



WESTERING HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



TERM 2 2025

Term 2 has been a very successful term for Westering High School. Our sporting teams are doing very well and our under 14 age group is doing exceptionally well. The First Team Rugby boys are also doing very well.

Our Optima Voices Choir is also considered to be the best mixed-voice choir in the Eastern Cape and continue to entertain audiences throughout the city. Our Steelband also achieved a gold award at the SASAMT 'Into The Mix' Competition



**STUART
HAYWARD
PRINCIPAL**

which is a noteworthy achievement.

Our debaters continue to wave the Westering flag all over the city with excellent results. Our junior debaters are performing excellently and are heading for the regional finals in term 3. Please check your child's report carefully and I look forward to meeting you at the parents evenings in term 3.

Please read the detailed reports of our Heads of Department (HD's).

Enjoy the winter break with your child.

We bid farewell to Mrs Chandré Small at the end of April. Mr & Mrs Small have emigrated to the Netherlands

STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Mr Pieter & Mrs Tarryn Nell on the birth of their baby boy, Jordan. **welcome little one! BABY JORDAN NELL**



Mrs Amoray van Niekerk has re-joined the Afrikaans Department. She is no stranger to the Westering Family having taught here in the past.

Mrs Roenel van Rooyen has joined our Mathematics Department



Ms Zintle Mtsheke has joined the Mathematics Department all the way from KZN

Dear Parents and Guardians

As we conclude the June examination period, I wish to provide a reflective overview of the academic climate, challenges faced, and the collaborative path ahead.

It is with concern that I report a general lack of preparation and discipline among many of our learners leading up to the June examinations. Despite clear guidance, revision schedules, and continuous support from educators, a significant number of learners approached these exams with minimal commitment and inadequate effort. This has led to poor academic performance across several subjects.

**Edith
Smith**



**Snr
Deputy
Principal
Head of
Academics**

Understandably, this situation has demotivated many of our educators who have worked tirelessly to deliver quality teaching and create a conducive learning environment. Their sense of professional fulfilment is deeply tied to the progress of their learners. When such progress is not evident, especially due to a lack of learner effort, it dampens their moral and energy.

However, I must acknowledge and commend our dedicated staff for not giving up. Despite the challenges, they have renewed their commitment to put in even greater effort in the months ahead. Congratulations to the learners who have done well and have maintained their academic goals. Keep up the good work.

Effective school administration plays a vital role in ensuring that academic goals are met, learners are supported, and teaching and learning take place under structured, consistent conditions. With a current enrolment of 1155 learners, the responsibility to maintain high standards of discipline, attendance, and communication is both critical and complex.

Importance of School Attendance - learners' school attendance remains one of the most significant indicators of academic success. Regular attendance ensures that learners do not fall behind in the curriculum and are given equal opportunities to succeed. Daily attendance is strictly monitored and recorded.

Detention and Discipline - Discipline is a cornerstone of a well-functioning school. Detention is used not as punishment but as a corrective measure to help learners take responsibility for their actions.

Detention is recorded and parents are informed. The objective is to address behaviour issues early and prevent recurrent.

**SONJA
VAN ALTENA**



**DEPUTY
PRINCIPAL:
ADMIN**

Missing Assessments - Assessments are crucial for evaluating learner progress and identifying learning gaps. Learners who miss assessments must submit a medical certificate. Arrangements are made for missed assessments to be written under controlled conditions. It is imperative that learners and parents understand the importance of meeting assessment deadlines and the consequences of non-compliance.

Appeal to parents - A well-run school relies on the cooperation of all stakeholders: educators, learners, and parents. We are committed to ensuring every learner receives quality education in a safe and structured environment. To do so, we ask parents to support our efforts by:

- Ensuring learners attend school regularly and punctually.
- Encouraging responsible behaviour and academic discipline.
- Informing the school of any changes to personal information.
- Partnering with us to maintaining open lines of communication.

Together, we can build a school environment where all 1155 learners are given every opportunity to succeed.

