# Veritas College

(FORMERLY CONVENT AND CBC, SPRINGS)

Learn, Live and Lead with Love

# PRE-PREPARATORY & PREPARATORY

## NEWSLETTER NO. 3 – MAY 2026

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## A Message from the Head of the Preparatory – Mrs S. Billson

Dear Veritas Families

Welcome to Term 2!

As we begin the second term, we move from the warmth and energy of summer into the stillness of winter, already having felt some of the season's colder days. Yet with this change comes renewed purpose, and the Term 2 calendar reminds us that ours is a community alive with opportunity, growth and endeavour.

This promises to be a full and enriching term. Winter sport now takes centre stage as soccer, hockey and netball provide our students with opportunities not only to develop their talents, but also to live out the values of teamwork, commitment, respect and gracious competition. Later in the term, the Inter-CBC in Welkom will gather our Christian Brothers' schools in a spirit of friendship and belonging, celebrating the gifts of our young people on the sports field and the bonds that unite us in the Edmund Rice tradition.

Our annual Veritas Cultural Festival will once again showcase the creativity and confidence of our students as they share their artistic, dramatic and public speaking

talents. These opportunities remind us that education is about nurturing the whole person and allowing each child's God-given gifts to flourish.

Academically, this term also brings an important milestone as our students prepare for the mid-year examinations, with our Grade 4 learners experiencing their first formal examinations. We keep them especially in our prayers as they take this significant step in their learning journey.

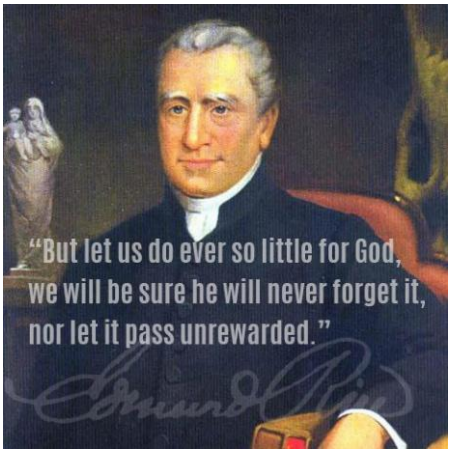
We are also privileged to host a team from ISASA (Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa) for a Quality Assurance visit. We welcome this as an opportunity for reflection and affirmation as we continue to seek excellence in the service of our students and in fidelity to our mission.

As an Edmund Rice/Dominican school, we remain committed to forming young people who are grounded in faith, inspired by compassion and guided by truth. In all that lies ahead this term, may we continue to live out the Vision and Mission of our school and remain faithful to our name, **VERITAS** — Truth — a value that calls us to integrity, justice and living out the values of the Gospel.

May this term be one of growth, achievement and blessing for all in our school community.

## Our Ethos

✝ This term, as we continue to honour the rich heritage of Veritas College — born from the amalgamation of Springs Dominican Convent and Springs Christian Brothers' College in 1992 — we will also celebrate two important feast days that speak to the heart of who we are. In May we honour the feast of **Blessed Edmund Rice**, whose vision of liberating education, justice and compassionate presence continues to shape our Edmund Rice ethos.




*Blessed Edmund Rice was an Irish Catholic missionary and educationalist. He founded the Congregation of Christian Brothers in 1802 and the Presentation Brothers in 1808. Edmund Rice was born on June 1, 1762, in Callan, Ireland, and dedicated his life to providing education to the poor. He is remembered for his selfless devotion to Gospel values, his work and his commitment to helping those in need.*

† On the 8th of August we celebrate the feast of **Saint Dominic de Guzman**, founder of the Dominican Order, whose love of truth, prayer and scholarship lives on in the Dominican tradition that forms part of our identity.

†Faith remains at the heart of all we do, and we will gather as a school community for **Ascension Day Mass,** on the **14th of May**, and other meaningful liturgical celebrations throughout the term.

† Our commitment to **Outreach** continues through **food collections** for those in need on Mass days, bringing **Extra-Lunches on Wednesdays** in supporting the church's **Soup Kitchen,** and the support of the annual **Vita Nova Family Fun Day** and various other outreach initiatives.

† In addition to these special moments, Term 2 is also a time for building connections and celebrating the spirit of our school. We look forward to **Mother's Day** and **Father's Day Celebrations**, and to fostering relationships with our families during the **Pre-Preparatory Family Day.**

With a full and exciting term ahead, we encourage our students to embrace every opportunity with enthusiasm and hope. Thank you for your continued support in making our school a vibrant, faith-filled community.

## Building Strong Partnerships for Our Children

Positive relationships between parents, students, and the school play a vital role in a child's success. When parents are actively involved, children feel supported, valued, and motivated to do their best. Open communication and mutual respect help create a shared understanding of each child's needs, strengths, and goals. By working together, parents and educators can build a strong foundation that encourages confidence, responsibility, and a love for learning. Our school values these partnerships, as they ultimately create a nurturing environment where every child can thrive.

In term 2, our Grade 4-7 students will be writing examinations that will cover both Term 1 and Term 2's work. For students who struggled in Term 1—where their marks were based mostly on cycle tests, homework, and classwork—this will be a challenging

period. They will need consistent guidance, encouragement, and reinforcement at home to improve their results.

Our teachers are dedicated and committed, but they cannot do this alone. Education is a partnership between school and home. We need you to be actively involved—monitoring homework, ensuring revision is done, attending school meetings, and communicating with teachers when needed.

We urge you to:

- ✅ **Monitor your child's homework and study habits**
- ✅ **Encourage daily revision, especially leading up to exams**
- ✅ **Ensure participation in school activities while maintaining academic balance**
- ✅ **Communicate with teachers and attend school meetings**

Your involvement sends a powerful message to your child—that their education matters. Let's work together to make Term 2 a term of growth, achievement, and shared success!

