



WATERFALL COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

TERM 3 2025

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is hard to believe another term has come to a close. As I reflect on the past few months, I cannot help but think about the incredible growth I have witnessed in our students. It brings to mind an old, timeless truth that we reap what we sow (Matthew 13 v 1–9).

A school is much like a garden. The buildings and grounds are the soil and structures, but it is the people who are the seeds and the gardeners. We plant intentions, effort, kindness and hard work every single day and, in return, we see the results blossom.

I have been so proud to see the bumper harvest we have had this term. Many of our students have taken ownership of their metaphorical gardens. We have seen it in the quiet persistence of a student who finally understands a difficult concept, the progress of our sports teams and the compassion shown in our community service projects. These moments of growth are not accidents; they are the direct result of the effort, patience and care that has been sown.

Our school's welcoming atmosphere, which so many visitors comment on, is not something that just happens. It is a collective effort, a conscious decision by each of us to plant seeds of unity and respect. Just as a garden thrives when every plant gets what it needs, our community flourishes when we look out for one another.

In a world that often encourages us to focus on our own needs, there is great power in shifting our perspective. When we choose to tend to the needs of others, we do not only help them grow, we strengthen the very foundation of our own lives and our community. Every small act of kindness, a helping hand, a word of encouragement or a shared smile is a seed that contributes to a more beautiful and compassionate world for all of us.

My greatest hope for our school is that every student feels they have a place where they belong and can flourish. This is a harvest we all have a hand in cultivating, one seed at a time.

As we head into the holidays, I hope you find time to rest and reflect on the seeds you have sown this term. May you enjoy the harvest and feel inspired to prepare the ground for a new season of growth.

~ Mrs Green ~

GOLF DAY

Driving sport forward!



On Thursday, 4 September, the Waterfall Schools Golf Day brought together an incredible community of golfers, sponsors and supporters at the beautiful Cotswold Downs – all with one shared purpose: raising funds for the growth of our sports programme.

Thanks to our supporters' generosity and the organisation of parents Allan and Yashmita Van Ryn, the event raised just over R147 000 – our most successful parent-driven fundraiser to date! This is making a significant contribution to these exciting projects, which are currently underway:

- Brand-new basketball and netball courts
- Permanent cricket nets

The day was filled with sunshine, camaraderie and some fantastic golf. A spirited auction added to the energy and boosted our fundraising ahead of the prizegiving, with some incredible prizes, including a 7-night stay at Umnulu Tented Camp in Limpopo for the lowest gross score.

A heartfelt thank you to Cotswold Downs, to each of our wonderful sponsors and every golfer who took to the course. Together, we are building sporting opportunities that will benefit our students for years to come.





A MASSIVE THANK YOU TO OUR GOLF DAY SPONSORS



GRADE 11 DANCE



Our Grade 11s stepped back in time for their dance, earlier this term. With a Bridgerton-inspired theme, the hall was transformed into a world of elegance and charm, and our students rose to the occasion, looking absolutely spectacular.

PHYSICAL SCIENCES



This term has been the Grade 8s first experience of Physical Sciences. They have made atomic models, learned about mixtures and compounds by making pancakes and practised using laboratory equipment to perform chemical reactions. These practical sessions not only built scientific understanding, but also strengthened teamwork as students supported one another in the lab.

In Grade 10, students have been focusing on chemical reactions in aqueous solutions, performing various chemical tests as well as practising stoichiometry. Their growing independence shows how skills and confidence are developing hand in hand.

The Grade 11 class has been preparing for their Matric year, learning how motors and generators work, as well as exploring the internal resistance of a battery and rectifiers. This is very practical knowledge for our future engineers, whose curiosity and collaboration keep driving their learning forward.

Our Matrics have celebrated the completion of the syllabus, learning about galvanic and electrolytic cells, and showed determination during their trial examinations. We wish them good luck in their finals.