Dear Learners, Staff, and Families

Term 2 was filled with exciting projects aimed at uplifting and maintaining the proud image of our school. I am pleased to share some of the highlights.

New Signage

Our new signage is elevating the school's branding like never before! As you drive down Papenkuils Road, you'll notice the bold new sign: "Home of the Westering Eagles", along with a beautiful eagle statue in the front garden.

We've also updated the name boards at the Astro Turf and Heath Field, both now featuring the eagle. And if you attended our recent derby days, you probably spotted the new scoreboard on the netball courts—another great addition to our facilities!

**HUGO
MULDER**



**DEPUTY
PRINCIPAL
RESOURCES &
DISCIPLINE**

Flooring Project Progressing Well

Our flooring upgrade is progressing smoothly. We're excited to share that during the July holidays, the classrooms in the C corridor will undergo sanding and varnishing, leaving them looking as good as new when Term 3 begins.

Paving at the Sport Centre

In preparation for hosting this year's Cape Youth Cricket Festival, we've completed the paving in front of the Sport Centre. Phase Two of the project will include a covered area and extra benches— providing a shaded and comfortable space for students during break times. This next step will begin once approved by the School Governing Body.

Estate Staff – Tireless Efforts Behind the Scenes

We'd like to extend our deepest thanks to our estate staff, whose tireless efforts keep our school running smoothly. From daily upkeep to special preparations for derby days, their commitment and pride in our school are evident in everything they do. We truly appreciate your dedication!

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to make our school the best place for our students to learn and grow.



With the start of the Winter sport season this term, social media became the main form of our marketing activity. As we strive to promote school events, share real-time updates, celebrate student achievements and strengthen our community engagement our social platforms, namely Instagram and Facebook, were abuzz with weekly team line ups, results and photographs across all sporting codes.

Our school's streaming crew, led by Mr Nelmapius, extended our platforms by streaming not only 1st Team rugby games this term but also Hockey and Netball. We are extremely proud of this advancement and appreciate the streaming crew's efforts.

This term presented a few technical challenges. One of the key issues was the failure of the link to the Sports Centre and one of our servers. Fortunately, we were able to restore the Sports Centre connection with minimal disruption. However, the server failure proved more complex. After evaluating several options, we concluded that replacing the server was the most effective long-term solution for the school. While this came at a significant and unplanned cost, it ensures greater reliability moving forward. We expect everything to be fully operational by the start of the new term.

We also experienced an access point (AP) failure, which we resolved by reallocating a unit from another area.

**Shelley
Burke**



**Acting
HD:
Marketing**

While the sporting codes might have dominated the posts, there was no shortage of culture and community posts from the Decibelles at "Night of the Proms" to JCC's winter collections and donations. We continued our 'Wosa Wednesday' with four new Alumni being featured this term. We encourage all our alumni to make contact via the google form link available on the WOSA Facebook page, which is proudly administered by one of your own, Mandy Spies (Class of 1994).

Engagement on our platforms reached an incredible 57 000 views for our post of 'what teachers think about during exam invigilation' gaining us 43 new followers! I'd like to extend a big thank you to our social media team who create and collate content each week to keep our community in touch with our 'educational adventure'.

**Phillip
Robinson**



HD ICT

In addition, we've installed several new access points around the school to enhance WiFi coverage and improve connectivity throughout the building. We kindly remind learners to avoid connecting personal cellphones to the school WiFi. These additional devices create unnecessary network traffic, which can slow down performance for everyone. WiFi access is provided for academic use only, not for recreational browsing or streaming.

For those installing miEbooks at home: if you're having trouble connecting to the Westering High server, please use the following address instead:

itsi.westeringhigh.co.za

We're pleased to report that miEbooks has been running smoothly this term, with no major issues reported.

SERVICE AND PASTORAL REPORT – TERM 2

As we close off another busy and enriching term at Westering High School, it is encouraging to reflect on the continued dedication and enthusiasm shown by our learners across both the service and pastoral portfolios. While some areas await feedback or have no formal updates this term, it is important to acknowledge the behind-the-scenes efforts and participation that keep these portfolios running effectively. Learners remain active, involved, and committed to upholding the values of service and community.