## Learner Support – Grade 4-7

As was reported in Newsletter No. 1: To better support our students in English, Afrikaans and Mathematics this year we have extended the school day, for **Grade 4 – 7** students, by 30 minutes, four days a week. The school day ends at **14:00** from Monday to Thursday and at **13:30** on Fridays.

This additional time will be used to implement a **Learner Support Programme** aimed at assisting students who require extra help in these core subjects. Learners identified for support will attend focused sessions with their teachers during this period.

For students not attending support classes, the extra time will be used for a **supervised homework period** in their register class. This initiative is designed to foster a culture of diligence and responsibility, giving learners the opportunity to begin or complete homework tasks under guidance. Parents/Guardians are requested to refrain from using this time to take their children out for doctors/dentists etc. appointments.

For some students the Learner Support class will be mandatory for particular subjects, while for others the child may be sent by the teacher for a few sessions if they pick up that the child is battling with a particular concept. Please understand, parents/guardians, that this is NOT a punishment for your child. On the contrary it is in the very best interests of your child. We appreciate your support to promote more positive learning habits.

# Sports News

As mentioned, Term 2 is set to be a busy and exciting term, filled with sporting and cultural events that provide our students with valuable opportunities to develop their talents, teamwork, and school spirit.

| Veritas College Extra Mural Activities - Term 2 2026 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Grade*** | ***Sporting Code*** | ***Time*** | ***Coach/es*** | ***Day*** |
| R Kapp | Netball | 12:30 - 13:00 | Miss Mashiloane (External Coach) | Tuesday |
| R Modubu | Netball | 12:30 - 13:00 | Miss Mashiloane (External Coach) | Thursday |
| | | | | |
| R Kapp | Soccer | 12:30 - 13:30 | Mr Nkosi (External Coach) | Tuesday |
| R Modubu | Soccer | 12:30 - 13:30 | Mr Nkosi (External Coach) | Thursday |
| | | | | |
| Grade 1 | Netball | 13:05 - 13:45 | Mrs Kapp & Ms Nzimande | Monday & Wednesday |
| Grade 1 | Soccer | 13:05 - 13:45 | Mr Livi (External Coach) & Mrs Taylor (Manager) | Monday & Wednesday |
| | | | | |
| Grade 2 | Netball | 13:05 - 13:45 | Miss Howard and Mrs de Matos | Tuesday & Thursday |
| Grade 2 | Soccer | 13:05 - 13:45 | Mr Nkosi | Tuesday & Thursday |
| | | | | |
| Grade 3 | Netball | 13:35 - 14:30 | Ms Dhlamini & Ms Mashiloane (External Coach) | Tuesday & Thursday |
| Grade 3 | Soccer | 13:35 - 14:30 | Mr Livi (External Coach) | Tuesday & Thursday |
| | | | | |
| Grade 4 -7 | Girls Hockey | 14:00 - 14:45 | Mr Mtsweni | Wednesday |
| Grade 4 -7 | Boys Hockey | 14:00 - 14:45 | Mr Billson | Monday |
| Grade 4 -7 | Boys Hockey | 14:00 - 14:45 | Mr Billson | Thursday |
| | | | | |
| Grade 4 | Soccer | 14:00 - 14:45 | Mr Makua(External Coach) | Tuesday & Thursday |
| Grade 5 | Soccer | 14:00 - 14:45 | Mr Mtsweni | Tuesday & Thursday |
| Grade 6 & 7 | Soccer | 14:00 - 14:45 | Mr Xaka | Tuesday |
| Grade 6 & 7 | Girls Soccer | 14:00 - 14:45 | Mr Xaka & Ms Modubu (Manager) | Monday & Friday |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grade 4 | Netball | 14:00 - 14:45 | Miss Vermaak | Tuesday & Thursday |
| Grade 5 | Netball | 14:00 - 14:45 | Miss Modubu | Tuesday & Thursday |
| Grade 6 | Netball | 14:00 - 14:45 | Mrs Botha | Tuesday & Thursday |
| Grade 7 | Netball | 14:00 - 14:45 | Miss Mashinini | Tuesday & Thursday |
| | | | | |
| Grade 4-7 | Golf | 14:00 - 15:30 | Mr Billson | Tuesday |
| | | | | |
| Grade 6 & 7 | Squash | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| | | | | |
| Grade 3 -7 | Cross Country | 13:35 - 14:30 | Miss Breedt & Mrs Botha | Friday |
| Grade 1-2 | Cross Country | 13:05 - 13:45 | Mrs Lee | Friday |
| | | | | |
| Grade 1 -2 | Chess | 13:05 - 13:45 | Mr Mtsweni | Tuesday |
| Grade 3 | Chess | 13:35- 14:30 | Mr Mtsweni | Monday |
| Grade 4 -7 | Chess | 14:00- 14:45 | Mr Mtsweni | Monday |
| | | | | |

