Preparatory finale, all had the entire crowd singing and waving flags.

Our Chairman of the Uplands Board, Mr Greg Dane, spoke about the fundamental importance of kindness in all aspects of life, while Executive Head, Mr Sean Carlisle, reminded us of Uplands' 97-year legacy and the vision and courage that created the special school that is Uplands, and the wonderful community that has been built up around it. The special Candle-Lighting ceremony reminded us all of the foundations laid before us and the Uplands' shining light that is carried forward to future generations.



Mrs Debbie van Rooyen





Spirit Week



Day 1
Crazy Sock Day



Day 2
World Book Dress-up Day



Spirit Week

Day 3 Rainbow Day



Day 4 Hat and Glasses Day



Day 5 Anything but a Bag Day



Once Upon a Twist

Foundation Phase Concert

Our FP concert, *Once Upon a Twist*, was a colourful delight of poetry, skits, singing and dancing based on original fairytales that were slightly adjusted. Peter Pan and friends moved through the various fairytale scenes through a magical mirror, observing and participating in the unfolding events.

Many hours of planning, practising, organising and making props and costumes, and co-ordinating sound, lights and music, culminated in a joyful and

successful show. Our children enjoyed the performances, and the audiences rewarded them with spontaneous applause.

Thank you to all the staff, parents and children for working so hard to make this an event to remember.

Mrs Sally Wiggill

HOD: Foundation Phase



Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Senior Phase Concert

This term, we took our audience on a magical chocolate adventure with *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*! Our Senior Phase pupils stepped into the scrumptious, delicious world of the Wonka Factory - and what a treat it was! From golden tickets to Oompa-Loompas, every moment was filled with fun, creativity and pure

imagination. With two casts and two spectacular shows, our young stars truly shone on stage, showing off their confidence, talent and teamwork. It was a joy watching them embrace their roles and bring Roald Dahl's classic to life in the most colourful and delightful way.

Mrs Marischa Landman



Uplands has Talent

This year, we were blown away by over 60 entries for UPS HAS TALENT! From these, only 20 finalists were selected to perform at our Talent Evening. The stage came alive with comedy, dance, singing and instrumental acts. Our pupils truly shone, enjoying all the participants moments under the spotlight. Our Foundation Phase Winner was Georgie Deacon,

who wowed us with her spirited performance of "Put Your Records On". Our Senior Primary Winners were Miss Gates' Tutor Group, who lit up the stage with their incredible dance moves. We are so proud of every participant who shared their talent and confidence with us.

Mrs Marischa Landman



Gavin Sinclair Innovation Centre

Uplands Preparatory recently celebrated the renaming of its Innovation Centre to the Gavin Sinclair Innovation Centre. This honour pays tribute to Mr Gavin Sinclair, the headmaster whose visionary leadership was instrumental in the conception of the original Arts, Media and Technology Centre built in 2002.

The event was marked by a beautiful evening cocktail function, attended by past board members, the architect, fundraising stakeholders, and staff who had a hand in bringing the centre to life. Guests enjoyed snacks and each other's company in the grassed quad, prior to the unveiling of the commemorative plaque which reads:

“Where curiosity meets innovation, and learning knows no boundaries. In honour of Gavin Sinclair, Headmaster 2000 – 2010, whose vision transformed education for the 21st century.”

In his welcoming speech, Mr Sean Carlisle highlighted Mr Gavin Sinclair's pivotal role, saying,

“Gavin's vision and leadership shaped so much at Uplands Preparatory. The Centre exists because someone dared to imagine more. We honour and thank the person that was the driving force behind this remarkable achievement.”

Bev Carlse offered a heartfelt thank-you to Gavin in the form of a poem. By renaming the Innovation Centre, Uplands Preparatory not only honours Gavin Sinclair but also reinforces its commitment to creativity and forward-thinking education.

It is a reminder that with vision and dedication, extraordinary achievements are within reach.

Ms Debbie van Rooyen



Matthew and Me Initiative

Uplands staff recently hosted a twilight fun run/walk on campus in support of the *Matthew and Me* initiative which advocates for mental wellness in our youth. The event was opened by former Uplands Preparatory Head, Mr Dave Ernstzen, and his wife Ashleigh, who conveyed their appreciation to all in attendance. Routes of varying distances could be enjoyed and the camaraderie amongst the participants was evident. Uplands is proud to support this initiative.

Mrs Michelle Barry



Incredible Dog Show

During our last week of school, we were treated to an amazing dog show! The pupils absolutely loved watching the talented dogs perform on stage – from clever tricks to heart-warming moments. A big thank-you to Leaders of the Pack for not only entertaining us but also sharing valuable life lessons along the way. It was a true Dog Show Delight !

Mrs Marischa Landman



PTA Quiz Night

A Cosy and Memorable Evening!

What a fantastic evening it turned out to be! Our Uplands PTA Quiz Night, originally scheduled for Uplands Preparatory, was relocated to The Uplander and thankfully so, as the chilly weather made for a perfectly cosy night indoors.

Candice Taljaard and Megan Leslie led the event with energy and heart, ensuring everyone felt welcome and that the evening ran seamlessly. Our dynamic quiz masters, Brian Hyson and Lindsey Hyson Velleman, kept participants on their toes with clever questions that had tongues wagging and minds racing! Let's just say we'll never forget what a collection of flamingos, geese and

kangaroos are called - would you have known? Adding to the great atmosphere, Ross Leslie and Rob van Biljon managed the bar with ease, making sure everyone was well looked after throughout the evening.

The night featured not only a change in venue but also a change in menu. Instead of burgers, guests enjoyed beautiful platters of sweet and savoury bites, with enough extra platters to share with our dedicated Uplands Gate Guards, a thoughtful touch on a cold evening. Prizes were plentiful, and no team left empty-handed! The top three teams were as follows:

Winners – “Smartie-Pants”
Second Place – “Final Answer”
Third Place – “Smartini”

Thank you to the incredible sponsors, the PTA team that made sure the event was a success and, of course, thank you to everyone who joined and supported the evening! The PTA Quiz Night has truly become a much-loved annual “Fun-Raiser” - one we look forward to supporting for years to come. See you next year!

Thank you also to our generous sponsors of prizes.

Mrs Carla Bastos
Mrs Sanele Thothela



Uplands Christmas Market

The Uplands Christmas Market 2025 took place on Sunday 2 November in the beautiful gardens of Uplands College. Despite cool, drizzly weather, the misty atmosphere created a magical, European-style Christmas market ambiance. Stallholders were delighted with the turnout and once again expressed their enthusiasm to be part of this special annual event.

More than 80 unique and vibrant stalls set up along the patio, with a few hardy vendors braving the

lawns under gazebos. Shoppers enjoyed a wonderful array of flavours, from tacos and halloumi to Asian and Indian cuisine, accompanied by aromatic warm coffee. The PTA contributed to the festive spirit by selling refreshing beverages and showcasing their supporters' merchandise.

Children were kept happily entertained in the inflatable play area while parents explored and shopped for thoughtful Christmas gifts.

Adding to the festive mood, the Salvation Army performed Christmas carols and selected musical pieces in the stretch tent, followed by lively performances from our own talented Uplands College pupils.

Thank you to everyone who supported this Uplands Foundation fundraising initiative. Your participation contributed to a memorable and successful event.

Ms Tracey Russell



Uplands Santa Dash

On a drizzly Sunday morning, 2 November, we were thrilled to see an enthusiastic team of runners and walkers join us for our inaugural Uplands Santa Dash. What began as a light-hearted way to spread some early Christmas cheer and raise awareness for the Uplands Foundation turned into a morning that exceeded expectations.

A special thank-you to the big-hearted Ezigro Seedlings team for their incredible support, and to Illy Coffee and Empact for their generous contributions. Congratulations to the indomitable Donne Green, winner of the 10km Dash, and the talented Lexi Joubert, winner of the 5km Dash. Finally, a big festive thank-you to our little drummer boy, our reindeers, Santas, elves and the Christmas fairies - we absolutely loved having you join the fun.

Mrs Sally Greathead



Grade 1 Overview

The Grade 1 class of 2025 has demonstrated remarkable adaptability, courage and talent. Pupils arrived with a mix of smiles, excitement and understandable trepidation, and were warmly welcomed by their teachers. This year required equal flexibility from the Grade 1 teaching team, as the classes were shared between Mrs Codd, Mrs Wiggill and Mrs Fargher. The children benefited greatly from the diverse expertise and creative

approaches each teacher brought to the classroom.

The year began with Interhouse Athletics, followed by a magical Storytelling Under the Stars evening. A range of enriching events continued throughout the year, including the Grade 1 Tea Party, Alphabet Day, a visit to Garden Pavilion Nursery, Transport Day, Safari Day and numerous sporting activities. Pupils also enjoyed specialist lessons in

Afrikaans, isiZulu and IT (where they were introduced to coding and robotics), Music and Physical Education.

Well done, Grade 1s. You have shown exceptional growth, resilience and enthusiasm this year. We are incredibly proud of each one of you.

**Mrs Sally Wiggill,
Mrs Loraine Codd
and Mrs Tamaryn Fargher**

First day at school

The long-anticipated first day of Grade 1 eventually arrived for parents and eager, somewhat nervous, Uplands Preparatory Grade 1s. The two Grade 1 classrooms, headed by Mrs Codd and Mrs Wiggill, assisted by Miss Joubert and Miss Southey, were

abuzz as parents helped their children unpack stationery, before saying goodbye. These little ones bravely waved them off and continued with an exciting day. They even participated in athletics trials in preparation for the Inter-house athletics which took place

on Friday. We welcome the 2025 Grade 1s, as well as their parents, to our Foundation Phase. May it be a very happy and exciting year for you all.

**Mrs Loraine Codd
and Mrs Sally Wiggill**



Transport Day

On the 26th of June, the Uplands Preparatory Grade 1s came to school dressed according to the theme of 'Transport' for the annual Transport Day. The Grade 1s made boats from recycled objects like water bottles, milk cartons, cardboard and boxes. They worked with a partner to develop collaboration skills and then sailed their boats in the canals at the Uplands dam. They enjoyed a picnic with the beautiful surroundings as a back-drop. This was a fun way to end a busy term.

Mrs Sally Wiggill



Safari Day

Following our engaging term exploring South Africa's incredible wildlife animals, our Uplands Preparatory Grade 1 pupils concluded with a 'Safari Dress-Up Day'. The day was filled with exciting activities, including a simulated game drive that sparked their imagination and creativity. They ended the day with expressing their artistic side by sculpting their favourite animals out of clay. It was a fun-filled celebration of their learning journey! This celebration coincided perfectly with Heritage Day, allowing us to proudly showcase our South African heritage.

Mrs Tamaryn Fargher



Storytelling Evening

The Uplands Preparatory Foundation Phase storytelling evening celebrated the joy of reading and emphasised the importance of storytelling and reading in a child's development. As our children gathered around, hot chocolate and fluffy toys in hand, they were captivated by tales that sparked their imagination and transported them to faraway lands filled with adventure, kindness and wonder.

The storytellers brought stories to life through their expressive reading, engaging voices and interactive storytelling techniques, keeping the children hanging on every word. The evening reminds us of the power of storytelling in nurturing curiosity and developing a lifelong love for reading.