**Quinton
Rudman**



**Acting HD:
Service &
Pastoral**

PASTORAL PORTFOLIOS

Peer Promoters

Mrs. Lombard and her team of Peer Promoters continue to lead by example. This term, they collected a remarkable total of 133 blood units – an achievement that not only reflects excellent coordination but also speaks volumes about the generosity and spirit of service among our learners. Well done!

Enviro Club

The Enviro Club hosted a meaningful Earth Day Recycle Painting activity, providing learners with a creative outlet to express their environmental concerns. In addition, the club ran a successful donation drive for local animal shelters, collecting food and blankets for animals in need. Their compassion and eco-consciousness are commendable.

SERVICE PORTFOLIOS

Book Room, Computer Club, Cricket Scoring and Umpiring, First Aid, Hockey Umpiring, Cricket Kit Room, Netball Umpiring, Photography, Tutoring. These portfolios continue to function consistently through the quiet dedication of learners who give of their time and skills. Their ongoing efforts are appreciated.

Hockey Tech Table

A standout high-light this term has been the outstanding work of the WHS learners under the guidance of Mr. Rudman. After the professional standard they delivered at the Grand Masters earlier this year, the team has once again been invited to serve as technical officials for the upcoming Masters Tournament in August. We are proud that Westering High School will also serve as one of the host venues for this prestigious event.

Sound Crew and Streaming

This department continues to be an essential part of our sports programme. For parents and supporters unable to brave the winter chill, the team ensures access to matches and events through live streaming. Thank you for making it possible for our broader school community to remain connected and engaged.

Book Club

The Book Club brought something fresh to the term with the hosting of their very first movie night. This initiative was creative, fun, and well supported by learners – a fantastic step forward in promoting literacy and engagement. Well done to the team for thinking outside the box!

Service to Debating.

Five Gr 12 debaters had the opportunity to attend an adjudication course. They were required to write an exam and the results were as follows:
Cassidy Harmse, Tamisha Lingham, Sameer Asghar - double gold
La'eeq Gajjar and Sinombulelo Danster - Silver

Interact

Continuing their commitment to outreach, the Interact team held a "Reach for a Dream" drive and spearheaded the Slipper Day initiative. Coordinated by Mrs. Jekels and Mr. Audie, these initiatives helped raise awareness and support for children facing life-threatening illnesses. Well done to all involved for putting service into action.

University Institutions Engagement

Our Grade 12 learners were once again offered the invaluable opportunity to engage with universities and tertiary education representatives this term. These sessions serve as important stepping stones in helping them plan their futures and explore post-school opportunities. We trust that our learners will use this knowledge to make informed and successful decisions.

Conclusion

Term 2 has once again proven that Westering learners are dynamic, involved, and dedicated to serving their school and broader community. Even when portfolios do not yield major events, the behind-the-scenes involvement remains strong, and each contribution plays a role in building a culture of responsibility and leadership. A sincere thank you goes to all the learners and staff who continue to give their time and talents so generously.

We look forward to an even more vibrant and active Term 3!

Streaming Crew



Senior Steelband

The Westering High School Senior Steelband kicked off the year on a high note with an energetic performance at our school's Open Day, setting the tone for a vibrant and music-filled semester. The band continued to showcase their talent by providing live entertainment at several key school events, including the Interact Market Day, the Mr and Ms Westering High School event, and the Westering High School Bingo afternoon.

A major highlight of the semester was our participation in the prestigious SASMT "Into the Mix" competition, where the Senior Steelband proudly secured 1st place. This achievement is a true testament to the hard work, dedication, and teamwork shown by every band member.

I am immensely proud of the growth, commitment, and excellence this group continues to display. Well done, Senior Steelband!

Mr Bevin Maschaka

DeciBelles

Term 2 has been filled with excitement. The DeciBelles performed in a stunning setting with amazing acoustics thanks to the invitation of DRC Hoogland Summerstrand. The next was singing the song "Kaptein" by Kurt Darren in Afrikaans on 8 May at Frans Conradie Primary in Despatch at the celebration of Afrikaans being a century old.

