



Our congratulations are extended to our head girl, Anqi who has been awarded the prestigious Victrix Honorum blazer. Anqi is the fourth girl in St Mary's 131-year history to be awarded this blazer which reflects her honours achievements in academics, culturals and service.

## FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

After a gentle holiday, the return to school into the rigidity of routine may seem rather daunting for some of our girls and their parents. The winter term could be described as challenging as far as cold and dark mornings but it also offers opportunity for more rest and quiet time.

I write this before we go to the polls for the sixth general election of our country's democracy and my hope is that, when you read the newsletter, we shall have experienced another election which underpins the value of our free and equal society. Our girls live in a world where they are bombarded with information, much of which is negative. The need to balance this with fair and positive perspective is necessary if we are to raise them to live well in the future.

It is the ultimate desire of parents that their children are happy and this is a significant goal. I wholeheartedly support parents in this endeavour but, as an individual who places much value on happiness, I am cognisant that it can be elusive.

It is the responsibility of the significant adults in the lives of our girls to encourage them to seek happiness. Life will offer many challenges and, consequently, so will school, but happiness and joy exist around every corner and await discovery. The magic in living is to look for the happiness and to savour the joy. This, parents and teachers, is our responsibility. The demands of life and school may hamper us but let us not be wary of showing our girls that beauty and joy exist in the everyday details of our lives.

Please remember to consult the app for the dates of the parent, pupil and teacher meetings that are scheduled in the coming weeks.

DEANNE KING  
HEAD OF SCHOOL

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

*After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."*

- Matthew 28:1-10 (NRSV)

At our Senior School Eucharists on Tuesday, Athambile Masola (a past St Mary's teacher) shared with us using Matthew 28:1-10 as her text. She linked the role of the women in the Biblical text to the role of two Christian South African women who made an impact on our country: Charlotte Maxeke and Nontsizi Mqgqetho. In the light of Mothers' Day this coming Sunday, it is apt to quote extensively from Athambile's sermon (with her kind permission), to shed light on the lives of two mothers of our nation:

"Like the two Marys [in Matthew 28:1-10], there are two women in South Africa's history whose names are not as famous as they should be. Their names are Charlotte Maxeke and Nontsizi Mqgqetho. We know very little about Nontsizi Mqgqetho's life until she enters the social scene in the 1920s as a poet who wrote in isiXhosa in *Umteteli Wabantu*, a popular newspaper in the 1920s. Her poems were collected over time and in 2007 a book of her poems and translations into English was finally published.

"Charlotte Maxeke is a little more well-known than Nontsizi Mqgqetho. She had a seemingly normal childhood for a black child in the 1800s but her life changed when she met two teachers, Paul Xiniwe and Isaac Wauchope. Both these teachers were influential in Charlotte's life and saw her potential. They were themselves influential characters in South Africa's history. Isaac Wauchope was a writer and Paul Xiniwe was a musician who was involved in the establishment of the African Choir which toured Britain in 1891, performed in front of Queen Victoria, and of which Charlotte Maxeke was a part when she 22 years old. In 1894 she travelled with the choir to America where they performed until the bad financial management of the choir masters caught up with them. It was an

advert in a newspaper which changed Charlotte's life as she was able to stay in America and study at Wilberforce University in Ohio with the help of the African Methodist Episcopal Church which funded her studies. This meant that she became the first black South African woman to get a university degree abroad. This matters because, at the time, in South Africa, there were few opportunities for women to study, let alone study and get a degree, so for Charlotte to get a degree abroad, matters in ways we cannot imagine given our relationship with studying further. There were also other black South African students studying abroad at the time. Many of them returned to South Africa to play a historical role which changed the life and politics of South Africa.

"When Charlotte returned to South Africa after graduating, she did not disappear into a quiet life; she became a social activist. She was married to a newspaper man and the two of them set about writing and talking about the politics of their time. Her connections at Wilberforce University also led to the establishment of the South African chapter of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1918, Charlotte established one of the first women's organisations called the Bantu Women's League.

"I like to imagine that these two women were friends. But we don't have enough information about them to make this conclusion. What we do know is that they knew about each other and admired each other's work deeply. In her poetry, Nontsizi wrote about how inspired she was by Charlotte Maxeke's work. In an article Charlotte Maxeke wrote lambasting the political shenanigans of the men in her circle, she wrote about how inspired she was by the sharp political poetry of women whose voice has been silenced. She was writing about Nontsizi.

"Like the two Marys in the Bible, Charlotte Maxeke and Nontsizi Mqgqetho wrote themselves into history as though they knew that, if they did not write about their work and write about what they saw around them, no one else would do it. It was Charlotte's interest in music which led her to another country which changed her life. It was Nontsizi's poetry which we have access to even today that allows us the opportunity to think about what it means to be women who speak about the things which hurt us, which undermine us and which do not uphold our humanity.

