

# VG News

*Celebrating 127 years of excellence!*

22 August 2025, Volume 4

## Message From The Principal



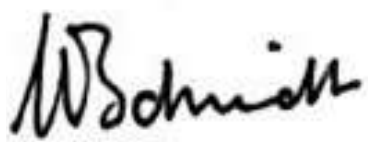
Dear VG Community

What an amazing term it has been so far! I am always aware of how exceptionally demanding third terms can be, but this term has felt particularly busy to this point. We still have a way to go yet, so I sincerely hope that all learners take a brief rest before diving into the second half of the term.

I wish our Grade 12 learners all the best as they head into their Prelim Exams next week. Work hard and you are sure to see your efforts bear fruit. Good luck to the Grade 11s who take on the mantle of leadership from this point on.

I do hope that everyone has a good leave-out weekend and that you are able to gather your energy for the rest of the term.

Sincerely



Mr Schmidt





# STUDENT TEACHERS



**Zizile Bilana**  
**Music and Creative Arts**



**Kwandiswa Dubazane**  
**Mathematics and Physical Sciences**



**Nothando Njoko**  
**English and Life Orientation**



**Kamogelo Chidi**  
**Life Sciences and Natural Sciences**



**Zandiswa Xolo**  
**Life Sciences and Natural Sciences**



**Alizwa Hafe**  
**History and IsiXhosa**



**Sinovuyo Mjekula**  
**Drama and Creative Arts**



**Anesipho Songongo**  
**Natural Sciences and Life Sciences**



# STAFF NEWS



## Farewell, Ms Marechal

"It's amazing how time flies!!!

Ms Marechal started working here at VGHS 9 years ago but I got to work closely with Lois from 2022. On the 1st of August 2022, we were neither here nor there as she had started as Operations Manager and I as Admin Assistant. We both tried to find our feet and brains at the same time and I remember we both forgot to clock out that day.

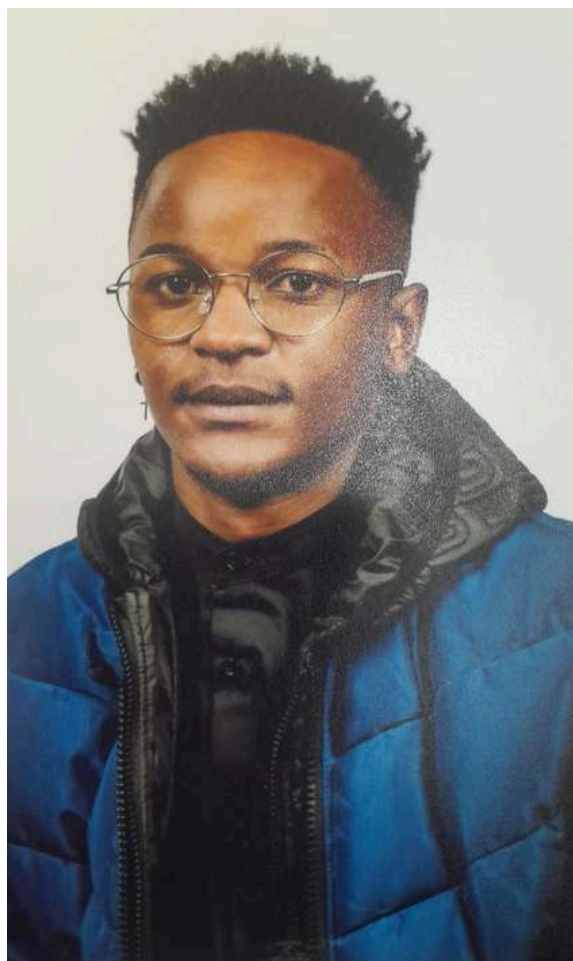
3 years later, we found our rhythm, and today we finish each other's sentences and are almost telepathic, we know each other's thoughts before we even say them.

We are also typical March babies. We are loud, passionate, innovative and that is just the tip of the iceberg, of our personalities.

You are strict, but fair, you are a mother to many, a shelter, a shoulder to cry on.

You are leaving extremely huge shoes to fill. You have shaped a great path for others after you.

Go well aunty Patricia."



## Farewell, Mr Ngoxo

Mr Ngoxo arrived at VG in 2023 and quickly made himself at home. He is an exceptional music teacher and violin player, whose commitment to promoting success and excellence in the education sector is an inspiration. We thank him for all the help, support, and guidance he has given to us over the years.

