

Graeme College



1873 - 2025



PROSPECTUS

Virtute et Opera

THE GRAEME COLLEGE MISSION

1. to develop every pupil and teacher to the maximum of his/her potential in:
 - scholarship through academic endeavour
 - character and personality growth
 - to inculcate sound moral and spiritual values
 - to consolidate a positive self-concept and respect for others
 - to promote individuality and independence of thought involvement and performance in sport, cultural activities and community service
2. to involve learners, teachers, parents and Old Boys in all school activities.

OUR VISION

**“To strive for excellence by developing all
to their full potential”**

VIRTUTE ET OPERA



INTRODUCTION

Graeme College is a close-knit, “family” school for boys, combining a modern, progressive education with the standards and values proved by its fine tradition built up since 1873. It caters for boys from Grade 00 (5 year olds) to Grade 12 plus an Enrichment Year possibility. Emphasis is laid on commitment, hard work, involvement, sportsmanship and the positive development of all who pass through its doors. Graeme's motto “Virtute et Opera” (through courage and hard work is the corner-stone of all activities.





HISTORY

Graeme College was founded in 1873 as the successor to an earlier non-denominational public school dating back to the 1830's. The College was originally called "The Grahamstown Public School" but, after it became co-educational at the turn of the century, this was changed to "Victoria High School". When it reverted back to a boys' school in 1938, it adopted the name Graeme College.

The school was first housed in the Drostdy House and Drostdy Barracks, now the home of Rhodes University. In 1898 it moved to an imposing red brick building in Beaufort Street and then, in 1975, moved to its present site in Somerset Heights.

In 1892 Sir George Cory, who was then Vice Principal, chose the present combination of school colours – dark blue and old gold. In the previous year the first edition of the College's magazine "The Graemian" was published. It is now one of the oldest school magazines in the country.

Through its long history, Graeme College has produced many leaders and can count amongst its past pupils, W.P. Schreiner, Prime Minister of the Cape and Marmaduke St John Pattle, the fighter ace who is credited with shooting down the highest number of aircraft in the Second World War.

In its many years of existence, the College has had only 17 headmasters. These long periods of office are indicative of their loyalty and dedication, which has resulted in Graeme becoming one of a select group of famous South African schools. Their names are remembered in the College buildings and sport facilities such as the Templeton Hall, Grant House and the Marais and Junor Fields.

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ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT

CURRICULUM

The College follows the syllabi of the National Senior Certificate. The subject selection has been chosen to accommodate a wide variety of options. We endeavour to enrich these syllabi to the benefit of our pupils.



LEARNING AREAS / SUBJECTS OFFERED

1. **General Education and Training (GET)**

Grade 1, 2 and 3 - Foundation Phase

Literacy Numeracy Life Skills

Grade 4, 5 and 6 - Intermediate Phase

1. English (Home Language), Afrikaans (1st Additional Language) and isiXhosa (basic)
2. Mathematics
3. Social Science
4. Natural Sciences and Technology (NS/TECH)
5. Life Skills (Art, Music, Physical Education, Life Orientation)

Grade 7, 8 and 9 - Senior Phase

1. Literacy, Language and Communication (LLC) (English/ Afrikaans/Xhosa)
2. Mathematics
3. Economic and Management Science (EMS)
4. Life Orientation (LO)

5. Social Science (SS)
6. Natural Science (NS)
7. Arts and Culture (A&C)
8. Technology (TECH)

2. **National Senior Certificate (NSC)**

This course is offered in Grade 10, 11 and 12.

