



# WESTVILLE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## A message from Michael Falkson, Chairman of the Westville Old Boys' Association

Greetings, Griffin Legends

It's incredible how quickly this year has flown by as we steam toward the end of yet another one! We hope 2025 has treated you kindly and that the final stretch of the year brings health, safety, and prosperity your way.

As a school, we're still basking in the glory of some incredible achievements — at the annual KZN traditional schools luncheon, we proudly accepted the KZN 1stXV team of the year award following the incredible season our boys had.

Adding to that success, we have clinched the national 7's rugby title, taking down Grey Bloem in the semi-finals and Northwood in the final! We wish our class of 2025 all the best as their NSC exams approach the end and they eagerly await the fruits of their labour.

Your school is in fantastic form — and the challenge now is to keep that momentum rolling in an increasingly competitive environment. This is where you — the brotherhood of Old Boys, the builders of our foundation — play such an important role. As mentioned in previous updates, we have an incredible network of over 11,000 Old Boys. Our goal is to grow that connection through the Griffin Legacy Network — a community of committed Griffins contributing to the future of WBHS.

For just R50 a month, you can become part of this tribe and enjoy a range of great benefits. More importantly, your contribution helps sustain the school's progress and build a legacy we can all be proud of.

One of our own, Graeme Harris (Class of 1986), recently shared a great story — he wore a WBHS 1st XV rugby jersey to Twickenham for the Springbok vs Argentina match, only to hear a couple of youngsters shout "WESTVILLE!! WESTVILLE!!" from across the street! His DHS mate was stunned at our global reach — and we couldn't agree more. The Griffin spirit knows no borders!

So, gents, let's keep building that global legacy. Head over to [woba.co.za](http://woba.co.za), sign up, and join the Griffin Legacy Network today.

And while you're there, don't forget — the Old Boys Blazers are available to order on the website. Word has it that the Class of '86 (celebrating their 40th reunion next year) are planning to turn out in full blazer force at the Old Boys Assembly. Now that will be a sight to behold!

As always, it's a privilege for the committee to serve you — the Griffins — and to support this damn fine institution. Together, we can continue to make the Griffin legacy one of pride, excellence, and unity.

Join us. Be part of the legacy.

Yours in Griffin pride,

Falki



# Connecting Old Boys **Around the World!**

If you're keen to connect with your local Chapter Chair or are interested in becoming one, please get in touch with Robyn Beck at [rbeck@wbhs.co.za](mailto:rbeck@wbhs.co.za)

KwaZulu-Natal: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/IOjvlfEyjXn0tMR6QrStbt>



## **SOUTH AFRICA:**

**MICHAEL FALKSON:**

Class of '87

Western Cape: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KRF0HIXUyYkEKHSvUfjyDP>

## **WESTERN CAPE:**

**BOBBY DIXON**

Class of '04

Gauteng: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/IVXj87xvuGIBAvQyYogq2u>

## **GAUTENG:**

**ANDREW WAINWRIGHT:**

Class of '95



Please click the image to join your preferred WhatsApp Community Group and keep our Old Boy spirit alive !



**UNITED KINGDOM:**  
**STEVEN PAYNE**  
Class of '93



## **AUSTRALIA:**

**CHRIS YOXALL:** Class of '88  
**TIM KNOX:** Class of '91



**USA:**  
**SHAYNE STOKES**  
Class of '92



**NEW ZEALAND:**  
**ANDREW LOGAN**  
Class of '91

# SA SCHOOLS 2025

This year has been nothing short of remarkable for our Griffins, highlighted by an unbeaten Rugby season built on heart, determination, and character. We are especially proud to celebrate three of our very own – **Jadrian Afrikaner (11), Lwandile Mlaba (4), and Zekhethelo Siyaya (15)** – who were selected to represent SA Schools. They competed against France, Ireland and England. Their achievement also marks a historic milestone, with three SA Schools selections in a single year.

We are also immensely proud of our first team rugby players who have signed their contracts for 2026.

Zekhethelo Siyaya - Sharks  
Lwandile Simelane - Blue Bulls  
Lebo Theko - Cheetahs  
Liam Simpkins - Sharks



## RUGBY 7'S CHAMP OF CHAMPS

The 1<sup>st</sup> team 7's took part in the Champ of Champs 7's tournament at NWU Pukke where they competed against the best of the best. The boys took full advantage of their opportunity to showcase their skill on the main stage, beating Grey Bloem 26-19 in the semi-final and beating Northwood by a nail-biting 1 point in the final.

Lisa Sijadu was awarded the Player of the Final.