We thank Mr Ngoxo for being passionate about teaching violin to our young musicians. We appreciate him for making classes engaging and fun, and we will never forget all his valuable contributions and useful advice.

We will really miss him and his wonderful teaching skills. As he leaves the school, we wish him all the best! He is heading to Vietnam establish the music department, and we certainly hope he will keep in touch with us from time to time.





# STAFF NEWS



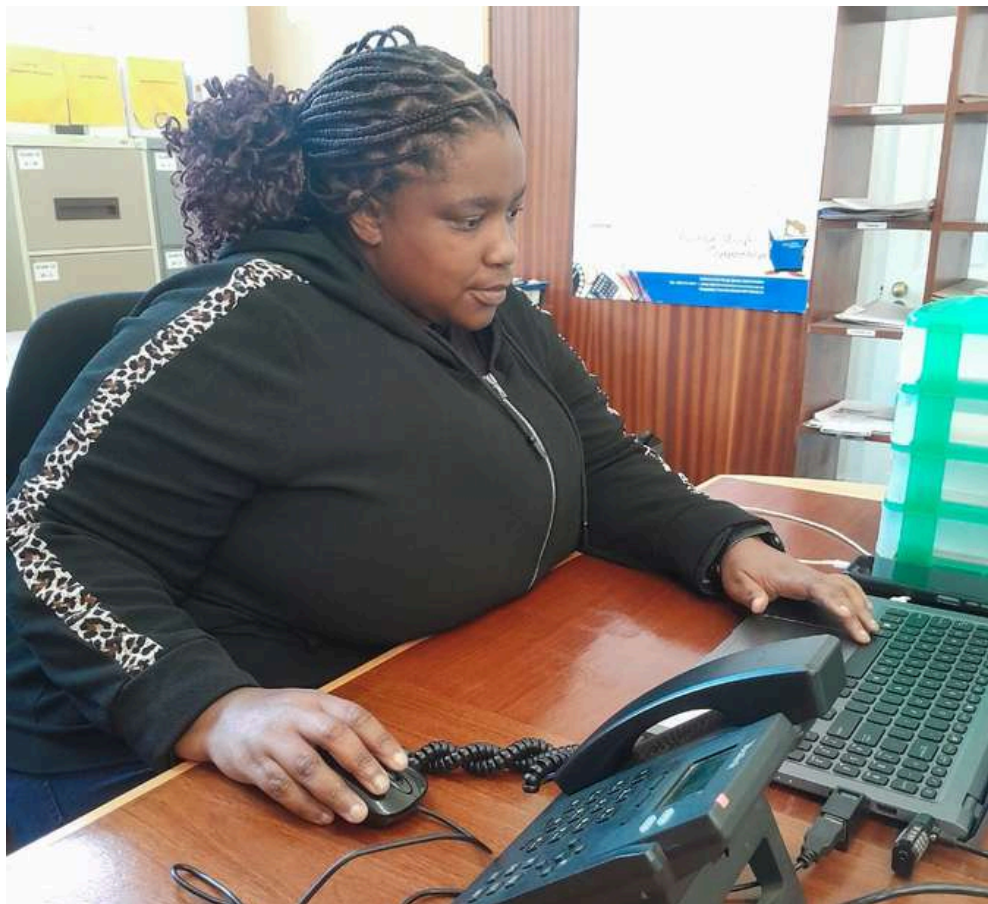
## Welcome Mr Mokoena

Mr Mokoena studied music at the North-West University School of Music and Conservatory in Potchefstroom, under the tutelage of Prof. Koornhof. Mr Mokoena is an active member of the South African Music Teachers Association.

He has been awarded prestigious wards such as David Reunert music bursary and NAC to count a few.

As a dedicated violinist, he has made numerous tours in Europe, collaborating with the Austrian pForte music organization.

The most recent project was in June 2025 in Austria for the pForte concert series at the Vorarlberg Stella private music school and in Salzburg at the Palmklang music festival, where they played concerts and recorded the Brahms clarinet Quintet, a commissioned work by a contemporary Austrian composer, Laura Winkler and South African Jazz music by Abdullah Ibrahim.



We are pleased to welcome Ms Lumka Dibela, who is also an old girl. Lumka is employed at VG as an Administrative Assistant until the end of 2025. We wish her all the best as she settles into her new role and welcome her back to the VG family. Ms Jamela will be our new Operations Administrator until the end of 2025. We wish her well in her new role.



