

22 May 2026

Dear Parents,

As we draw to the end of week 5, we reflect with pride and gratitude on the many activities and achievements that continue to enrich the life of our school community. Today we celebrated Africa Day.

The occasion provided a meaningful opportunity for our students and staff to embrace the richness of our continent's cultures, traditions and diversity. It was heartening to witness our community come together in celebration of our African identity, heritage and shared humanity. What was different in our celebrations today was the raising of awareness and challenges around some of the scarce resources on our continent. One such challenge, is the scarcity of water and the unequal access to one of the most basic precious and natural resources.

Whilst many of us are fortunate enough to turn on a tap without a second thought, millions across Africa still walk long distances in search of clean water. This was a sobering reminder of how privileged we are, and to instil the need to conserve water in our privileged spaces and also to be more conscious of building a more equitable future for all.

Thank you to Mrs Gabriel, and Miss Gene McCaskill and their Team of staff and students for putting on such a stellar performance.

Thank you to our Staff, Parents and students that stood over pots on stoves in the last 24 hours to prepare the delectable cuisine that represents the diversity of our community.

Thank you to Cilla Keel and Capitol Caterers for feeding the students and staff and to the grounds and maintenance staff for their hard work throughout the day.

### **Cross Country**

On Monday our students participated in the Interhouse Cross Country event. The conditions were perfect for a change, resulting in our students posting good times on the day, and this allowed students to complete the course comfortably. Thank you to all the staff that were involved in organising the event.

### **Open Day**

Last Saturday, we hosted a successful Open Day, where prospective families had the opportunity to experience the warm spirit, strong academic culture and holistic educational offering that defines

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"If it's important to the child, it's important to us."

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the International School of South Africa. Thank you to all staff, students and parents who contributed towards making the event such a positive reflection of our school.

### **Athletics High Performance programme**

We are also delighted to announce that International School of South Africa has entered into an exciting collaboration with Point Fitness Athletics Club, who will begin running high-performance Track and Field training sessions at the school from next week. The programme will initially consist of two sessions per week, with students from ISSA being identified through a talent identification process to participate in this elite development initiative. We are both excited and inspired by the possibilities that this partnership presents for our young athletes and the continued growth of sport within our school.

Details of the schedules will be shared with parents of students that have been identified once the programme has been completed.

### **Othello**

Our Grade 12 IEB students are currently reading Othello as a prescribed network. Thursday evening, they attended a live performance of the play at the University of Johannesburg. Experiences such as these bring literature to life in a powerful and memorable way, and deepens student appreciation of dramatic performance and critical analysis. Thank you to Mrs Nthau for accompanying our students on the trip.

### **Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards**

Last night, Mr Makudo and Mr Mapfumo attended the Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards at Melrose Arch in Johannesburg. We once again extend our heartfelt congratulations to Gabriel Kampondeni for achieving first place in South Africa for IGCSE Literature in the November 2025 examination series, and to Ann Hagan for attaining first in South Africa for AS Economics in the June 2025 series.

These exceptional accomplishments are a testament not only to the dedication and discipline of our students, but also to the strength of the academic culture we continue to nurture as a school community.

We are especially proud to share that Anne is currently pursuing her studies in Actuarial Science at the University of Pretoria.

Thank you to Mr. Kampondeni and Mr & Mrs Hagan for attending the ceremony as well. This support is greatly appreciated.

## OISESA Visit

From the 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> May, we welcome a panel from OISESA who will be conducting a site visit following the completion of our Self-Evaluation Process. We extend our sincere appreciation to all parents who participated in the surveys and contributed valuable feedback. Focus group sessions have been arranged for the various constituencies, both virtually and face-to-face, and we thank you in advance for your continued engagement and support throughout this important process. The final programme will be published soon. I encourage as many of you to participate in the focus groups.

Thank you to all staff in both our schools for diligently engaging in this process.

I would like to extend my special thanks to the Quality Assurance Teams in both our schools Mrs Naomi Buys, Mrs Safiya Safi, Mr Philemon Mapfumo and Mrs Agobakwe Nthau (High School) and Mrs Michelle Swart and Miss Kerisha Bhugwateeparsad for pulling all the data together and compiling the final reports.

## Fun Day

Finally, we look forward to the Primary School Fun day tomorrow. Lots of fun activities to look forward to including soccer, live entertainment, braai and many other entertaining activities.

## Conclusion

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership, encouragement and support of the school.

Together, we continue to build a community grounded in excellence, care and opportunity for every child.

***If it matters to the child, it matters to us.***

Yours sincerely



**Bruce Wells**  
CEO/Headmaster  
International School of South Africa