On Friday, 16 May, they performed for the first time at SASMT's 'Into the Mix' at Curro Westbrook. New friendships were made with the other performers – great singing in really tough acoustics.

The biggest highlight was the DeciBelles' first participation at ATKV Applous Regional Competition Round at Andrew Rabie on 20 May. The girls achieved a Silver Certificate. This was followed by an "oh-so-awesome" performance as part of the Mass Choir of Last Night of the Proms at the Feather Market Centre on 31 May. This performance took place with the ECPO. This was the first Proms since Covid struck.

We end the term on 25 June at the Lawson Brown High Choir Festival. We cannot wait to sing more fab songs, meet new people and have fun. Term 3 is already calling with more performances like 'I See Your True Colours', 'In The Arms of an Angel', 'Fix You'.

Ms Amanda Engelbrecht



**Tarren
Arendse**



**HD
Culture**

Optima Voices

I am constantly amazed by the incredible talent and dedication of the 75 members of the Optima Voices at WHS. Despite the ongoing challenge of limited rehearsal time, they continue to deliver performances of exceptional quality. Wherever they go, they shine—and often steal the show. They've performed extensively, including in diverse congregations, allowing them to connect with all corners of the PE community.

While we won't be going on tour in 2025, that simply gives us the perfect opportunity to start saving for an even more exciting 2026! We've found that touring every second year is far more sustainable.

That said, Term 3 still promises to be eventful: we'll be performing at the WHS Show, the Pearson Praeludium, a Choir Festival, a Spring Sermon, a very special farewell event for Mr. Hayward and Mrs Smith, and **"TAKE NOTE!": A Choral Celebration**. Optima Voices will proudly host this prestigious evening, inviting only some of the finest high school choirs from across the Eastern Cape. This will be the final official performance for our Grade 12 learners—a moment both poignant and proud.

Looking ahead to Term 4, we're thrilled to announce a performance at Summerstrand DR Church on 15 October—an acoustically stunning venue. Even more exciting is that we'll be sharing the stage with internationally acclaimed soprano Magdaleen Minnaar, the head of Cape Town Opera. Performing alongside her will no doubt be an unforgettable experience for our choir.

We'll wrap up the year with a joyful Christmas Concert on 2 November, held at the University in collaboration with the Eastern Cape Children's Choir.

It is a privilege to serve as the Music Director of such an inspiring group of young performers. My heartfelt thanks go to our talented accompanist, Mr. Robinson, and my dedicated assistant, Miss Jenkins.

Mrs Elbé Coetzee



DEBATING TERM 2 2025

As term 2 dawned in April, our junior debaters were eager to showcase all the skills they had been honing in term 1. This year, the junior debaters worked very hard and Westering High School could easily have formed four competent teams. However, the league only allows for two teams to enter. Both teams performed well, securing many victories and best speaker awards. Kungawe Slate in grade 8 won three best speaker awards and showed her unfailing loyalty to her team when she had to debate in a speaker role that was unfamiliar to her. She did so with pride and was awarded best speaker even though her competitor was an EP debater. Zinathi Mboniswa showed her oratory prowess as she also won three best speaker awards. After five rounds, Westering's first junior team ended third and will debate in the semi-final in term 3.



In term 2, the debating society introduced their miniature mascot – Augustus – named by the debaters. This miniature eagle is a proud symbol of our school and offers comfort for the junior debaters. The juniors used their debating training to debate who would have the honour to carry Augustus into the debates on the bus enroute. Since he has been present, the teams have not lost. This eagle is clearly a good luck charm.

Our senior debaters continued to show their loyalty and devotion to debating in term 2. Our five matriculants attended an adjudication workshop and had to complete an exam. All five qualified as adjudicators with Sino Danster and La'eeq Gajjar achieving silver status. Tamisha Lingham, Sameer Asghar achieved double gold and Cassidy Harmse, not only achieved double gold, but she was also the top achiever in the exam. These adjudicators helped in the junior league to judge the junior debates. The same debaters, from other schools, who had been their competitors for five years, were now their partners in deciding who should win the junior debates. What a lovely way to end a debating career – forged in friendships

Mrs Jeanine Anderson

LEADERSHIP REPORT TERM 2 2025

YES Club

Another successful market day organised by the Young Entrepreneurial Society.