| **Term 2 – Sports Fixtures and Festivals** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Primary School - Veritas College** | | | | | |
| ***Date*** | ***Sporting Code*** | ***Fixture/Event*** | | | ***Venue*** |
| 11/05/2026 | Netball (U/7-13) | Veritas College | vs | Brenthurst Primary | Veritas College |
| 12/05/2026 | Netball (U/7-13) | Veritas College | vs | Birnel College | Veritas College |
| 12/05/2026 | Netball (U/15-19) | Veritas College | vs | Birnel College | Veritas College |
| 12/05/2026 | Soccer (U/10-13) | Veritas College | vs | Laerskool Morester | Veritas College |
| 13/05/2026 | Soccer Grade 1-3 | Nigel Primary | vs | Veritas College | Nigel Primary |
| 13/05/2026 | Netball (U/8-13) | Veritas College | vs | Nigel Primary | Veritas College |
| 14/05/2026 | Netball (U/7-13) | Veritas College | vs | Kwasa College | Veritas College |
| 14/05/2026 | Soccer (U/10-13) | Veritas College | vs | Dunnottar Primary | Veritas College |
| 15/05/2026 | Netball & Soccer U/7 & 8 | SISA Mini Sports Festival | | | Ridgewood College |
| 15/05/2026 | Chess | SISA Festival | | | Ashbury College |
| 15/05/2026 | Netball (U/8-13) | Brakpan Primary | vs | Veritas College | Veritas College |
| 16/05/2026 | Netball U/10 | CSSCC Festival | | | De La Salle |
| 16/05/2026 | Netball U/11 | CSSCC Festival | | | St Catherines |
| 16/05/2026 | Netball U/12 & 13 | St Dominics Netball Festival | | | St Dominics |
| 16/05/2026 | Soccer U/10 & 11 | CSSCC Festival | | | Mount Edmund |
| 18/05/2026 | Netball (U/7-13) | Veritas College | vs | Laerskool Eloff | Veritas College |
| 19/05/2026 | Netball (U/8-13) | Dalpark Primary | vs | Veritas College | Dalpark Primary |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19/05/2026 | Soccer (U/10-13) | Laerskool Welgedacht | vs | Veritas College | Laerskool Welgedacht |
| 20/05/2026 | Netball (U/8-13) | Dunnottar Primary | vs | Veritas College | Dunnottar Primary |
| 20/05/2026 | Soccer Grade 1-3 | Pinegrove | vs | Veritas College | Nigel Primary |
| 20/05/2026 | Chess Grade 1 -7 | CSSCC Festival | | | De La Salle |
| 21/05/2026 | Soccer (U/10-13) | Laerskool Werda | vs | Veritas College | Laerskool Werda |
| 22/05/2026 | Netball & Soccer U/7 & 8 | SISA Mini Sports Festival | | | TBC |
| 23/05/2026 | Netball U/12 | CSSCC Festival | | | Mount Edmund |
| 23/05/2026 | Netball U/13 | CSSCC Festival | | | Brescia House |
| 23/05/2026 | Soccer U/13 | CSSCC Festival | | | St Ursula |
| 25/05/2025 | Soccer (U/7-13) | Veritas College | vs | Kwasa College | Veritas College |
| 25/05/2026 | Netball (U/7-13) | Veritas College | vs | Ridgewood College | Veritas College |
| 27/05/2026 | Netball (U/9-13) | Veritas College | vs | St Francis | Veritas College |
| 29/05/2026 | Netball & Soccer U/7 & 8 | SISA Mini Sports Festival | | | TBC |
| 30/05/2026 | Girls Soccer U/13 | CSSCC Festival | | | Veritas College |
| 01/06/2026 | Netball (U/10,11 &13) | Veritas College | vs | Excel Edu | Veritas College |
| 02/06/2026 | Netball (U/11 &13) | Eco Kids | vs | Veritas College | Eco Kids |
| 05/06/2026 | Netball & Soccer U/7 & 8 | SISA Mini Sports Festival | | | TBC |
| 06/06/2026 | Cross Country Grade 1 -7 | CSSCC Festival | | | La Salle |
| 06/06/2026 | Netball Grade 1 -3 | CSSCC Festival | | | Sacred Heart |
| 06/06/2026 | Soccer Grade 1-3 | CSSCC Festival | | | St Benedicts |
| 24/06/2026 | Soccer & Netball Grade 1-3 | St Dunstan's Festival | | | St Dunstan's |
| 23-25 July 2026 | Soccer, Netball, Hockey & ERS | Edmund Rice Winter Festival | | | Welkom |
| 31/07/2026 | Chess | SISA Festival | | | Woodlands College |
| 01/08/2026 | Hockey (Boys & Girls U/13) | CSSCC Festival | | | Brescia House |

Hockey fixtures to follow once league is finalized.

**Congratulations** to the following students who have done well in their respective sporting codes:

**Soccer – Springs Team:**

1. Siyabonga Ndlovu
2. Bongani Nkosi
3. Letlotlo Thobejane
4. Thando Mkwanazi

Thando Mkwanazi made to the third round of trials.

**Chess – D5 Team**

1. Tawananyasha Kujinga
2. Amogelang Sibande
3. Sbongokuhle Mazibuko
4. Deetya Makan
5. Rilen Naidoo
6. Libongwe Pasiya

**Chess – Provincial**

1. Tawananyasha Kujinga
2. Amogelang Sibande
3. Sbongokuhle Mazibuko

# Foundation Phase Learner Support Programme

| Timetable<br>Grade 1 to 3 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13:00 - 13:45 | **Gr. 1** | Mrs Taylor | Tuesday & Thursday |
| 13:00 - 13:45 | **Gr. 2** | Mrs Julsing | Monday & Wednesday |
| 13:30 - 14:15 | **Gr. 3** | Mrs O'Donoghue | Monday & Wednesday |

*Parents/Guardians will receive letters from their children's teachers informing them that their children need to attend these classes in order to get the necessary assistance they need to improve their results.*

# Celebrating Success!

Term 1 ended on a high note for many of our Inter/Sen Phase students with the announcement of the **Top 5** achievers, per Grade, and the new **2026 Leaders.** Congratulations to these learners on their outstanding achievements!

## Inter/Sen Phase – Term 1 - Top 5 Achievers

Congratulations to the following learners who worked very hard last term and attained positions in the Top 5. Keep up the hard work!

