

30 May 2026

Newsletter 05

EDGEMEAD HIGH SCHOOL



EDGE- NEWS



**Westerford
Derby**



**Learner
Achievements**



**Pinelands
Derby**



Xhosa Week



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To have life more abundantly



A MONTH OF PRIDE, SPIRIT AND EXCELLENCE

Dear Edgemean Families

May has been an incredibly full and exciting month at Edgemean High School, with our learners continuing to excel academically, culturally and on the sports field.

What has stood out most to me this month has been the overwhelming sense of school pride and community spirit shown by our learners.

Academic Focus and Term 1 Success

As we move deeper into the academic year and prepare for examinations, I would like to commend our learners and staff for the strong academic momentum we continue to build at Edgemean High School.

The 2026 Term 1 Academic results reflects significant progress across multiple grades and confirms that the school is moving confidently in the right direction academically. Across both the GET and FET phases, we have seen encouraging improvements in pass rates, high achievers, Bachelor's Passes and overall learner performance.

Our Grade 8 learners showed strong academic growth this term. The percentage of learners achieving averages above 70% increased from 40% to 45%, while our pass improved by 6% compared to the previous year. It is particularly encouraging to see more learners performing comfortably above the 60% range.

Grade 9 showed one of the strongest improvements in the school, with the overall pass rate improving by 18% compared to the previous year. High achievers increased from 26% to 40%, while A aggregates more than doubled from 7% to 15%. Most encouraging is that many learners who struggled previously have shown measurable improvement, demonstrating the positive impact of our intervention and support programmes.

Our Grade 10 learners achieved an outstanding 98.4% pass rate, with 71.8% obtaining Bachelor's Passes. This confirms the value of improved subject guidance, learner support and academic focus.

While Grade 11 remains an area where we continue to provide targeted support and monitoring, the overall pass rate remains high at 96.7%. Although the cohort experienced some decline in top-end performance, we remain committed to strengthening learner performance through focused academic interventions and continued support from our staff and wellness teams.

Our matric class of 2026 continues to make us exceptionally proud. Grade 12 achieved a 99.6% pass rate, while the Bachelor's Pass rate increased to 79.5%. More than half of the matric cohort achieved averages above 70%, reflecting the determination, resilience and commitment of our learners and staff. Particularly pleasing is the fact that this cohort has improved substantially compared to their Grade 11 performance, showing real academic maturity and focus.

A major reason for these improvements is the strong academic support structure that continues to grow within the school. This year we expanded our peer tutoring programme to include additional grades and subjects, while extra Mathematics and Physical Science support classes continued throughout the term. In addition, reflective learning strategies, academic monitoring, counselling support, wellness interventions and School-Based Support Team involvement have all contributed positively to learner development.

The results also highlighted a strong relationship between learner attendance and academic achievement. Learners with strong attendance records consistently performed better academically, reinforcing the importance of discipline, consistency and partnership between school and home.

Derby Season Success

Our derby weekends against Westerford and Pinelands were a tremendous success and truly showcased the spirit of Edgemoor High School. For the first time, we hosted a full "Big Brag" in the school quad, introducing all of our first teams to the school alongside our cheerleaders. The atmosphere was electric and it was wonderful to see our learners rally behind their peers with such enthusiasm.

One of my proudest moments was seeing hundreds of learners arrive in full winter uniform, respectfully representing the school and making use of the supporter buses provided. The support, energy and school pride displayed throughout the derby weekends made for an unforgettable experience.

I would also like to congratulate our sports teams on their excellent performances. We proudly won the derby against Westerford with an overall fixture result of 21-20, while the derby against Pinelands was another massive success for our school community.

Cultural Excellence

On the same weekend as the derby fixtures, our orchestra and jazz band participated in the Stellenbosch Eisteddfod and performed exceptionally well. Both ensembles achieved Gold Plus awards, scoring between 85% and 89%, accompanied by outstanding feedback from adjudicators.

We were also proud to host our Term 2 Music Concert, which was exceptionally well attended and showcased the incredible musical talent within our school community.

I am incredibly proud of every learner involved for the dedication, passion and discipline they continue to show in developing their talents and representing the school with excellence.

Founder's Day Celebrations

Founder's Day was another special occasion on our calendar and provided an opportunity to celebrate the history, values and culture of Edgemoor High School.

Learners enjoyed live bands during break, performances by our full orchestra and inspiring guest speakers who reminded our learners of the opportunities available beyond school.

