



NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 2025

Staff • Academics • Culture • Sport • Leadership • Service • Pastoral



STUART HAYWARD
PRINCIPAL

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

We have come to the end of a very busy first term and I am indeed very proud of all our talented learners' achievements. As you read through this newsletter, and many of you also follow the school's Facebook and Instagram pages, you will realise what a busy term it has been.

We ended the term with a test series and I hope that our learners have achieved their goals they have set for their academic results this term.

Your child's first term report is a good baseline assessment for them to work from for their results for the year.

I am concerned that many of our learners are not doing their best by studying hard and timeously for their tests.

Please help your child to set realistic achievable goals for term 2.

I am also very excited about the winter season's sport programme and it is encouraging to see our learners utilising the gym.

I am very grateful for the teachers and coaches for their input to ensure that our learners can achieve success and so doing become successful leaders in life.

We are indeed a top school!!

Enjoy the April break with your children. Please check the termplanner and note that there are many public and school holidays during term 2. There are only 32 teaching days in term 2. This is going to add a lot of pressure for teachers and learners as the same volume of work set for term 2 previously has to be covered and tested in 2025.

Kind regards
Stuart Hayward



EDITH SMITH
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL:
ACADEMICS

ACADEMICS

Term 1 is a difficult term for Grade 8 and 10 as learners enter a new phase in their schooling career. The demands are very different from the previous phases.

Term 1 is the final subject changes for grade 11. Parents must carefully study their child's report. Up to 2 subjects may be changed. Correct subjects plays an important role in learners being successful in Grade 12.

Our learners, especially our new grade 8's are settling into the new academic year.

The Term 1 results are a good indication to staff of what needs to take place to move our pass percentage from where it is now to a 97% and above. This requires focused intervention and correct subject choices. The results are in line with what we have expected. We can assure you that with a concerted effort from both staff and learners, the final result at the end of the year will be better pleasing.

Term 1 2025 results:

Grade 8 - 85.89%
Grade 9 - 92.31%
Grade 10 - 97.65%
Grade 11 - 61.8%
Grade 12 - 59.17%

The matrices are now faced with intense preparation for the mid-year exams. Success never comes before hard work! We know that you want to do yourselves proud.

Enjoy the short break and be ready to return to a very short Term 2 (only 32 teaching days).

Edith Smith

STAFF NEWS

WELCOME TO:



Ms Morgan Jenkins
has joined the Maths Dept.



Mr Onika Boo
has joined the CAT Dept.



Mrs Este Jekels
has joined the Accounting &
Business Studies Departments



Mr Kayrian Le Minnie
has joined the Sports Department
as Sport Co-ordinator
for Hockey



Mr Charles Howe
is our new Head of Sport



Mr Robin Du Plessi
has joined the Sports Department
as Sport Co-ordinator for
Girls' Cricket, Athletics,
Futsal & Chess



Ms Mandy Spies
has joined the Admin Department
as School Secretary
& Secretary to Deputy Principal

OPENING OF EDITH SMITH THEATRE

On Friday, 14 March 2025 we were very honoured to officially name the Edith Smith Theatre.

Mrs Edith Smith started at Westering High School as a Physical Sciences educator in January 2008 and was appointed as Senior Deputy Principal and Head of Academics in 2018. Sadly she will be retiring at the end of September 2025 and the Governing body saw it fitting to name the theatre in her honour.

The Edith Smith Theatre gives us a third venue where we can accommodate a whole grade or host a function with 60-80 guests. It also allows us to write examinations in a venue where we can accommodate at least 90 learners.

Mrs Smith is the lady who runs our Academic portfolio and she has run this with a firm hand, yet she understands the difficulties and pressures learners and teachers experience during a busy term and deals with these with compassion.

Her analytical brain and compassionate heart makes her the perfect Academic Head. She can manage and control complex timetables within the blink of an eye.

Mrs Smith is also an excellent role model for our learners as she lives her life with firm morals and values.

I am confident that the name Edith Smith will always conjure up a strong example of excellent leadership.





HUGO MULDER
**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL :
RESOURCES & DISCIPLINE**

Dear Students, Staff, and Families

We are excited to share some significant updates regarding our school's facilities and the efforts of our dedicated staff to continually improve our learning environment.