Mrs Sally Wiggill



Tea Party

The annual Uplands Preparatory Grade 1 tea party is always such a special occasion. The children worked so well in their groups, setting their tea tables with all the crockery, flowers and delicious eats brought from home. Thank you, parents, for playing such a big part in this fun morning. Our beautiful Foundation Phase playground was transformed by bright tablecloths and the children enjoyed chatting to their friends while partaking in the feast.

Mrs Sally Wiggill



Alphabet Parade



Grade 1 Class Photographs



Front Row: Buhle Msiska, Ashton Shelton, Kimberley Dalu, William Forword, Khensani Grove

Second Row: Isabella-May Prim, Mnotho Sikhosana, Samuel Hulley-Miller, Taonashe Chibaya, Twisisani Ngwenyama, Sadie Smit, Mrs Tamaryn Fargher

Third Row: Elle van Aswegen, Harper Gunning, Khanya Ngwenya, Ava MacQueen, Kwazi Thabethe

Fourth Row: Honor Balsdon, Zion Krige, Tinokudzaishe Ngwerume, Marais van Rooyen

Back Row: Miss Maria Southey, Keanu Galliers, Charlotte du Plessis, Chris Knox, Mya Whitfield, Robert Hamilton, Mrs Loraine Codd



Front Row: Thomas Fair, Akohlulwa Baraza, Lesedi Ngwenyama, Ryan 't Lam, Luca Pieters

Second Row: Ralph Potgieter, Emily Hoft, Oatlegile Tukakgomo, Robyn Piper, Langa Magagula, Duke Venter, Mrs Sally Wiggill

Third Row: Kagoentle Masilo, Mbali Malele, Tristan Clark, Eli Duimelaar, Skye Pinho

Fourth Row: Miss Jessica Joubert, Jovie Ford, Mia Pinho, Milana Madeira, Alex Stander, Mrs Tamaryn Fargher

Back Row: Ratilwe Mathonsi, Zaid Haeri Mazanderani, Ofunwa Radzilani, Sibani Gumede, Elliott van Zyl

Grade 2 Overview

Grade 2 – More Like GREAT 2!

What a phenomenal year our Grade 2 children have had! We journeyed around the world with Flat Stanley, exploring incredible countries and famous landmarks along the way. One of our absolute favourite experiences was becoming pen pals with children our own age and exchanging heartfelt letters, real-world learning at its very best.

A special highlight was our visit to KMI Airport, where we watched aeroplanes take off and land. Meeting customs officials and police officers was so exciting, and

seeing the fire engines that protect KMI in action even creating a flowing “foam river” with the spray was unforgettable!

We also dived deep beneath the ocean’s surface to discover fascinating sea creatures and learned just how important they are to our planet. From the depths of the sea to the wonders of the night sky, our curiosity continued as we explored the theme of Night. After reading *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*, we visited the Owl Sanctuary in Hazyview, where we saw these magnificent birds up close.

Our Compound Word Day was another fun-filled highlight. We discovered how two words can join together to create a brand-new word, forming pairs and dressing up to bring words like keychain, sunflower, and heartbeat to life. Our creativity truly shone!

This year has been filled with GREAT adventures, meaningful learning, and wonderful memories. We are so proud of how much we have grown and cannot wait to see what exciting opportunities Grade 3 will bring!

**Mrs Michelle Shelton
and Mrs Sam Arntzen**

Read Aloud Day

“Oh, the places you’ll go!” Our Grade 2s spent the morning reading to the Grade 00s, sharing the magic of reading aloud. Giggles and gasps filled the air as pages were turned, bringing stories to life. Dragons roared, princesses twirled and animals talked - all through the power of words. Special bonds were formed as little hands pointed to pictures, eager ears listened closely, and imaginations soared high. It was a morning of laughter, learning, and the joy of sharing stories.

Mrs Sam Arntzen



Compound Word Day

Uplands Preparatory Grade 2 pupils celebrated Compound Word Day with creativity and enthusiasm! Pupils worked with partners to represent compound words, showcasing their artistic skills. The day was filled with fun activities, including a Compound Word Match game and an exciting treasure hunt, making learning a joyful experience.

Mrs Michelle Shelton



Around the World with Flat Stanley

In Term 3, our Grade 2 pupils embarked on an incredible journey around the world without ever leaving the classroom! Inspired by Jeff Brown's beloved character, each child created their own Flat Stanley and sent him off to friends and family across the globe. Our intrepid paper travellers visited amazing destinations far and wide, posing for photos at famous landmarks, beautiful beaches, bustling cities, and quiet countryside locations.

The excitement in our classroom has been contagious as pupils eagerly awaited postcards and

photographs from Stanley's adventures. We've tracked his travels on our world map, learning about different countries, cultures and continents along the way. Each Stanley's return brought stories of new places, different foods and fascinating people, helping our young pupils understand that our world is both wonderfully diverse and beautifully connected.

Through this project, pupils practised their letter-writing skills, developed geographical knowledge, and discovered the joy of connecting with people around the world. Thank you to

all the families and friends who helped make Stanley's journey possible. Your participation brought geography to life and created memories our pupils will treasure for years to come!

Mrs Michelle Shelton



Geogenius

The Grade 2s has been buzzing with creativity, thanks to our new Geogenius 3D building set! Pupils have been exploring spatial reasoning, engineering concepts and problem-solving as they construct everything from simple shapes to complex 3D structures. This hands-on resource has been wonderful for developing fine motor skills, encouraging teamwork, and bringing mathematical concepts like geometry and symmetry to life. The children love the challenge of following design cards or creating

their own unique buildings and inventions.

Mrs Sam Arntzen



Owl Encounters

Our Grade 2 pupils had a truly magical experience at Owl Encounters this week! The children were absolutely captivated as they learned about different owl species and their unique characteristics. They discovered fascinating facts about these incredible birds of prey, from their silent flight to their amazing hunting abilities.

The highlight of the day was meeting the owls up close. The pupils were thrilled to observe Barn Owls, a Spotted Eagle owl and an African Wood Owl. Many children had the special opportunity to gently touch an owl, which created unforgettable memories and plenty of excited gasps and giggles!

Mrs Michelle Shelton



KMI Outing

Our Grade 2s had an exciting day out at KMI International Airport! The children were fascinated as they toured the airport and learned more about how it operates behind the scenes. A big highlight was watching airplanes take off right from the runway, which was such a

thrilling sight! The adventure ended with an up-close look at a real fire engine, which sparked plenty of excitement and curiosity. It was a day filled with learning, laughter and unforgettable memories.

Mrs Sam Arntzen



Our Wonderful Worm Farm!

The Grade 2s were busy caring for our worm farm this term! Pupils measured our wiggly friends to see how they grew and learned about what kept them healthy and happy. We fed them a variety of food scraps and observed what they liked best.

The children discovered firsthand how worms helped break down organic waste and create nutrient-rich compost for our school garden. It was fascinating to watch them develop responsibility and curiosity about the natural world through this hands-on science experience.



Mrs Michelle Shelton



Wild Fig

As a conclusion to our insect theme, the Grade 2s enjoyed a memorable outing at Wild Fig Country Estate. The children spent the morning looking for insects,

observing a variety of animals, hiking through the estate, and finishing the day with a fun picnic at the dam.

Mrs Sam Arntzen

Grade 2 Class Photographs



Front Row: Buhle Kanyane, Nompumelelo Sehawu, Zoey Da Silva, Melokuhle Khoza, Ruby Ralph
Second Row: Tchoky Carlson, Orlando Theunissen, Daniele Pedroncelli, Andile Nyathi, Christina Webber, Uvile Mgwenya
Third Row: Madison Pretorius, Mackenzie Watt, Makomborero Munanga, Victor Wilkens, Adam Kay-Zoltowski
Fourth Row: Miss Jane Ndlovu, Zamacusi Nkabinde, Hendré Leppan, Mireille Minnaar, Emily Hearne, Mrs Samantha Arntzen
Back Row: Kirabo Dlamini, Alina Raja, Amogelang Lekhuleni, Zoe Tenderere



Front Row: Alicia Kritzinger, Khenso Mashaba, Brielle Kabuya, Joshua Coetsee, Jenna Snyman
Second Row: Amelie Bakker, Zoey Ramatsitsi, Georgina Deacon, Harper Victor, Sienna Schroeder, Izè Matthee
Third Row: Tumelo Marota, Milan Zietsman, Blayke Schuldt
Fourth Row: Miss Jane Ndlovu, Donovan van Biljon, Alimwe Maphanga, Masana Manzini, Jack Hulley-Miller, Mrs Michelle Shelton
Back Row: Siyamthanda Ngwenyama, Leander Smit, Nnete Mpholo, Sakhumzi Maluka, Fletcher Blew

Grade 3 Overview

This year was filled with meaningful learning, hands-on exploration, and exciting adventures for our Grade 3 pupils. In Term 3, the Life Skills themes focused on South Africa's rich heritage. The children learnt about the national symbols and the nine provinces, with a special emphasis on Mpumalanga and the Kruger National Park.

A highlight of the year was the visit to the Kruger Park, where the Lessons in Conservation programme at the Skukuza museum deepened their understanding of the environment, wildlife and our country's history.

In Term 4, the focus shifted to the Solar System. Pupils explored the planets, discovered interesting facts about astronauts, and even designed their own imaginative planets. These activities allowed them to combine creativity with scientific thinking, making the theme both enjoyable and memorable.

The year also included several hands-on projects that encouraged curiosity, problem-solving, and teamwork. Pupils built biomes, crafted organs from playdough, and constructed life-size skeletons, engaging deeply with each

topic. Another highlight was the overnight camp to Mankele, where the children took part in outdoor activities that fostered perseverance, cooperation and plenty of fun.

Overall, it has been a wonderful year of growth, learning and discovery for our Grade 3 group, and we look forward to building on this strong foundation next year.

Mrs Minette Collins
Mrs Sue Gibbs

Amazing Me

Grade 3 is all about "Amazing Me" !

Our young scientists have dived into the world of the human body, exploring the skeleton and its many parts. In teams, they built their own skeletons (picking fun names was a highlight!) and researched all the vital organs and their functions. But the real fun? Bringing anatomy to life with playdough - crafting and labelling each organ with creativity and curiosity!

We are beyond proud of their incredible investigative skills and enthusiasm for learning. Keep shining, Grade 3!

#AmazingMe

#FutureScientists

#LearningIsFun

Mrs Minette Collins
Mrs Sue Gibbs



Kruger Park Outing

As part of their Lessons in Conservation curriculum, our Grade 3s enjoyed a memorable outing to the Kruger Park. The children explored the Skukuza Museum, where they learnt more about the rich history of the park.

The highlight of the day was without a doubt seeing the wild animals up close in their natural environment. The children were

excited to share their knowledge with one another and apply what they had been learning in class.

It was a truly wonderful experience, a day filled with learning, discovery, and appreciation for the beauty of our natural heritage.

