

SCHOOL MATTERS

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S OFFICE



In New York, a "bell-to-bell" ban on smartphone use in schools means students are prohibited from using their cell phones from the first bell of the school day until the last bell, including during break and other non-instructional time.

After discussions with parents, teachers and learners, Midstream College will be a cell-free zone during school hours from Monday. Learners will have to switch off their mobile phones at 07:30 and may not turn them on until after school at 14:00. Globally, as well as in South Africa, it has been unequivocally proven that learners' ability to concentrate and performance decreases because of the constant interruption by smart phones. As a result, mobile phones are banned at more and more schools during school hours.

Governor Sanders of Arkansas announced the Bell-to-Bell, No Cell Act, legislation that would ban smartphones and added: *We have seen a staggering rise in mental illness among young people over the past decade. The culprit is clear: unrestricted access to smartphones and social media.*

The negative impact of social media, the lack of socialisation in some learners, even mental health challenges are mainly attributed to this. Offenders' smartphones will be confiscated, and parents can collect them from school on the following Monday. I trust parents, teachers and learners will work together to create a better environment for our children in which they can thrive and perform.

The third term is renowned for various cultural performances and competitions. Our choir (Melodia) and revue have already had their first performances and received positive feedback. All of the best to our public speakers, drama learners and band members who also have an active programme this term. I hope to see many of you at our MC³ concert at Emperors Palace on Sunday, 17 August. This concert is another of the recent joint projects between our three schools where the best of each school's culture makes for a glamorous evening. More details regarding the link for tickets will follow soon.

I would like to salute our four rugby teams that were in the Blue Bull final last Saturday. Win or lose, you made us proud, and you certainly gave your best. Good luck for the next round of the Noordvaal Cup this Saturday. Only the u14s play at home. In the same breath, good luck to all our girls' and boys' hockey teams that will participate in their respective Noordvaal finals in the next two weeks. Our cricket and softball players, along with the cross-country athletes, also face a busy term.

Learners all received their exam papers back last week and matrics have already received their reports. The rest of the College will receive their reports electronically by Tuesday. Feel free to use the upcoming parents' evening (7 August) if you would like to see any subject teachers. More details later in this newsletter. Carpe Diem, seize every academic opportunity (without smartphones 😊) during the rest of the year.

Finally, I would like to wish every teacher, learner and parent all of the best for this busy term and I hope you were all able to pause and spend time with loved ones during the holidays. My family and I were fortunate to visit Turkey and had an enriching experience.



GRADE 9 SUBJECT CHOICE

We remind you of the grade 9 subject choice information evening in the hall on 14 August at 18:30. For subject information, you can click on the following link: [SUBJECTS](#).

Independent Education

The Winter edition of the magazine for independent and private schools in Southern Africa is now available online at: [WINTER 2025](#)

Independent
Education

The magazine for independent and private schools in Southern Africa

Spring Fest
Morning Market
6AM-11AM
06 SEP
@MIDSTREAM RIDGE
FREE ENTRY

OUT
SURANCE

Spring Fest
@ MIDSTREAM COLLEGE
11AM-10PM
06 SEP
@MIDSTREAM COLLEGE
SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS
Visit www.springfest.co.za

Applications now open for SpringFest 2025

We are thrilled to announce that applications are now open for SpringFest 2025! As part of the SpringFest Lifestyle Exhibitor Committee, we are excited to invite you to participate in this year's event. SpringFest is a vibrant celebration of lifestyle and community, and we believe that your products/services will be a fantastic addition to our lineup. We invite you to apply. Click on the link below and please complete the application form to be considered for participation.

Apply now: [APPLICATION](#)

Visit our website www.springfest.co.za

Feel free to contact us should you have any queries or require further information. We look forward to receiving your application and potentially welcoming you to SpringFest 2025!

ACADEMICS



Click on the link for
academic information

SPORT



Click on the link for results

CULTURE



Click on the link for results