

31 JANUARY 2023

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St Mary's 135<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration last Wednesday: A wonderful evening celebrating the oldest school in Johannesburg!

## FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

Thank you to our community for supporting our school and Foundation at the 135<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

We started our school year in chapel with girls, parents and staff - remembering where our strength comes from; then we celebrated the class of 2022's excellent matric results; the sports and cultural programmes are in full swing and have offered us affirmation; we gathered to support the Foundation in ensuring that our independent, Anglican school for girls will survive long into the future.

Ros Howell addressed the gathering on Wednesday evening at the 135<sup>th</sup> celebration with a memorable message about what makes St Mary's School special and the significance of its contribution to education. The influence that the school has had on many women's lives is unquantifiable - women who when they left our school went on to influence, to nurture, to lead and disrupt society for the better. These women, our alumni, are the legacy of St Mary's School.

Ros Howell has served St Mary's with devotion and love for 36 years. She has been an anchor in the school for many generations of girls, their families and members of staff. Her energy, enthusiasm and belief in the potential of each child make her a leader beyond comparison. Ros will retire from her position as senior deputy head in the school at the end of the year but she will continue to serve St Mary's School in other capacities to ensure that St Mary's is a place of possibility for all children.

As is the ebb and flow of life, I have to announce that Mrs Megan Devine and Mr Thabo Kunutu will leave St Mary's at the end of the term. Mrs Devine is taking up a position at St John's College and Mr Kunutu is leaving teaching to run his business fulltime. I thank them for their dedicated service and contribution to our school.

**DEANNE KING**  
HEAD OF SCHOOL

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

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In his writing, St Paul refers to sports activity to highlight the spirit of courage demanded by the Christian life. In 1 Corinthians 9:24-26, the metaphor is extended from running to other games, such as boxing, to make the point that winning a prize requires discipline, self-control, and co-ordinated activity.

<sup>24</sup> Surely you know that many runners take part in a race, but only one of them wins the prize. Run, then, in such a way as to win the prize. <sup>25</sup> Every athlete in training submits to strict discipline, in order to be crowned with a wreath that will not last; but we do it for one that will last forever. <sup>26</sup> That is why I run straight for the finish line; that is why I am like a boxer who does not waste his punches. <sup>27</sup> I harden my body with blows and bring it under complete control, to keep myself from being disqualified after having called others to the contest (1 Corinthians 9:24-26, GNT).

For the people of Corinth, this message would have resonated. They were part of the Greek world and familiar with Greek literature and philosophy. In the Greek education system, sports were of educative and formative value. They (the ancient Greeks) asked one simple question: how will this type of training help me develop the virtues to live a good life? The training was then structured in such a way that it would help a person build excellence of character, endurance, courage, and strength of will.

Paul transformed the Greek view of learning by rooting the formation of human character in the image of Jesus. Jesus, who in his sacred humanity so often touched others through his own body with a gaze, an embrace, or the healing touch of his hands, is the reason why our dancing, our playing, and our training have value. In placing our hand on the back of a friend getting ready to play a sport and in speaking a word of encouragement to her, we are touching a mystery that finds its ultimate meaning in the mystery of Jesus Christ himself, true God and true man (Burgis 2015), thus, showing how all human actions can be redemptive.

We extend our prayers to Lunathi Mdlungu's family and friends as they mourn her passing. May you find peace and comfort in this time of loss.

*May Lunathi's soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

**REVD RAKGADI KHOBO**  
CHAPLAIN

## MEET THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

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Wendy Ievers  
HoD: BA Ed (UPE)



Jenny Wilford  
BCom Hons (Wits), PGCE (RAU)



# FROM THE LIBRARY

## The purpose of your school library

Schools exist to educate children and young people. Our aim at St Mary's is to provide resources to directly support the curriculum. The library staff are here to teach information and critical literacy skills to become independent learners. The library staff will make it as easy as possible to make users aware of resources, whether that is by teaching retrieval skills in subject-related lessons or by giving one-on-one instruction in response to an enquiry.