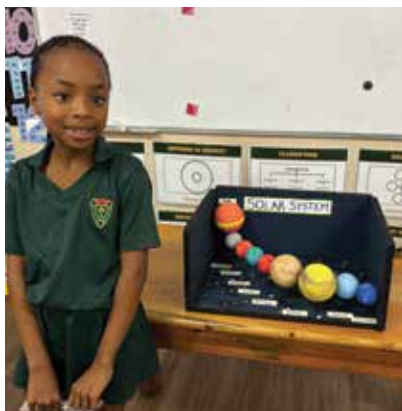
Mrs Minette Collins



Dinosaur Park



Speeches



Grade 3 Class Photographs



Front Row: Axel Pinker, Moshopiadi Mabowa, Siyabulela Mbatsane, Zegen Weithäuser

Second Row: Colton Hearne, Lucia Leoni, Pippa Herring, Nadia Smit, Robert Louw

Third Row: Tiyani Grove, Nava James, Awande Mkhabela, Liela de Swardt

Fourth Row: Mrs Derienne de Klerk, Reabetswe Tukakgomo, Troy Taljaard, Alexander Dimitriou, Imani Mabuza, Stella Whyte, Mrs Minette Collins

Back Row: Reikemetse Moripa, Wyatt Stevens, Miehleketo Mhlaba, Olivia McEvoy



Front Row: Kyra Stephen, Caterina Rodrigues, Khumo Mogane, William Whitfield, Luke Herring

Second Row: Anna Forword, Emma Hamilton, Joy van der Hout, Grayson Clark, Talia Steenkamp, Khulasande Ngomana

Third Row: Kimberly Khosa, Sophie McEwan, Charlyn Mutanda

Fourth Row: Amber Knox, Tungamiraishe Ngwerume, Ross Botha, Sven Galliers

Back Row: Mrs Derienne de Klerk, Alexa Rottcher, Anelisa Hlabane, Lilian Ikekhuah, Aiden Pollard, Nathan d'Hotman, Mrs Sue Gibbs

Grade 4 Overview

The Grade 4s of 2025 proved to be a vibrant and energetic group, who rose to the occasion of any challenge! It was a busy year, with Plantsman visits, camping at Queen's River, hands-on practical lessons, charity work as well as whistle-stop tour through White River's historical

sites, to name but only a few! Led by Mrs Barry, Mrs Steenkamp and Miss Viljoen the children embraced all these opportunities and participated cooperatively and with enthusiasm. It proved to be a year of exciting growth and maturation as the Grade 4s asserted their independence and

expanded their set of personal skills. They are commended on a most successful year and thanked for their engaging and receptive responses, which ensured they were a pleasure to teach!

Mrs Danielle Steenkamp
Mrs Michelle Barry

Queen's River

Once again, the Grade 4 group were treated to 2 nights at Queen's River Adventure Camp for their annual camp. They were kept busy with various activities, presented in a team-basis manner. The activities sought to develop problem-solving skills as well as spirits of tenacity and cooperation.

A scenic hike down to Cupid Falls was also completed with a chilly and refreshing swim in the river awaiting them at their destination. The children were kept fuelled with wholesome meals, and went to bed each evening very weary from a full day's worth of activities, but with full bellies! They are to be congratulated on achieving many of the challenges set before them!

Mrs Michelle Barry



The Plantsman

Our Uplands Preparatory Grade 4 pupils had an absolute blast on their annual trip to The Plantsman. The highlight of their day was learning all about pollination, bees, butterflies and flowers from the knowledgeable Hettie and her team. They got creative, making their own seed bombs with different wildflower seeds to take

home and plant. They also enjoyed taking home homemade birdfeed balls, perfect for attracting some feathered friends! To top it all off, they were treated to fresh fruit, juice and scrumptious homemade brownies - a perfect way to refuel after a fun-filled afternoon!

Mrs Danielle Steenkamp



Exploring the Wonders of Nature

Our Uplands Preparatory Grade 4 pupils have had an amazing time in the Natural Science class this term. They have enjoyed a hands-on and interactive learning experience, exploring the wonders of nature through dissecting beans, flowers and plants to understand their structures. They have also

watched plants grow and observed the life cycle, as well as examining all sorts of insects! They also conducted exciting experiments with yeast and engaged in various practical activities that made learning fun and interactive.

To wrap up the term, our pupils

participated in IBL Week, where they designed and built animal shelters. This project tied in perfectly with our term theme of kindness. We are proud of our curious and creative Grade 4s!

Mrs Danielle Steenkamp



Culture Club



As part of the offering for Culture Club on Tuesday mornings, Uplands Preparatory Grade 4 pupils have had the opportunity to try their hand at fishing. Groups are rotated on a four-week programme which involves a short background to some of the types of fishing, tying a basic knot, learning to cast and then, in the final week, a chance to catch a fish before assembly on a Tuesday morning. There have been a few successes, but it's all about having fun and appreciating the beautiful campus and environment we are fortunate enough to share at Uplands.

Mrs Danielle Steenkamp

Inquiry-Based Learning

This year, Grade 4 pupils engaged in a series of hands-on Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) tasks that encouraged curiosity, critical thinking and creativity. Below is a summary of the key tasks:

Term 1's theme of Kindness was reinforced by looking at our roles as guardians of the Earth. This prepared the children for their ultimate task of having to create a habitat for a tortoise, which would fulfill all the criteria that would allow the tortoise to thrive! For the Inclusion theme in Term 2, pupils studied several areas where considerations had to be

made due to factors such as allergies, religions, disabilities or celebrations. This assisted them in preparing a menu for a 3-course meal which had to adhere to certain restrictions or necessities (Halaal, nut allergy, Braille presentation of menu etc.)

In Term 3, pupils researched their family histories and traditions to design personal family crests. They chose symbols and colours that reflected their family's background and values, fostering a sense of pride and connection to their heritage. In the final term, pupils created

their own planets to fall in line with our theme of Develop, where progressive steps were looked at which led to an ultimate goal of developing a functional planet which would allow for human survival.

The children showed pleasing investment in these projects. Not only did they hone skills, but also deepened their connections to their personal heritage and their responsibility to the planet, as well as the impact their actions can have on their fellow man!

Mrs Michelle Barry

Mandela Day

This Mandela Day, our Grade 4s embraced the spirit of giving with open hearts — and full baking trays! The class spent the morning mixing, measuring and laughing their way through the creation of 120 delicious muffins, all lovingly prepared for the residents of Rustig Old Age Home. Delivering the muffins brought big smiles all around; the residents were touched by the gesture, and our Grade 4s felt proud, knowing they had brightened someone's day. It was fun, it was meaningful, and it captured the essence of Mandela Day: making the world a little better, one warm act of kindness at a time.

Mrs Danielle Steenkamp



White River History Hunt

The Grade 4s extended their HSS investigation into the history of White River by participating in a scavenger hunt through town. Split into four teams, each group was set tasks at different points of interest throughout town. These included the MOTH Shellhole, Die Ou Pastorie, St George's Anglican Church, White River Cemetery, Parkville Park (where Percy Fitzpatrick used to rest his oxen for a water and grazing break!), the Magistrate's Court and the retired White River Steam Train!

Visiting the sites was interspersed with activities and challenges, such as having to find the grave of Harry Wolhuter, decipher nicknames of local sites as well as completing selfie challenges. The outing proved to be both fun and educational for the children!

Mrs Michelle Barry



Grade 4 Class Photographs



Front Row: Taylor Höft, Skyla Gravelle, Eike Wilkens, Joshua Tecklenburg, Craigen Naidoo

Second Row: Sahar Mohajer-Ashjai, Amyoli Zwane, Matthew Skinner, Rhulani Zwane, Alice Kay-Zoltowski, Rebekah Blew

Third Row: Nicholas Josten, Kgomotso Mojalefa, Mawusi Nyoni, Ndivho Mashamba, Fletcher Webber

Fourth Row: Miss Shea Viljoen, Zac Pranglely, Siyamthanda Thabethe, Sienna Watt, Phillip Snyman

Back Row: Edwin Green, Daniel Voigt, Tayla Ratshitanga, Ethan Mutyaso, Abby Jambaya, Mrs Michelle Barry



Front Row: Heinrich Berends, Shannel Malumane, Lucy van der Westhuizen, Kamogelo Maimela, Samara Gomba

Second Row: Amelia Maseko, Babusisiwe Sithole, Katryn van Rooyen, Emily Skinner, Rose-Anna Deacon, Nkazimulo Mdluli

Third Row: Yishai James, Matthew Lea, Leo Fourie, Eli Pinker, Kael Moffett

Fourth Row: Miss Shea Viljoen, Payton Watt, Sienna Wagner, Sean Sawunyama, Tinotenda Chibaya, Mrs Danielle Steenkamp

Back Row: Uphakeme Thwala, Olivia Hechter, Sizolwethu Tubane, Thomas van Aswegen

Grade 5 Overview

Harry Hoover once said, “If you have the courage to begin, you have the courage to succeed.” This quote perfectly captures the spirit of our Grade 5 cohort in 2025.

Grade 5 is traditionally a dynamic and memorable year, filled with energy, growth and opportunity — and this year was no exception. Running throughout the year were our Courageous Challenges, which encouraged pupils to step beyond their comfort zones. I am delighted to report that the majority of our Grade 5s rose to the occasion. From crossing rivers and building complex projects, to identifying fifty bird species or mastering knot-tying skills (sometimes even on a willing parent!), our pupils demonstrated initiative, perseverance and bravery.

Our year began with an unforgettable camp at the Blyde River Adventure Camp. Here, pupils embraced a variety of outdoor challenges, strengthening both their resilience and teamwork. Another significant experience was our conservation-focused excursion to Skukuza, where pupils participated in educational sessions and enjoyed game drives in open-top vehicles — a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding of environmental stewardship.

Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) remained a cornerstone of the Grade 5 experience. Pupils visited local retirement villages to share Easter messages and deliver homemade cookies, spreading goodwill and joy within

the community. A visit to the Sappi Aquaponics Plant provided practical insight into sustainable farming, demonstrating how fish and crops can be cultivated successfully within one integrated system. Another IBL highlight was Egypt Day, where pupils explored ancient civilisations while also reflecting on the importance of kindness — extending this value to our neighbours at Coolmore through the gifting of “Funky Socks”.

And of course, no Grade 5 year would be complete without Island Day — for many pupils, the pinnacle of their Preparatory School journey and a fitting celebration of a year defined by courage, growth and achievement.

Mr Brian Dengler

Blyde Adventure Camp

The Grade 5 Camp at Blyde River Adventure Camp was an action-packed and educational experience that allowed the pupils to grow, learn and have fun in an adventurous setting. Throughout their stay, the pupils participated in various team-building activities, such as the potjiekos competition, where they worked together to create delicious meals, and the thrilling paintball games, which tested their strategy and communication skills. The obstacle courses were both challenging and exciting, pushing the pupils to support one another and overcome physical hurdles, while the night line activity strengthened their trust and teamwork as they navigated the course blindfolded.

Beyond the adventurous activities, the pupils had the opportunity to engage in daily educational excursions, which added a rich layer to their experience. They visited the Hoedspruit Reptile



Centre, where they learned about the fascinating world of reptiles, and the Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, where they gained insight into animal conservation efforts. The Blyde River Canyon Boat Cruise provided stunning views and a deeper understanding of the local

ecosystem, while the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre taught them the importance of protecting endangered wildlife.