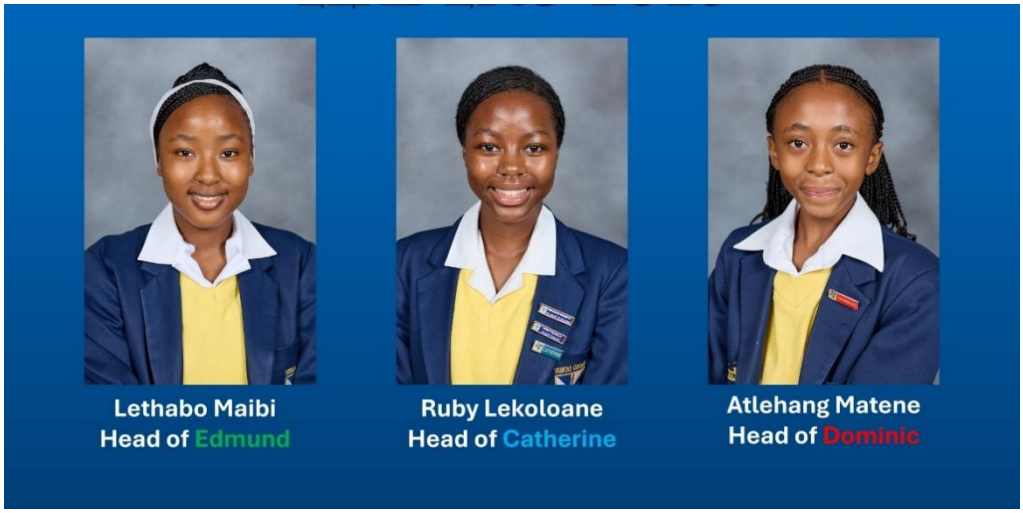
Grade 4
1. Michaela Tavengwa - 87,77%
2. Lamar Ngubane - 81,15% (insert)
3. Emily Mijatovic - 80,10%
4. Andrew Borthwick - 79,67%
5. Neha Jagwant - 79,15%

**Grade 5**
1. Meetesh Kunver - 84,12%
2. Emma Stander - 83,78%
3. Andreaya Valla - 81,02%
4. Kytlwano Dube - 80,83%
5. Sbongokuhle Mazibuko - 80,15%

Grade 6
1. Arabella Govender - 83,93%
2. Thoriso Sediane - 83,43%
3. Lwandle Maseko - 82,92%
4. Umika Kalian - 81,88%
5. Thandolwethu Mkefa - 79,77%

Grade 7
1. Matteo Mijatovic - 91,62%
2. Deetya Makan - 91,03%
3. Liesel Muzamba - 89,06%
4. Tawanyasha Kujinga - 88,46%
5. Ruby Lekoloane - 88,03%

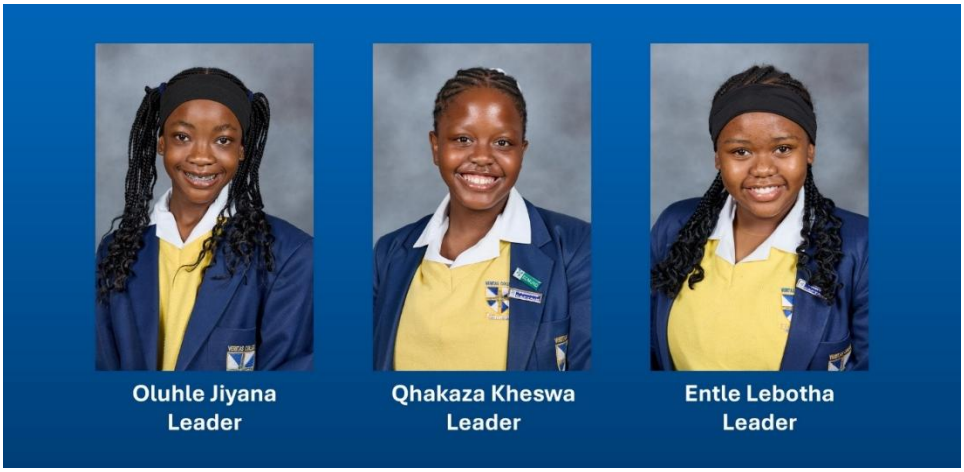
# Grade 7 Leaders 2026



Deetya Makan
Leader

Siyabonga Ndlovu
Leader

Naledi Mphokane
Leader



Oluhle Jiyana
Leader

Qhakaza Kheswa
Leader

Entle Lebotha
Leader

Rearno Smith
Leader

Dev Rampersad
Leader

Tawanayasha Kujinga
Leader

Janelle Mlilo
Pre-Prep Leader

Adriano Sousa
Pre-Prep Leader

Tino Mapendere
Pre-Prep Leader

Deevam Makan
Pre-Prep Leader

## How is the 'Leadership Council' elected?

**The procedure is as follows:**

1. **Leaders:**

- All Grade 7 learners have the opportunity to be Class Monitors during Term 1.
- Their leadership ability is monitored and discussed by the educators on a regular basis. Leadership qualities such as initiative, responsibility, communication skills, loyalty, respect, service and approach to academics are important.
- At the end of Term 1 -
  - Class teachers complete a form wherein they evaluate the Grade 7 learners who were appointed as Monitors for their specific classes.
  - Grade 7 learners are given the opportunity to vote for 20 of their peers who they feel show the necessary qualities of a good leader, and they indicate on their ballot paper their choice of Head Boy and Head Girl.
  - Teachers are given the opportunity to vote for 20 learners who they feel show the necessary qualities of a good leader and they too indicate who they feel would be deserving of the role of Head Boy and Head Girl.
  - The votes are totalled, and a list is compiled ranking the learners according to the number of votes attained.
  - A committee of teachers receive the preliminary list and thereafter a discussion is held. The following criteria are taken into consideration: Attitude towards Academics; Extra-Curricular Participation; Overall Behaviour; Service to the School; Monitor Duties; Sports/Cultural Captain Duties.
  - The number of leaders chosen depends on the number of classes we have in the school during a particular year and the overall leadership qualities displayed by the Grade 7 students.
- Once the leaders have been chosen, the students, with the most votes for Head Leaders, are elected as the Head Boy, Head Girl and Head/s of Ethos.
- Thereafter, from the list of leaders, the 3 Heads of Houses are elected.