~ Mrs Goodrick ~



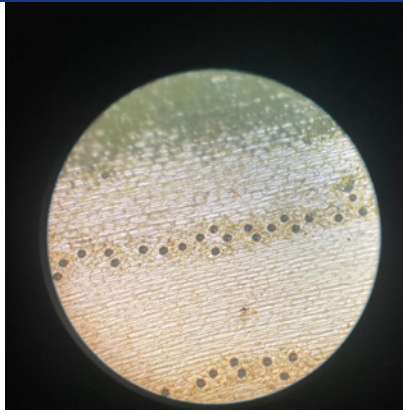
IEB COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING CHALLENGE

Five of our students proudly represented our school in the IEB Collaborative Problem-Solving Challenge (IdeaKazi 2025), an event that brought students from across SA together to design entrepreneurial solutions for real-world needs. These included developing a low-cost online lessons academy to extend access to quality education and a low-data job seekers' platform aimed at opening more opportunities for young people entering the job market.

The challenge gave students the chance to sharpen skills in critical and creative thinking, collaboration and ethical responsibility, while experiencing the entrepreneurial process from ideation to presentation. We commend our students for their initiative and teamwork, and for proving that young people are able to shape solutions that can transform our communities.

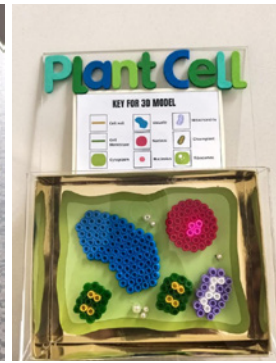
~ Ms Chonco ~

LIFE SCIENCES



It has been another busy and exciting term in the Life Sciences Department. Our Grade 9 and 10 students have been refining their microscopy skills, learning proper techniques for preparing plant samples and gaining hands-on experience in observing intricate structures that they had previously only encountered in textbooks. Each step helped to improve their accuracy and confidence.

Grade 9 students also had the opportunity to showcase their creativity by constructing 3D cell models (right) using mostly recycled materials. Their imaginative approaches reflected not only subject knowledge, but also personal expression.



Our Grade 11s have explored a range of fascinating topics, including micro-organisms, and uncovered connections between the endocrine and nervous systems. These discoveries sparked thoughtful discussions and highlighted the value of seeing science as both individual study and shared learning.

Meanwhile, our Grade 12s impressed us with their diligence and dedication as they tackled challenging trial papers. Their hard work and commitment are a testament to their growth and readiness for the final examinations.

~ Mrs Gilmour and Mrs McNabb ~



On 30 July, five of our Grade 10 Life Sciences students participated in the Molweni River Schools Project, an initiative run by the Kloof Conservancy. Guided by a professional water scientist, the students conducted water quality testing at a designated site along the Molweni River within the Kirtlington Estate.

Following the fieldwork, they attended a feedback session at the Kloof Scout Hall, where seven other high schools were also represented. Our students confidently presented their findings, showing maturity and pride in their teamwork.

The participating students were: Elihle Nodada, Leah Maggott, Jade Hastie, Ashley Gertzen and Sinqobile Gwina.

CONSUMER STUDIES



Our Matrics finished off the year making novelty cakes for the final practical.
We are proud of their spectacular achievements.



Grade 10 savoury tarts – crustless creations, a great way to use leftovers.



Our Grade 11s made a hearty lasagne from scratch. This involved a lot of skills, including the making of a roux as a base for the white sauce and cooking the mince to incorporate flavour.