Classroom Project

We are pleased to announce the completion of the classroom project! In honour of the incredible leadership and dedication shown by our current principal, we are proud to announce that the new classroom building has been officially named the Stuart Hayward Wing. This recognition is a small token of appreciation for everything the principal has done to shape our school's success and growth. We are excited for this new chapter in our school's history.

The new classrooms are now fully operational, and our Afrikaans teachers moved into these modern, upgraded spaces at the start of term 1. We are confident that these new facilities will enhance the learning experience for both students and teachers alike.



Container Gym

As many of you know, our new container gym arrived at the end of January, and we are thrilled to report that it is already being put to excellent use. The sports department has been fully utilizing the gym to prepare for the upcoming sports season, ensuring that our teams are in top shape and ready for any challenges ahead. This new addition is a fantastic asset to our sports facilities.



Flooring Project

Our flooring project is progressing nicely. We are excited to share that during the upcoming holiday, we will be sanding and varnishing the floors of the Laura Bekker Theatre and the Pillay Theatre. We look forward to unveiling the finished results!

Estate Staff & Cleaning Staff

Our estate staff continue to work tirelessly to maintain and improve our school's facilities. Whether it's ensuring the grounds are immaculate or handling day-to-day maintenance. Their efforts ensure that our school remains in pristine condition and is welcoming for students, staff, and visitors alike. We are incredibly grateful for their dedication.

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

Hugo Mulder



SONJA VAN ALTENA
**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL:
ADMINISTRATION**

Administration at Westering High School is a huge task with 1157 learners, 30 School Governing Body appointed teachers, 32 departmentally appointed teachers, 16 Administrative Staff and 13 Estate Staff.

To be able to communicate with you effectively and submit correct information to Department of Education we need parents to constantly update the school with any changes to names, surnames, addresses, contact numbers and e-mail addressed. A small thing like a hyphenated surname can lead to a learner be placed incorrectly in the alphabetical order. Challenges like this can have far-reaching implications.

Absentee notes and sicknotes are an essential part of accurate record keeping. Please ensure that you have the D6 Connect App on your phone as this ensures effective communication with you as a parent and especially as we will be emailing reports to all parents via the D6 for the first time in the school's history.

We can only be as good as you allow us to be in this regard.

DISCIPLINE & RESOURCES



CHARLES HOWE
HOD SPORT

SPORT

ATHLETICS

Our sports teams have achieved exceptionally well this term with our learners achieving at a high level.

Tyshawn Banda achieved a personal best in the 100m at PEHS where he also set a new record. The following athletes made it through to EC Champs in Queenstown:

Tyshawn Banda
Liyema Kolobile
Licebo Salulu
Aasif Lagardien

Congratulations to 3 of our athletes who have made the EPA Team and will be competing at Nationals, 27-29 March at Green Point Stadium, Cape Town:

Tyshawn Banda - Boys U/18(100&200m)
Buhko Mancam - Boys U/16(200m)
Asif Lagerdien - Boys U/18(100&200m)

CHESS

Benjamin Banda was selected to participate in the u14 Open section of the South African Junior Closed Chess Championship.

CRICKET

Our cricket teams have experienced a very busy and successful season with the First team beating Woodridge for the first time in over 10 years and running Pearson very close. Our junior teams also experienced success and we look forward to our u14 team developing in the future. Our Girls cricket also proved to be very strong, we fielded 3 girls teams in the league and they all had a successful season.

RUGBY

Congratulations to Joshua Smith and Phumelela Mabangula who were selected to the EP u18 and u16 High Performance Squads.

KARATE



Samiha Vencencie was selected for the Juniors Elite Eastern Cape Karate Team and competed at the Karate South Africa Juniors National Championship in Durban



Carly Vencencie was selected for the Children's Elite Eastern Cape Karate Team and competed at the Karate South Africa Children's National Championship in Durban

LIFE-SAVING



Congratulations to Keahah Plaatjies who made the EP Life-Saving Team and participated in a competition on the 1 March 2025 at Santos Beach, Mosselbay. Keahah achieved 3rd & 4th place in individual events.



PHILLIP ROBINSON
HOD ICT

ICT

We have had a busy start to the year, with several exciting improvements and upgrades across the school.

One of the most notable changes is the completion of our new "H" Block classrooms. These rooms have been equipped with the latest technology, including smart projectors, cameras, WiFi, and network points. This marks the first time we've installed smart projectors at the school, and the feedback from our teachers has been overwhelmingly positive. The built-in speakers are a particularly helpful feature, eliminating the need for additional equipment and ensuring that our classrooms are more efficient and modern.