2. **Sports/Cultural Captains:**

Sports/Cultural Captains are usually elected during the first term of the school year or once a particular sports' season has begun.
A meeting is convened consisting of the Sports' Coordinators, Sports/Cultural Coaches and Grade 4 – 7 Teachers. At this meeting the Sports/Cultural Captains are discussed using the same leadership criteria, as mentioned above, with the addition of sportsmanship, perseverance, practice attendance and organisational skills.
Sports' Coaches table their shortlist of names and voting takes place.

## New Captains - 2026

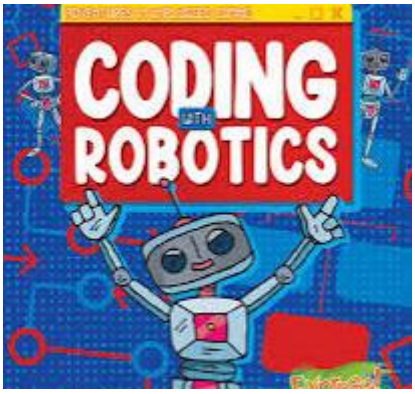
Congratulations to our newly appointed:

- Preparatory **ERS/Son Chasers Captain** - Sizwe Kekana
- Preparatory **Girls' Cricket Captain** - Entle Lebotha

## Supporting Our Children Through Every Opportunity

Not being selected for a leadership role can be disappointing for a child, and the support from home and from school, at this time, is invaluable. Together we must encourage each child by acknowledging their feelings, celebrating their strengths, and reminding them that leadership is shown in many ways—kindness, effort, teamwork, and resilience. These moments help children grow, learn perseverance, and develop confidence for future opportunities. With love and encouragement from home and school, every child can continue to flourish and find their own path to success.

## Coding and Robotics News!




Miss Dladla has created much excitement in her Coding and Robotics classes so far this year.
Our Robotics Team will be participating in the Jozibot League Robotics Workshop at Ridgewood College, Benoni on 26 May from 14:00 to 16:30. This event includes both a Novice division (Grade R–3) and an Apprentice division (Grade 4–7), allowing learners to engage at an appropriate level.

A select group of learners from various grades will be chosen to represent the school. While the event includes an element of friendly competition, the focus is on creativity, problem-solving and building confidence in a supportive environment.

Preparation sessions for this event and future league events will take place on Fridays from 13:30 to 14:15 with Miss Dladla in the upstairs computer lab.

# Cultural News!

- **SISA Speech Afternoon**

Congratulations to the following students who will be participating at the SISA Speech Afternoon, at Ashbury College, on **Thursday, 14 May from 14:30 to 15:30**. Good luck to each one of them.

| **Grade 4 Participants**: | **Grade 5 Participants**: | **Grade 6 Participants:** | **Grade 7 Participants:** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Neha Jagwant | Meetesh Kunver | Arabella Govender | Tamanayasha Kujinga |
| Emily Matjotovic | Reba Mabena | Raphaelle Makono | Remofilwe Monakedi |

- **Veritas College Cultural Festival**

Towards the end of Term 2 we will, once again, be hosting the Veritas Cultural Festival where students will be given the opportunity to participate in categories such as Verse Speaking, Prepared and Unprepared Speaking, Afrikaans Voordrag and Art. The festival takes place from **Monday, 27 July** to **Thursday, 31 July**. We encourage our Grade R – 7 learners to participate in this special event.

- **Junior Choir - Gr 1, 2 & 3**

Due to our Gr 1 & Gr 2 learners participating in the Netball & Soccer tournaments every Friday during the month of May, Foundation Phase Choir practice will only commence on the 12th of June, from 13h00 – 13h30. Register will be taken and therefore we expect children to commit themselves from the start. If your child is interested in the choir, encourage him/her to attend the practices. Please write a note to the class teacher if your son/daughter is unable to attend a specific practice. (This will be recoded on the register.)

If a pupil is a member of the choir for three consecutive years (Gr1 → Gr3) and attends practices regularly, he/she receives a **CHOIR SCROLL** at the end of their Grade Three year.

**Music Greetings,** ***Mrs Van Vuuren***

- **Senior Choir – Gr 4 - 7**

Senior Choir for Grade 4 – 7 learners will take place on a MONDAY afternoon from 14:00 – 14:45. Register will be taken at choir practices and therefore we expect the children to commit themselves from the start. If your child is interested in the choir, encourage him/her to attend the practices.
If a learner is a member of the choir for three consecutive years, or more (Gr 4 →7) and attends practices regularly, he/she will receive a **CHOIR SCROLL** at the end of the Phase. ***Music Greetings, Mrs A. Billson***

- **Piano Lessons**: Please direct enquiries to Mrs Elaine Jankowitz ejankowitz@vodamail.co.za or cell phone no. 082 835 3608

- **Marimba Lessons**: Marimba lessons take place on Friday Afternoons. There are two sessions – Grade 4s from 13:30 – 14:30 and Grade 5 – 7 from 14:30 to 15:30.
Please direct enquiries to Ms Naledi Nkabinde. Cell phone no. 0837600677

## † Edmund Rice 'Son Chasers' Group

Our senior students' **Son Chasers** group, meet weekly on a **Wednesday afternoon from 14:00 to 14:45**. This is a supportive space to talk about faith, explore ways to strengthen our relationship with God, and encourage one another. The group also takes part in meaningful **outreach and pastoral care activities**, serving others within our school community.

## Academic News!

Our Academic Programme is in full swing and our students are being encouraged to work hard from the very beginning of the term and not to fall behind in their work. We ask that our parents/guardians give their children this same advice.
Please monitor your children's work, daily. Page through their books regularly and check that there are no note/s written by the teachers for work to be completed. You will be required to sign the **Parental Control Form** at the front of your children's books twice per term.
Encourage your children to read!