Water-based activities were a central part of the camp, offering the pupils a chance to learn about water ecology, play water polo on

tubes, cross a dam, and enjoy swimming in the river. These activities were not only fun but also helped reinforce the importance of environmental awareness and physical fitness.

To wrap up the camp, the pupils enjoyed a sunset marshmallow-braai in an old Zulu village, a fitting end to an enriching and memorable adventure. The Grade 5s returned home with a stronger sense of camaraderie, a deeper appreciation for nature, and unforgettable memories of their time at Blyde River Adventure Camp.

Mr Brian Dengler



Island Day

Land ahoy, adventurers! Inspired by our Grade 5 set work reader *The Cay* by Theodore Taylor, our much-anticipated Island Day 2025 finally set sail, despite the winds and waves of a rain delay. When the weather finally smiled upon us, the school grounds were transformed into a tropical wonderland of laughter, teamwork and wild imaginations. Pupils dived

headfirst into the island spirit: building creative shelters out of sticks, tarpaulins and banana leaves, as well as crafting survival stories that would have made any shipwrecked sailor proud, and feasting on delicious island-style treats that transported everyone straight to the Caribbean.

Games were played with great enthusiasm, and the sense of

adventure was infectious. As the sun dipped behind our make-believe palm trees, one thing became clear: sleeping beneath the “stars” (and a few banana leaves) was not just fun, but downright unforgettable. Many declared it “the most exciting event we’ve ever done” and we couldn’t agree more!

Mr Brian Dengler



Egypt Day

Golden sands, majestic pyramids, the flooding of the Nile and the inventions of paper, cosmetics and even toothbrushes — this year, Grade 5 delved into the enduring legacy of ancient Egypt and why it continues to captivate our imagination and influence everyday life. The pupils engaged in a wide

range of enriching activities, from creating posters of Egyptian gods and constructing models of the Nile River, to crafting canopic jars, making mud bricks, mummifying dolls, and designing shaduffs and irrigation systems. They also built and raced Egyptian-style grass boats along our waterways. The

term's work concluded with great enthusiasm as pupils celebrated our much-loved Egyptian Day, arriving in creative and colourful costumes to bring history vividly to life.

Mr Brian Dengler



Tutor Groups



Front Row: Charlotte Louw, Jotham Masia, Ben Jackson, Shaye Slabbert

Middle Row: Timothy Dengler, Lifa Maseko, Willow Victor, Lesedi Mokoena, Mr Dylan Badenhorst

Back Row: Keira Rottcher, Syrian Rautenbach, Malia Felix, Shani Shai

Tutor Groups



Front Row: Summer Gunning, Tshenolo Mkhizana, Andrew Creighton, Sofia Leoni, Mr Brian Dengler

Middle Row: Mikahella Pieters, Boikao Malele, Langalibalele Ledwaba, Nqobile Shazi

Back Row: Mwalimu Gumede, Keitumetse Mokoena, Ulitsembe Thwala, Bryson Nkalanga



Front Row: Kayla Ferrier, Khloe Murray, Olivia Flores, Emma Kay-Zoltowski, Emmanuel Magidi

Middle Row: Vihaan Suriakumar, Andrew Joubert, Mia Zietsman, Ms Esti Gous

Back Row: Damian Perregil, Georgia Greenaway, Isabela Webber, Lukhanyo Mlambo, Evie Carter

Tutor Groups



Front Row: Blake van der Heiden, Olivia Mason, Rui van der Merwe, Khanya Khoza

Middle Row: Zac Esterhuizen, Spiro Christie, Mngqobi Mlombo, Jasmine Magonyane, Mr Shoain Shelton

Back Row: Tanaka Jambaya, Busani Mnisi, Skylar Snyman, Devhyn Trollip



Front Row: Riley Smit, Sam McArthur, Liev Steenkamp, Abigail Myhill

Middle Row: Peter Bakker, Samkelisiwe Maluka, Emma Dewar, Daniel Grove, Mrs Janet Tecklenburg

Back Row: ZamNcabane Mkhabela, Neontle Mahlangu, Luvuyo Ngutshani, Erin Jenkins

Grade 6 - Overview

A Glimpse into Grade 6's Adventures in Learning

The 2025 academic year was an exciting learning journey for the Grade 6s as they journeyed from camp at Queen's River to countries around the world in their Heritage Day Food Stalls.

Queen's River Camp

As the buses stopped at Queen's River, the excitement was in the air as the Grade 6s anticipated a week of fun and adventure at a new venue.

They were not disappointed. The beauty of their surroundings and the scope of activities meant

that while they were tested, they were able to have a tremendous amount of fun. From hiking to orienteering and spending time with their friends, the Grade 6s had a wonderful time at camp.

Inquiry-Based Learning

The IBL programme started with an overview of how projects were to be created and culminated in a diversity of presentations.

The Grade 6s explored diversity and integration through developing cereal boxes that catered to the many different languages, cultures and disabilities. They explored various heritages by creating food

stalls that served a wide range of foodstuffs and tasting dishes from around the world.

Days of Awesomeness

The year finished with the "Days of Awesomeness". The pupils got to enjoy outdoor activities and a giant jumping castle, as well as Christmas arts and crafts.

Growth and Friendship

2025 gave the Grade 6s an opportunity to grow individually as well as a group. This prepared them for the step into Grade 7 and their futures that lay beyond.

Mr Sean Barry

Pi Day Fun!

Hot on the heels of Tour de Maths, our Uplands Preparatory Grade 5, 6 and 7 pupils dived into exciting Pi Day activities!

Grade 6s built "Pi in the Sky(line)", where each building's silhouette reflected a digit of Pi.

Mrs Bev Carlse



Queen's River

The Grade 6 Camp to Queen's River was an unforgettable adventure filled with challenge, teamwork and personal growth. After a long and rewarding hike down into the valley, pupils and staff arrived at the base camp, ready to embrace a more rugged way of living.

Camp activities were designed to build collaboration, strengthen problem-solving skills, and encourage pupils to step outside their comfort zones. Whether tackling team challenges, supporting one another, or

conquering personal fears, the group approached each experience with enthusiasm.

Nights at base camp were a highlight on their own. Pupils slept in tents under the stars, roasted marshmallows around the fire, and enjoyed warm mugs of hot chocolate. Each group also took turns keeping watch over the camp during the night — a responsibility they accepted with pride and maturity.

A scenic hike to the waterfall provided a refreshing break before

the group made their way back to the main camp, where the comforts of warm beds and hot showers were a welcome treat for the final evening.

With delicious food, exciting activities, and friendships strengthened along the way, the Queen's River experience will remain a special memory for our Grade 6 pupils — one filled with laughter, discovery and adventure.

Mr Sean Barry



Inquiry-Based Learning

Living the Theme of KIND

2025's Inquiry-Based Learning projects challenged our Grade 6 pupils to explore the theme "KIND" – Kindness, Integrity, Nurture, Development — over the course of the four terms and to consider how these values shape both personal and cultural legacy.

Pupils were challenged to work in groups, research, discuss and debate and ultimately produced a variety of projects that demonstrated their solutions to

the various questions posed by the theme.

They explored languages, cultural norms, food technology and design techniques, all the while working through collaboration and shared responsibility. They not only learned about the various topics, but also practised the qualities of KIND in their teamwork and preparation.

The projects included lively exhibitions, posters, dances

and presentations as the pupils exhibited their learning.

The Grade 6s are to be commended for their enthusiasm, maturity and cooperation that developed throughout the year. Their work reflected more than research; it reflected character. In living out the values of KIND, they demonstrated that legacy begins now, in the way we treat others and develop the world around us.

Mr Sean Barry

College Experience

Uplands Preparatory Grade 6s visit Uplands College

Our Uplands Preparatory Grade 6s had a taste of high school life at Uplands College. They spent the day exploring the College through hands-on activities – from Life Sciences dissections and Physical Sciences experiments to Drama,

Music and even an introduction to Engineering Graphics and Design. They also tested their strength in the High Performance Centre and enjoyed team-building fun guided by our amazing Grade 11 mentors.

It was such a joy having them in the College for the day, and we can't wait to officially welcome them as the Grade 8s of 2027!

Mrs Kerry Dewar



Innovation Lessons

Food Foodie

Our Uplands Preparatory Grade 6 Innovation chefs have been on a global culinary adventure. From researching countries and planning meals to budgeting, ingredient swaps and creative plating, they have learnt skills beyond the kitchen. They presented their dishes with time-lapse videos and brought them to class to enjoy. A delicious journey of learning and creativity.

Mrs Marischa Landman



Tutor Groups



Front Row: Tiago Da Silva, Kopano Shabangu, Kuhlula Masia, Jude Perregil

Middle Row: Milla de Freitas Nunes, Aphiwe Mahlalela, Liam Kruger, Amy Freeman

Back Row: Lana Tressel, Sbulelo Sithole, Miguel Ossumane, Adam Lea, Mr Sean Barry

Tutor Groups



Front Row: Samuel Hauptfleisch, Arianna Tecklenburg, Ryan Martin, Andile Gama
Middle Row: Thabiso Thabethe, Okuhle Mnisi, Trent Arntzen, Abigail Arde, Mrs Taryn Berry
Back Row: Thenora Mgwenya, Ntandokazi Sibiya, Femke de Kok, Lily Wagner



Front Row: Lloyd Skinner, Beijy Langa, Logan van der Westhuizen, Jaden Mutasa
Middle Row: Thomas McEvoy, Caitlin Pappas, Shiluva Shibambu, Mrs Jo-Anne Choonara
Back Row: Lilly Albrecht, Ciko Sigudla, Pedro Henrique Góis, Rosie Prangley
Absent: Kenszy van Rooyen

Tutor Groups



Front Row: Mark Smit, Sarah Dane, Sofia Dimitriou, Noemie Bakker, Babongile Ncongwane

Middle Row: Anashe Zumbika, Ethan Arndt, Oliveah Fourie, Mrs Marischa Landman

Back Row: Kyra Vosloo, Thobeka Luphoko, Sloan Cruse, Tyra Mabuza, Mia Wright



Front Row: Karla Masinga, Carter Mckenzie, Fletcher van Zyl, Hope Mohajer-Ashjai

Middle Row: Hayden Ralph, Thomas Creighton, Ayva-Mae Moffett, Mr Thulani Mngomezulu

Back Row: Neve Berry, Tsakani Siwele, Mieke Swanepoel, Oluhle Sambo

Grade 7 - Overview

“My wish for you is that you continue. Continue to be who you are, to astonish a mean world with your acts of kindness.” Maya Angelou

The Grade 7 class of 2025 has left an indelible mark on Uplands, embodying the values of Kindness, Inclusion, Nurture and Development that guided their year. These themes have not simply been words, but living principles that shaped their interactions, their learning, and their contributions to the wider school community.

Kindness was expressed in the quiet moments of encouragement, in friendships strengthened by

empathy, and in the willingness to uplift one another. Inclusion became a hallmark of the class as they welcomed diversity, celebrated individuality, and ensured that every pupil felt a valued part of the whole.

