



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

ST MARY'S NEWS



Tel: 011 531 1800 | smsenior@stmary.co.za | www.stmaryschool.co.za

11 September 2020



The fascination of reading – please see page 3 for *Sharing Stories – celebrating Literacy and Heritage*

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

I have given much thought to how best to describe the atmosphere on campus after the return to school this term. Nothing seems adequate. There is little doubt that the girls, teachers and support staff feel the tension of social distancing but at the same time there is a sense of joy in being together and sharing in the daily effort of creating a place of effective learning.

The pandemic, and its far-reaching effects, have given us all an experience vastly different from anything we might have imagined. Education, we now realise, is comfortable in our own homes. Online learning may even be the preferred choice from now on for some families. What the return to a social community highlights, however, are the advantages of living, working and studying in community. While some aspects of education may be enabled through technology, our social and emotional selves are developed, nurtured and refined through our interaction with others.

Even though the academic offering on campus is vibrant, many in our community are missing their participation in the co-curricular programme. We will provide more information about these activities in the coming weeks. What we have gained is time to immerse ourselves in the themes of our country's calendar. August and September in South Africa present us with the thematic concerns of women, literacy and heritage. Together - parents, girls and teachers – we are exploring

the issues pertinent to our daughters' well-being, now and in the future. Through the messages, presentations and tasks of the coming weeks, we look forward to exploring and enriching the hidden curriculum at school, and urge you to engage in meaningful, rewarding conversations and reflections with your daughters.

Please consult the school app for detailed communication about our community project of literacy and heritage for your participation and enjoyment.

You would have received the letter about Robynne Dunkley's change of role in 2021. I am pleased to announce the appointment of Lauren Howden as deputy head of academics in the Junior School. Lauren has been head of curriculum development in the Junior School for almost two years; she teaches English in the Senior Primary and, more recently has introduced the Discussions for Change module to the girls from Grades 4 to 7. I look forward to the insight and rigour that Lauren's particular strengths and wide range of teaching experience will bring to the executive team. Other staff changes includes saying farewell to Christi Lawless who has taught in the Senior Primary for 16 years and welcoming Dani Cooper as a teacher in the Senior School history department.

DEANNE KING
HEAD OF SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Saturday 12 September this year heralds the inaugural celebration of Stephen Biko as a "Martyr of Hope", in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA). Steve Biko has become known as the father of the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM) in South Africa, and served as the founding president of the South African Student Organisation (SASO).

Biko sought to raise what he termed "Black Consciousness", the aim of which is to:

make the black man come to himself; to pump back life into his empty shell; to infuse him with pride and dignity, to remind him of his complicity in the crime of allowing himself to be misused and therefore letting evil reign supreme in the country of his birth (Biko, 2004, p. 31).

Biko was critical of the extent to which Christianity had perpetuated black people's spiritual poverty, which is the belief that one is subservient to white people. Biko also saw in Christianity, particularly in Black Theology (he was familiar with the work of the Revd James Cone in the USA) the potential to raise Black Consciousness. To this end, Biko urged that those who preach "must rather preach that it is a sin to allow oneself to be oppressed. The bible must continually be shown to have something to say to the black man to keep him going in his long journey towards realisation of the self" (p. 34).

Biko was detained without trial in 1977, and died in police custody that year, having suffered brutality at the hands of the police. The

title, "Martyr of Hope", derives from the title of the memoir of Fr Aelred Stubbs, C.R., who served as priest and friend to Biko. Fr Stubbs concludes his memoir with these words:

Steve died to give an unbreakable substance to the hope he had already implanted in our breasts, the hope of freedom in South Africa. That is what he lived for; in fact one can truly say that is what he lived. He was himself a living embodiment of the hope he proclaimed by word and deed. That is why I call this little personal memoir 'Martyr of Hope'. Martyr means witness [...] The Church of the province of South Africa, in which he was baptised and which (largely because of respect for his mother's faith) he never repudiated, this Anglican church does not have the right at present to claim him as its martyr. 'He was too big for the Church', Lawrence Zulu Bishop of Zululand, remarked to me after Steve's death. And that about sums it up!" (Biko, 2004, p. 243).

The responsibility of the Church and of those who are followers of Christ to heed Biko's words regarding the role of Christianity in SA, is pertinent still, today.