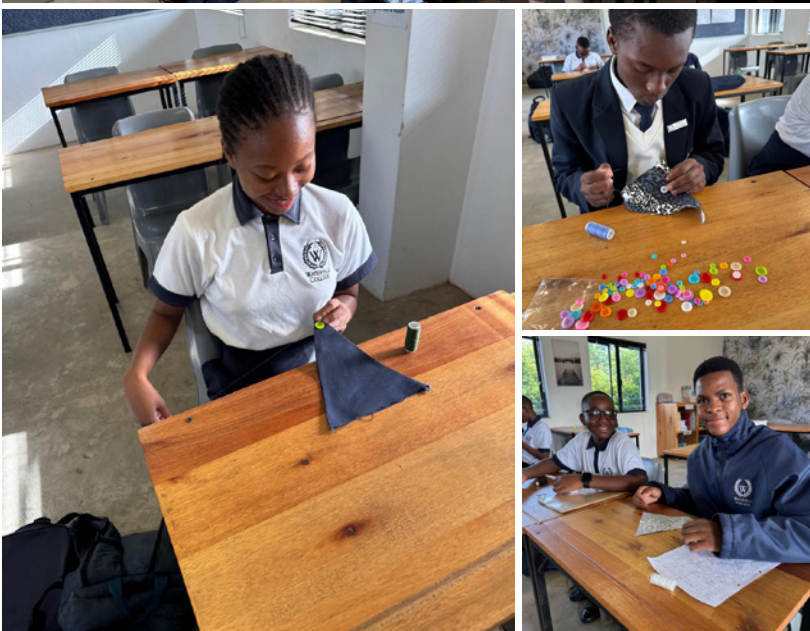
MENTOR GROUPS



This term has been a meaningful journey of creating connections within our mentor groups. Our mentors have worked hard to build safe and supportive spaces for students, fostering a sense of belonging and comfort.

While each group has been unique in its activities and discussions, it has been a joy to hear about the creativity, energy and thoughtful conversations that have taken place. These moments show how important it is to know each student as an individual and to give them a space where they feel understood and encouraged.

We also bid farewell to our Matrics in their mentor groups this term. Their valuable input, leadership and contributions have enriched each group and, as they prepare for their final examinations, we wish them every success. May they continue to carry forward the connections and lessons built through this programme.



~ Ms Chonco ~

YOUTH CAMP



This past weekend, 40 students attended our school's second Christian Youth Camp, where they enjoyed an incredible time of fun, fellowship and spiritual growth. From paintball, ziplining and obstacle courses to impactful youth sessions, every moment was filled with excitement and meaning. The talks encouraged and comforted them, reminding them of God's presence as they navigate the journey of youth. It was truly a time well-spent in building courage and deepening their walk with God.

VISUAL ART



Jade Hastie, Grade 10



Emily Deans, Grade 11



Milly Mitchell, Grade 10



Esethu Msibi, Grade 10

The Art Department has had a vibrant and creative Term 3, with each grade working on projects that showcased imagination and skill.

Our Grade 9s had fun designing 'mechanimals' – fantastical creatures made by combining three animals and adding mechanical parts, such as gears and cogs. The results were quirky, detailed and full of imagination.

Grade 10 students submitted their object paintings, developed from the observational drawings completed earlier in the year. This project gave them the chance to transform detailed sketches into colourful paintings while experimenting with colour, composition and technique.

Our Grade 11s painted around the theme 'Home', exploring ideas of belonging, memory and aspiration. Each artwork reflected a personal and unique interpretation of the theme, showing great depth of thought.

Lastly, our Grade 12s produced outstanding practical work and are now preparing with focus and determination for their final exams. Their example of discipline, peer support and creativity has set a strong standard for younger grades and we wish them every success.

It has been a busy term and we are proud of the passion and commitment our Art students have shown!

~ Mrs Webb ~



Thandolwethu Langa, Grade 10



Ruby Nell, Grade 11



Ella Schnell, Grade 11

DRAMA



This term, Waterfall College proudly hosted its second Speech and Drama Festival. We received very positive feedback and three of our students were selected to compete in the prestigious Bruce Piper Competition in Hilton this October. This exciting opportunity allows them to gain exposure, connect with adjudicators and compete against other talented students.