The spirit of Nurture was evident in the way they supported younger pupils, and grew in their own capacity to lead with understanding and responsibility. Development was seen in their academic achievements, sporting endeavours, the cultural front and their personal growth, and their readiness to take on the challenges and opportunities of the next stage of their journey.

As they prepare to step into high school, we acknowledge with gratitude the ways in which they have enriched our school through their presence, their efforts and their example. We are confident that the lessons learned and the values embraced at Uplands will continue to guide them in the years ahead.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Grade 7 class of 2025 and wish them every success as they move forward into 2026 and beyond. May they continue to live lives defined by kindness, inclusion, nurture, and ongoing development.

Mr Jacques Müller

Building Tomorrow's Leaders

This year, our Grade 7 pupils participated in an exciting and enriching two-day Leadership Camp, designed to equip them with valuable skills that will help them grow as leaders and team players throughout the year. The camp was packed with hands-on activities, interactive sessions, and team-building exercises that challenged pupils to step out of their comfort zones, collaborate with their peers, and develop key leadership traits.

Over the two days, the Grade 7s engaged in a wide range of activities focused on honing critical leadership qualities, including communication, problem-solving, responsibility, and adaptability. These activities encouraged pupils to work together, learn how to navigate challenges and understand the importance of supporting one another in both individual and group success.

Whether they were planning a group project, participating in leadership games, or discussing the role of a leader in fostering team spirit, the Grade 7s quickly realised that leadership is not about being the loudest or the most



outspoken. Instead, it's about being a responsible, empathetic and supportive individual who encourages others to be their best and works towards common goals.

The camp's focus was not only on developing leadership skills but also on reinforcing the importance of teamwork. Through collaborative challenges, they learned that strong teams are built on trust, communication, and respect for each other's unique strengths and ideas. It was inspiring to see how quickly the Grade 7s formed bonds and began to apply these principles in real-time scenarios.

As a school, we are confident that these experiences will serve as the foundation for their leadership

journeys throughout the year. We hope that the lessons learned at the camp will guide them as they take on new roles and responsibilities, both inside and outside the classroom. With the skills they've gained, these young leaders are sure to make a positive impact on our school community.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to the staff members who worked planned, organised, and ran the programme. We look forward to seeing how the Grade 7s will continue to grow and use their leadership skills in the months ahead, knowing that they are well-equipped to take on any challenge that comes their way.

Mr Jacques Müller

Mankele Grade Camp



Market Day

Our Uplands Preparatory Grade 7 pupils showcased their creativity, teamwork and entrepreneurial flair at this year's Grade 7 Market Day. From mouthwatering treats to clever crafts and fun games, the event was a vibrant celebration of innovation and hard work. The pupils applied real-world skills - budgeting, planning, marketing and customer service - while having loads of fun bringing their business ideas to life.

Mr Lee Robyn





Innovation

Grade 7s Create their own Biltong and Hot Sauce!

The Uplands Preparatory Grade 7s thoroughly enjoyed tasting their own brand of biltong and hot sauce. Mrs Ladya van Antwerpen and Mr Gary Viljoen also enjoyed a morning of sampling all their creations, although glasses of cold milk were needed afterwards. This project is a firm favourite for staff and children alike.

Mr Gary Viljoen



Tutor Groups



Front Row: Sasha Mbatsane, Dominic Cruickshanks, Sean Murray, Refilwe Ratlabala, Unathi Thela

Middle Row: Amani Maseko, Jocelyn Dengler, Mutshidzi Radzilani, Miss Moné Gates

Back Row: Nashe Muza, Anesu Jambaya, Lacey Mckenzie, Lesego Monareng, Benjamin Lintvelt



Front Row: Genevieve Rijkenberg, Ethan Esterhuizen, Treasure Mahlalela, Nonhlanhla Mahlangu, Michaela Sill

Middle Row: Natalie Theunissen, Tsakani Zwane, Eva Mullins, Dylan Greathead, Miss Siphokazi Macingwane

Back Row: Lian Victor, Hope Mkhathshwa, Anita Ikekhuah, Bill Murenzvi, Holly Ferrier

Tutor Groups



Front Row: Robyn Banda, Pippa Roberts, Robert Easton, Enzo Mathebula, Isla Stephen

Middle Row: Sophie Velleman, Matthew Fawcett, Mpendulo Mathebula, Kingley Dearman, Mr Jacques Müller

Back Row: Jayna Sebotse, Felicity Zumbika, Dumezweni Dlamini, Uyanda Mayenjane, Camryn Oliver



Front Row: Nandi Zwane, Michael Magidi, Nina Damm, Skyla Mc Intosh, Okuhle Baraza

Middle Row: Motheo Mogomotsi, Lexi Joubert, Emily Green, Tlangisani Ngwenyama, Miss Emily Anders

Back Row: Lucca Bakker, Oliver Schroeder, Guy Hulley-Miller, Zanothando Mashego, Mr Lee Robyn

Tutor Groups



Front Row: Tsheamo Mojalefa, Nkosinathi Ndwandwe, Motjatji Sebopela, Joshua Desmond, Ethan Rottcher

Middle Row: Cara Mills, Buyiselo Nkosi, Ntshembho Mkhonto, Mrs Ladya van Antwerpen

Back Row: Riley Brooks, Phyllis Ngwerume, Chloe Rautenbach, Sfezo Sibandze, Mechael Monyela

Final Chapel Service

The end of Term 4 and indeed the end-of-year service is always thoroughly special, emotional, exciting and reflective in a profoundly deep way. We bid a final, hearty farewell to our Grade 7s, and this year used the opportunity to also induct our new Sacristans - 15 current Grade 6s who will lead in their role in 2026 as Grade 7s.

It was a memorable occasion. The Grade 7s had the opportunity to be inspired by God's word

which taught them to stand tall, be strong, courageous and stand for what's right, despite the cost. Likewise, with Jesus, they can stand over the choppy waters of life, enter various promised lands and have their Good Shepherd guide them (all from the readings of Matthew 14 of Jesus walking on water, Psalm 23 and Joshua 1).

At the end of the service, a significant rite of passage is that, after the Grade 7s have all been blessed, they process out with the

new Sacristans leading them, with a candle they all light from the same candle, symbolic of the light of Uplands, and more so, of Christ, which they carry with them into the worlds they go to.

We thank God for their time at Uplands and trust that He will guide them into their futures.

Blessings to you all!

Rev Matthew Jennings

Chaplain



Graduation Dinner

Our Grade 7 Graduation Dinner was a truly memorable occasion, beautifully brought to life through our “Out of Africa” theme. The hall came alive with colour and texture, creating a fitting backdrop as we celebrated our pupils and the journey they have travelled.

A heartfelt thank-you must go to our dedicated Grade 6 organising committee, whose careful planning and hard work ensured an evening filled with joy, elegance, and a sense of pride in where we come from and where our young people are headed.

What a wonderful way to honour our Grade 7s as they prepare for the next chapter.

Mr Jacques Müller



Uplands vs. Curro Nelspruit Derby

There's nothing quite like a derby day to bring out the best in school sport and the clash between Uplands and Curro Nelspruit certainly delivered.

From the youngest U7s right through to the U13A teams, the fields and courts were buzzing with energy, excitement, and a healthy dose of rivalry. Every match carried that special derby intensity, where players give just that little bit extra not just for the result, but for pride.

On the rugby fields, spectators were treated to fearless tackling, strong carries, and moments of real determination. Players showed great courage in contact, with some outstanding defensive efforts and well-worked team tries that had the sidelines cheering. It was fantastic to see the physicality matched with sportsmanship, as players picked each other up and

respected the contest.

Over on the netball courts, the skill level was just as impressive. Sharp passing, quick movement and accurate shooting kept the games fast-paced and competitive. The teamwork and communication on display highlighted just how much effort has gone into training, with players showing great composure under pressure in these high-stakes derby matches.

While the rivalry between Uplands and Curro Nelspruit always adds an extra edge, what stood out most was the spirit in which the day was played. There was a clear sense of mutual respect and growing friendships between the schools, something that makes days like this truly meaningful.

A sincere thank-you must go to all the coaches for their dedication and preparation, and

to the parents for their unwavering support on the sidelines. Your encouragement and commitment play a huge role in creating these memorable experiences for the children.

All in all, a fantastic day of sport filled with passion, skill, and camaraderie – exactly what school sport should be about.

Mr Shoain Shelton



Athletics

Despite challenging weather conditions, our athletics season was a resounding success, showcasing the determination and talent of our pupils. From first-time participants in the Foundation Phase to our seasoned Grade 7 athletes, every participant demonstrated remarkable spirit and achievement.

Highlights included:

- Athletes who qualified for SA's
- Exceptional performances across all events
- Skukuza 33 top 5 finishers with 17 podium placings
- MJ Zwane 84 top 5 finishers and 48 podium placings,

Uplands was also awarded the top achieving school at MJ Zwane athletics for 2026.

We're proud of all athletes and parents involved and acknowledge there's always room for growth. We're excited for the next season!

Mr Shoain Shelton



Boys' Cricket

The 2025 cricket season was one of growth, courage, and exciting new beginnings.

A major highlight of the season was our U9 boys stepping onto the field for their very first hard ball cricket matches. This important milestone marked a significant step in their cricketing journey. The boys approached the challenge with enthusiasm and bravery, quickly adapting to the increased pace

and technical demands of hard ball cricket.

Throughout the season, they developed their batting technique, improved their bowling consistency, and grew in their understanding of field placements and match awareness. With each fixture, their confidence increased, and it was rewarding to see their progress both individually and as a team.

The season provided invaluable match experience and laid a strong foundation for future development within our cricket programme. We thank our coaches for their commitment to guiding and developing our young cricketers, and our parents for their continued encouragement and support from the sidelines.

Mr Shoain Shelton



Girls' Cricket

Cricket ranks among the globe's most beloved sports, while simultaneously offering profound lessons about life itself. Through the game, we understand why thinking outside the 'crease' matters.

This season, our Uplands Prep Cricket girls have had a good season, albeit very short. Sadly, many of our fixtures were rained out, but when our girls played, they shone.

As we approached each game, our priorities remained clear: ensuring every girl had the opportunity to participate and enjoy herself while creating the ideal conditions for developing their abilities and refining their techniques on the field. Our girls delivered exceptional performances, securing victories in both matches we played. .

Congratulations, girls! You have every reason to feel proud of your achievements, and we are grateful

for the excellent sportsmanship you displayed throughout.

Mrs Ladya van Antwerpen



Mountain Biking

Mountain Biking continued to offer a fun alternative for pupils to take part in an outdoor sport. Many pupils joined for a session or two but it was heart-warming to see the progress made by those who regularly attended rides, ably directed by Bev Corder, a.k.a "Coach Bev". Plans are afoot to extend and develop opportunities for pupils to take part in more races and events further afield in 2026!

Mr Piers Cruickshanks



Cross-Country

The Uplands Prep Cross-Country season for 2025 has once again been a season filled with grit, determination, and the true Uplands spirit. Our athletes have shown tremendous perseverance throughout the season, embracing every challenge with enthusiasm.

The season kicked off with the hotly contested Inter-House Cross-Country event, which saw Fuller House emerging as the overall winners, followed closely by Ogilvie in second place and Webb in third. The energy and sportsmanship displayed on the day were inspiring, with every pupil giving their all for their House team.