Lord of the Cross,
you taught us in the life of your servant Bantu Stephen Biko
that it was better to die for an idea that shall live
than to live for an idea that will die,
Grant us the faith to take up our Cross daily and to follow Christ;
Who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and
forever.
Amen

CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN

DEBATING

The St Mary's debating teams participated in two competitions over the August holidays: Pan-African Schools' Debating Council Virtual Constitutional Hill Championships and SACEE Championships.

PASDC ConHill Championships results:

St Mary's Junior team comprised of Dalila Spinazze, Tyla Promnick, Anna Shaw, Danika Neuhoff and Francesca Lewitton won the tournament. Some of our girls from both divisions ranked in the top ten.

Junior top ten speakers:

6th: Tyla Promnick
3rd: Danika Neuhoff
2nd: Dalila Spinazze
1st: Franscesca Lewitton

Senior top ten speakers:

9th: Nyasha Mazarura
8th: Folasade Adebule

Please click here to view the final debate of the PASDC ConHill competition which our junior team won against Sacred Heart College: <https://youtu.be/9FM94sT-rjE>

SACEE Championships:

Unfortunately, our teams were knocked out in the semi-finals but some of our girls ranked in the top ten speakers for both divisions.

Junior top ten speakers:

10th: Dalila Spinazze
6th: Hayley Laithwaite
4th: Danika Neuhoff
1st: Franscesca Lewitton

Senior top ten speakers:

6th: Nyasha Mazarura
2nd: Folasade Adebule

SEIPATI MOHAPI
HEAD OF DEBATING

HOPE COMMITTEE

Sharing Stories - celebrating Literacy and Heritage

Why?

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's powerful Ted Talk on the Single Story has been circulating since 2009 with over 23 million views. If you haven't heard it, you're missing out. It is in this talk that Adichie advocates - in her extraordinary way with words - for multiple stories from a range of perspectives. She explains the danger of a single story which she says, "creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story." When you read a story, you get the chance to step into someone else's shoes, feel their feelings, and know their thoughts. You are exposed to a viewing point which is some distance from your own. It is in this act that we find each other with renewed understanding, and we get to experience the abundance that comes from diversity.

The purpose of the Sharing Stories campaign, which was initiated by the HOPE committee with the PTA, is to spend a month engaged in the act of sharing stories which celebrate our enormously rich and diverse heritage.

How will it work?

The HOPE committee has worked closely with the school's language departments – both Junior and Senior Schools - to compile a list of books with wide appeal. You will find narratives that take readers beyond Adichie's "single story." If you'd like to participate, you will find all the details on the St Mary's App under "Sharing stories." Loaded onto the app are book lists for all ages. How about reading a book with your children that tackles topics you've haven't typically spoken about as a family? What about reading a book in isiZulu or Sesotho and having a friend translate for you? You will also find a fantastic selection of adult books in various genres too.

Let us know

Tell us about the books you've read. What made you think? How did you feel? Send your comments, ideas and feedback to us to: 084 606 4565. We'd love to hear from you.

The campaign will run over the course of the month leading up to Heritage Day. It will not end there. Sharing stories may just take on another form.

"Here's the story. It starts at the end." Ali Smith

The HOPE committee
Hearing Other People's Experiences
hope@stmary.co.za

THE CLARE ROSSOUW MEDIA CENTRE IN 2020

I had so many exciting author visits, shows and book fairs lined up for 2020.