**Inter/Sen Phase (Grade 4 – 7)**

- **Term 2 Cycle Test Timetables** will be issued during the first week back at school.
- The Grade 4 – 7 learners will be writing formal **Mid-Year Examinations** this term from Wednesday, **17 June to Friday, 26 June**. Students will be issued with the Exam Timetable and 'What to Study' early in May. Parents/Guardians are requested to see to it that their children prepare adequately for these examinations.
- The weighting of **Continuous Assessment (CASS) against Formal Examinations** is as follows:
  GRADE 4 - 75% CASS : 25% EXAM
  GRADE 5 - 60% CASS : 40% EXAM
  GRADE 6 - 50% CASS : 50% EXAM
  GRADE 7 - 40% CASS : 60% EXAM
- *Continuous Assessments* include homework, classwork and projects, so if a child is not doing their homework on a regular basis it is going to have a negative impact on their CASS results.
- In order to strive for academic excellence at Veritas College we will continue to view **50%** as the required minimum pass percentage for all subjects for promotion.
  At the end of 2026, in certain circumstances, and after consultation with the Head of the Preparatory, specific exceptions may be made in the case of certain learners.

**NB! All Parents/Guardians please take note:**
From **Wednesday, 17 June**, Inter/Sen students will be writing **two** exams per day and in order to afford them the opportunity to prepare adequately for these examinations, **school will close for ALL children (Playgroup - Gr 7) at 12:00 from Wednesday, 17 June, up to and including, Friday, 26 June 2026.**

- The **After-School Care** facility will continue to function for our learners who are regular, registered attendees.

As Term 2 continues, we emphasize that children must approach all work with a positive attitude and work ethic so that they can be successful academically.

Parents/Guardians are invited to set up an appointment, at their earliest convenience, with their child's teacher, should they wish to discuss any matters of concern. Please be proactive and do not leave issues to grow out of proportion unnecessarily.

# Parent/Guardian Opinion Survey 2026 – Feedback Summary

**Parent/Guardian Opinion Survey – Thank You for Your Voice!**

We extend our sincere thanks to all parents/guardians who participated in our recent Parent Opinion Survey. We received 182 responses. Your feedback is invaluable and helps us affirm what is working well, while also identifying areas where we can continue to grow.

The survey results were overwhelmingly positive, with **an average approval rating of approximately 91%** across all measured areas. The feedback reflects a strong level of confidence in the school's Catholic ethos, academic offering, pastoral care and overall environment.

**Key Strengths Highlighted by Parents/Guardians**

Parents expressed particularly strong affirmation in the following areas:

- **School Climate and Safety**
  - Nearly 98% of parents agreed that Veritas is a **safe and well-organised place**.
  - Very strong support was shown for the school's focus on **student well-being, safeguarding and supervision**.
- **Happy Children, Supportive Environment**
  - Parents overwhelmingly indicated that **their children are happy at school**.
  - Families affirmed the caring, respectful and values-driven environment that supports children's growth.
- **Academic Programme and Teaching**
  - The school's academic programme received very strong support.
  - Parents expressed confidence in the quality of teaching and in our commitment to **manageable class sizes**.
- **Welcoming Community and Facilities**
  - Parents reported feeling welcomed as part of the school community.
  - The cleanliness and upkeep of the campus were also highly rated.

**Themes Emerging for Continued Growth**

While the feedback was very positive overall, parents also offered constructive suggestions that will help shape ongoing improvement. Themes emerging included:

- Continued strengthening of **communication**, especially around feedback and responsiveness.
- Further development of **sport and cultural opportunities**, including communication around fixtures and broader participation.

- Interest in greater visibility and communication around **governance and board matters**.
- Suggestions related to facilities and specific practical improvements.
- Some thoughtful recommendations around literacy support and enrichment interventions.

**What Encouraged Us Most**

Many parents commented positively on:

- The school's strong **Catholic and values-based ethos**
- The dedication and care of staff
- The respectful culture experienced by children and families
- The sense that Veritas is a place where children are known, nurtured and challenged.

These affirmations are deeply encouraging and reflect our shared mission as a faith-filled learning community.

**Moving Forward**

As a school, we see survey feedback not as a report card, but as part of an ongoing conversation with our parent community. We will use this feedback to:

- Celebrate and build on our strengths
- Inform planning and strategic priorities
- Continue refining areas where improvement is possible
- Ensure we remain faithful to our mission and responsive to our community

In the spirit of our Edmund Rice and Dominican heritage, we remain committed to forming young people in truth, compassion, excellence and hope.

**Thank you for your partnership, trust and continued support of Veritas College.**

## Fundraising

The Veritas College Mother's Club is a dedicated group of moms who work together to support the school through meaningful fundraising and community involvement. From smaller initiatives like raffles to larger events such as golf days and colour runs, their teamwork and commitment ensure every effort is a success.

Beyond fundraising, the Mother's Club strives to make school life extra special for the children of Veritas College. Whether it's supporting them at sports events, encouraging them during exams, or simply going the extra mile, their presence is felt in many heartfelt ways.

This year has already seen incredible success, with **Crazy Week** raising **R9,533.** Our annual **Golf Day** was very well supported last term, but due to the school holidays, the final amount raised has not yet been finalized. As soon as the total becomes available, we will send the information out via the class WhatsApp groups. In the past, funds raised have been used to upgrade bathrooms and improve playground facilities, leaving a lasting impact on the school environment.

This year we still have the Mother's Day Raffle coming up in our first week of school and a Father's Day fundraiser as well.

If you would like to be part of this wonderful group, please contact Mrs Taylor - taylord@veritascollege.co.za

## Staff News

**Congratulations to Our Newlyweds!**

We extend our warm congratulations to two valued members of our teaching staff who were married during the recent school holidays, Mr Keagan Billson and Miss Abigail Bourbon. It is always a pleasure to celebrate happy milestones within our school community, and we wish them a lifetime filled with love, happiness, and shared success. May this new chapter bring them joy both personally and professionally as they continue their work with dedication and enthusiasm.