Following the Inter-House competition, our top runners represented Uplands at various inter-school events, where they demonstrated not only athletic

ability but also teamwork and commitment. Their performances were a testament to their hard work during training sessions, and several athletes achieved outstanding individual results, earning well-deserved recognition.

Unfortunately, the Independent Schools Cross-Country event, which was scheduled to take place at Penryn, was partially cancelled due to inclement weather. This resulted in the U12 girls' and U13 races being called off. However, for those age groups and athletes who did get the chance to compete, the performances were exceptional, with several Uplands runners achieving outstanding results and making the school proud.

We extend our sincere thanks to all the pupils who participated so wholeheartedly throughout

the season and to the parents who came out to support. A special word of appreciation goes to those who represented the Uplands Cross-Country Team; your dedication, perseverance, and consistent effort at inter-school events have been truly commendable.

Finally, I would like to thank the coaches and staff whose guidance, encouragement, and belief in our young runners continue to inspire excellence. The 2025 Cross-Country season has been a wonderful celebration of fitness, teamwork, and the Uplands spirit and we look forward with excitement to what next year will bring!

Mr Jacques Müller



Equestrian

2025 SANESA Schools League Core Nationals

The Uplands Equestrian Team made history at the 2025 SANESA Schools League Core Nationals, held at Kyalami Equestrian Park from 7–11 October, with six riders proudly representing the Mpumalanga A & B Team, a first for Uplands.

Our riders competed against some of South Africa's best, producing incredible results and showing true sportsmanship and showmanship in every round. Classes were large and highly competitive, yet our team brought home an impressive number of Top 5 placings and loads of experience to build on for next year.



Results Highlights:

Sophie Velleman riding La Viva

- 1st – 70cm Showjumping Competition
- 4th – 70cm Working Hunter
- 5th – 70cm A2 Speed Show Jumping

Eva Mullins riding Walla Walla

- 1st – Novice Dressage Test 3
- 3rd – Novice Dressage Test 2
- 4th – 90cm A2 Speed Show Jumping

Plus strong performances in Working Riding, Equitation and Working Hunter.



Lacey McKenzie riding Nugget

- 2nd – 60cm Equitation
- 4th – 70cm A2 Show Jumping

Oliveah Fourie riding Biscuit & Lulu du Belle

- 4th – Novice Dressage Test 2
- 9th – Novice Dressage Test 3
- 3rd – Novice Dressage Test 2
- 5th – Novice Dressage Test 3

Plus competitive rounds in Working Hunter and Working Riding.

Harper Nel riding Chantilly

(our youngest rider in the team!)

- 3rd – Rising Stars Lead Rein Performance Riding
- 6th – Rising Stars Lead Rein Equitation

Plus solid performances in Dressage and Showjumping.

Olivia McEvoy riding Sky

Strong, consistent rounds in Dressage, Showjumping, Equitation and In-Hand Utility, just outside of the placings, but with incredible growth and grit shown throughout.

Huge congratulations go to our riders for their hard work, sportsmanship and exceptional riding throughout the year. We are so proud of every one of you! A heartfelt thank-you as well to the parents, coaches and grooms, the incredible support team who make it all possible behind the scenes.

Mrs Carla Gerdes-Steward

Boys' Hockey

The boys in the Prep 1st XI played with determination and desire to showcase their skills. Their growth and exciting potential were on show throughout the season and helped them to produce several notable performances on the field.

Our players approached each match with commitment and

heart, and the season included a memorable tour to KEPS, where the boys showcased their skill and team spirit against strong opposition.

Throughout the season, our teams fought hard in every game, learning valuable lessons from both victories and defeats.

The dedication, teamwork and enthusiasm displayed by all players have been remarkable. With so much talent and potential evident across the squads, we are genuinely excited to see how these young athletes continue to develop in the coming years.

Mr Sean Barry



Girls' Hockey

The 2025 First Team Girls' Hockey season has been one of remarkable achievement and team unity. From our preseason fixtures through to the Mpumalanga playoffs, our players demonstrated exceptional skill and sportsmanship.

The season kicked off with an important preseason fixture against Tiger Valley College. This match served as an excellent opportunity to test combinations and build team chemistry.

We were also privileged to head to Bloemfontein in the July holidays to compete in the prestigious Nika Coertzen Tournament for

the first time. This tournament provided our girls with exposure to different playing styles and high-level competition. The experience of playing multiple matches in a tournament setting helped develop our tactical awareness and mental toughness, preparing us excellently for the league fixtures ahead.

Once the league fixtures commenced, the girls demonstrated their quality with consistent performances week in and week out. Our strong tactical play, combined with individual brilliance, saw us secure an impressive 2nd place finish in the regional league and earned us qualification to the Mpumalanga

playoffs, where we competed against the province's best teams, ultimately finishing seventh in the province. Sofia Dimitriou must also be commended for being named the best U12 player of our region.

Our team's success this season was built on team unity and the outstanding contributions of every player.

Thank you to our parents, other staff members who assisted us this year and supporters for creating an incredible atmosphere at home matches and travelling to support us away.

Mrs Ladya van Antwerpen



Netball

As the curtains closed on another thrilling netball season at Uplands, we reflected on a year brimming with skill, growth, and unforgettable moments. From the courts of our home ground to competitions against other schools in renowned tournaments, our teams showcased not only their talent but also their unwavering spirit and dedication.

A standout event this season was the first team girls' participation in the prestigious St Stithian's tour. Each player contributed significantly to the team's success, with their leadership on the court and exceptional teamwork playing a pivotal role in securing victories in several tight matches. The St Stithian's tour became a true highlight of the season, offering valuable experience and showcasing the strength and talent of Uplands' netball programme.

At Uplands, we nurtured a passion for netball from an early stage. Our Mini Netball programme continued to be the heart of our developmental efforts, with the Foundation Phase hosting mini-festivals where the love of the game was evident across all schools that attended. These

festivals provided young athletes with the opportunity to enjoy the sport, further fostering their passion and teamwork.

Staff development also played a key role this season, with our interns and coaching staff attending various courses to ensure that our girls received high-quality training sessions and quality umpiring on match days. This commitment to continuous improvement was reflected in the performance of all teams, as our coaches utilised the latest techniques and strategies to guide players towards success.

The season began with rigorous training sessions that set the tone for what was to come. Each player exhibited a commendable commitment to honing their skills, collectively raising the bar for Uplands netball. This year, we also made it a priority for all teams to gain match exposure, with positive feedback all around regarding the competitive experience and its role in enhancing player development.

Our U12 A and Open A girls took part in the Small Schools League, finishing the first round in second and first place, respectively.



Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the teams could not complete the league fixtures. However, we are still incredibly proud of the coaches and team players for their dedicated hard work and commitment to excellence.

Behind every victorious moment stood the unwavering support of our school community. The camaraderie and encouragement shown throughout the season were a testament to the unity and spirit that defined Uplands netball.

We would also like to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to our coaches. Their dedication and long hours were truly inspiring, and their tireless efforts made an incredible impact on our players. We thank them for their commitment and passion in shaping not only the skills of the athletes but also the team spirit that made this season so memorable.

As we bid farewell to this remarkable season, we carry with us the memories of triumphs and the lessons of challenges overcome. With anticipation, we await the next chapter of Uplands netball, confident that our teams will continue to rise to new heights and make our community proud.

Miss Moné Gates



Rugby

The 2025 rugby season was one of passion, grit, and great pride for the Uplands Preparatory School 1st Team. From the opening whistle to the final try of the season, this group of young gentlemen displayed unwavering commitment, sportsmanship, and a deep love for the game.

The boys trained with intensity and purpose, building a strong foundation of discipline, teamwork and skill. Each player brought something unique to the field, whether it was power in the scrums, speed on the wings, or vision in playmaking. Together, they formed a unit that played with heart and determination.

The team faced several strong opponents throughout the term, participating in numerous fiercely contested fixtures. Regardless of the scoreline, each match provided invaluable lessons and moments of brilliance. Highlights of the season included some memorable victories and the pride of wearing

the Uplands jersey in front of passionate supporters.

Beyond the scoreboard, the true success of the season lay in their continued growth both on and off the field. The respect shown to referees, opponents and teammates alike reflected the core values of Uplands rugby.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the parents for their support on

the sidelines, the ground staff for preparing the fields, and to every staff member who contributed to the smooth running of the season.

As the Grade 7 players move forward in their rugby journeys, we know they carry with them the lessons, memories and spirit of Uplands Rugby.

Mr Jacques Müller



Boys' Soccer

The Uplands Preparatory 1st Soccer Boys enjoyed an exceptional and memorable season, highlighted by our first-ever international tour to Eswatini. This historic trip marked the first time our boys travelled outside South Africa to play competitive football, and it proved to be an experience they will treasure for years to come.

The tour was both exciting and educational. The boys embraced the journey with enthusiasm and represented the school with pride. Although the first day presented its challenges, with the team playing two matches, winning one and losing the other, the boys showed resilience and hunger to improve. On the second day, they played three matches, winning two and losing one. Their combined efforts earned them a fourth-place finish overall in the tournament, an

outstanding achievement for their debut international outing.

Following the tour, the team returned home with renewed confidence and a strong sense of purpose. We then hosted a five-week festival at Uplands, during which the boys played five matches and won all five, remaining unbeaten at home. The results were as follows:

- 4-1 vs Curro Nelspruit
- 5-4 vs Wisdom Academy
- 4-0 vs Curro Mbombela
- 6-0 vs Bergvlam
- 3-0 vs Nelspruit Primary

This remarkable run showcased the team's growth, determination and discipline. Throughout the season, the boys demonstrated outstanding teamwork, always playing for each other rather than

as individuals. They motivated one another, worked hard in training, and continuously improved. Their commitment to "sweating the small stuff," a message we emphasised during the Eswatini tour, became evident in every match they played.

It has been a pleasure coaching this group of talented young players. They have grown not only as athletes but also as human beings; respectful, hardworking, and united. This was truly an amazing season, and I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

Well done, boys – an unforgettable year of football.

Mr Thulani Mngomezulu



Girls' Soccer

Our girls' football team reached new heights this year, enjoying a truly outstanding season filled with memorable moments and remarkable achievements. They remained unbeaten throughout the season, a testament to their determination, teamwork, and growing confidence on the field. Their consistency and commitment was evident in every match, as they played with heart and pride for one another.

The season was further highlighted by our first-ever tour to Eswatini, a historic milestone for the girls' programme. The tour proved to be a resounding success, with the team finishing 1st in their pool and securing an impressive 2nd place overall. This achievement reflects not only their preparation and skill, but also their resilience and unity as a team.

Mr Dylan Badenhorst



Swimming

The 2025 swimming season was marked by steady growth, strong participation, and many personal achievements. Through a series of swimming galas, our swimmers proudly represented the school with determination and enthusiasm.

This season focused on both individual and relay events. In individual races, swimmers competed across various strokes, including freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly. It was

encouraging to see so many pupils striving for personal best times and showing noticeable improvement as the season progressed.