Luxolo Sonkononkono, Ezra Karolisin and Lisa Sijadu were selected for the team of the tournament.



# LONDON REUNION

In July this year, we had the privilege of travelling to London on behalf of the Westville Boys' High School Foundation and Old Boys' Association, where we spent time with a large and vibrant Griffin community living in the UK. It proved to be an unforgettable adventure and a wonderful opportunity to share the ongoing success story of our great school. What an honour it was.

Having lived in London in the 90s, we were struck by how much has changed—though nothing surprised us more than the “Durban-like” heatwave that greeted us: 35 degrees every day, and not a drop of rain. We arrived on Wednesday the 9th, and despite only an hour's sleep on the plane, the weather and excitement had us walking nearly 25km through the city. We eventually made it back “home,” where some balcony refreshments overlooking the Thames may or may not have been enjoyed before calling it a night.

In the days leading up to the reunion, we caught up with several Old Boys over a few pints and plenty of laughter. Our thanks to Brett Hardie ('91), Julian Rennie ('85), Richard Marsden-King ('92) and Simon Stiebel ('92) for making the effort to join us in London ahead of the main event.

The official gathering took place on Saturday the 12th of July at The Wolfpack in Fulham. On a glorious summer's day, some 50–60 Old Boys and one Old Girl, gathered to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Stories flowed, laughter echoed, and the shared bond of brotherhood was felt by all. The timing could not have been more perfect: Griffin Ethan Hooker made his Springbok debut that very afternoon, and the announcement of the South African Schools rugby side confirmed a record three Westville boys in the squad. Pride all round!

We took the opportunity to share our vision for the Old Boys' Association, building a true tribe, a family, and a brotherhood that ensures wherever an Old Boy finds himself in the world, there is likely a network to connect with. This will take time and commitment from both our local and international associations, but the support we received from the UK Griffins was wholehearted.

The UK Brotherhood turned out in force and, beyond their presence, pledged generous support to help drive our school forward and sustain its momentum as one of South Africa's leading schools.

There is no doubt that one of the key pillars of any successful school is the calibre and commitment of its Old Boys, and our time in London left us convinced that we are firmly on the right track.

A special word of thanks to Jill Tomlinson (Class of 1960), Clive Bower ('63) and Ivan Moorhouse ('67) for travelling out to Fulham to join us. We look forward to seeing even more of our UK Griffins next year.

# LONDON REUNION



# Griffin Pride On Display. At Twickenham

Old Boy Graham Harris proudly represented Westville at Twickenham earlier this year, donning the 2025 1st XV jersey as the Springboks faced off against Argentina. On the field, fellow Old Boy Ethan Hooker (Class of 2021) made us proud with a strong start on the wing for the Boks.

After the match, Graham crossed paths with several other Old Boys, and in true Griffin spirit, the group broke into a spirited chant of “Westville!”—sparked by the sight of our unmistakable red, blue and white!!



## BOARDING

We are delighted to announce that our boarding intake has increased to 170 boys for 2026 — a significant milestone that highlights the continued strength and appeal of our boarding program. In response to this growth, we are undertaking a series of expansions and upgrades to our boarding houses, designed to maintain the exceptional standard of care and community that defines our school. These enhancements will provide our students with even more opportunities to connect, grow, and excel in all areas of school life.





**Hendan Wienand (81) and Richard Marsden-King (92) Outside Twickenham**



**Paul Stephens (92) Grant Durose (92) and Carlos Mendes (92) after the Michaelhouse game.**



**Givarn Ramsunder (05) & Steve Wearne (05) meet up at Lords**



**Peter Frow (1961) Dave Frow (1966) Thomas Edwards (1966) visited their old school last month for a trip down memory lane.**



**1987 Flankers Michael Falkson and Dieter Kries**



**Tyron Botha, Curt Stefano, Burn Gillespie, Anthony Kruger and Andrew Ridl from the class of 1990 with Luke Coleman (2017)**



# 1ST IN KZN

**Our First XV Rugby Team has been voted the Best Rugby School in KwaZulu-Natal at the annual Traditional Schools Awards — a fitting recognition following their historic unbeaten season. This accolade celebrates the team's exceptional skill, dedication, and sportsmanship, as well as the outstanding commitment of the coaching staff who guided them through a truly memorable year of rugby.**



**Director of Sport Pam Hayward  
Director of Rugby Dusty Noble  
1<sup>st</sup> Team Coach Zander Erasmus  
Marketing & Admissions Dieter Kriese**



## **OLD BOYS DATABASE UPDATE**

[Click here](#) to update your details so that we can stay in touch.