"The stories of Charlotte Maxeke and Nontsizi Mqgqetho are important not only for us as women, but they are important about what it means to be citizens in this country."

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS  
CHAPLAIN



# MAXEKE-MGQWETHO

Later this month, St Mary's will be hosting the inaugural Maxeke-Mgqwetho Annual Lecture.

Details:

Thursday 23 May

The Edge

18h30

This initiative created by the Asinukathula Collective seeks to celebrate and share the untold stories of South African women. The Asinukathula Collective is a group of teachers and researchers who seek to counter the erasure of African women from history and public discourse. By using the legacies of Charlotte Maxeke and Nontsizi Mgqwetho, the initiative aims to acknowledge and commemorate the achievements of South African women, both past and present.

The annual lecture this year will feature the renowned Dr Gcina Mhlophe (pictured below) as keynote speaker.

“Gcina Mhlophe is an author, poet, playwright, director, performer and storyteller. Influenced by her grandmother’s tales when she was a child, Mhlophe’s written and performance talent has transported her from South Africa to South and North America, to Europe, Greenland and Japan. She has performed her stories in theatres like Royal Albert Hall, the Kennedy Centre in the US and she has collaborated with Ladysmith Black Mambazo on a children’s CD.”

Mhlophe’s countless accolades as well as her charisma and talent, make her an apt keynote speaker for the first ever Maxeke-Mgqwetho Annual Lecture.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Tickets for the event are available through Quicket. Please find this link below, on the St Mary’s Website and on our app.

Please join us for an evening of storytelling and discovery in celebration of South African women.

ALISON ANDREW  
HISTORY TEACHER



## SAVE THE DATE The first Maxeke-Mgqwetho Annual Lecture

Date: Thursday 23 May  
Time: 18h30  
Venue: The Edge, St Mary’s School  
Keynote speaker: Dr Gcina Mhlophe



Click here for more information and to book your tickets

## FROM THE VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

### Printmaking at Artist Proof Studios



The Form III Visual Art girls recently spent a Saturday morning at Artist Proof Studios in Newtown to print their linocuts.

The Artist Proof Studios is a specialist art education centre which focuses on printmaking. The girls were given a tour of the facility and saw artists at work. A specialist printmaker explained the

printing procedure and the girls inked up their own plates, and pulled them through the printing press, creating an edition of four prints.

SUE HEYDENRYCH  
HoD VISUAL ARTS

## PUBLIC SPEAKING



Public speaking matric girls

Gerald R Ford, the 38<sup>th</sup> president of the United States, stated that "Nothing in life is more important than the ability to communicate effectively." The public speakers of 2019 certainly took these words to heart in the annual High Schools' Public Speaking Festival hosted by the Speech and Drama College (SA). All the St Mary's teams amassed excellent results and St Mary's was awarded the runner-up position in the Open section. This result could not be achieved without the diligence of the speakers themselves who spend a great deal of time refining the content and delivery of their speeches. Each team from Form I through to matric, including the trophy team and the individual best speaker, is skilfully guided by the English teachers who sacrifice many hours to ensure that the speakers are well equipped to become persuasive and authentic speakers. Each girl who spoke in the festival is commended on her effort.

JANET MILASINOVICH  
ENGLISH TEACHER



## LIFE ORIENTATION

At the end of last term, the Form II girls did some dancing in Life Orientation. They participated in a dance module conducted by professional dancers Claire van Niekerk and Courtney de Meillon, during which they learned basic techniques, how to stretch properly

and were exposed to classical ballet basics and modern jazz and contemporary basics.

JENNY WILFORD  
LO AND EMS TEACHER



## ON THE EDGE 2019

**PURCHASE ON THE EDGE TICKETS FROM  
ST MARY'S WAVERLEY OR ONLINE AT  
WWW.ONTHEEDGE19.CO.ZA**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

**TICKET PRICES**  
GALLERY SEATS - R150  
LOWER REAR SEATS - R200  
FIRST 10 ROWS - R280  
VIP STAGE ACCESS - R500  
BATTLE OF THE BANDS - R100  
GENERAL OUTDOOR ACCESS - R100  
(ACCESS TO OUTSIDE STAGE AREA ONLY)

**GENERAL ADMISSION**  
GENERAL ACCESS TO THE EVENT  
PURCHASE YOUR TICKET ONLINE & STAND  
A CHANCE TO WIN AN UPGRADE TO VIP  
STAGE ACCESS FOR YOU AND A PARTNER  
WWW.ONTHEEDGE19.CO.ZA