The following subjects are compulsory for all boys:

1. English Home Language (compulsory)
2. Life Orientation (compulsory)
[Physical Education is included in the Life Orientation programme]

In addition, boys are required to choose ONE subject from each of:

- Option 1: Afrikaans OR isiXhosa First Additional Language
Option 2: Mathematics OR Mathematical Literacy
Option 3: Physical Science OR Business Studies OR Life Sciences OR Travel & Tourism
Option 4: History OR Life Sciences OR Music OR Design OR Visual Arts OR Travel & Tourism
Option 5: Accounting OR Geography OR Music OR Design OR Visual Arts



ART (Visual Art/Design)

Art from Grades 6 to 12 is controlled by the Johan Carinus Art Centre. Boys in Grades 10, 11 and 12 are transported to the Art Centre for their classes, while the other subject classes are conducted at Graeme. To cover the costs incurred by the Carinus Art Centre a minimal fee is charged by them for Grades 10, 11 and 12 learners. Further details may be obtained from the Principal of the Johan Carinus Art Centre.

SCHOOL HOURS

The school administration offices are open from 07h00 to 16h30 Monday to Friday, although official school hours are from 07h30 to 13h30 each day except on Mondays and Fridays where school ends at 14h00 due to an assembly/clubs or mentor lesson. The busy extra-curriculum programme takes up the weekday afternoons and, on occasion, the evenings as well (e.g. Prize Giving, swimming gala, etc.) while the vast majority of sports matches are held on Saturday mornings or afternoons. We expect the boys to participate in the extra-curricular programme and to support their friends and other teams in their efforts.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Each class from Grade 4 to Grade 11 is exposed to some form of outdoor activity each year. The boys participate in hikes, Outward Bound camps, leadership courses, wildlife trips and other outdoor adventure activities. Emphasis is placed on self-discipline, independence, the ability to work with others and, in the case of senior standards, a certain amount of physical ability.

PRIZE GIVING

These ceremonies recognize and reward those pupils who have achieved academically or in other aspects of school life.

LIBRARY

As self study becomes an increasingly important part of the education of the modern pupil, the library is assuming an ever greater role in the school. It is open daily from 07h15 to 15h30 (and later, if arranged) and is available for use by every boy in the school. The Junior Primary section of the school has its own library which is run independently.

COMPUTER ROOM

Graeme College has two Computer Lab facilities which offer the boys hands-on experience and expose them to Internet and other information-finding resources. Each computer lab offers sufficient terminals allowing simultaneous instruction of an entire class of boys at any one time. Excluding Tuesdays from 13h30, one of the computer labs is open daily up to 15h30.

SPORT

Evidence suggests overwhelmingly that youngsters benefit most when they involve themselves in the school's sporting activities, conducted under the supervision of trained educationalists and in accordance with the standards maintained by the school. For this reason, we expect each pupil to participate in at least one summer and one winter sport, unless a medical condition precludes this. Details of sporting activities, practice days and venues are provided at the start of each term. Sports presently available are athletics, cricket, cross country, hockey, rugby, squash, swimming, waterpolo, tennis and weight training. The staff are heavily committed to, and involved in, both the coaching and administration of sport. The school also runs a sport-for-life programme within the physical education syllabus. Our boys are introduced to hockey, volleyball, soccer, basketball, golf and badminton, amongst other sports.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

Our clubs, societies and other cultural activities provide another avenue for expression and development for our pupils. The actual programme may vary from year to year as some interests wane and new ones develop, but at present opportunities are provided to participate in: Audio Visual club, Chess, Choir, Interact, President's Award, Drama Club, Computer Club, Debating, Eisteddfod participation, Outdoor Excursions and Religious Groups (S.C.A.). Various Olympiads are also offered. For selected pupils, leadership training is available in various situations – Toastmasters, Monitor and Port-Folio committees, etc.

Our Steelband has become recognised nationally and performs at many different functions, including at the Standard Bank Arts' Festival. Our Marimba band also perform at prestigious events in Makhanda and surrounds.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parents are encouraged to show an interest in all spheres of school activity. Their support at extra-mural functions, attendance at meetings and involvement in parent and pupil activities is welcomed.