In addition to the new classrooms, we've also made significant upgrades to our security and technology infrastructure. The old analogue CCTV cameras, which were primarily located in the hallways, have been replaced with a more advanced system, providing improved coverage throughout the school. Furthermore, we've replaced PCs that couldn't run Windows 11 and upgraded the PCs in the labs ensuring all labs are now running on the latest version of Windows. We have also enhanced our telephone system by upgrading to an IP cloud-based solution.

To further enhance our staff's efficiency, we held a brief workshop introducing our admin team to artificial intelligence (AI) technologies. This initiative is designed to empower our staff with the tools they need to streamline their work processes and stay at the forefront of technological advancements.

Lastly, ongoing support for both learners and staff continues, along with general maintenance across the school to ensure everything runs smoothly.

We are excited about the improvements and look forward to continuing to provide the best possible learning environment for our students.



TARREN ARENDSE
HOD CULTURE

CULTURE

DEBATING

The interest in debating this year has been phenomenal. On 23 January, the debating board hosted a workshop to introduce debating to our new Gr 8s. Lorraine Primary joined the workshop and the board members gave an informative, yet fun and interactive presentation to a full Pillay Theatre.

Our debating society has grown this year and each Tuesday, the new debaters are trained by Miss Anderson and the Gr 10 debaters on the art of debating. These debaters practise their skills on a Thursday under the guidance of Miss Hiscock and Mrs Cooper.

Our senior league started this term and Westering High was able to enter two competent and competitive teams. Mrs Anderson and Miss Zwiendelaar helped the teams unpack and understand the motion on a Tuesday and Wednesday and these teams compete against other schools on a Thursday.

After five rounds of debating, both teams achieved four wins and one loss. Our first team ended the competition in twelfth position and our second team ended fifth. This team will debate in the quarter-final.

In the ten debates, Westering High can boast six best speaker awards. La'eeq Gajjar and Sameer Asghar both won two best speaker awards and Sibabalwe Magqabi and Sinombulelo Danster each won one best speaker award.

Later this term, Westering will take part in the Alex Festival for debating and public speaking. We have entered one senior team and three junior teams. This will serve as excellent debating training and experience for our juniors who will start their league next term.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

The Photography Club kicked off the year with a creative and engaging **Photography Scavenger Hunt**, challenging members to think outside the frame while exploring their surroundings through a lens. This fun activity helped everyone get back into the swing of things while sharpening their observational skills.

New members had the opportunity to develop their skills in a **workshop on camera settings, composition, and framing**, where they learned how to adjust exposure, composition, and perspective to enhance their shots.

Throughout the term, the club explored various themes, including **Reflections** and **Colours**, encouraging photographers to find beauty in everyday moments.

From striking mirror images to vibrant bursts of colour, the club members created some incredible photos that showcased their growing talent and creativity.

With more exciting challenges ahead and an outing booked for term 2, the Photography Club continues to foster a passion for visual storytelling.



STEELBAND

Westering High School's Steelband's have struck the right chord this term, delivering energetic performances and welcoming a brand-new Junior Steelband to the fold.

The Senior Steelband started the term on a high note, preparing for two exciting outdoor performances. Their first opportunity came at the school's Interact Cake Sale, where they entertained fellow learners with their vibrant steelpan rhythms. The event was not only a platform to showcase their talent but also a chance for their peers to witness firsthand the energy and skill that goes into playing in a steelband.

Hot on the heels of this performance, the band took centre stage at Westering High School's official Open Day. With enthusiasm and pride, the senior members introduced prospective Grade 8 learners to the dynamic world of steelpan music. They demonstrated how the instruments are played and shared the joy that comes with being part of this unique ensemble. It was an unforgettable experience for both the musicians and the visiting Grade 7s, many of whom were captivated by the sounds and energy of the band.

Adding to the excitement of the term, Westering High School officially launched its Junior Steelband, welcoming 14 eager new members. The electrifying atmosphere was a testament to the enthusiasm and passion surrounding this initiative. A special acknowledgment goes to the Senior Steelband section leaders, who have taken on the responsibility of teaching the juniors their music. Their dedication ensures that the next generation of steelpan players is nurtured with skill and encouragement.



With Term 2 promising even more thrilling performances and opportunities, the steelband's at Westering High School continue to grow from strength to strength. Their commitment to excellence and teamwork is a shining example of the school's vibrant cultural scene.