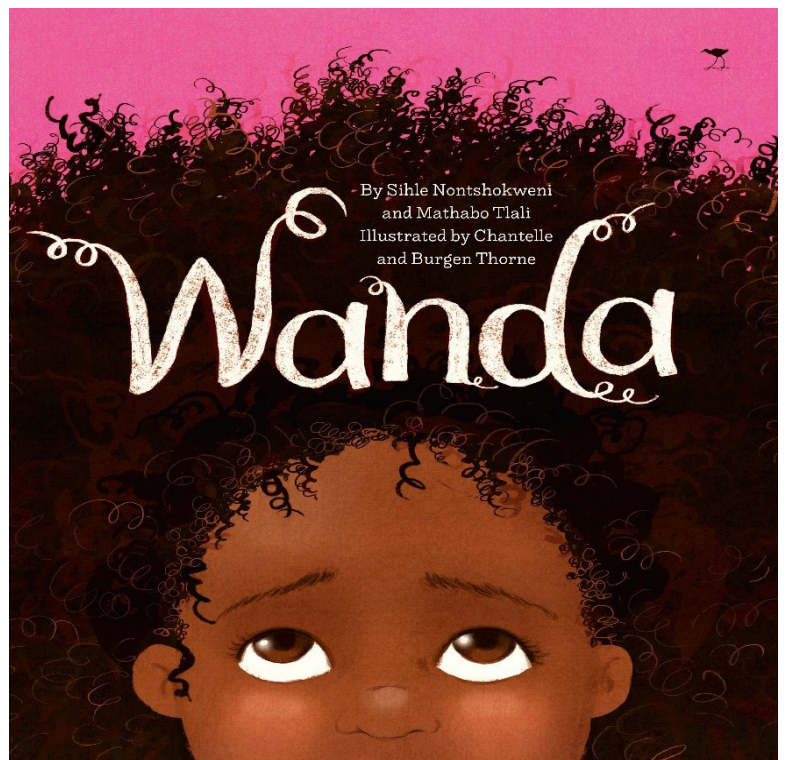
Luckily Lori-Ann Preston's visit was scheduled just before the national lockdown and we were one of only two schools to host her.

Sadly, we missed out on Sihle Nontshokweni and Mathabo Tlali (authors of the book *Wanda*) who were scheduled to visit us in April; the Hooked on Books crew also scheduled for April; Books2You book fair in May; and Christopher Lloyd in September.

But luckily for us some people are very creative, and we will be hosting a virtual book fair next week from Wednesday 16 to Friday 18 September.

Details will be sent out at the beginning of the week or you can find them on the app under the headings Sharing stories / Virtual book fair.

ROBYNNE DUNKLEY
JUNIOR SCHOOL DEPUTY HEADMISTRESS





Observational drawing and painting of pansies



Back to school!

GRADE 0



First week back



Spring Day crowns



Playing in the garden



Divinity with Revd Mabin-Krige

GRADE 4

The Grade 4 girls are learning about alliteration - they could use their name or a topic to construct a sentence.

Atheerah's animals from Antarctica are amazing and awesome and now arrive in Africa.

Micaela, the mean, magical, munchkin made marmalade and mauve moose.

Rachel the rough rabbit can run, write and read.

Zoe the zebra went to see her zoopy friends in Zimbabwe or Zambia in the zoos.

Isabella the incredible iguana is incredibly small and the incredible iguana is incredibly big.

Izzy the iguana sat on an insect in an icy cold igloo.

Lesego, the lovely girl, ate some liquorice and picked some lilies and lilac.

About a teacher:

- The teacher teaches terrible trustless twins Timothy and Tommy
- The terrific teacher tells the students to learn a terrific language

About a dog:

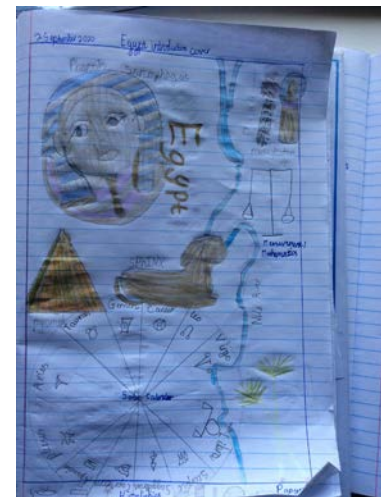
- The daring dog digs the dirty dagger
- The dangerous dog dragged the dead duck through the damp dust

About a pupil:

- The pretty pupil Penelope asks politely to put her books in her pigeonhole
- The perfect pupil pursued her perfect passion for painting pots