We also celebrated creativity and teamwork through our House Plays. Nkutu performed “A Villain’s Redemption”, Nkonka staged a unique take on “Last to Hide” and Imphiti delighted the audience with “A Krabby Caper”. Our Grade 10 students worked tirelessly to direct these productions, showcasing their skills in rehearsal planning, set design, characterisation, sound, lighting, costumes, make-up and props. Their Director Portfolios, which form part of their assessment, reflect the high standard of work and collaboration required. This experience not only builds leadership, but also offers insight into the world of theatre production.

Our Grade 11 and 12 students have also been hard at work on their Practical Assessment Task (PAT), designed around “Woza Albert!” and the traditions of South African Protest Theatre. These tasks, which include both written and practical components, prepare students for the rigour of IEB assessments by developing their ability to manage time, collaborate effectively and engage critically with dramatic texts.

In support of this work, our Grade 10 to 12 students attended the Ashton Arts Festival in Ballito to watch a professional production of “Woza Albert!” After the performance, they had the chance to engage directly with the actors and director, asking thoughtful questions and deepening their understanding of the play.

Meanwhile, our junior students explored their imagination and expression through recreations of favourite film scenes and stage plays, experimenting with different acting styles both on stage and behind the camera.

Overall, this has been a vibrant and rewarding term for our Drama Department. Our growing subject continues to provide our students with rich opportunities for creativity, collaboration and performance, and we are so proud of the talent and commitment they have shown.

~ Ms Kruger ~

AFRIKAANS



This term, with Heritage Day in mind, our students explored Afrikaans culture and history. Learning about a language's culture is inextricably linked to learning the language itself.

Our Grade 8s (pictured) researched traditional Afrikaans dishes and presented their findings along with a tasty treat. The Grade 10s delved into folktales such as 'Wolraad Woltemade', 'Jakkals en Wolf', 'Die Heks van Hexrivier' and many more. They reflected on the lessons these stories teach and considered the role of folktales in preserving cultural values.

Our Grade 9s strayed a bit further from home and focused on exotic destinations that sparked their interest, inspired by the poem 'Op Reis Na Verre Plekke'.

Meanwhile, our Grade 11s began reading the new Matric set work, 'Tuimeltrein'. We are excited to journey with them through this story filled with twists and turns. They also wrote their first literary essay, focusing on the opening chapter and the three main characters with their contrasting personalities. In addition, they completed a conversational assessment, which allowed them to develop their speaking skills and confidence in expressing ideas.

As always, we are proud of the effort our students have put in this term and look forward to seeing their continued growth in the months ahead.

~ *Mev Koekemoer* ~



HISTORY

The History Department has had a rich and purposeful term of exploration. Mr Easson, Mr Kyle and Mr Mbambo visited the Durban Holocaust and Genocide Centre, where they listened to an author explain how photographs from the Holocaust can be carefully analysed to reveal hidden layers of meaning. This experience will certainly enrich future classroom discussions.

In their studies, Grade 10 students examined the rise of communism in Russia, not only learning about leaders and events, but also reflecting on the broader human cost of revolution, authoritarianism and the pursuit of an ideal society. The topic encouraged them to think about how political systems shape people's daily lives and futures.

Grade 11 students turned their focus to Asia, especially the Vietnam War, considering not only battles and policies, but also the complex clash of ideologies, nationalism and the struggles of ordinary people caught in global conflict.

Meanwhile, our Grade 12 students geared up for their Trials by completing research projects and exploring Civil Resistance in South Africa during the 1970s and 1980s, studying Black Consciousness, Steve Biko and the Soweto Uprising.

~ *Mr Kyle* ~

MATHEMATICS

Term 3 has been a rewarding one for the Maths Department, filled with creativity, enthusiasm and problem-solving. Our Grade 11 Mathematical Literacy students rose to the challenge of project-based learning by conducting a survey to gather insights for the upcoming school movie night. Their ability to apply mathematical concepts to a real-life event showcased just how powerful and enjoyable (yes, really) maths can be.