The YES club would like to thank Carol Spies, an industry expert, from LPE properties for her knowledge and advice regarding banking and real estate as a career option.



JCC

Raylon Brouwer and Olisa Tom, at City Hall with all Westering's Winter Drive donations for the Junior City Council project.

Raylon and his youth development finalised the sanitary drive that he initiated.



BRENDON JORDAN



HD LEADERSHIP

RCL

The RCL embarked on an Anti-Bullying Campaign this year. In Term 1 we focussed on creating awareness regarding the types and impacts of bullying. This term we focussed on 'how to deal with conflict' and addressed the concern in an Assembly which was well received by the learners.

Earlier this term the RCL Exec members conducted talks on leadership and character building with the Grade 9 learners.

The lessons were interactive and conversational based. Feedback showed that the Grade 9's gained valuable insight, and the Exec members learnt teaching and mentoring skills. It was a good experience for both parties. Our Cheer assemblies continue to draw learners together culminating in an energetic "show" at Derby days. Congratulations to our WHS Cheerleaders, namely Bothando Mkhengcele, Lisekho Sobekwa and Mivuyo Badi, who were introduced this term. Our social team have created excellent reels showcasing our cheer assemblies and a message to our learners on Youth day.

RCL Term 3 Plans

RCL Interschools Networking Event- Will be our 3rd year now. We invite a range of like-minded city schools to join our Executive. A guest speaker has been invited.

SPORTS REPORT- TERM 2 2025

Term 2 has been very busy and exciting on the sports fields. Our teams have performed exceptionally well and returned some excellent results.

Hockey- our hockey continues to be a strength at Westering. We have a total of 26 provincial representatives across the various age groups. The U14 boys and girls teams have delivered some standout performances.

Rugby- our rugby teams have performed well and achieved some good results against tough opposition. Our U14 team dominated most opposition they played against. 3 of our rugby boys made the Meyer Sauermann trials.

Netball- our netball teams have put in a good account of themselves this term. Our u14 teams have shown tremendous growth and achieved excellent results.

Soccer- our soccer/futsal team has flown the Westering flag high this term. A big highlight was the teams 2-1 victory over Alex and qualifying for the Halala Cup playoffs in Johannesburg

LEAH WELCOME GRADE 8

Last year, in 2024, Leah received an SA Blazer as a South African Children and Youth Ambassador for her talents and achievements in modelling.

Hockey is also Leah's biggest passion making EP A Team 2 years in a row.

Leah has been selected as the Face of South African Youth Ambassadors. She is now the brand Ambassador, putting the Eastern Province on the map.

She is the first one in the Eastern Cape to receive this title.

Congratulations Leah!
WHS is extremely proud of you!



Charles Howe



HD Sport

Squash- squash has performed well and are adapting well after being promoted to the 'A' league.

Golf- our golfers have played well this term in league matches and also participated in derby fixtures.

Cross-Country- athletes have shown up well in races this term.

Karate- Samiha Vencencie represented South Africa and achieved a bronze medal in the Kumite division.

Indoor Cricket- Congratulations to Caitlyn Collier and Micayla Collier on being selected to the EP Womans Indoor Team and to Kayden Whittaker for making the SA U14 Indoor Team



KAYDEN WHITTAKER GRADE 8



Kayden proudly represented Eastern Province at the recent Interprovincial Junior Indoor Cricket Tour in Cape Town during the holidays. He was part of the EP U14 Warriors team, who were undefeated throughout the tournament which resulted in a gold medal.

Not only did he walk away with EP Colours but also with winning the title of Bowler of the Tournament in the U14 category

Adding to his achievements, Kayden has been selected to represent South Africa in the upcoming tour this October. He is also part of the World Cup trial squad for 2026, marking an exciting journey ahead in his cricket career.