In a curated collection tailored not only to the curriculum in any school, but also to the age and abilities of the student community and the school staff, the library offers a greater number and range of material than users would otherwise have access to. These resources can be in any medium (physical books, e-books, audio books, online magazines, journals, articles, news, resources - to name a few!). They may display the material on the shelves, on screens, via bookmarks or in subject guides, printed and digital. An online library management system accessible from anywhere 24/7 enables library staff to make this carefully curated stock available, organised in ways that users can find what they need.

Below are the different areas where the resource centre supports your education:

### Reading for pleasure

We promote reading for pleasure via a collection of books and e-books. Our catalogue is designed not only to increase literacy levels but also for your enjoyment. Your library staff will point you to titles tailored for your reading needs.

### Research

Our research library has had tremendous growth over the years. The research library has been supplemented with online research databases. The library staff can assist you with your research journey. The online databases consist of NewsBank - a newspaper database with resources from around the world including South African newspapers; Britannica - online encyclopedias; J-Stor - peer reviewed open access articles. These are all curated on one platform to give a federated search option.

### Shared space

Our school library is a space that extends to a social and cultural place to meet. It is a sanctuary free from judgement. Students can select their own reading choices.

### Our aim

Our aim is to prepare girls for university. We need to teach our young people how to find information when they need to know. Our goal is to develop information literate students who are responsible with ethical values for society. According to IFLA, information literate students are competent self-directed learners who are aware of their information needs. They display confidence in their ability to solve problems. They know how to locate relevant and reliable information. (*IFLA School Library Guidelines, IFLA, p7*)

In conclusion, there are assorted reasons to have a school library. When supported, the difference can be significant. The Wantage resource centre does not sit within a single subject or year group, but can be felt across our campus. It is a space that forms part of the heart of the school. In the very fabric of the school.

**OLIVIA JOHNSTONE**  
SENIOR SCHOOL LIBRARIAN



## SPACE EXPLORATION

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Before diving into the first project of the year, I would like to take a minute to introduce you to Self-eSTEAM. We are a team of passionate educators who represent a range of subjects and believe fervently in the value of cross-curricular endeavours and establishing connections. Our inquiry-based learning is informed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals linking the learning to real-world issues. Our mission is to make learning relevant and to challenge students to think beyond the content. We are determined to find ways to ignite a curiosity about our world, to think critically, to evaluate successes and failures, and to use every opportunity to learn and grow.

The announcement of the South African National Space Agency's intention to set up a communication station in Matjiesfontein sparked an interesting debate. With so many variables associated with space exploration, the team realised this was a wonderful springboard for the Form IIs to grapple with the impact and possibilities of a 'Moon to Mars' mission. The students will have the opportunity to learn about the demands of human life and dare to conceive what a colony on Mars might look like. They will also, of course, be able to debate the ethical issues raised from the audacious move. Is there even a place for space exploration when Earth has so many challenges? Does human life deserve a second chance?

The range and scope of the project is astounding and so we hope to harness many cross-curricular opportunities. From a science and health perspective through to budget considerations and communication, the students will be able to practise research skills as well as data collection and analysis.

The end point will be a *Dragon's Den*-inspired pitch to a panel of experts, as well as to parents.

If you have any connections in the community or if you yourself feel that you could enhance the project, please do reach out to us. You can email [jane.mcmurray@stmary.co.za](mailto:jane.mcmurray@stmary.co.za)

**JANE MCMURRAY**  
TEACHER IN-CHARGE

## MUSIC

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We congratulate Heather Welchman and Retsegofaditswe Seobi who achieved a well-deserved Merit result in The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music performance examination.



Heather Welchman (FIV) - awarded the ABRSM Music Performance Grade 5 certificate in alto saxophone.



Retsegofaditswe Seobi (FIII) - awarded ABRSM Music Performance Grade 4 certificate in alto saxophone.

**DUDLEY TROLLOPE**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

# FROM THE VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

## Matric Art: Big Ideas

*Art originates in play, in improvisation, experiment, and fantasy; it remains forever, in its deepest instincts, playful and spontaneous, an exercise of the imagination analogous to the exercising of the physical body to no purpose other than ecstatic release.* Joyce Carol Oates

The matric art students have started the year off by getting creative. They were each given a large white project board to fill with inspirational artists, images, experimentation, and ideas to lay a foundation for their upcoming practical for the year. They have been experimenting with multiple media, such as ink, pastels, charcoal, collage and pencil and have created a range of exciting compositions.