Following their strong showing at the St Mary’s Maths Competition in Term 2, our students eagerly joined another Saturday challenge. Their eagerness to give up their weekend for a love of maths was truly inspiring and a testament to their growing passion for enrichment opportunities.

As our Matric Class of 2025 step into the final stretch of their school maths journey, we celebrate their dedication and wish them every success!

~ Mrs Bird ~

ZULU



Our Grade 8 isiZulu class has been exploring parts of speech, with a special focus on exclamations and conjunctions. To deepen their understanding, students worked in groups to create role-play scripts that highlighted these language features.

The lesson was filled with energy and laughter as students performed their scripts, showcasing both their creativity and their grasp of isiZulu grammar. This fun, interactive activity not only strengthened their language skills, but also built confidence in using isiZulu in expressive and meaningful ways.

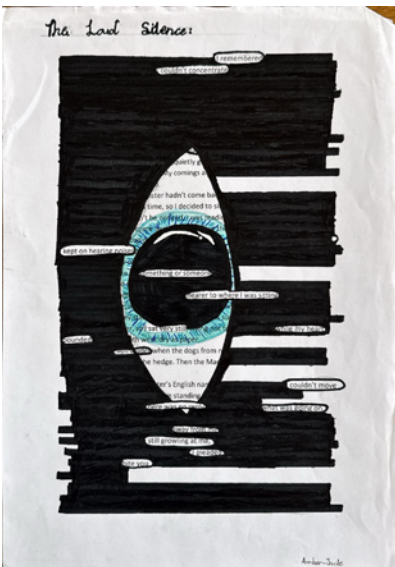
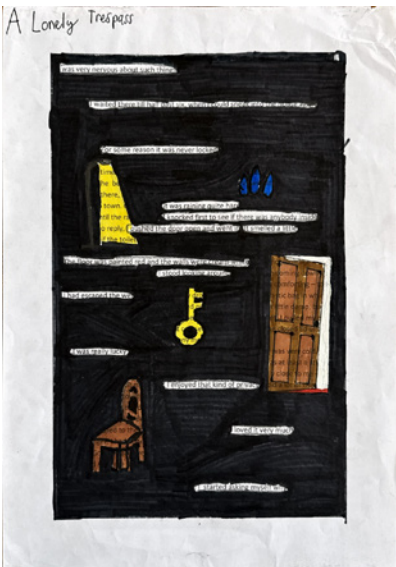
~ Mrs Chonco ~

ENGLISH

The Grade 9s have been busy exploring blackout poetry this term. Blackout poetry is created by selecting words from an existing text, such as a book or newspaper and blacking out or erasing the surrounding text. The remaining words form the new poem.

Our Grade 9s identified a theme for their poem and created a catchy title. The artwork of the blackout itself also contributed to their poem’s meaning and overall aesthetics.

~ Mrs Patterson ~



GRADE 11 CAMP



Our Grade 11 students embarked on an unforgettable Leadership Camp at Seula Zimbili Resort, set along the beautiful Tugela River. From archery and wall climbing to zip lining and abseiling, students were challenged to step out of their comfort zones, grow in confidence and develop their leadership skills.

The camp experience was made even more special thanks to outstanding meals and inspiring instructors who made every activity fun and meaningful. Our future senior leaders embraced their roles with energy, courage and teamwork, making this year's camp a truly memorable adventure!

SPORT



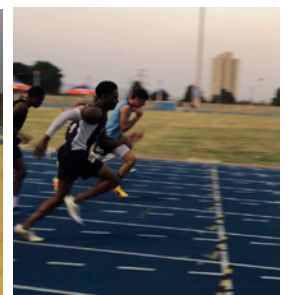
As we wrap up Term 3, we celebrate the spirit, achievements and growth of our students through sports and physical activities. Sport at our school is not only about fitness and competition, but also about building strong relationships, respect and resilience.