Congratulations, Kayden! Your dedication and talent continue to shine.

Today
is yours to conquer.

KEILAH RAMASAMY GRADE 8

Keilah Ramasamy, a proud student of Westering High recently participated in the Talent Africa Competition, where she earned a Gold award for Hip Hop and a High Silver award for Modeling.

These outstanding results have qualified her for the regional round, bringing her one step closer to being featured on the EP in Dance.

Additionally, we are proud to announce that Keilah has been scouted to represent South Africa in an international dance competition to be held in Italy in July 2026. This is an incredible opportunity for her, and we are so proud of the dedication and talent she continues to show.

Well Done Keilah! Westering High School is extremely proud of your achievements!

LANTERN AWARD

ALEX BAINS GRADE 12

Congratulations to Alex Bains on receiving the prestigious Lantern Award this term!

As the highest award at Westering High School, the Lantern Award recognizes performance and service at a very high level in a balanced set of activities. It rewards those pupils who strive to attain **EXCELLENCE** in all four areas of school life, namely, Sport, Culture, Service and Academics in accordance with our philosophy of education namely, **BALANCE**. All this must be achieved within a year!

Well done, Alex—your dedication and achievements are truly inspiring!



YOU
DID
IT!

OPENING OF STUART HAYWARD WING

On Friday, 11 April 2025, Westering High School had the great privilege of honouring Mr Stuart Hayward for his 23 years of dedicated service as Principal. Mr Hayward began his journey with us in 2002, and over the years, he has led with unwavering commitment, wisdom, and heart.

Under his guidance, the school has flourished—not only in academics and infrastructure, but in spirit and unity.

The new wing of six classrooms, proudly named the **Stuart Hayward Wing**.

This space will stand as a lasting symbol of his vision and passion for education.

We are deeply grateful for the mentorship, guidance, and care Mr Hayward has shown to every learner, staff member, and family in our school community. His personal motto, **“Always Higher”**, beautifully complements our school’s own, **“Strive for the Best”**.

Together, they embody his enduring dream for Westering High: **to keep moving onward and upward, always striving to be our very best.**

Mr Hayward hopes these classrooms will be a safe haven for learning spaces where young minds can grow, dream, and prepare for a future filled with promise and possibility.



DID YOU know

You've seen your school badge a million times—but have you ever stopped to think about what it actually means? Do you know we have a school crest? There's more to them than just looking cool!

The School Crest / Badge was designed by Mrs R Blackbeard, wife of the first principal of the school.

The chevron is also found on the Port Elizabeth coat of arms.

The lamp of learning is placed at the honour point of the shield.

The school colours are dark blue, royal blue, white and gold.

The **Lamp** is a symbol of **Learning** and **Light**.

The **Flame** is a symbol of **Light**

The **Eagle** symbolises **Power** and **Courage** and is used as a symbol in our Cultural and Sporting Spheres of the School.

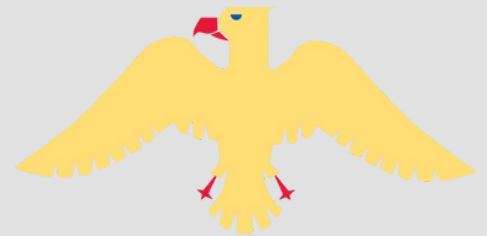
Crest



Badge



Eagle



A standing ovation for these superstar staff members! 🎉

Mrs. Edith Smith on welcoming her second bouncing bundle of grandson joy!

Kayrian Le Minnie, who has been selected to Umpire at the U18 National Hockey Tournament in KZN

Sachin Padayachee who has made the SA U21 Mens' Hockey Team and will be participating at the Inter Provincial Hockey Tournament in Cape Town in July

Mrs Esté Jekels who has graduated with a B.Ed Commerce Degree

Mr Onika Booï who has graduated an Advanced Diploma in Software Development

Mrs Tarren Arendse who has been selected for the EP Masters Hockey Team

Mr Baphelele Pango has been appointed as the new Assistant Coach for the EP U17 7's Rugby Team