## Health and Safety Procedures

**For Safety Purposes the Following Rules have been put in Place:**

- Children may NOT remain unattended on the school premises after 15:00.
- Grade 1 & 2 children will remain with a supervising teacher from 13:00 – 13:30. Thereafter they will be taken to the waiting area, which is at the undercover shelter, within the school grounds, at the main gate.
- Grade 3 children will report to this waiting area at the end of their day, at 13:30 and the Grade 4-7 children will report there at 14:00. They will be supervised in the waiting area by Ms Makua until 15:00.
- At 14:50 children who have not yet been fetched will be taken to the Aftercare Facility where they will remain until they are signed out by a parent/transport driver.
- Please note: If you, as parent/guardian, do not want your child taken to the Aftercare Facility and choose to have them remain unsupervised in the waiting area, you are required to write a letter of confirmation which we will keep on file.

**N.B. Children who have been taken to the Aftercare Facility will be charged a R60 supervision fee from 15:00.**

- Children who are enrolled in the VeriSure Aftercare Facility, on a monthly basis, will report directly to the centre immediately after school to have their lunch and to begin their homework.
  Aftercare fees are as follows:
  - R1300 per month with lunch over 10 months
  - R 900 per month without lunch over 10 months.

  Enrolment forms are available from the front office.
  *For more information contact Mrs Carla Jardim @ 072 0138899*
- The Aftercare Facility closes at 17:00. Children who are still not fetched by that time will be left with the security guard on duty.

**Scholar Patrol:**

Pre-Preparatory families, please ensure that you cross at the Scholar Patrol when bringing your child to the Pre-Preparatory in the morning. The Grade 6 students have an important role to play so we ask that you abide by the rules and always make use of the Scholar Patrol Crossing.

**Drop-Off/Pick-Up Procedures** – Please adhere to the designated areas and times to ensure smooth traffic flow.

**Safety & Security**

As we continue to prioritize the safety and well-being of all our students we would like to remind everyone that signing into the Administration Block upon arriving at school during the school day is a necessary procedure. This measure is in place to ensure the security and protection of all children in our care.

**Mr Thokozani** is dedicated to helping us maintain a safe environment. We kindly request that all visitors and parents/guardians treat our security personnel with respect and courtesy. They are simply doing their job to keep our school community safe, and we appreciate their efforts. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

## Pre-Preparatory News

- **Pre-Preparatory Family Day**
  Our Pre-Prep Family Day is scheduled to take place on **Saturday, 30 May 2026**. This day always promises to be a fun- filled morning for our Pre-Prep children and their families. Be sure to diarize now!

- Please discuss any concerns that you may have regarding your child with your child's class teacher or with Mrs Freedman, the Head of Department of the Pre-Preparatory Phase. freedmang@veritascollege.co.za ✉

## Foundation Phase News

- Please discuss any concerns that you may have regarding your child with your child's class teacher or with Mrs Van Vuuren, the Head of Department of the Foundation Phase. vanvuuren@veritascollege.co.za ✉

## Inter/Sen Phase News

- Please discuss any concerns that you may have regarding your child with your child's class teacher or with Mr G. Barton, the Head of Department of the Inter/Sen Phase. bartong@veritascollege.co.za ✉

- **Senior Primary Study Skills Workshop – 25 May 2025 @ 18:00**

Our resident Occupational Therapist, Mrs Lara Gunter will be hosting a Study Skills Workshop for parents in the Preparatory School Hall at 18:30 on Monday, 25 May. This is an important event for our Grade 4 families whose children will be writing formal examinations for the first time, but all parents from Grade 5 to 7 are welcome to attend.
A letter with a reply slip will be sent out shortly to establish how many families will be in attendance.

## Uniform Shop

*The shop is open Monday to Friday from 07:00 – 14:30.*

There is an enormous amount of unmarked and unclaimed lost property in the Uniform Shop. Please ensure that you mark all your children's school clothes, towels, shoes, takkies etc. And if something is missing, before you replace it with something new, check that it is not in the Lost & Found Box.

## Board of Governors Annual General Meeting

**All Parents & Guardians are Strongly Encouraged to Attend**

🗓️ **Date:** Thursday, 14 May 2026
⏰ **Time:** 18:00
📍 **Venue:** Hall, Senior School Campus

The Annual General Meeting is an important opportunity for parents and guardians to engage with the Board of Governors, gain insight into the school's progress, and be informed about key decisions shaping the school's future.

Your attendance supports transparency, accountability, and a strong partnership between the school and its families.

**Your voice matters. Please make every effort to attend.**

***A Final Thought:***

*Mrs. S. Billson*
**Head of Preparatory**

*Mr N.D. Connors*
**Headmaster**

# Upcoming Events and Activities - 2026

## Term 2

### May

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| 6 May (Wednesday) | Term 2 Commences |
| 7 May (Thursday) | Grade 7 Leaders' Induction Evening |
| 10 May (Sunday) | Mothers' Day |
| 14May (Thursday) | -School Mass for Ascension Day<br>-SISA Speech Afternoon @ Ashbury<br>**-Board of Governors Annual General Meeting @18:00 in the Senior School Hall** |
| 15 May (Friday) | -'What to Study for Exams' Lists Issued<br>-SISA Mini Football & Netball<br>-SISA Chess Gr 4-7 @ Ashbury |
| 16 May (Saturday) | -CSO Gr 4&5 Netball @ De La Salle/St Catherine's<br>-CSO Gr 4&5 Football @ CBC Pretoria |
| 17 May (Sunday) | Catholic Schools' Sunday |
| 18 May – 22 May (Mon-Fri) | Catholic Schools' Week |
| 19 May – 22 May (Tue-Fri) | OISESA Quality Assurance Visit |
| 22 May (Friday) | -CSO Primary Schools' Bible Quiz<br>-SISA Mini Football & Netball (Venue tbc) |
| 23 May (Saturday) | -CSO Netball U/12 & 13 @ CBC Pretoria/Brescia House<br>-CSO Football U/12 & 13 @ Marits Brothers/St Ursulas |
| 24 May (Sunday) | Pentecost Sunday |
| 25 May (Monday) | -Study Skills Workshop – Grade 4 Parents & Students @18:30 |
| 26 May (Tuesday) | -Jozibot League Robotics Workshop at Ridgewood College, Benoni |
| 29 May (Friday) | -Parental Work Control<br>-SISA Mini Football & Netball |
| 30 May (Saturday) | -Pre-Preparatory Family Day<br>-Girls' Football @ Veritas College<br>-Inter-Regional Bible Quiz |
| 31 May (Sunday) | Trinity Sunday |