This will allow them to work freely to begin with, and hopefully encounter pleasing 'art accidents' along the way. When asked to reflect on the process, these are some of the comments the matrics had to say:

"I really liked the freedom. Not having to think about what you were doing and just putting ideas down was helpful."

"Experimenting with different mediums helped us to see what we work best in and to be creatively free."

"It was a lot of fun. I liked that there was no set standard or no set medium of what needed to be done."

**DANIELLE MOWATT**  
HOD: VISUAL ARTS





## FORM I CAMP

The Form Is departed bright and early for camp on Tuesday 17 January with much excitement. Although it was very hot, we had lots of fun, made new friends and bonded as a Form. Some of the most exciting activities included ziplining across a river, playing capture the flag at sunset and completing a mudstacle course as a team while carrying a log which everyone had to name. Ours was called "Loggy!" One of the highlights of camp was the potjie competition where our cooking skills were put to the test! In our chill-time, we swam in the pool to cool down and we shared snacks that we bought from the tuck shop.

We also participated in many team building activities such as trying to balance on an unstable platform as a team, working a strategy to get three tyres off a very tall pole as well as playing a volleyball-type game called "Nuk-em". These activities taught us about the importance of teamwork and communication, which will be very valuable as we go on our journey through senior school.

Thank you so much to the camp counsellors and to Ms Quix, Mrs Frost, Mev van Zyl, Madame Rawlings and Ms Macaulay for being with us on a camp that our Form will always remember.

NICOLE SWINGLER  
FORM I



## DANCE

### Zeinab Kone takes to the stage

Earlier this month, the St Mary's community had the privilege of attending the Pieter Torien Theatre at Monte Casino to see our very own Zeinab Kone (Form III) perform the lead role in the ballet *ABBA - A Cinderella Story*. The show was a joint production between Mzanzi Ballet's Junior Company and the professional dancers of Mzanzi Ballet School. Zeinab enchanted the audience with her graceful plié's, powerful grand Jété's and breathtaking lifts. The many hours of hard work and dedication were evident in every point and position. Head girl, Danika Neuhooff, showed off her free-spirited dance moves as the audience got to join, and as the evening drew to a close we all agreed that what we had witnessed was magical. Well done, Zeinab.



SASHA EHLERS  
HEAD OF CULTURALS

# SPORTS

## TERM I IMPORTANT DATES:

3 - 4 Feb	National Aquatics Festival
3 - 5 Feb	Dave Hodgson Squash Festival (DSG)
8 - 12 Feb	Buffalo Rowing Tour
10 - 11 Feb	St Dunstan's Senior Basketball Tournament
10 - 12 Feb	St Stithians U16 Basketball Tournament
17 - 19 Feb	St Mary's Invitational Tennis Festival
18 - 19 Feb	SANESA Equestrian Qualifier 1
18 - 19 Feb	Roedean Water Polo Prestige Cup
24 - 26 Feb	Old Pets Senior Basketball Tournament
23 - 26 Feb	Old Pets Senior Water Polo Tournament
23 - 26 Feb	Shaun Fuchs U15 Water Polo Tournament

1 Mar	Inter-High Diving
2 - 5 Mar	Reef Cup Water Polo Tournament
3 - 5 Mar	SA Rowing Champs
4 Mar	Inter-High Tennis (A and B Teams)
17 - 18 Mar	St Mary's U15 Netball Festival
17 - 18 Mar	Kingsmead U17 Netball Festival
17 - 19 Mar	St Andrew's U16 Festival (Hockey, Netball, Squash)
24 - 26 Mar	St John's (PMB) U14 Hockey Tournament
24 - 26 Mar	Roedean U14 Netball Festival
25 - 26 Mar	SANESA Qualifier 2
30 Mar - 2 April	St Mary's Hockey Festival
30 Mar - 2 April	St Andrew's Netball Festival

Important note: the dates are subject to change.

## SUMMER SPLASH

One of our major aquatics events of the year, Summer Splash, was first held in 2009 to mark the opening of the St Mary's aquatics centre. It has now become an annual event held at St Mary's early in Term I.