Our soccer teams displayed incredible passion and improvement this term. From thrilling matches to moments of teamwork and discipline, our players demonstrated skill, sportsmanship and a genuine commitment to one another.

Boys' indoor hockey did not reach the strides we had hoped for this year, but we are encouraged by the sense of camaraderie among those who participated. With growing numbers, we hope to see more boys join this dynamic team.

Cross-country runners braved the distances with determination and grit. They pushed their limits in training, achieving personal bests and showcasing endurance, discipline and mental toughness.

On 3 September, Chinonso Ibeh placed seventh in the men's U20 100m at the AQuelle Athletics Spring Series in Pietermaritzburg, while Leo Kimble achieved second place in the men's U18 high jump. Leo also broke the school record in the event, equalling the record at the aQuellé series. Both athletes showed the rewards of discipline, focus and the support of peers who train alongside them.



Our golfers displayed precision, patience and calm focus on the course. Their development has been as much about inner confidence as technical skill and they continue to grow in both.

Chess has proven that sportsmanship is not only physical, but also mental. Our chess players demonstrated critical thinking, strategy and concentration, representing the school with pride.

Fast Five Netball brought speed, excitement and teamwork to the court. The girls' progress showed how strong bonds and shared responsibility translate into sporting success. We look forward to watching them compete in our very first Spar KZN Fast Five Netball Challenge 2025 on 27 September.

Karate participants embodied the values of discipline, respect and focus. Their consistent practice has helped them improve in technique and self-confidence, serving as an inspiration to their peers. We hosted another successful Karate tournament in July and watch with excitement as this sport grows from strength to strength each year.

The Get Active initiative continued to encourage students of all abilities to stay fit, healthy and engaged. It has been wonderful to see students participating in fun, inclusive activities while building lifelong habits of wellness and movement.

We extend heartfelt thanks to all coaches, staff, parents and supporters who make our sports programme possible. To our students, thank you for your effort, commitment and sportsmanship throughout the term. We hope to see growth in all areas as we move forward.

Sports not only build fitness and skills, but also teach valuable lessons of perseverance, teamwork and respect. We look forward to Term 4 as we continue this journey together with new facilities at our disposal.

~ Mr Mthalane ~



The Big Walk



Waterfall Pre-Primary School
Play, Learn and Grow Together

NEWS FROM THE PRE-PRIMARY

The third term has been another exciting chapter in our year, filled with creativity, movement and joyful moments. Our children continue to amaze us with their curiosity, enthusiasm and willingness to embrace new experiences. Here are some of the highlights from this term.

On 25 July, our playground became a colourful tapestry of cultures for our Dress-Up Day. The children arrived dressed in beautiful outfits from around the world – some traditional, some imaginative – each one telling a unique story. It was a celebration of diversity, shared learning and the joy of discovering the wider world.

Some of the classes also explored global flavours through food tastings, giving the children a chance to sample delicious dishes from different countries while they learned.

Then, on 30 August, our school community came together for The Big Walk. Families, teachers and children laced up their walking shoes for a morning of fresh air, fitness and fun. Along the way, there was an orange station and a water station to keep everyone refreshed and afterwards the children enjoyed bouncing on the jumping castles, colourful face painting and watching their teachers try to run in silly outfits. Parents showed their competitive streak in the parents' race, while the smell of bacon drifting from the food stalls gave the day a festive flavour. It was more than just a walk, it was a celebration of togetherness, filled with energy and excitement! A heartfelt thank you to all the parents who joined in and supported the event, you made the day even more special for the children.

We love welcoming our Grandparents to the school and this year's concerts were a special time for them to watch their grandchildren shine on stage and share in the magic of their performances. During the last week of term, we opened our doors to parents for their turn to enjoy the concerts – an opportunity to celebrate the talent, hard work and confidence their children have developed.

We were also delighted to have qualified baby sleep coach Natascha Barrett from Bub Club join us this term to share her expertise with parents whose little ones have trouble sleeping, offering practical tips and gentle guidance for achieving "Better Sleep" – for children and parents alike.