# SPEECH NIGHT

We were privileged to welcome back Old Boy Yasheen Modi from the class of 2003 as our special guest speaker — a true embodiment of the Griffin spirit. Mr Modi encouraged the boys to discover what they are most passionate about and to pursue it with dedication and integrity. He reflected on his own journey, recalling how the lessons he learned at Westville helped shape his character and ambition. From launching his business in a small garage to becoming the largest cosmetics distributor in the country, operating out of a state-of-the-art factory nearly a kilometre long, his story was a powerful reminder that greatness often begins with humble beginnings.

Mr Modi's address resonated deeply with everyone present, as he highlighted how some of the core Griffin values, resilience, humility, and discipline have guided him throughout his personal and professional life. His words left our boys inspired to face their futures with courage and purpose — a fitting message for a night that celebrated not just the end of school, but the beginning of new possibilities.

In closing Mr Modi announced that he will be sponsoring the upgrade to the Griffin Gym on Bowden's field. We are incredibly grateful for his generosity and look to create a modern inspiring space that will benefit generations of Griffins to come.

Thank You Yasheen !



**Head of School Joel Munemo  
alongside special guest Mr  
Yasheen Modi**



**Render of the new Griffin Gym on  
Bowdens field**



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# OLD BOYS' GOLF DAY

What a day! Our annual Old Boys Golf Day at Kloof Country Club was filled with good golf, great laughs, and plenty of camaraderie. The course set the stage for some exciting individual performances, and it was fantastic to see so many familiar faces back on the greens.

After a day out on the course, we came together for dinner and prize giving — always a highlight — where we celebrated not just the winners, but the spirit of friendship that makes this event so special.

**Congratulations to our top four ball of the day - Thomas Jackson, Richard Wissing, Ruan Vosloo and Kaedon Coetzee.** (Dieter Kriese has requested an audit) ;)

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us, and to our sponsors whose generous support makes days like this possible. We're already looking forward to the next opportunity to connect and grow our Old Boys network.



**Thomas Barff ( 93 ), Nick Keary  
Myles Wakefield ( 91 ), Hayden  
Wakefield ( 95 )**



**Derek Moore, Dale O'Brien  
Dieter Kriese ( 87 ) Dale Steffenson**



**Baron Paverd ( 89 ) Ian Pennefather  
JJ Van Rooyen Peter Wilson**



**Clyde Kemp ( 93 ) Jono Rootman ( 85 )  
Andile Zondi ( 99 ) Nkululeku Mkhwanazi  
( 99 )**



**Andrew Maccullum ( 90 ), Ryan Moolman  
1990, Gary Nossiter, Stuart Fourie ( 90 )**



**Shaun Smith, Quinton Friend,  
Warren Enslin ( 96 ), Gavin Allison ( 96 )**



# Ethan Hooker

## School Life and Memories

**Thomas:** Looking back, what are some of your fondest memories from your time at WBHS?

**Ethan:** Definitely my time in the boarding house. That's where most of my favourite memories come from. Whether it was playing pool rugby at or having night time soccer games after prep, we were always up to something. The friendships, the laughs, the chaos — I loved every minute of boarding life.

**Thomas:** How did your school rugby experience shape you into the player you are today?

**Ethan:** Funny enough, my Grade 11 and 12 years were during Covid, so we didn't get to play any rugby. But in a weird way, that helped me. I started to really enjoy the training side of things, and that's when I put in the most work on my body and my game. Those two years gave me a solid base and helped me fall in love with the grind.

**Thomas:** What was the biggest challenge you faced going from school rugby to becoming a Springbok?

**Ethan:** My first year out of school was definitely the toughest. I hadn't been recognised by the Sharks yet, I wasn't contracted, and I didn't get picked for the first U20 competition. It was scary — I remember thinking, if I don't make it next year, this could be the end of the road. So I just made sure I was doing something extra every single day. I'd drive an hour to the stadium and back, train harder than anyone, and try to stay positive. It wasn't easy, but looking back now, all that effort was worth it.



**Thomas:** Who were the coaches, teammates, or mentors that had the biggest influence on your career?

**Ethan:** During my U20 year, my coach was JP Pietersen. He's as tough as they come — proper old-school South African coach vibes. But he made me believe in myself and pushed me to lead. He gave me the chance to captain the side, and that helped me grow a lot as a player. Even now, I feel like I play my best rugby when I'm leading by example.