This year, the event was held on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 January. The event includes swimming, diving and U16 water polo.

## Swimming

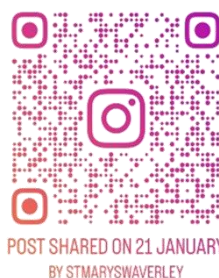
The Summer Splash gala was a very successful one for our swimmers and it was pleasing to see some good times being swum so early in the season.

The uniqueness of the event is that it is a combined junior and senior school gala. This means that certain relay teams include swimmers from U11 to U19 age groups in the same race which really makes for exciting racing.

St Mary's performed consistently well across all age groups. It is this consistency that resulted in the A team winning the gala yet again.

The results from the gala are as follows:

1 St Mary's Waverley A team	319
2 St Andrew's School	266
3 St Stithians Girls' College	255
4 St John's DSG, Pietermaritzburg	225
5 Brescia House School	189
6 Holy Rosary School	161
7 Kingsmead College	153
8 Parktown & Auckland Park Preparatory	141
9 St Mary's School B team	129
10 St Mary's DSG	83



**CINDY BROWN**  
**HEAD OF SWIMMING**



# Water polo

The first day saw a total of 12 games played with an amazing 190 goals scored! Our St Mary's U16 team scored 26 goals in their three matches played and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in their pool beating St Dominic's 9-1 and Kingsmead 12-2 and narrowly losing to Reddam Bedfordview.

Our St Mary's invitational team improved with every match they played and showed great determination and team spirit throughout the festival.

The final result after the cross pool matches and play offs were as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup>	St Stithians
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Roedean
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Reddam Bedfordview
4 <sup>th</sup>	St Mary's
5 <sup>th</sup>	St Dominic's
6 <sup>th</sup>	Parktown
7 <sup>th</sup>	Kingsmead
8 <sup>th</sup>	St Mary's invitational



Well done to all our up-and-coming water polo players who participated. You held the St Mary's flag high, and we will move from strength to strength.



During the December holidays, 15 Senior School girls and seven Junior School girls were selected to represent Central Gauteng (and one representing Eastern Gauteng) to play in the Schools Waterpolo South Africa (SWPSA) Inter-Provincial Tournament that took place in Durban. The tour was preceded by a prestigious capping ceremony where the girls were awarded their Gauteng Colours.

The tournament kicked off with an opening ceremony and was followed by two days of intense group stage games. A total of 10 swimming pools were used, 125 provincial teams entered spanning the five age categories - U19, U16, U15, U14 and U13. The three schools water polo powerhouses - Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Province largely dominated the podium placings; however it was encouraging to see super results from Eastern, Buffalo City and Nelson Mandela Bay among the U13/U14 age categories.

Our girls played with passion and determination and seven of the 14 girls came home with team medals: the U14A Central Gauteng girls winning gold and adding to their 2021 gold medal victory.

All these girls are congratulated and we look forward to an excellent year of St Mary's water polo in 2023.



Amy Smith

Jessica Black

Julia Joseph

Isabella Rajak

Skyla Roberts

Jenna Blaauw

Kathryn Thorburn

**ANKE PIRIE**  
HEAD OF WATER POLO



# DIVING

The Summer Splash diving event was exceptionally successful. Although it is a difficult event in the school diving calendar, as the divers are not afforded a lot of time to relearn their dives after the December holidays, the St Mary's divers managed to retain their reputations as winners of Summer Splash.

As St Mary's is the host school for the event, we enter both an A team and a B team. While the divers compete individually for placing within their age group, Summer Splash is ultimately a team event as their placing within each event affects the overall results of the school.

The final results are as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup>	St Mary's Waverley A	102
2 <sup>nd</sup>	St Stithians Girls' College	89
3 <sup>rd</sup>	St Andrew's School	72
4 <sup>th</sup>	Roedean School	69
5 <sup>th</sup>	Brescia House School	67
6 <sup>th</sup>	Parktown	62
7 <sup>th</sup>	Kingsmead	61
8 <sup>th</sup>	St Mary's B	42
9 <sup>th</sup>	St Dominic's	18



From the 11 to 15 December 2022, Emma Campbell, Kristin Biggs, Keratile Manaka and Zalika Methula competed in National Age groups (NAG) and RSA Cup. NAG is a prestigious event where divers from various provinces compete annually for their diving clubs. NAG and RSA Cup have specific requirements and give the divers an opportunity to compete on 1m springboard, 3m springboard, platform and synchronized diving.