We were privileged to welcome two past pupils from the Class of 2014:

Emma Ferguson is an award-winning director, writer and actress, and founder of Origen Productions, a theatre production company that has produced critically acclaimed shows across the country over the past four years. Emma holds a Diploma in Musical Theatre as well as a Diploma in Teaching Drama from Trinity College London.

Harley Ferguson is the CEO of Origen Software and works as both an investor and business advisor.

After beginning his career as a developer, Harley now focuses on building and mentoring companies while also working as a speaker and writer. Harley holds a Higher Certificate in IT and a BSc in IT from CTI (now Pearson Institute).

Both speakers shared valuable insights with our learners about resilience, entrepreneurship, creativity and finding purpose beyond school. Harley also generously offered to host informal Q&A sessions with interested learners during breaks, creating meaningful opportunities for engagement and mentorship.

As always, I would like to thank our staff, parents and learners for the commitment and energy they continue to bring to our school community. May has reminded us once again what makes Edgemoor High School such a special place: school pride, excellence, opportunity and community.

KIND REGARDS,

Mr. Joel Erasmus



Westerford Derby

The weekend of 8 May saw Edgemoor High School take on Westerford High School in an exciting derby filled with school spirit, determination, and memorable performances across a range of sporting codes and debating.

The derby weekend kicked off with a lively "gees" assembly held in the Hall Quad at the end of the school day. The assembly created a fantastic atmosphere as all of our first teams were celebrated and supported ahead of the weekend's fixtures. It was the perfect way to build excitement and unity before the derby began.

As always, we thoroughly enjoyed being hosted by Westerford High School and would like to thank them for their hospitality and sportsmanship throughout the weekend. We already look forward to welcoming them to Edgemoor High School next year.

Results:

Debating

- Juniors: Won
- Seniors: Lost

Soccer Boys

- U15A: Lost 1-2
- U17A: Lost 0-1
- U19B: Lost 0-5
- U19A: Lost 0-4

Soccer Girls

- U19A: Won 3-2

Hockey Boys

- U14A: Won 3-1
- U16A: Won 1-0
- U16B: Won 5-0
- U19A: Won 1-0

Hockey Girls

- U14A: Lost 0-3
- U16A: Lost 0-3
- U19A: Won 1-0
- U17A: Lost 15-5
- U19A: Won 15-14
- U19B: Won 15-11

Rugby

- U14A: Lost 20-25
- U15A: Won 10-5
- U16A: Won 27-0
- U19A: Won 14-7

Table Tennis

- 1st: Lost 0-6
- 2nd: Lost 1-5
- 3rd: Lost 0-6

Chess

- U19A: Lost 0-8
- U19B: Won 7-1
- U19C: Lost 2-6

Netball

- U14A: Won 9-6
- U14B: Won 14-7
- U14C: Lost 12-22
- U15A: Won 17-9
- U15B: Lost 12-16
- U16A: Won 9-7
- U16B: Lost 8-11





Pinelands Derby

Edgemean High School proudly hosted Pinelands High School for an exciting derby weekend filled with competitive spirit, teamwork, and outstanding performances across a variety of sporting codes.

The weekend showcased the talent, determination, and sportsmanship of our learners as teams competed in soccer, hockey, table tennis, and netball. We would like to thank Pinelands High School for a fantastic weekend of sport and camaraderie, and for the positive spirit in which all matches were played.

Results:

Hockey Boys

- U14A: Drew 1-1
- U16A: Won 4-0
- U16B: Won 3-0
- U19A: Lost 2-3
- U19B: Won 5-0

Hockey Girls

- U14A: Drew 0-0
- U16A: Won 2-1
- U19A: Lost 0-2
- U19B: Won 1-0

Netball

- U14A: Lost 11-17
- U14B: Lost 7-12
- U16A: Won 32-11
- U16B: Won 11-6
- U19A: Won 47-11
- U19B: Won 23-6

Soccer Boys

- U15A: Lost 0-3
- U15B: Lost 0-7
- U17A: Won 2-0
- U19A: Lost 0-2

Soccer Girls

- U16A: Lost 0-5
- U19A: Won 6-0
- U19B: Won 5-1
- U19C: Drew 3-3

Table Tennis

- 1st Team: Won 6-0
- 2nd Team: Won 5-1
- 3rd Team: Drew 3-3



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Xhosa Week

Celebrating Xhosa Week

At the end of April, our school proudly celebrated Xhosa Week, which remains one of the highlights of our school calendar every year. Learners and staff embraced the vibrant culture and traditions through a full Xhosa assembly filled with energy, pride, and celebration. The assembly featured traditional dances, entertaining skits portraying traditional ceremonies, and even a popular amagwinya sale that added to the festive atmosphere. Xhosa Week once again created an opportunity for our school community to celebrate diversity, heritage, and the rich cultural traditions that make South Africa so unique.