# AFRIKAANS OLYMPIAD

Well done to the 14 VG participants. VG results ranged from 52% to 79%. Well done to top VG achiever Yentl Burgess in Grade 11. Nationally 2255 entrants achieved an aggregate of 63%. The VG aggregate was 69%.

Well done to all entrants on receiving their certificates:

Taylor Arries  
Ayva Baatjes  
Shimeeca du Plessis  
Kelly Thorne  
Yentl Burgess  
Gabi-Li Doyle  
Shiloh du Plessis  
Nicole Swart  
Ithumeleng Thobothobo  
Fazila Hilpert  
Siphesihle Khumalo  
Yonwaba Magquntulu  
Catherine Roberts  
Leandri Smit

## ENGLISH BEST SPEAKERS

Congratulations to all participants on their entertaining and thought-provoking speeches. The standard of the speeches was outstanding. Some participants were very nervous, but they showed courage by entering – well done on being brave! The participants all did unprepared speeches only. The junior competition was just one round, whereas the seniors had one round and then finalists were selected for a second round. The topic in Round 1 was, “Enjoy the moment” and the Round 2 topic was “The power of the unseen”.

Results:

Seniors:

1st - Lusanele Kesa

2nd - Zukhanye Ntlabati

Highly commended: Lilonke Futshane and Liqalo Gora

Juniors:

1st - Shené Lockwood

2nd - Talitha Dingani





## HOCKEY REPORT

By Mr Jasson

Victoria Girls' High enjoyed another memorable hockey season, with a fair bit of milestones being celebrated. As a school, we celebrated representation across all the provincial age groups for the second consecutive year. With two of the representatives, Dimpho Ramusi and Tatum Jacobs, representing us in the u18 age group.

In addition to representation in provincial teams, we celebrated a number of colours and half colours awards. For the first time in a number of years, Tatum Jacobs received colours for Hockey - her dedication and hard work being rewarded. .

We also celebrated a number of half-colours awards - the most post-covid half-colours to be awarded to a single hockey side. The half colours recipients are as follows: Amy Arends, Cayden Daniels, Sydney Edwards, Jayda Kohl, Michaela Kretzman, Kendra May, Catherine Roberts, Sue-Ann Swanepoel, Dimpho Ramusi and Mbali Maxhaulana. A number of girls celebrated personal milestones by crossing the 50 caps mark as well. With Amy Arends, Cayden Daniels, Sydney Edwards, Jayda Kohl, Michaela Kretzman, Kendra May, Catherine Roberts, Sue-Ann Swanepoel all amassing over 50 caps for the 1st XI. This hockey season was up and down, form and momentum were inconsistent. Our teams never quite got going. The U14s built momentum heading into the last term, suffering one defeat from their last 5 games.

Their form improved throughout the season and proved to be a side to be reckoned with. Our u16s showed glimpses of promise. They could not convert their chances after creating opportunities to score. They ended their season with a resounding 5-0 victory, eventually breaking the shackles of not using their opportunities. The first team showed their promise in a couple of games. Their inconsistent nature however, accumulated a number of unlikely and unwanted draws.

The brand and style of hockey was evident of a team that has been working hard. They have continued to stay dedicated and performed to their best. Overall, the hockey season was one to remember. Not the best in terms of results, but one to remember for the growth of the potential and ability that each team has. The coaches have worked tirelessly to create an environment where athletes continue to develop and grow, and the athletes have done exactly that.





# SPORT

## HOCKEY REPORT





## NETBALL REPORT

By Ms Fundani

Netball teams started the term with participating in the Port Alfred High School Founders' Weekend on the 1st of August 2025. The weather was sunny and superb, and so were the scores. The U14s drew 6-6, U16A won 15-9, U16B won 13-9, U18 won 18-5. Well done to all the teams that played! On the 13th of August, the U14A, U16A and U16B teams played matches against Andrew Moyake School of Excellence. It was a fun afternoon at VG, filled with spirit and passion.

The scores were as follows: U14A won 21-4, U16A won 16-3, U16B lost 6-12. On Friday the 15th of August 2025, our U16B team travelled to Riebeek College Girls' High School to play a match against their U15A team. The team did not come back victorious, but they toiled and came back with their heads held high. Interhouse Netball took place on Monday the 18th of August. It was a fun afternoon indeed! In the Senior category, Dorset claimed the victory, followed by Graeme, Ruthville, then Thursford! Well done!