All the divers did exceptionally well and produced some impressive results. I would specifically like to congratulate Keratile Manaka as she received the overall trophy for the U16 age group. This means that she is ranked the number one U16 diver in the country.

From 27 November to 4 December 2022, Zalika Methula and Keratile Manaka represented South Africa at the FINA World Junior Diving Championships which were held in Montreal, Canada.

Zalika competed in U18 on both the 1m and 3m springboards. She placed 30<sup>th</sup> out of 43 divers on the 3m and 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 43 divers on the 1m.

Keratile competed on the 1m springboard in the U16 age group and placed 26<sup>th</sup> out of 30 divers.

We would like to congratulate the girls on this impressive achievement.

**KATE SHEPHERD**  
HEAD OF DIVING



# ROWING

We congratulate the boat race crew who competed in Port Alfred in December 2022. After coming second by 40 seconds in the heats, the crew managed to secure the first-place trophy. It was a truly outstanding performance by the rowers and the cox and very well deserved after all the hard work they had put into getting this result. The support from the St Mary's community over the course of the two days was incredible and the sea of red scattered over the course gave the crew that extra bit of motivation.

The rowing season of 2023 kicked off to an early start beginning with January camp. Camp is an exciting opportunity for new U14s to start rowing and for the rest of the age groups to get back into the training routine. The rowing sessions, runs, ergos and strength training came back into full swing to get the athletes ready for the last half of this season. Camp also consisted of enjoyable club challenges across the age groups such as a triathlon, quiz and ergo challenge. January camp was also an opportunity to train with and get to know the girls' rowing club from Germiston High School who accompanied the St Mary's rowing club to Bronkhorstspuit.

On the 14 January, the Soweto GSRF U14/U15 Regatta took place and on the 21 January, the Parktown GRSF U16/U19 Regatta took place at Roodeplaat Dam. Well done to all the girls who competed.

"Success is not final; failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." - Winston Churchill

**SOPHIA BABAYA**  
**FORM IV**





## TENNIS



The summer term league has started and St Mary's has 48 players competing every week in matches against mostly the AB teams from schools in the Gauteng Central region.

Congratulations to all the players who participated in the U15 and U19 school trials that were held at Ellis Park. All the St Mary's players competed well and gained some valuable pre-season match practice.

Bashali Phatshwane represented the U14 national team from Botswana that participated in the prestigious ITF/Cat Southern African Junior Championships that took place in Harare at the beginning of term. Bashali competed against the top U14 players from Madagascar, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe and gained valuable experience. Well done, Bashali!

Congratulations to Bailey Selvam who placed third in the singles and won the doubles title at the Gauteng East U16 championships. Keep up the good work, Bailey!

**RENÉ PLANT**  
HEAD OF TENNIS

Moroesi Tuoane, Emma van Zyl, Tayla Gibbs, Bailey Selvam, Erin Krüger, Olivia Hاديaris, Kirsten Hاديaris, Bashali Phatshwane

## EQUESTRIAN

The SA Equestrian Youth Championships took place at The Durban Shongweni Club from 10-16 December 2022. This is the most prestigious annual event for all children and junior riders from all over South Africa. Besides individual championships, it also hosts the inter-provincial team competition over the four core equestrian disciplines - Show-Jumping, Dressage, Equitation and Showing.

This year saw an incredible eight St Mary's girls competing individually with four of the eight girls being selected to ride for the various Gauteng junior open teams. It gives us great pleasure to report that all eight of our riders came home with some fantastic results and every single one came home with an award or more. Also, notably no other school was able to achieve such broad and top results in the open championship classes. In the highest level of Equitation (judged on the jumping style of rider) St Mary's was represented by five out of the country's top 30 riders!