### June

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| 5 June (Friday) | SISA Mini Football & Netball |
| 6 June (Saturday) | -CSO F/P Netball @ Sacred Heart<br>-CSO Cross Country @ La Salle<br>-CSO F/P Soccer @ St Benedicts |
| 15 June (Monday) | School Holiday |
| 16 June (Tuesday) | Youth Day |
| 17 June (Wednesday) | Grade 4 – 7 MID-YEAR EXAMINATIONS BEGIN School closes @ **12:00** during examinations for **all** students |
| 21 June (Friday) | Fathers' Day |

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| 26 June (Friday) | Grade 4 – 7 MID-YEAR EXAMINATIONS END<br>**Midterm Break Begins – School closes at 12:00** |

## July

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| 6 July (Monday) | **School Reopens** |
| 7 July (Tuesday) | Group Photographs |
| 18 July (Saturday) | Mandela Day |
| 23-25 July (Thurs-Sat) | Inter-CBC Winter Festival @ St Domini's Welkom |
| 27-31 July (Mon-Fri) | -'Run-Offs' for the Inter-House Athletics during P.T.<br>-**Veritas Preparatory Cultural Festival** |
| 31 July (Friday) | -SISA Chess Gr 4-7 @ Woodlands<br>-SISA Mini-Hockey @ Woodlands |

## August

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| 1 August (Saturday) | CSO Girls & Boys Hockey @ Brescia House |
| 3 August (Monday) | -Term 2 Reports Issued<br>-Parent's Interviews Begin |
| 3-7 August (Mon-Fri) | Relay Practices for Inter-House Athletics |
| 6 August (Thursday) | -School Mass for the Feast of St Dominic<br>-SISA Quiz Evening @ St Francis |
| 7 August (Friday) | -Inter-House Athletics @ the Senior School Campus<br>**-End of Term 2 School Closes @ 12:00** |
| 8 August (Saturday) | Feast of St Dominic |

## September

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| 9 September (Wednesday) | **Term 3 Commences** |
| 11 September (Friday) | School Mass for the Birthday of Our Lady |
| 14 September (Monday) | Achievement Application Forms for Awards Issued |
| 15-18 September (Tues-Fri) | Grade 6 Thaba Morula Camp |
| 17 September (Thursday) | - Gr R School Readiness Assessments |
| 18 September (Friday) | -SISA Chess Gr4-7 @ Pinnacle<br>-SISA Mini-Hockey @ St Dunstan's<br>-CSO Athletics @ Sacred Heart |
| 18 September (Friday) | CSO Leave Your Print Campaign |
| 19 September (Saturday) | Veritas College OPEN DAY |
| 22 September (Tuesday) | Group Photographs |
| 23 September (Wednesday) | Students Wear Heritage Day Clothes |
| 24 September (Thursday) | Heritage Day |
| 24 September (Friday) | School Holiday |
| 30 September (Wednesday) | Achievement Application Forms for Awards Due |

## October

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| 2 October (Friday) | Examination 'What to Study Lists' Issued<br>-SISA Mini-Hockey @ Ridgewood |
| 5 October (Monday) | Teachers Day |
| 16 October (Friday) | -CSO Tennis Gr 4-7 @ St Benedict's<br>-SISA Cross Country @ Eco-Kids |
| 22 October (Thursday) | -Gr 7 Entrepreneur's Day |

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| | **School Closes for Mid-Term Break @ 12:00** |
| 27 October (Tuesday) | **School Reopens** |
| 30 October (Friday) | -Pre-Preparatory Grandparent's Day<br>-SISA Cross Country @ Ashton |
| 31 October (Saturday) | CSO F/P Cricket Festival @ Veritas College |

## November

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| 1 November (Sunday) | All Saints Day |
| 2 November (Monday) | -School Mass for All Soul's Day<br>-Cultural & Service Awards |
| 3 November (Tuesday) | -Sports' Awards<br>-School Closes @ 12:00 for the Remainder of the Year |
| 4 November (Wednesday) | **YEAR-END EXAMINATIONS BEGIN** |
| 7 November (Saturday) | Grade 1 Orientation Day |
| 13 November (Friday) | **YEAR-END EXAMINATIONS END**<br>-Grade 3 Retreat Day |
| 14 November (Saturday) | Grade R Graduation Morning |
| 16 November (Monday) | Grade 4 Retreat Day |
| 17 November (Tuesday) | Grade 5 Retreat Day |
| 18 November (Wednesday) | Grade 6 Retreat Day |
| 19 November (Thursday) | Grade 7 Retreat Day |
| 20 November (Friday) | Christmas Assembly & Picnic |
| 24 November (Tuesday) | Pre-Preparatory Christmas Party |
| 25 November (Wednesday) | Foundation Phase Awards Ceremony @ 08:30 |
| 26 November (Thursday) | Intermediate/Senior Phase Awards Ceremony @ 08:30 |
| 27 November (Friday) | -Gr 7 Valedictory Mass @ 08:30<br>-Reports & 2027 Stationery Boxes Issued<br>**End of Term 3 - School Closes @ 11:00** |
| 30 November (Monday) | Staff Administration Day |
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## December

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| 1 December (Tuesday) | Staff Administration Day |
| 2 December (Wednesday) | Staff Administration Day |