**Thomas:** What does it mean to you to wear the green and gold jersey?

**Ethan:** It's honestly hard to put into words. It's emotional — like finally reaching the light at the end of the tunnel. Every early morning, every sacrifice, all the times you miss out on things your mates are doing... it all suddenly feels worth it. And weirdly, once you've worn it, it just makes you hungrier to keep pushing and achieve even more.

**Thomas:** Do you have any pre-game rituals or routines that help you prepare mentally and physically?

**Ethan:** Yeah, I definitely do — a few actually. I won't get into all the details, but the night before every game I always follow the same 20–30 minute routine. I listen to the same songs, go through the same steps, and visualise the same moments in my head. It's all about getting into the right headspace so that when I run onto the field, I don't have to wonder if I'm ready — I just know I am.



**Thomas:** What advice would you give to current Griffins players dreaming of playing professional rugby?

**Ethan:** Your attitude has to go beyond just rugby — it's about how you approach life. You've got to know that somewhere out there, someone's working harder than you, trying to be the best. That thought should keep you hungry. No matter what you achieve, never settle. Always think, it's not enough yet, and keep pushing.

**Thomas:** How do you balance the demands of professional rugby with life off the field?

**Ethan:** It's not easy, honestly. The key is surrounding yourself with the right people — mates who get you and share similar interests outside of rugby. It can be tough to find balance in this profession, but when you do get time away from the game, having the right people around makes a massive difference. It keeps you grounded.

**Thomas:** What has been the most memorable moment of your Springbok career so far?

**Ethan:** Facing the haka for the first time at Eden Park. That was unreal. Standing there, hearing the crowd, seeing the All Blacks right in front of you — it's one of those moments that gives you chills. You realise you're part of something much bigger than yourself.

**Thomas:** If you could go back and give your schoolboy self one piece of advice, what would it be?

**Ethan:** To always back yourself. Always believe you're good enough, even when others don't. Confidence is everything — if you don't believe it, no one else will. Just back yourself and know you're capable of great things.



# LEADERSHIP 2026

Safe to say the future of this damn fine institution is in excellent hands! The MPC roared with pride as the 2026 Leadership Body was announced, and the applause reached new heights when Ngcali Nonxuba was named Head of School for 2026. The standing ovation said it all — the boys know their school is in capable hands.

Supporting Ngcali will be his deputies, Drew Hollingsworth and Luseko Sikhulume, whose commitment and energy promise to keep the spirit of leadership strong.

The full 2026 Executive Team is as follows:

Head of School: Ngcali Nonxuba

Deputies: Drew Hollingsworth & Luseko Sikhulume

Head of Grade 8: Ashton Kidgell

Head of Grade 9: Milan Fourie

Head of Grade 10: Nimai Lalla

Head of Grade 11: Oliver van der Merwe

Head of Service: Ethan Hardcastle

Head of Boarding: Lwandle Bulose

Head of Student Leadership: Christian Pillay

Head of FET: Luxolo Sonkononkono

Head of GET: Daniel Watkins

Congratulations to this exceptional group of young men — may they lead with integrity, courage, and the unmistakable pride of those who carry forward the legacy of this remarkable school.