We are so grateful to our staff, parents and children for embracing each event with such heart.



Dress-Up Day

NEWS FROM THE PREP

‘I AM ALICE’ WOWS AUDIENCES WITH JOY AND MEANING

This August, Waterfall Preparatory delighted audiences with *I Am Alice*, a vibrant and heartfelt interpretation of Lewis Carroll’s *Alice in Wonderland*. The original production, written by Prep staff members Mrs Tessa Louw and Mrs Lauren Rendilheiro, brought a fresh perspective to the classic tale – highlighting a powerful message of self-worth through the eyes of a child discovering who they are and who they are in God’s eyes.

Led by the Grade 7s, the show featured pupils from Grades 1 to 3 who displayed spirit and skill in a mix of acting, singing and dancing. With an unforgettable soundtrack and cleverly crafted humour, *I Am Alice* had audiences captivated – laughing, singing and dancing in their seats.

The stage was transformed into a feast for the eyes with vibrant sets and imaginative costumes – from singing mushrooms and enchanting woodland creatures to the dazzling royal court. Grandparents were treated to a special performance ahead of the three-night public showcase, with each evening capturing the hearts of all who attended.

The production was the result of weeks of dedicated preparation, made possible by the tireless efforts of staff, the enthusiasm of pupils and the invaluable support of parents, who helped create the imaginative world of *I Am Alice*.

“I am so proud of how our pupils brought *I Am Alice* to life on stage,” says Waterfall Prep Music and Drama Teacher, Tessa Louw. “Through the fun of putting it together, the play reminded us that each child’s identity is unique and valuable and it was beautiful to see them step into their roles with joy and courage.”

Waterfall Prep once again proves that with creativity, collaboration and heart, school theatre can be both meaningful and magical.





TERM 3 HIGHLIGHTS

This past Term, we've been intentional about creating moments of joy—whether in daily interactions, new opportunities, or even challenges—choosing to seek out and celebrate the gift of joy in every experience.

MANDELA DAY

Mandela Day is always a highlight on our calendar—a time to transform opportunities into joyful moments with the donors who so generously support our Programmes.

This year, we were privileged to add value to Vulinqhondo Pre-School and Swelihle Pre-School. In partnership with **Hloba Clothing**, we created a vibrant vegetable garden at Vulinqhondo, using recycled tyres as planters. Their enthusiastic team rolled up their sleeves to plant seasonal vegetables, which will provide the school with fresh produce to prepare nutritious meals for children and staff alike.



Meanwhile, at Swelihle Pre-School, the energetic team from **Kerry Ingredients** took on the challenge of building an outdoor mud kitchen—a much-needed play feature that not only delights children but also fuels creativity and imaginative play.

CREATIVITY IN TEACHING

Teachers from our Partner Pre-Schools also enjoyed an engaging three-week workshop led by the wonderful Frances Nair, Grade R teacher at Waterfall Prep. The sessions highlighted the value of **using recyclable materials to design fun, creative, and cost-effective ECD toys and learning resources.**

LIFE-CHANGING IMPACT

We recently asked our iThemba Scholars to reflect on the question: **“What does being an iThemba Scholar at Waterfall Schools mean to you?”** The response from one of our Grade 11 Scholars was especially moving:

“Focus on iThemba’s impact goes beyond scholarships. It’s about empowering our young minds, fostering growth and unlocking potential.”



MATRIC PAST PAPERS FOCUS



19 SEPT – 3 OCT

During these sessions (either online or on campus), our qualified tutors will guide students through past papers to help solidify concepts and boost confidence ahead of the Final Examinations. Students can choose how many lessons they would like to attend. This service is available to students from all schools.

One-on-one – R350 for 1.5 hours

Group – R250 per person for 1.5 hours

Visit waterfallcollege.co.za/extra-lessons or
call 031 710 1835 or 082 441 0093