GRADE 5

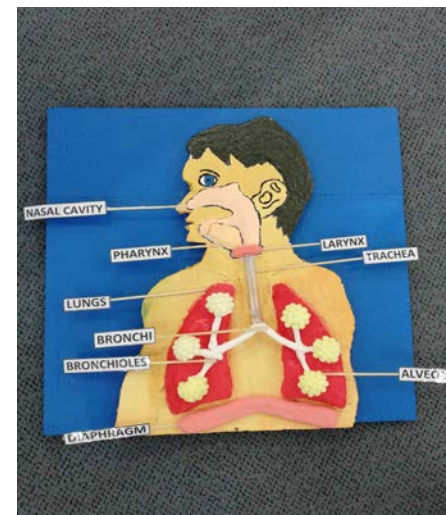
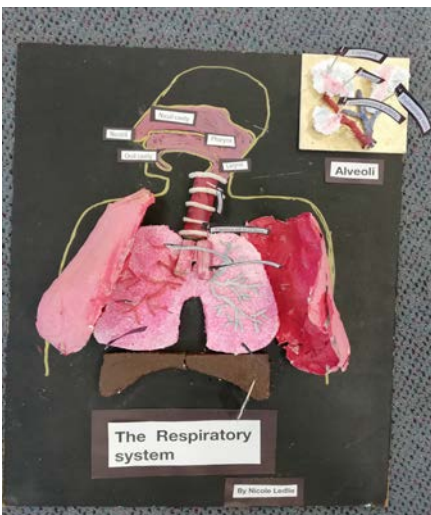
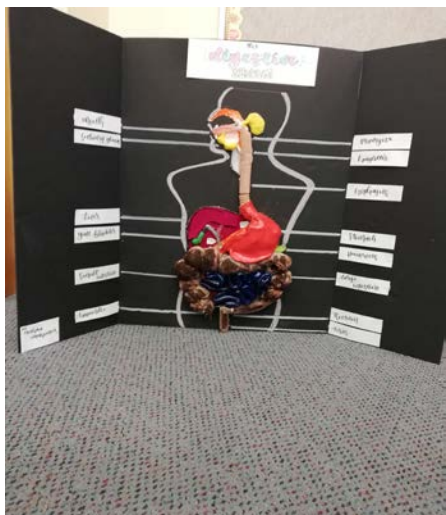
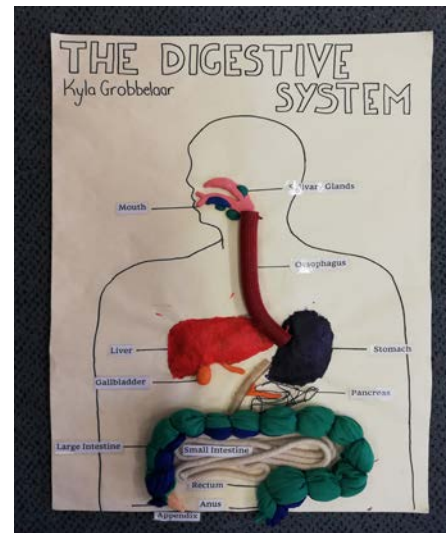
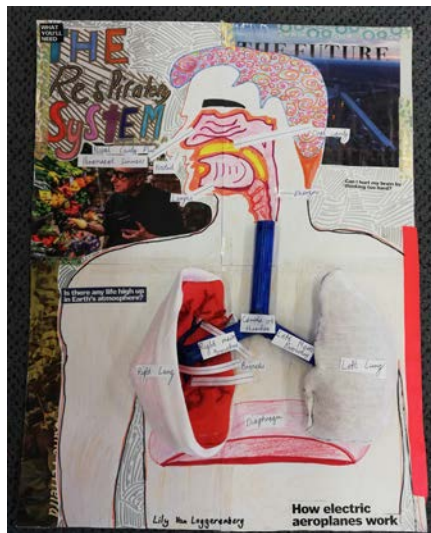
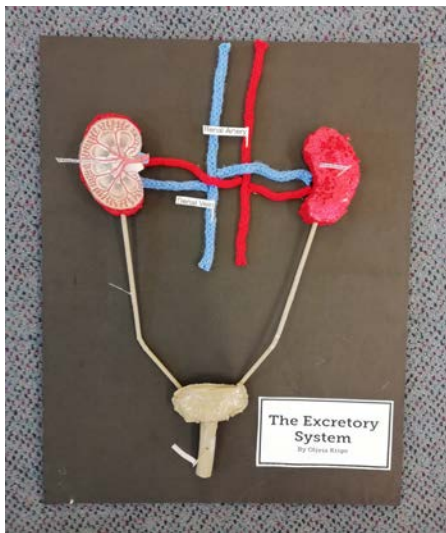
The Grade 5 girls began the term with a new module, Egypt, by watching a video. They were given instructions to find specific information which they had to depict on their front pages.