# WESTVILLE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

## Step up, Griffins. Bowdens needs you!

### Calling all Griffins to take your seat in history.

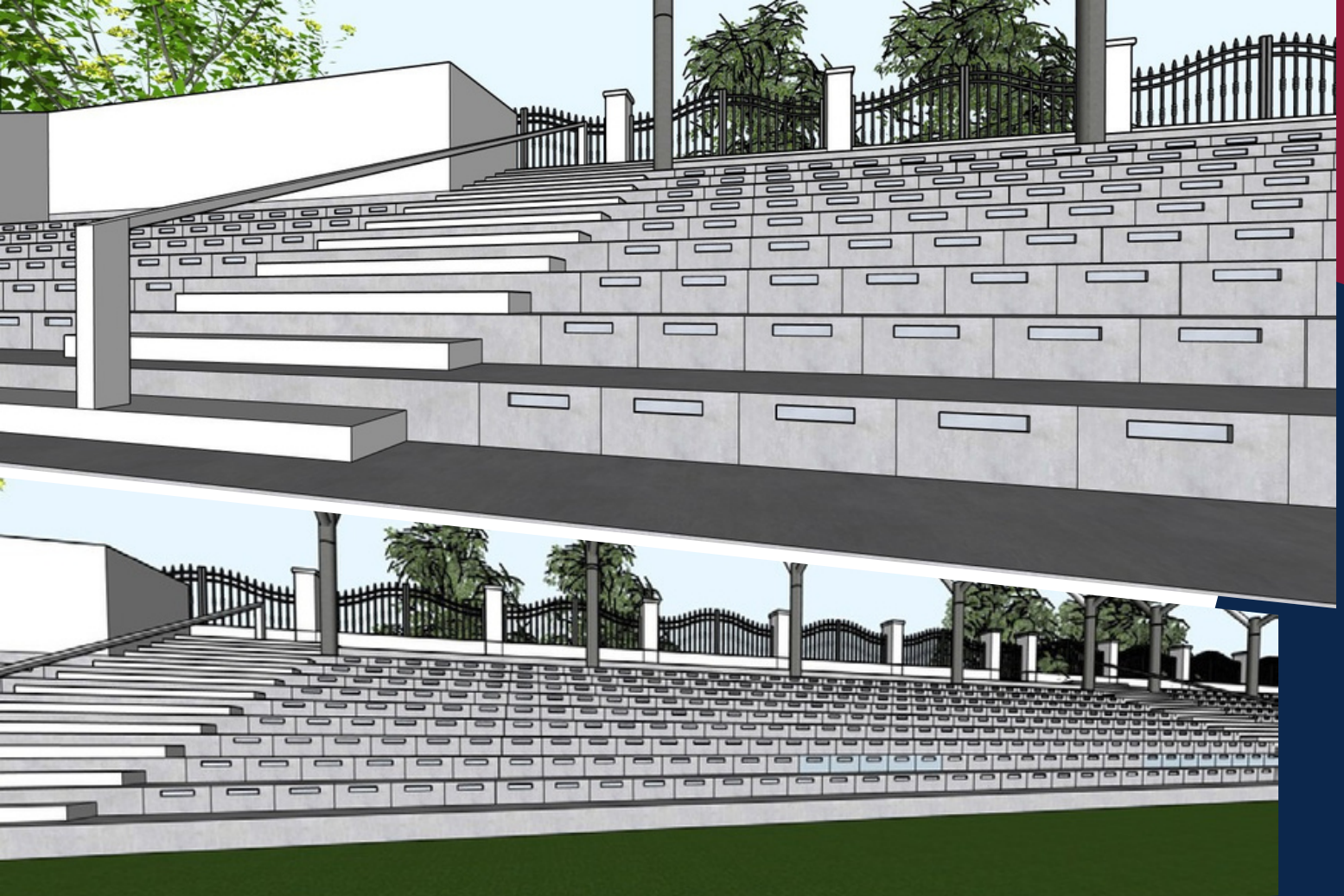
For generations, Bowdens Pavilion has been the heart of Westville Boys' High School. From the stands, we cheered our teammates, celebrated victories, and forged memories that lasted a lifetime. Now, it's time to give back to the Pavilion that gave us so much.

WOBA is proud to launch the Bowdens Grandstand Upgrade Appeal. **For a once-off contribution of just R500**, your name will be engraved in stone as a proud supporter of this project. Together, we will ensure that Bowdens remains a place of pride and legacy for Griffins past, present, and future.

This is your chance to leave your mark.

**Step up. Sit proud. Stand tall for Bowdens.**





**Make your contribution today  
and secure your place in  
Griffin history.**

THE GRIFFIN LEGACY



WESTVILLE BOYS'  
HIGH SCHOOL

**For more information, please contact:**  
Grant Durose - [grant@wbhs.co.za](mailto:grant@wbhs.co.za)

+27 (0)31 267 1330 [www.woba.co.za](http://www.woba.co.za)

**zapper**



**Bowdens Pavilion  
Upgrade**

Supported apps





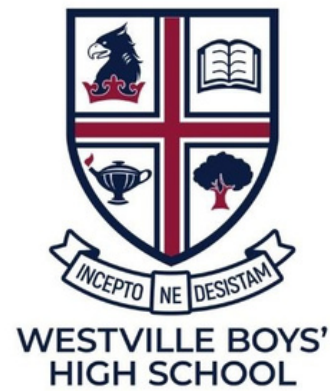
# WHAT'S NEW IN WOBA



Show your Griffin pride in style in our new Old Boys' blazer, now available on our website for R1250.



Order your Griffin Gear here:  
<https://www.woba.co.za/shop/>



REUNION WEEKEND 2026  
SAVE THE DATE

**BONDED**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June** - Memorial Service

**BY**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June** - Old Boys' Assembly, School  
Tour & Old Boys Dinner

**BROTHERHOOD**

**6<sup>th</sup> June Saturday** - Sport vs Michaelhouse

# **HOME OF THE GRIFFIN**

**“We grow because  
you paved the  
way. Our alumni  
are not just our  
past—they are the  
heartbeat of our  
future.”**

