



8 August 2019

Dear Parents and Friends of Steyn City School

We certainly have reached the end of this term in style! The Barnyard evenings were testimony to the superb standard of music at our school, as well as the extraordinary involvement of our students, the talent of our staff, and the support of our parents. This is replicated in every single area of the school, so my thanks go to all for allowing us to reach beyond and to do so often and with such joy.

Our school has seen extraordinary growth over the past eighteen months and we have been hard at work interviewing for new staff as we prepare to open the new College buildings and welcome new cohorts of Grade 000s and Grade 8s next year. We are now very close to completing this process and I am delighted to announce the appointment of several new teachers, as well as internal promotion appointments that have been necessitated by the success of our school. While we have not completed all appointments, the vast majority are signed and sealed and details of these follow.

Mr Regan Nicholas is the current Senior Deputy Head at Dainfern College, where he has served for many years and with great distinction, and will be joining us in the same capacity as the immediate Deputy to Ms Glover, who will head the College. Mr Nicholas is a History teacher of note, with many years of Matric experience behind him, and will also be joining our History Department.

Mr Barry Andrews, currently the Deputy Head at Grayston Preparatory School and formerly from Clifton School in Durban, will take on a similar role in the Preparatory School and will deputize for me. He is a distinguished sports coach, having coached a number of sports at First Team level, and is also a talented musician. He will be teaching in the Humanities Department.

Ms van der Merwe is well known to us as our inspirational Head of History and will continue in this role, while also moving to the position of Deputy Head of Pastoral Care and Wellness for the whole school. She will be supported in the College by Ms Farhana Akbar, who joins us from The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls as the School Counsellor and Head of Life Orientation. Mr Marc Abbott, now the Head of Social Sciences at Dainfern Preparatory School and previously from Redhill School, will serve as the Director of Pastoral Care in the Senior Preparatory Phase, while teaching English to our Senior Prep classes and making a significant impact on our sports fields. Ms Brooke will continue to teach Grade 2 next year but will also serve as the Director of Pastoral Care and Support in the EYC and Foundation Phase.

Ms Tasnim Abed joins us as the Deputy Head of Academics for the whole school, having worked at Future Nation Schools as a Lead Teacher in curriculum implementation and design and previously at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls where she was the IB Head of Commerce, Humanities, and Technology. Ms Abed is an experienced IEB and IB teacher who brings a wealth of experience in project-based learning. She will also teach Accounting in the College. Mr Purdon will take up the position of Director of Academic Administration in the College and will be joined in this role in the Preparatory School by Ms Kerry Muddiman, who is currently teaching at Rivonia Primary School, having moved back to Johannesburg from Durban, where she was a Head of Grade and Subject Head at Clifton School. Mr Purdon will continue to run the Commerce Department in the College and Ms Muddiman will join our Mathematics Department and bring her experience of NumberSense to our school. Ms Hulme continues to be the Head of Mathematics in the College and will take on the role of Director of Academic Innovation

there, while Ms Cosslett heads our Grade 4 team in 2020 and will be the Preparatory School Director of Academic Innovation.

Technology and technological innovation play a major role in all that we do at Steyn City School. Mr Hampton-Cole has been appointed as the Deputy Head in charge of Innovation and Technology for the whole school and will be supported in the Preparatory School by Ms Viviers as the Director of Technological Innovation in The Hive, where the excitement will continue to grow, and Mr Tsotetsi, as the Director of eLearning, with a focus on technology in the classroom – an area that is at the heart of his research at a post-graduate level. He will continue to head IsiZulu in the Preparatory School.

Other promotion posts include the appointment of Mr Rudman as the Deputy Head in charge of the school Co-Curricular programme and Ms Jeffrey as Deputy Head in charge of the EYC and Foundation Phase.

In the College, Ms Anchen Muller, who joins us from St Peter's College, will be heading the newly established Engineering, Graphics, and Design Department, and Ms Rachel Naidoo, who is currently head of the Life Sciences Department at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls, will join us in the same role as Head of Department for Life Sciences. Ms Karin Theron, previously Head of French at Redhill School, will be heading up The Hub (the more adult version of The Hive) and Mr Kieran Duncan, currently a senior English teacher at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls, will be joining our English Department. Ms Tracy Bosman, currently teaching at Redhill School, will be a welcome addition to the Mathematics Department and, as mentioned below, Ms Paynter will be rejoining our Afrikaans Department.

In the Preparatory School, the addition of a third class in all grades but Grades 5 and 7, as well as the fact that some teachers will be moving across to the College, means that we have increased our teaching complement significantly. Ms Rozaan Daniel, currently at King David and formerly at Dainfern College will head up our Visual Arts Department and Ms Rozanne Zwarts will join us from Southdowns College to head our Afrikaans Department. I shall be returning to the Dramatic Arts Department in the Senior Prep. Ms Jo-Anne Pieters, presently at Crawford Sandton, and Ms Gillian Wagemaker from Pinnacle College have been appointed in the Foundation Phase. Ms Eloise Claassen will be joining us from Bryandale Primary School in our Afrikaans and Natural Sciences Department and will be adding to the Scientific curriculum enjoyed by our Foundation Phase, as well as contributing her significant coaching skills to our Sports Department. Ms Nelisiwe Phakathi joins the IsiZulu Department from Grayston Preparatory School and will focus her attention on the Foundation Phase and the EYC, with a real knowledge of technology to add to our children's experiences. Our Grade 4 team will be enhanced by the appointments of Ms Moyo, who is already working closely with Ms Cosslett, and Mr Justin Radloff, who will be moving to Johannesburg from the Eastern Cape, where he has taught at Kidd's Beach Primary School and George Randell Primary School and also brings his sporting experience to our fields. Queen Pippa will be joined in the Music Department by Ms Juliette de Reuck, who heads Music and Drama at Maragon School - Avianto at present. She will focus on the Foundation Phase and EYC classes and join Queen Pippa in continuing our vibrant musical tradition.

These are exciting times and I am delighted that we shall be joined by such experienced and talented teachers. This is and will be an extraordinary team! I shall continue to keep you informed as we finalize our staffing complement for 2020.

At the end of this term, we said farewell to Ms Paynter, who has acted as a locum Afrikaans teacher in our College while Ms Liebenberg has been on maternity leave. This is but a short farewell, as Ms Paynter will be rejoining our Afrikaans Department next year. We thank her for her energy, perspective, humour, and experience and bid her tot siens until January. Mr Bhengu leaves us to take up a promotion post and we thank him for being a role model to our senior students in the Preparatory School and for providing them with unlimited humour and wisdom. We wish him nothing but success in his new career at AdvTech.

It is with great regret that I announce the resignation of Ms Jones from the Preparatory School. She and her husband are looking for opportunities abroad and this means she can no longer commit to our school. We shall say our farewells at the end of the year but her stay has been all too short. Her position as Head

of Mathematics in the Preparatory School will be filled by Ms Marisa Iturralde, who heads the subject at Southdowns College at present and is a leading authority on the NumberSense curriculum.

Our first ever international tour departs for Europe on Sunday. We wish Ms Hulme, Ms Naidu, and all of the students who are embarking on this exciting venture a safe and happy journey. We look forward to following Rhetabile our Roving Rhino!

And so we reach the time for rest and reflection. We wish our Muslim families Eid Mubarak as they celebrate Eid-al-Adha over the holidays. May you all have a more than well-deserved break and return refreshed and ready for the final term of the year. Thank you for your support and your energy. This is a very special place in which to work!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Mitchell".

BRIAN MITCHELL
HEADMASTER