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Farewell to Harold Gassibe

Today we bid farewell to a very special member of the Edgemoor High School family, Harold Gassibe, after 22 years of loyal service and dedication to our school.

Since joining EHS on 1 February 2004, Harold has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to help keep our school running smoothly. However, it is his kindness, wisdom, and willingness to support others that have truly left a lasting impact on our school community. Over the years, he has been a mentor, counsellor, and friend to many learners and staff members alike.

Harold's contribution to Edgemoor High School will never be forgotten, and his presence will be greatly missed.

Thank you, Harold, for everything you have done for EHS over the past 22 years. We wish you happiness, good health, and every success as you begin this new chapter ahead.



Learner

Achievements



Edgemead High Learner Selected for Prestigious Zeitz MOCAA Matric Workshop

Congratulations to Muaath Francis (Grade 12) on being selected as one of only 18 participants for the prestigious 2026 Zeitz MOCAA Matric Workshop.

Chosen from more than 70 applicants, Muaath will take part in this highly competitive programme hosted at the BMW Centre for Art Education at Zeitz MOCAA. This outstanding achievement is a testament to his creativity, artistic talent, and dedication to the arts.

We are incredibly proud to see an Edgemead High School learner representing our school among the next generation of South African artists. Opportunities such as these not only nurture young talent but also inspire future growth within the creative industry.

A sincere thank you to Zeitz MOCAA for providing young artists with meaningful opportunities to learn, develop, and showcase their work. Programmes like these play an important role in shaping the future of the arts in South Africa.



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Outstanding Table Tennis Achievement

Congratulations to Shiloh Smith on her outstanding achievement at the Cape Town Table Tennis Trials, where she placed 2nd in the U/19 Girls division. As a result of her excellent performance, she has been selected to represent at the S.A. National Table Tennis Championship in Polokwane from 2-8 July 2026. We are incredibly proud of Shiloh and wish her all the best for the national championships.

Western Cape Schools Netball Selection

Congratulations to Sangenathi Rilityane on her selection to the Western Cape Schools Netball team.

Sangenathi will proudly represent the Western Cape at the prestigious NSA TELKOM CHAMPIONSHIPS (TNC) tournament — an outstanding achievement that reflects her hard work, dedication, and talent on the netball court.

We are incredibly proud of her accomplishment and wish her every success as she competes at this exciting national tournament. We know she will represent both her province and Edgemoor High School with pride.



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U19 Western Province Hockey Team Selection



A huge congratulations to our First Team Hockey Captain, Hannah Davids, on her selection to the U19 Western Province Hockey Team.

This outstanding achievement is a reflection of Hannah's hard work, leadership, dedication, and talent on the hockey field. We are incredibly proud to see her representing Western Province at this level.

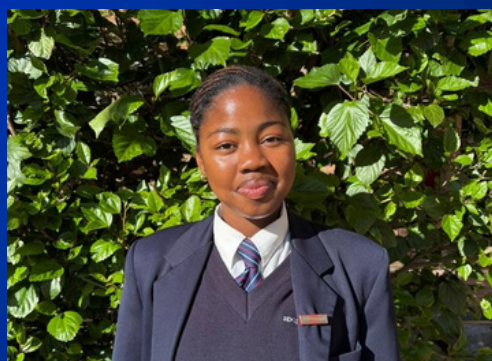
Wishing Hannah all the best as she takes to the field and continues to make both her province and Edgemoor High School proud.

CTHSN Team Selection

Congratulations to Jessica Lloyd (U19) and Thabi Moela (U16) on their selection for CTHSN.

Your dedication, hard work, and passion for netball have truly paid off, and we could not be prouder of this outstanding achievement. You continue to represent Edgemoor High School with excellence both on and off the court, and your commitment to the sport is an inspiration to those around you.

We wish both girls the very best of luck for the upcoming CP trials and know that you will continue to make our school proud.



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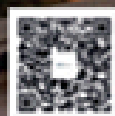
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