**VIP STAGE ACCESS**  
EXCLUSIVE ON STAGE PERFORMANCE  
ACCESS  
SNACKS & DRINKS  
ACCESS TO VIP AREA  
VIP STAGE ACCESS TICKETS CAN MEET  
THE PERFORMERS AND TAKE PHOTOS  
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BUY ONLINE  
Order that each  
Representative to take  
Access via digital ticket  
BUY ONLINE

19 MAY 2019, 16H00-22H00  
WWW.ONTHEEDGE19.CO.ZA  
#ONTHEEDGE19 / #ONTHEEDGE19

The *Battle of the Bands* 2019 is part of a larger event – *On The Edge*. This new collaboration allows more people to celebrate the talents of the young musicians in our county. The bands entertaining the crowds are from St Stithians Boys' College, Rand Park High, Beaulieu College, St Andrew's Bloemfontein, St Mary's, The King's School Linbro Park, King Edward VII School and Sacred Heart. Each band plays a cover as well as an original song. Jazz, rock and gospel are only some of the genres of music on offer. DWR, a company particularly interested in uplifting and inspiring the youth to develop skills in the technical arena, is once again sponsoring the lighting and sound equipment. The lighting operators who will also be competing on the night are drawn from a range of schools, namely, Parktown High School for Girls, Jeppe High School for Boys, Ikusasa Lethu and of course St Mary's. Doors open at 16h00 on Saturday 18 May, with *Battle of the Bands* kicking off at 17h00. Tickets are R100. Combo tickets are available for Sho Madjozi who will be delighting her audience with her songs and story of her journey in the music industry thus far. Come along and enjoy the fun.

NO ALCOHOL. R.O.A.R. EVENT OPEN TO GRADES 8 – 12 ONLY. FOR EVENT INFORMATION AND TICKETING  
QUERIES PLEASE CALL 011 447 6651. LAST YEAR SOLD OUT. LIMITED CAPACITY IN 2019. BUY ONLINE TO  
SECURE A TICKET. ONLINE IS QUICK, NO CASH, CAN'T LOSE YOUR TICKET.




 5678 Productions

 For more info:  
call 083 226 2871

## DANCE

Our St Mary's dance crew will be competing at the 108 Movement Dance Festival tomorrow, Saturday 11 May. We wish them all the best.

CLAIRE VAN NIEKERK  
WWW.5678PRODUCTIONS.CO.ZA



The St Mary's dance crew in a hip-hop workshop in Term I with Quaid 'Flip' Jones and Danica Jones



The Latin dance girls before their first performance of the year at the hockey festival showcase



The jazz dance class in training

## OLD GIRLS' NEWS

Our congratulations are extended to Hannah (class of 2016) who has been selected for the South African National hockey team to play in the World Series event in Valencia, Spain. This is a fantastic achievement.

Hannah, who is presently studying at Harvard, was in the 1<sup>st</sup> team at St Mary's for four years and captained the side in her final year. Hannah is joined by St Mary's Old Girls, Lisa-Marie and Lilian who have, once again, been selected for the national team. Good luck, girls!



## FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



### TENNIS



Lilitha

Congratulations to Lilitha who was chosen to represent the South African U14 team at the prestigious African Junior Championships which was held in Benoni during the holidays. Only three players were chosen to represent South Africa for this event and the warm-up event preceding this tournament. Lilitha gained valuable experience as she competed against

the top U14 players from all over Africa. Well done, Lilitha, and keep up the hard work.

**RENÉ PLANT**  
HEAD OF TENNIS

### ROWING



In spite of South African Schools' Rowing Championships ending over two months ago, we find ourselves in a rather unique position. Thirteen of our very own have yet to let the blisters settle on a remarkable school rowing season (culminating in our win at the Championships) and have proceeded to represent various squads, namely the SASRU U16 development squad and the Gauteng Junior squad.

Our immensely talented U16 rowing age group rowers have contributed eight rowers to the SASRU squad namely, Alexandra, Catherine, Claire, Emma, Hannah, Kelly, Samantha and Tali. These girls have been touring England representing the squad at both the Walingford and Bedford Regattas. At the Wallington Regatta, they won the gold medal for the quad and bronze medal for the eight!



At the senior level, we extend our congratulations to Caitlin, Helen, Sarah and Catherine for receiving their Gauteng Schools' Rowing Federation Provincial Colours. Well done, girls.

**PAIGE CROOKS**  
COACH



**Transforming our schools**  
**Conversations with Bongani Bingwa**  
*A panel discussion with St John's College, Sacred Heart College, Crawford Schools and St Mary's School*

**SAVE the DATE**  
**Thursday 27 June**  
 18h00  
 at St Mary's School

**The HOPE Committee**

Hearing Other People's Experiences

A sub-committee of the PTA to encourage parent conversations around diversity  
[hope@stmary.co.za](mailto:hope@stmary.co.za)