In the Junior category, Graeme claimed the victory, followed by Thursford, Ruthville then Dorset. Well done to all the houses for their participation and passion! The much anticipated Staff vs Matrics Netball game took place shortly after, and of course, the Matrics were victorious!

For the last match of the season, VG played against Rugby School (UK touring school). This was an extremely exciting match, as VG got the opportunity to play with an international school, all the way from the United Kingdom! Both our 2nd and 1st teams lost their matches, but they gained experience and showed true sportswomanship on and off the field.

Message for Grade 12s: It was an emotional day for our 1st team Matric players as it was their last High School match, and I do hope that the memories that were made, remain in their hearts forever, and may they always remember to put their best foot forward and let their passion and love for Netball take centre stage, regardless of the negative events that took place throughout the season.

To the rest of the teams: You played your hearts out, I am proud of you, until next year, Adios!





# SPORT

## NETBALL REPORT



**GEE**net





# SPORT

## SQUASH REPORT

By Qayiya Poto

Yesterday evening, the First team Squash girls played against Graeme College Junior 3. It was an eventful night and a wonderful time for everyone. The girls persevered through the tournament and won 12-8.

Well done to the squash girls for their never ending commitment. A big thank you to Ms Kalipa, Mr Doubell, and Ms Banisi for their support and big VG spirit! Go VG!





# CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

## DEBATING

By Ms Vlandir

Over the weekend, some of our VG debating girls travelled to East London for the Eastern Cape Provincial Debating Tournament.

It was an intense and action-packed few days, with debates starting before 9 am and finishing after 8 pm. Despite the demanding schedule, our girls rose to the challenge and represented VG with excellence!

Juniors:

- Sally Kadye tied for 2nd in the province
- Mivuyo Ntlabathi, Sally Kadye & Iminathi Ludwane qualified for Nationals
- Sally & Mivuyo's team reached Open Semifinals (Top 4 teams) – ranked 4th
- Vela, Chwayita & Iminathi's team reached Plate Semifinals (next 4 best teams) – ranked 6th

Seniors:

- Mairi ranked 6th in the province & qualified for Nationals
- Her team reached Open Semifinals – ranked 3rd overall

Congratulations to all our speakers – we are so proud of you!