Relay swimming was a particular highlight. These events showcased teamwork, unity and school spirit, with swimmers supporting one another and racing with pride. The camaraderie within the team created a positive and motivating environment throughout the season.

We are grateful to our coaches for their dedication to developing each swimmer's technique and confidence in the water. A sincere thank-you also goes to our parents for their ongoing support, from early mornings to gala afternoons.

The 2025 season reflects a culture of commitment and pride, and we look forward to building on this strong foundation in the year ahead.

Mrs Michelle Barry



Tennis

The 2025 tennis year was filled with enthusiasm, commitment, and impressive growth across all age groups. Spanning three terms, the programme offered players a variety of opportunities to compete, develop their skills, and grow in confidence.

Term 1 began with a full and exciting schedule. Our Senior Boys' and Girls' teams took part in the weekend league, competing across both Friday and Saturday against several schools in our region. The standard of tennis on display was commendable, and players showed noticeable improvement throughout the fixtures. Our U11 boys and girls enjoyed a busy run of Friday afternoon matches, with

teams rotating weekly to encourage mass participation and ensure all players gained valuable match experience. The term concluded with the eagerly awaited St Stithian's Tennis Tour for our First Teams. Unfortunately, persistent rain prevented any outdoor play, but the group made the most of the situation, enjoying a day of indoor pickleball, an experience that brought plenty of laughter and smiles.

Term 2 saw our seniors take to the courts once again for our Founders' Weekend fixtures against Curro Nelspruit. The matches were tough and competitive, but our players demonstrated admirable grit and perseverance.

Term 3 showcased our senior talent in the Rising Star Tournament, where they faced strong opponents and many tightly contested matches. Several games came down to the wire, with multiple deuce points testing our players' focus and resilience.

Well done to all our tennis players on a rewarding and successful year. Our First Team and U11 pupils, in particular, can be exceptionally proud of their progress and determination. The growth shown across all teams is a testament to their commitment and love for the sport. We look forward to an even stronger tennis season next year.

Mrs Jo-Anne Choonara



Foundation Phase Prizegiving

The Foundation Phase Prizegiving is a celebratory occasion where parents, teachers and children gather to look back on the year and pay tribute to all the hard work from all stakeholders, but especially the grit and determination shown by our young pupils.

Success is not solely defined by academic, sporting or cultural accomplishments, but is also built on our 5 Gs: Greeting, Growth, Grit, Giving and Gratitude.

The theme of our Prizegiving this year was based on Joy. It was supported by the following story:

Joy in Our Wonderful World

Once upon a time, in a place where the sun always smiled and the birds sang their sweetest songs, there was a special school surrounded by nature's beauty. The trees whispered stories to the wind, the flowers danced in the breeze, and the skies were painted in the brightest blues.

At this school, every day was filled with joy. The children loved learning - reading stories, solving puzzles and discovering new things. Their teachers were kind and patient, always ready with a smile or a helping hand. The teachers felt great joy too, because these children were like sponges, eager to soak up knowledge and grow. It was a true gift to teach such wonderful young minds. This year was extra special because the children put on a magical play called Once Upon a Twist. It was a wonderful show where fairy tales came alive, but with fun surprises that made everyone laugh and cheer. The joy on stage was matched only by the joy in the audience.

Outside the classroom, the children grew stronger and faster every day. They ran in cross country races, cycled through trails on their mountain bikes, and splashed in the swimming pool. They played

hockey, netball, rugby, cricket and soccer with big smiles and team spirit. Every game, every practice, brought them closer as friends and helped them learn how to try their best. All around them, the world was alive with the sounds of nature. Birds sang songs of happiness every morning, reminding the children of the beauty in every new day.

They learned to appreciate the wonderful environment they lived in, feeling grateful for the sunshine, fresh air, and the chance to grow and learn in such a special place. The children also knew how lucky they were to have parents who supported them every step of the way. Together, teachers and parents created a circle of care that helped the children shine even brighter.

As the year ends, the children and teachers alike feel a deep joy in their hearts. Joy for the friendships made, the lessons learned, the adventures shared, and the kindness given and received.

Of course, this story is about Uplands, a school filled with joy and surrounded by beauty.

What does this story mean to you?

Living mindfully means noticing and appreciating the little things - the warm sun, the cheerful



birdsong, the kindness of a friend, and the love of family and teachers. When we take the time to be thankful for what we have, joy grows in our hearts. And with joy, we can continue to learn, play and grow, making every day a beautiful new beginning.

This year, sadly, we had to say farewell to Mr Badenhorst, Head of Foundation Phase sport, Ms Baraza, our FP Music teacher, and Miss Ndlovu, our Grade 2 intern teacher. We thank them for the input that they have had at Uplands. As they embark on new chapters, we offer our heartfelt gratitude and best wishes.

Our Foundation Phase children sang songs, accompanied by Ms Baraza, and our Guest of Honour, Mrs Arntzen, handed out the certificates, highlighting each child's achievements. We are so proud of our children's hard work and accomplishments.



The Foundation Phase Tenacity Award is an accolade presented to a child exhibiting unwavering determination and grit. This award recognises individuals who embody perseverance, refusing to ever give up on anything presented to them. This year the recipients of the Tenacity Award were:

- Grade 1F Ralph Potgieter**
- Grade 1C Marais van Rooyen**
- Grade 2A Zamacusi Nkabinde**
- Grade 2S Brielle Kabuya**
- Grade 3C Reabetswe Tutakgomo**
- Grade 3G Ross Botha**

The gathering closed with the Grade 3 marimba band showcasing their talents. The teachers, parents and children were thanked for their commitment to education, and teamwork between all parties was highlighted as the precursor to success.

Mrs Sally Wiggill



Senior Phase Prizegiving

What a special evening it was at our Uplands Preparatory Senior Phase Prizegiving. It was a chance to pause in the rush of the term, look back on a full year of growth, and celebrate the effort, character and progress of our pupils: not just the final results, but the journey behind them.

In my speech, I drew on Ryan Sandes' powerful reminder that failure isn't the opposite of success; it's part of it. Mistakes, setbacks and tough moments are often where the real learning

happens. What matters is how we respond: with courage, humility, resilience and the willingness to try again. It was a timely message for our pupils as they continue to take on new challenges, back themselves, and grow into confident young people who understand that progress is built through persistence.

We were also honoured to hear from our Board Chairman, Greg Dane, whose message reinforced the values we hold dear and the importance of partnership

between home and school. Above all, the evening reminded us that our theme of being KIND matters deeply, that one of Uplands' greatest successes is sending young people into the world who are both capable and good-hearted.

To our prizewinners, well done and to every pupil in the Senior Phase, thank you for the way you've shown up this year. We're proud of you.

Mr Scott Hauptfleisch
Head: Uplands Preparatory



Senior Phase Prizegiving

Academic Awards

Gr 4B		Gr 4S	
Academic Prize	Rebekah Blew	Academic Prize	Nkazimulo Mdluli
Academic Prize	Abby Jambaya	Academic Prize	Lucy van der Westhuizen
Academic Prize	Matthew Skinner	Academic Prize	Katryn van Rooyen
Academic Prize	Amyoli Zwane	Academic Prize	Payton Watt
Progress	Ndivho Mashamba	Progress	Shannel Malumane
Endeavour	Alice Kay-Zoltowski	Endeavour	Emily Skinner
Class Prize 1st	Fletcher Webber	Class Prize 1st	Rose-Anna Deacon
Gr 5P		Gr 5S	
Academic Prize	Olivia Flores	Academic Prize	Charlotte Louw
Academic Prize	Jasmine Magonyane	Academic Prize	Olivia Mason
Academic Prize	Keira Rottcher	Academic Prize	Keitumetse Mokoena
Academic Prize	Mia Zietsman	Academic Prize	Shaye Slabbert
Progress	Georgia Greenaway	Progress	Lesedi Mokoena
Endeavour	Blake van der Heiden	Endeavour	Daniel Grove
Class Prize 1st	Riley Smit	Class Prize 1st	Khloe Murray
Gr 5U			
Academic Prize	Emma Dewar	Progress	Neontle Mahlangu
Academic Prize	Andrew Joubert	Endeavour	Kayla Ferrier
Academic Prize	ZamaNcabane Mkhabela	Class Prize 1st	Vihaan Suriakumer
Academic Prize	Isabela Webber		
Courageous Challenges			
Peter Bakker	Georgia Greenaway	Samkelisiwe Maluka	Vihaan Suriakumar
Evie Carter	Mwalimu Gumede	Olivia Mason	Ulitsemba Thwala
Spiro Christie	Summer Gunning	Lukhanyo Mlambo	Blake van der Heiden
Andrew Creighton	Ben Jackson	Khloe Murray	Rui van der Merwe
Timothy Dengler	Erin Jenkins	Abigail Myhill	Willow Victor
Emma Dewar	Andrew Joubert	Damian Perregil	Isabela Webber
Zac Esterhuizen	Emma Kay-Zoltowski	Keira Rottcher	Mia Zietsman
Malia Felix	Khanya Khoza	Shaye Slabbert	
Kayla Ferrier	Langalibalele Ledwaba	Riley Smit	
Olivia Flores	Charlotte Louw	Skylar Snyman	
Gr 6P			
Academic Prize	Sarah Dane	Progress	Milla de Freitas Nunes
Academic Prize	Ayva-Mae Moffett	Endeavour	Logan van der Westhuizen
Academic Prize	Jaden Mutasa	Class Prize 1st	Arianna Tecklenburg
Academic Prize	Kopano Shabangu		

Senior Phase Prizegiving

Academic Awards

Gr 6S			
Academic Prize	Amy Freeman	Progress	Tiago Da silva
Academic Prize	Thenora Mgwanya	Endeavour	Noemie Bakker
Academic Prize	Caitlin Pappas	Class Prize 1st	Mark Smit
Academic Prize	Lana Tressel		
Gr 6U			
Academic Prize	Lilly Albrecht	Progress	Neve Berry
Academic Prize	Sofia Dimitriou	Endeavour	Oliveah Fourie
Academic Prize	Adam Lea	Class Prize 1st	Anashe Zumbika
Academic Prize	Oluhle Sambo		
Gr 7P		Gr 7S	
Academic Prize	Ethan Esterhuizen	Academic Prize	Emily Green
Academic Prize	Anita Ikekhuah	Academic Prize	Uyanda Mayenjane
Academic Prize	Chloe Rautenbach	Academic Prize	Lesego Monareng
Academic Prize	Motjatji Sebopela	Academic Prize	Eva Mullins
Progress	Camryn Oliver	Progress	Buyiselo Nkosi
Endeavour	Isla Stephen	Endeavour	Nina Damm
Class Prize 1st	Pippa Roberts	Class Prize 1st	Amani Maseko
Gr 7U			
Academic Prize	Lexi Joubert	Progress	Ethan Rottcher
Academic Prize	Cara Mills	Endeavour	Natalie Theunissen
Academic Prize	Mechael Monyela	Class Prize 1st	Nandi Zwane
Academic Prize	Felicity Zumbika		
Grade 7 Subject Prizes			
Afrikaans		Ethan Esterhuizen	
Art		Sophie Velleman	
Economic and Management Sciences		Natalie Theunissen	
English		Nandi Zwane	
Human and Social Sciences		Motjatji Sebopela	
Information Technology		Ethan Rottcher	
Innovation		Chloe Rautenbach	
isiZulu		Amani Maseko	
Mathematics		Nandi Zwane	
Natural Sciences		Nandi Zwane	