GRADE 7

The Grade 7 girls learnt all about the circulatory system. They then had to choose another system and complete a task. The task comprised of two parts: a presentation and a model. Here, and on the following page, are pictures of some of the models the girls made.





KPMG FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAMME

KPMG is an international Audit, Tax and Advisory firm with a global footprint in 147 countries.

KPMG invited aspiring chartered accountants and business minded individuals to see what their future career could look like. Future Leaders Programme exposes Grade 11 and Grade 12s to bursary and graduate opportunities, as well as the KPMG culture.

The Future Leaders programme afforded selected students, including myself, the opportunity to engage with diverse individuals in the accounting sphere. I thoroughly enjoyed the programme as it provided me with a lot more insight into what a career as a chartered accountant entails. The panellists explained that a chartered accountant qualification opens up multiple other opportunities. The most interesting part of the webinar was when Jon-Jon Jenks, a trainee accountant doing his articles at KPMG, told us about his university experiences and the transition to doing his articles. There were also many black female chartered accountants on the panel which inspired me greatly. Overall, the programme was extremely informative and beneficial.

KUTLOANO SHUENYANE
FORM IV



ROWING



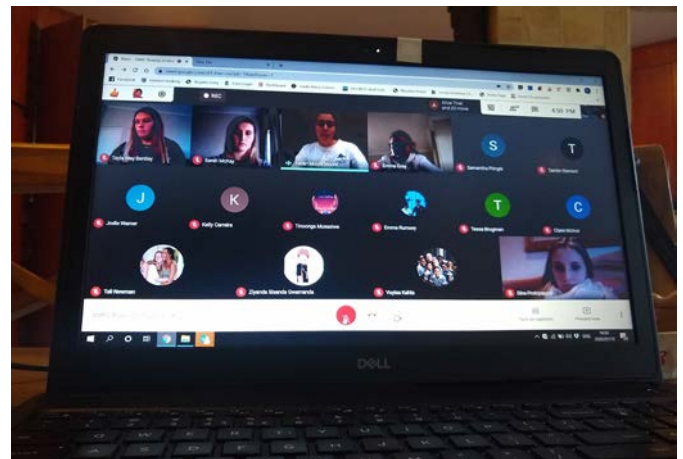
Rowers taking on the Westcliff steps!

After a successful South African Schools' Rowing Championship with a number of phenomenal achievements from the girls and a restful but productive off-season, the St Mary's rowing club is ready to enter the new 2020-2021 season. Although this season faces a number of challenges, the rowers and coaches are in high spirits and enthusiastic about what the new season holds.

Covid-19 has impacted every aspect of our lives and our rowing club is no exception. However, the coaches and the girls have responded quickly, enthusiastically and professionally to the challenge. The Term II rowing off-season consisted of weekly online training sessions and seminars from past captains and guest speakers which ensured that the girls enter this season strong and with a growing passion for the sport. Another new experience for the rowing club was the rowing picnic that replaced the annual dinner at the end of each season. The picnic allowed the club to recognise individuals for their efforts, hear heartfelt and inspirational speeches as well as say a difficult goodbye to our matrics.

The new season began with an online rowing camp which, although unconventional, still mirrored the same team bonding and effective training that happens on our regular camps at Bronkhorstpruit. The online camp began with a number of guest speakers such as South African rowing Olympic medalist Kirsten MacDonald and South African Olympic coxswain, Willie Morgan. Our own coaches also talked about the legacy of our club and breaking down the different aspects of the sport such as the stroke, nutrition, recovery, mental toughness and well-being. The girls then separated into their different age-groups and began virtual training which consisted of many at-home ergo sessions, body weights, core strengthening and runs.

One of the best aspects of the online camp was the team challenges. Each team consisted of a number of girls from across age-groups and each day a new challenge was assigned. The challenging but



Online rowing camp

exciting tasks had the rowers enthusiastic to succeed, driven by their competitive nature! Challenges included teams "climbing Mount Mafadi" using stairs and making videos that allowed each individual to reflect on what rowing and her teammates mean to her.

The online camp left the club ready to approach the new season and it also created an amazing team atmosphere. We are excited to see what the new season has in store and are eager to be back on the water and safely training together soon.

The St Mary's rowers are ready to embrace the quote for this season chosen by our dedicated new captains which is: "With pride, with passion".