The school is concerned with all aspects of the progress of its pupils, and parents are encouraged, whenever the need may arise, to make an appointment with a member of the staff to discuss any aspects which may be of concern.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

Graeme College is a happy school, characterized by a friendly and co-operative relationship between staff and pupils. Experience shows that such a relationship is entirely compatible with an attitude of respect, courtesy, obedience and helpfulness. Rules and procedures are designed to enable all concerned with the school to derive maximum benefit from its activities. It is important for pupils and parents to understand that discipline and control will be exercised over pupils under certain circumstances, even when they are away from school and sometimes out of uniform. The general criterion applied will be that if a pupil's conduct adversely affects other pupils of the school or its good name, the pupil will be held responsible for his actions.

FOUNDERS' WEEKEND

Once a year, in March, the school commemorates its founding with a programme of activities which is followed by the annual get-together of the Old Graemian Union.

An important aspect is the Founders' Weekend Memorial Service. Rich in tradition, it is held on the Friday, where pupils, parents, Old Boys and friends of the school remember those who were instrumental in the establishment of the school and who contributed to its growth, as well as past pupils who gave their lives during active service.

ARCHIVES ROOM

As a result of its rich past, the school has established an archives room which houses items of history and other interesting memorabilia of the school. All visitors to the school are most welcome to spend time in this venue.

THE GRAEMIAN CENTRE

Being a "family" school, Graeme has established the very successful and functional Graemian Centre. As its name suggests, it is the meeting place of boys, staff, parents, Old Boys and friends of the school. The Centre is open each day until 15h00. It provides a relaxed atmosphere and serves light refreshments for boys at breaks, over the lunch period or in the afternoon for those boys who are involved in school activities. It is also available, and used extensively, for functions of various forms. Part of the Graemian Centre is used as the Old Graemian functions' room which forms the focal point of the Old Graemian Centre Union.



BOARDING : GRANT HOUSE

Grant House, a modern, spacious and airy facility, housing approximately 120 boys, is situated on the campus in a lovely setting overlooking the main playing field and hardly a five-minute walk from the school. It is under supervision of the Headmaster, a Senior House Master, five House Masters, three Matrons and a working staff of ten.

Boys from Grade 4 to Grade 12 level are accommodated in a homely, caring and relaxed atmosphere. The boys are accommodated in small dormitories with the Grade 12's in single rooms, where possible.

Regular study periods are set. Attendance at major sporting and cultural functions is encouraged and regular contact with the girls at Victoria Girls' High School is fostered to ensure that the boys do not grow up in an isolated environment. Sound manners and essential aspects of etiquette are cultivated.

Boys with permission, may go home after sport on a Saturday. Junior boys may go home every weekend.

FEES

School and boarding fees vary from year to year and are set after very careful examination of needs, expenses and future plans. The fees are decided at Governing Body level. Details may be obtained from the school.

SCHOOL SONG

Our Fathers passed thro' the Drostdy Gate
To the tiny school of a bygone day,
But the lesson they learned was of changeless date,
We learn it yet in the self-same way;
And hither the sons of our sons shall throng
To learn their creed from the Graemians' song.

'Twas bluff Sir Harry who brought the creed
And tough Dick King in his ride of fear;
They taught by dint of a daring deed,
And still the lesson is living here
In the Settlers' City – and lives as long
In the City's School and the Graemian's song.

O, "Courage and Toil" was the watchword then
'Tis the watchword now, and for days to come;
For courage and toil are the mark of men
On the fastest pitch, in the fiercest scrum,
At the hardest task when all goes wrong –
And this is the Graemians' creed and song.

We may wander away on the wings of hope
To distant scenes in the far-off years,
But our hearts will return to the terraced slope
The gabled roofs and the winding stairs,
For time and distance but make more strong
The spirit caught from the Graemians' song.

The words of our School Song were written by a former headmaster, C.C. Wiles, and was first used in 1932. It refers to the School's early years in the Drostdy Barracks, the present site of Rhodes University's Administration Building and its second home, much of which has been incorporated in the Victoria Girls' High School complex.