Senior Phase Prizegiving

Academic Awards (Sport)

Athletics

Certificate for the
Most Improved Girl Athlete *Amy Freeman*

Certificate for the
Most Improved Boy Athlete *Mechael Monyela*

The Isabella Bucellato Trophy for
the Best Boy Athlete *Mpendulo Mathebula*

Tony Ferreira Trophy for
the Best Girl Athlete *Lexi Joubert*

Cricket

Trophy for the
Most Improved Girl cricketer *Felicity Zumbika*

Craig Nel Trophy for the
Most Improved Boy cricketer *Enzo Mathebula*

Carlse Cricket Trophy for the
Best Girls cricketer *Lexi Joubert*

Gaydon Trophy for the
Best all-round Boy cricketer *Dylan Greathead*

Cross-Country

Certificate for
Most Improved Girl athlete *Michaela Sill*

Certificate for
Most Improved Boy athlete *Fletcher van Zyl*

Trophy for the Best Girl athlete *Lexi Joubert*

Trophy for the Best Boy athlete *Lucca Bakker*

Equestrian

Trophy for the
Most Improved rider *Sophie Velleman*

Trophy for the
Best Rider of the Year *Eva Mullins*

Golf

Most Improved golfer *Vihaan Suriakumar*

Mullins Golf Trophy for the
Best Golfer of the Year *Fletcher van Zyl*

Hockey

Uplands Hockey Trophy for the Most
Improved Girl Player *Cara Mills*

Uplands Hockey Trophy for
the Most improved Boy Player *Ethan Rottcher*

The Mayhew Trophy for
the Best Girl Hockey Player *Emily Green*

Uplands Trophy for the Best
Boy Hockey Player *Michael Magidi*

Netball

The De Wet Netball Trophy for the
Most Improved Girl Player *Felicity Zumbika*

The Shakerley Trophy for the
Best Netball Player *Motjatji Sebopela*

Rugby

Trophy for the
Most Improved Boy Player *Dylan Greathead*

Trophy for the
Best Boy Player of the year *Mutshidzi Radzilani*

Soccer

Badenhorst Trophy for the
Most Improved Girl Player *Shared: Felicity Zumbika
and Refilwe Ratlabala*

Minolta Trophy for the
Most Improved Boy Player *Bill Murenzvi*

Mngomezulu Trophy for the
Best Girl Player of the year *Motjatji Sebopela*

DA Green Trophy for the
Best Boy Player of the year *Lucca Bakker*

Swimming

Carolyn Davis Trophy for the
Most Improved Girl Swimmer *Femke de Kok*

Grant Davis Trophy for the
Most Improved Boy Swimmer *Kingley Dearman*

Michelle Cockhead Trophy for the
Best Girl Swimmer *Cara Mills*

Michelle Cockhead Trophy for the
Best Boy Swimmer *Sean Murray*

Tennis

The Urmson Trophy for the
Most Improved Girl Player *Sophie Velleman*

The Urmson Trophy for the
Most Improved Boy Player *Ethan Esterhuizen*

The Ponting Trophy for the
Best Girl Player *Shared: Eva Mullins
and Riley Brooks*

The Ponting Trophy for the
Best Boy Player *Sean Murray*

Senior Phase Prizegiving

Co-Curricular Awards (Culture)

Ludi Cup

Awarded for progress in Music

Okuhle Baraza

Dixie Goodwin Music Cup

Awarded to the most outstanding Music Pupil

Nandi Zwane

Certificate for Progress in Art

Sfezo Sibandze

Aasiya Gardee Floating Trophy

Awarded to the Best All-Round Artist in Grade 7

Anesu Jambaya

Certificate for Progress in Public Speaking or Performance

Cara Mills

Sue Kloeck Speech and Drama Trophy

Awarded to the Grade 7 pupil who shows remarkable potential in the Speech and Drama arena

Felicity Zumbika

Certificate for Progress in Chess

Ethan Esterhuizen

Spencer Trophy

Awarded for achievement in Chess

Ethan Rottcher

Special Co-Curricular Awards

Ellen Graham Memorial Cup

Trophy for the best overall achievement in General Knowledge

Benjamin Lintvelt

Howe-Dreyer Trophy

Awarded to a girl who actively promotes the Uplands values and ethos of Sportsmanship and Perseverance. This girl does not necessarily play in the 1st teams but serves all sporting codes to the best of her ability. She will go beyond the call of duty for her school and teammates. She trains and gives of her best at all times and is proud of what her school achieves on the sporting fields.

Shared: Lexi Joubert and Uyanda Mayenjane

MacFarlane Trophy

Awarded to a boy who actively promotes the Uplands values and ethos of Sportsmanship and Perseverance. This boy does not necessarily play in the 1st teams but serves all sporting codes to the best of his ability. He will go beyond the call of duty for his school and teammates. He trains and gives of his best at all times and is proud of what his school achieves on the sporting fields.

Bill Murenzvi

Robert Rorich Service to Culture Award

This trophy is awarded to a pupil who actively promotes the Uplands values and ethos in everything they do. This pupil does not necessarily excel in cultural activities but serves the culture department to the best of their ability. He/she will go beyond the call of duty for their school and department

Lesego Monareng

Sam Beeton / Richard Elphick Trophy

This trophy is awarded to the child who shows a love for the environment and shares this love and knowledge willingly.

Lexi Joubert

Senior Phase Prizegiving

Special Awards

Chaplain's Award

Awarded by the Chaplain to a Grade 7 pupil who embodies all of the characteristics of

- 1. 'Divinitatis Sensus'
- 2. Servant Leadership
- 3. Service

Isla Stephen

Calmeyer Art and Culture Trophy

This trophy is awarded to the Grade 6 or 7 pupil who takes part and/or excels in a variety of different cultural activities offered at Uplands Prep

Nandi Zwane

Gwynn Mason Trophy

Most Versatile Sports Girl of the Year

Emily Green

Brent Pirow Trophy

Most Versatile Sports Boy of the Year

Dominic Cruickshanks and Dylan Greathead

Holmes Trophy

For the House with the Best Overall Record in Sports, Culture and Merits.

Fuller

Grade 7 Dux Scholar

Most Versatile Sports Boy of the Year

Nandi Zwane



Mxolisi Junior Spirit of Endeavour Award

This is awarded to a Grade 6 pupil who displays Mxolisi Junior's incredible spirit of endeavour and who adds value to school with excellent character. Sculpture donated by the Grade 6 parents of 2019 - artist Robert Rorich

Fletcher van Zyl



Matthew Prior Shining Star Award

The Shining Star is awarded to a boy or girl for enduring contribution, endeavour and dedication to all facets of school life at Uplands. This can only be awarded to a pupil who has been at Uplands since Grade 1

Nashe Musa



Leadership Award

Awarded for outstanding qualities of positive leadership

Motjatji Sebopela



Good Sportsmanship Award

Awarded to the pupil who participates in various sports and displays a true spirit of sportsmanship at all times

Michael Magidi



Good Fellowship Award

Awarded to the pupil who actively promotes good relationships within the school and community

Felicity Zumbika



Headmaster's Award

Awarded to the most outstanding overall contribution to school life

Lexi Joubert

2026 Uplands College Annual Scholarship Awards

Uplands College is delighted to announce the recipients of its annual Scholarship Awards in the Open Academic, Open All-Rounder, Open Sport and the Closed categories to pupils who are entering Grade 8 in 2026.

There was a competitive field of youngsters from preparatory schools in Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo all submitting applications and writing the Scholarship Examinations.

Exceptional results were achieved, which led to Uplands making the following Scholarship Awards:

Academic Open Award

Felicity Zumbika

Uplands Preparatory School

Anesuishe Njowa

Kyalami Preparatory School

Ryan van Brakel

Laerskool Bergland

All-Rounder Open Award

Hugo Vieira

Riverview Preparatory School

Louis Coetzee

Laerskool Bergland

Ilia Papadopoulos

Southern Cross Schools

Pippa Roberts

Uplands Preparatory School

Stella Rainier

Southern Cross Schools

Sports Open Award

Dylan Greathead

Uplands Preparatory School

Lexi Joubert

Uplands Preparatory School

Dominic Cruickshanks

Uplands Preparatory School

Motjatji Sebopela

Uplands Preparatory School

Uplands Closed Award

Nandi Zwane

Uplands Preparatory School

Cara Mills

Uplands Preparatory School

Ethan Esterhuizen

Uplands Preparatory School

“Scholarship applications for 2026 were once again of an extremely high standard. It is always a privilege to consider such a strong field and as a result I extend my sincere congratulations to those fortunate to have received an award. We look forward to welcoming them as

they commence their high school journey with us in 2026,” said Allan Laing, Head of Uplands College.



Dylan Greathead



Cara Mills



Ethan Esterhuizen



Dominic Cruickshanks



Felicity Zumbika

2026 Uplands College Annual Scholarship Awards



Lexi Joubert



Motjatji Sebopela



Nandi Zwane



Pippa Roberts

Discover Uplands Preparatory

Vision

Uplands develops interested and interesting young people who are self-confident, happy and successful in a changing world. They will be creative, critical thinkers who embrace change and develop lasting, healthy relationships.

Mission

We achieve our vision by providing a dynamic, caring, well-rounded, values-based education through our quality teams at the Pre-Preparatory, Preparatory, College and Outreach. Essential to our success as we grow a world-class, forward-thinking school are the following pillars:

- Academics
- Boarding and Pastoral
- Diverse community
- Anglican ethos
- Co-curricular

Uplands School Hymn

I vow to thee, my Saviour,
all things on Earth above
entire and whole and perfect
the service of my love.

It's a love that asks no questions
It's a love that stands the test
that lays upon the altar
the dearest and the best.

It's a love that never falters
It's a love that pays the price
It's a love that offers humbly
the final sacrifice.

When today I hear your calling
to serve, to help, to heal
I'll go forth, I'll answer promptly
Your power to reveal.

To the lost, the broken-hearted,
To the children I will go
In Your wondrous Name, Lord Jesus,
To see your Kingdom grow.

I vow to thee, my Saviour,
all things on Earth above
entire and whole and perfect
the service of your love.

National Anthem

Nkosi sikelel' Afrika
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,
Yizwa imithandazo,
Yethu,
Nkosi sikelela,
Thina,
Lusapho lwayo.
Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,
O fedise dintwa la matshwenyeh
O se boloke (Ntate)
O se boloke
Setjhaba sa
Heso,
Setjhaba sa
South Afrika
- South Afrika.
Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee,
Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom,
In South Africa our land.

Uplands School Prayers

Teach us, good Lord,
To serve You as we should,
To give and not to count the cost,
To stand up for what is right,
To work for You at all times,
And not to expect any reward
Other than to know that we are
doing what
You want us to do.
Amen.

God bless Africa
protect our children,
transform our leaders,
heal our communities,
restore our dignity,
and give us peace,
for Jesus Christ's sake.
Amen.



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