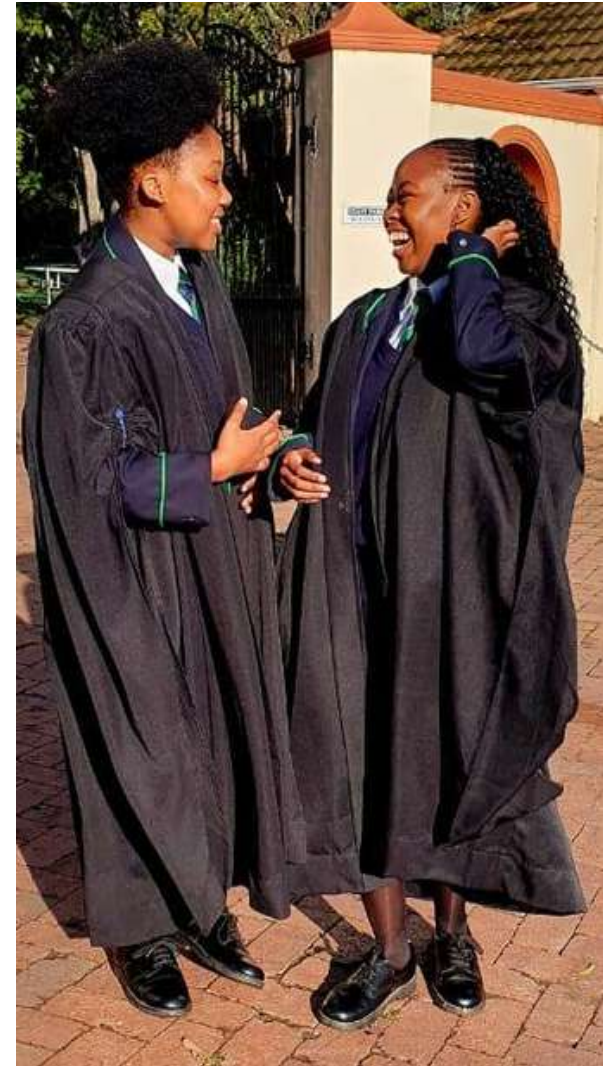
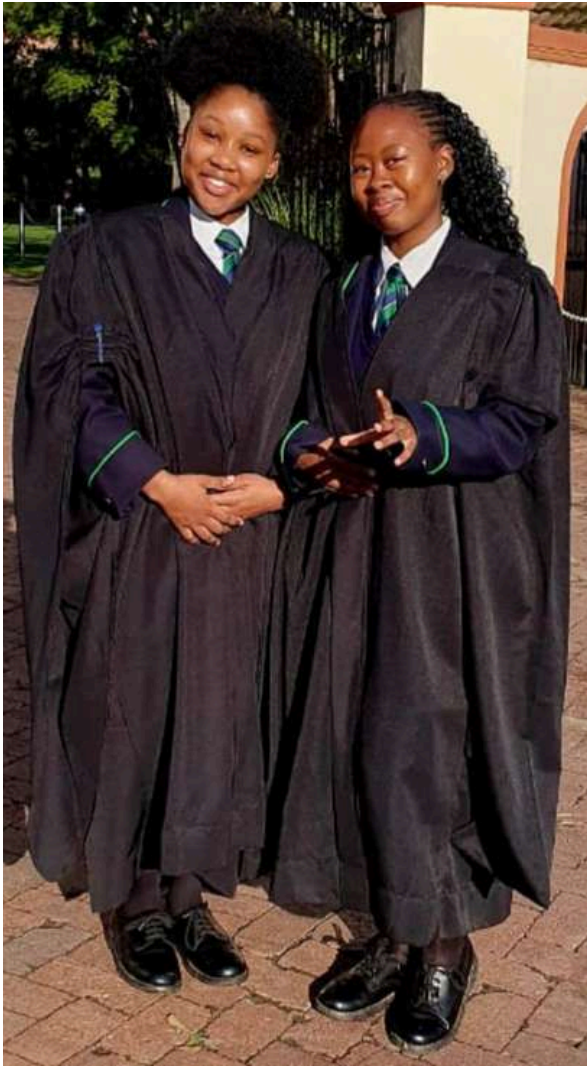


# CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

## Moot Court Competition

Kholosa Waka and Zukhanye Ntlabati were involved in the Sarah Baartman Moot Court rounds over this weekend. They made it into the finals and were ranked 3rd in Eastern Cape for their Applicant and Respondent Moot Court Essay receiving mark of 89%.

They now prepare for the Provincial Rounds, which will be this upcoming leave-out weekend.



# PRESIDENT'S AWARD

## President's Award Program

Congratulations to Kwakhanya Nyatana, Caelyn Abdul, Gabi-Li Doyle, Shiloh Storm du Plessis, Luyakha Noholoza and Unako Ndevu for successfully completing their Bronze Hike for The President's Award! 25km of walking, cooking on fire, camping... a weekend well spent!





# SCIENCE EXPO

Our learners showcased incredible talent and dedication last weekend at the region Eskom Science Expo, bringing home an array of awards! From merit to silver certificates, as well as special awards!



–Mvelo Nqondela receives the Sable Trophy from Leo Goosen, Chairperson of the Grahamstown Branch of WESSA. Her project was on the comparison of conventional plant growing techniques with those of aquaponics and hydroponics



# GRADE 11 CAMP

By Ms Vlandir

The Grade 11s had their Outing on the 19th-21st August 2025 at Leaders in Life Campsite. The camp had them assembling tents, making a chicken potijie pot for their first supper and a lot of exciting activities such as ziplining, the giant swing, night walk, leadership talk, canoeing, obstacle course and many more activities.

All learners tackled their fears as they got to learn more about each other as they went along. Throughout the experience they got to understand that leadership is not about the “I” but about the “we”.

Thank you to the Grade 11 Teachers (Ms Williams, Mr Stoloff and Ms van Niekerk) for accompanying the Grade 11s and Ms Vlandir for organizing the outing.





# GRADE 11 CAMP



GEEnet





# MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL CAPTAIN



Dear VG Community

I would like to welcome everyone back to school as we close the door on the first half of Term 3, and step into the second half of term. I hope each of you has returned from the long midyear holidays feeling rested and ready to finish the second half of the year strong, with focus and energy.