The St Mary's equestrian team can be exceptionally proud of their 2022 achievements and we look forward to a super exciting year ahead.



**MELANIE BLAIR**  
EQUESTRIAN CO-ORDINATOR



# IKUSASA LETHU MATRIC RESULTS

St Mary's is extremely proud to announce the matric results for our Ikusasa Lethu matrics of 2022. Our pass rate was 94.5%, with 78% achieving a Bachelor's Degree admission. This is an amazing achievement as the national pass rate for 2022 is 80.1% officially and 54.6% if one counts the learners who dropped out during the course of the year.



Top learner: **Raymond Mogano** achieved 6 distinctions, missing his 7<sup>th</sup> by 1%. He will be studying Actuarial Sciences at Wits this year.



**Vutomi Chantal Baloyi** achieved 5 distinctions (including 99% in Business Studies, and 91% in Accounting). She will be studying a Bachelor of Accounting at UJ this year.



**Nhlengelo Khosa** achieved 4 distinctions with a 79% average. She will be studying a BCom in Business Management at UJ this year.



**Hlanganani Ndlovu** achieved 1 distinction and over 70% in all subjects. He will be studying a BA at UJ.



**Philela Vikwa** achieved 1 distinction in Home Language and marks above 70 % for all other subjects. She will study Computer Sciences at UJ.



**Kelebogile Modiba** improved her marks in Grade 12 and received a distinction in English. All her marks (except Maths 64 %) are above 70 %. She will study Computers Sciences at UJ.

Special mention: **Makgale Bobby Ramperi** achieved 4 distinctions with an average of 78,57%. He will be studying Computer Sciences at UCT.

Other achievement of note: **Tyron Mokoala** improved his Maths mark from 31% at the end of Grade 11 to 69% in his finals.



## ED-ADMIN

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St Mary's uses a school management information system called Ed-Admin to distribute termly school reports and to provide parents with an opportunity to inspect and amend personal information recorded in our database.

Below, please find details as to how to access the Ed-Admin St Mary's parent portal:

- You will require a Parent ID whenever signing into the parent portal. If you are unsure of your Parent ID, please email [portal@stmary.co.za](mailto:portal@stmary.co.za) with both you and your daughter's names and surnames for assistance.
  - To access the St Mary's parent portal, please visit the school website on [www.stmarysschool.co.za](http://www.stmarysschool.co.za) and click on the portal login on the top right of the page.
  - Enter in your Parent ID and choose 'forgot password'. Please ensure that you enter the email address that St Mary's has on record and enter in the CAPTCHA code.
  - You will then receive an email. Once received, click on the link in order to set up your password. Choose a secure password. You will then receive another email to confirm your password has been changed. You can now proceed to log into the portal.
- If you experience problems logging into the secure portal, please contact [portal@stmary.co.za](mailto:portal@stmary.co.za).

## MUSE MORNING

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The St Mary's community is invited to our first Muse Morning of 2023

Date: Tuesday 21 February

Time: 07h15 for a prompt start at 07h30

Venue: Seminar room in The Edge

RSVP: [Lynsay.young@stmary.co.za](mailto:Lynsay.young@stmary.co.za)

Topic: "Shrinking diet culture - building a healthy relationship with food and our bodies"

Speaker: Anele Honono

Anele will be speaking on how to support your child in building a healthy emotional relationship with food. The talk will further guide on when to be concerned about your child's eating habits, the signs to look out for and what you can do to support your child.

About: Anele Honono

Anele is a clinical psychologist with diverse experience in mental health care in public and private health care. From 2015-2020, she worked in ward 1 and 2 at Tara Hospital as one of two permanent psychologists in the eating disorders and adolescent wards.

From 2020-2022, she moved to the Adult Out-patients department, ward 8 - Female biochemical ward, and continued to work in the eating disorders ward.

As of August 2022, she moved to full time private practice, seeing patients from the Oxford Day Clinic as well as her own private practice in Melrose and Auckland Park where she sees adults and adolescents who present with a variety of psychological challenges.

Anele has a keen interest in working with eating disorders and is a director and shareholder at LinkedCare Consortium, a multidisciplinary team that provides mental healthcare services to individuals, families, and organisations - with specialised eating disorders experience.