**TAMLIN KLEMENT
FORM III**

TENNIS

Last Sunday, Moroesi Tudane participated in an under 14 Pro Kennex tournament which was held at the Italian Club in Bedfordview. Moroesi played four matches at an average of 1.5 hours per match and won the tournament. This tournament counts towards a UTR ranking which is a universal tennis rating system used worldwide. Well done Moroesi and keep up the excellent work!

RENE PLANT
HEAD OF TENNIS



SQUASH

League results

St Mary's squash girls once again excelled in the squash league during Term I. Although no prizegiving was held, all certificates were sent through to the school.

Winners of league

U19A
U19B
U19C
U19D team 1
U16A
U15A

Runners up of league

U19D team 2
U16B
U14A

St Mary's again won the Castle Aggregate Trophy. Well done, girls!

Virtual IPT

Tayla Rohana U16A, Sasha Steyn U16B and Megan Saunders U14A were selected for the various IPT virtual teams. Well done girls - keep up the hard work.



Tayla Rohana, Sasha Steyn and Megan Saunders

To Megan Beart (captain 2019/2020), Alexia Basslian and Rebecca Sinner (vice captains 2019/2020) many thanks for your invaluable assistance during the squash season. I wish all the matrics good luck for prelims and finals and wish you all the very best for your future.

JENNIFER SAWYER
HEAD OF SQUASH

PUBLIC SPEAKING

JUNIOR BEST SPEAKER COMPETITION

FORM I and FORM II

DATE: Wednesday 16 September 2020

TIME: 18h00 for 18h30

VENUE: The Wantage auditorium

TOPIC: A three-minute speech inspired by a line from an African poem.

If parents wish to view this event, please email: Jessica.bucher@stmary.co.za



SENIOR BEST SPEAKER COMPETITION

FORM III and FORM IV

DATE: Monday 14 September 2020

TIME: 18h00 for 18h30

VENUE: The Wantage auditorium

TOPIC: A four-minute speech inspired by a seriously funny oxymoron.

If parents wish to view this event, please email: Jessica.bucher@stmary.co.za



SCHOOL-DAYS AND ST MARY'S SCHOOL WAVERLEY

Dear St Mary's community

Here is an easy way we're using to support our school during these difficult times.

With *School-Days* you can raise funds for our school when you shop at School-Days' earn partners like Dis-Chem and NetFlorist (and many more), and when you fill up at Shell using your digital Shell T card (you'll find it on the School-Days app).

You'll also benefit from exclusive offers and discounts. We can do this! One parent, one class, one grade at a time!

Getting started:

1. Join School-Days when you download the School-Days app: www.edu.co.za/app
2. Select our school as your beneficiary
3. Start supporting
4. Track your contributions and transactions.

More info:

[www.schooldays.co.za](http://www schooldays.co.za)

New tuck shop system

Please follow the instructions found under Resources / Tuck shop on the St Mary's app to set up your daughter's tuck shop account.

All future deposits should be made into the following bank account:

Allxs Media Pty Ltd
 Nedbank
 Account number: 1160993106
 Reference: Your daughter's account number

For any queries, please contact ALLXS at

- support@allxsmedia.com
- accounts@allxsmedia.com
- WhatsApp line at 066 472 8657
- or on the helpdesk line at 011 201 2025

CLUB 100

Congratulations to the following Club 100 winners for Term III 2020:

100%	Keira Gordon-Bennett	Grade 1
20%	Erin Kersten	Form IV
10%	Kesha Bruinette	Form II



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“Why is it important for girls at a leading African school like St Mary’s to have a decolonised education?”

An initiative of the PBG Forum with the support of the HOPE Committee.

**NOZIZWE VUNDLA
MODERATOR**



**LAUREN HOWDEN CROSS
PANELIST**



**SIPHOSIHLÉ NKOSAZANA MBULI
PANELIST**



**XOLISA GUZULA
PANELIST**



**GRACE A. MUSILA
PANELIST**



**FELICIA TOBIAS
PANELIST**



**Tuesday 15 September
18h00 – 19h30**

[Click here for the meeting](#)

For further information, including panellist details, please go to the St Mary's app / Whole School notices / Webinar – Why it is important for girls at a leading African school like St Mary's to have a decolonised education