The past few weeks have already been full of excitement with our various interhouse events and annual photo day, with one of the biggest highlights this term being our matches against the visiting school from the UK as a fun way to close off the netball and hockey seasons. These events brought about incredible spirit, teamwork, and enthusiasm to the VG community.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who organised, contributed, supported, and made these fixtures such a successful and memorable occasion.

As we look ahead, our Grade 12s will be starting their prelim examinations in the very first week back from leave-out; we wish them the very best of luck, and hope that their dedication and commitment carry them through this important step with confidence and success. To the rest of our students, test week is also around the corner later, I encourage all of you to stay consistent in your efforts, but also to pace yourselves, and remember that growth and success, in all aspects, are journeys that take time.

With that said, well done to everyone for reaching the halfway mark of the term! I know it hasn't been without challenges, but I encourage you all to keep embracing these challenges with determination and perseverance. Let's continue to carry a positive energy moving forward, supporting one another; and remember that balance, optimism, and steady hard work will always take us further.

Wishing you all the best as we begin the second half of Term 3, and head toward our various tests and exams, may it be a time of focus, growth, and many more shared achievements for us all.

With love,  
Rutendo





# MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY CAPTAIN



As the first half of Term 3 comes to a close, I can't help but think of how full and vibrant it's been. From inter-house competitions and exciting sports fixtures to cultural highlights like Victoria in Concert, marimba and choir showcases and even chess matches, Olympiads and Debating.

There's been so much talent and spirit on display. A big congratulations to everyone who took part and gave of their best.

To the Matric Class of 2024: as you step into prelims, I leave you with this reminder. "Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out." Stay consistent, trust your preparation and know that every step forward is a victory.

To the Grade 11s, may this next chapter as leaders challenge you, grow you and remind you what it means to serve with heart.

Wishing you all a short but restful break — take time to recharge, because the rest of term 3 awaits

With love,  
Siphesihle

## NEWS FROM OUR BOARDING HOUSES

### **Eleanor Brown and Renfrew House**

The girls had a lovely start to the term. They thoroughly enjoyed the weekends participating in various card tournaments, Character Play and a Beauty Pageant. A spontaneous card tournament ran smoothly and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. We created a simple set of rules to guide the competition, outlining how players would qualify for the next round or face disqualification. The girls showed strong teamwork, enthusiasm, and good sportsmanship throughout. The tournament encouraged social interaction and problem-solving, making it both fun and meaningful.

They also enjoyed a Character Play. The girls were invited to dress up as a character of their choice, allowing them to express their creativity and have fun with their outfits. The atmosphere was designed to be festive and engaging, with a photobooth set up for those who wanted to capture memorable moments. To enhance the setting, flashing LED lights were arranged, and the main dining hall lights were switched off, creating a lively and colorful party ambiance.

The highlight was the Beauty Pageant. Participants entered and they had a chance to practice their walking with Miss Mathuso. The evening was fun and very engaging. Our winner as Miss EB 2025 was Ambesiwe Lutya, and the two princesses were Ongeziwe Sokanyile and Onako Majokweni.





# NEWS FROM OUR BOARDING HOUSES

## Barnard House

Our BH girls had the opportunity to watch movies, enjoying popcorn, hot chocolate, and Milo. The girls also enjoyed playing soccer on the field. They also played board games and they enjoyed the colouring in activity at hostel too.

Our grade 11s went on their camp this week. Our Matrics are currently studying very hard for their upcoming prelim examinations. I would like to leave the following quotes for the matrics: "You are your best motivator. Say I can do this. It is easier than I thought". "Put as many happy thoughts and memories into your mind as you can, because no one can ever take them away from you".

To all the BH girls may you all enjoy the short break with your families. Make the most of your time always.





# IMPORTANT NOTICE

If your daughter/ward will be leaving VG or the hostel at the end of 2025, please inform Mr Schmidt in writing. You may send an email to [principal@vghs.co.za](mailto:principal@vghs.co.za). Alternatively you may leave a letter with the office staff. We need to know as we will be dealing with 2026 placements soon.



Dear Hockey Parents

A huge thank you to each and every one of you for your amazing support and dedication to our hockey teams and running the tuck shop. Your time, effort, and teamwork made such a big difference — from prepping, to serving with a smile, and keeping everything running smoothly.

We truly appreciate all that you do, not just for the team, but for the spirit of our hockey family. Your commitment keeps our players fueled and our community strong.

Thank you for going the extra mile – you're the real MVPs!

From:  
The 1st Team Hockey Girls