Keep an eye (and an ear) out for the next performances—there's no doubt that the sound of steel will keep echoing through Westering High School!

DECIBELLES

The DeciBelles kicked off 2025 with a vibrant start, holding a two-day workshop in the first weekend. The group, now 15 members strong, includes girls from Grade 8 to Matric, many of whom are new to choir groups but quickly found their voices. Their music spans various styles and genres, all performed as a cappella. Some of their songs include "Happy," "True Colours," "Angel," "Roar," and their theme song, "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun!"

The name "DeciBelles" combines decibels (sound measurement) and belles (French for beautiful girls), reflecting their focus on voices, not instruments. The DeciBelles aren't a choir but an ensemble—a small, all-girls group.

They've already performed at the Malabar Old Age Home, Open Day (with cheers from the school mascot, Stuey), the Hoogland Choir Festival, the ATKV Applous Regional Competition, Pearson's Serene Sounds, and the Pearson Praeludium competition.

The DeciBelles are ready for more performances, bringing joy and music wherever they go.



TARRYN NELL
HOD MARKETING

MARKETING

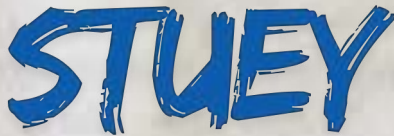
Our Marketing team had a productive and eventful first term. The term commenced with roadshows at Westering Primary School and Kabega Primary School, where our Head Prefects presented to Grade 7 students about the merits of Westering High School and encouraged them to consider it as their preferred choice for 2026.

On Saturday, 22 February 2025, we hosted an Open Day, inviting Grade 7 students from across the city to visit our school. Attendees were able to explore various activities and subjects offered, engage in experiments, and observe our different sports disciplines in action. We encouraged the students to participate in our "Educational Adventure," which involved collecting stickers from five sectors within our school: Academic, Cultural, Pastoral, Sport, and Leadership. Those who collected all five stickers could enter a lucky draw to win a McDonald's voucher. Congratulations to our winners: Mikayla Phillips from Herbert Hurd Primary School, Rebecca Jacobs from Kabega Primary School, and Tameka Roberts from Moregrove Primary School. We extend our gratitude to McDonald's Linton Grange for sponsoring the vouchers, which were undoubtedly appreciated by the recipients.

Additionally, this term marked the official launch of our new mascot, Stuey, named in honour of our Principal, Mr. Hayward. Stuey received a remarkable kit sponsored by Fain, for which we are immensely grateful.

Our Facebook and Instagram accounts have been actively updating our community on various activities and sports results, demonstrating our commitment to providing a diverse range of opportunities for every student.

Follow us on social media:
· Facebook: Westering High School
· Instagram: Westering High School



QUINTON RUDMAN
ACTING HOD:
SERVICE & PASTORAL

SERVICE & PASTORAL

As Term 1 draws to a close, we take immense pride in the vibrant and diverse range of services and pastoral activities that have unfolded within our school community. From empowering students through extracurricular involvement to fostering an environment of care and support, Westering High School continues to lead the way in promoting holistic student development. Here's a glimpse of the incredible initiatives and activities that have taken place this term:

MR & MS WESTERING 2025 - A NIGHT OF ELEGANCE & PRESTIGE

Westering High School is proud to present Mr. & Miss Westering 2025, a prestigious event that celebrates confidence, leadership, and excellence. Planning and rehearsals are already in full swing as we prepare for the grand evening on 16 April 2025 at 6pm in the school hall.

Under the guidance of industry professionals, our finalists are refining their stage presence, dance performances, and public speaking skills—ensuring an unforgettable show for our audience.

We are delighted to announce our female finalists:
Lathitha Msizi, Linati Goniwe, Sandy Abrahams, Reese Jonkerman, Shamicah Khan, Amy Thyssse, Rayen McLean, Lindiwe Zililo, Onelisa Mamayo, and Christen Leite.

Our male finalists are:
Michael Jacobs, Sachin Moodley, Masaneliswe Cakwebe, Elijah Koenig, Xabiso Nkampinj, Dylan Kluyt, Isangile Sitole, Aaron Sias, Salmaan Dolley, and Mzwanele Mnunu.

As we prepare to crown the next ambassadors of Westering High School, we look forward to a dazzling evening filled with grace, talent, and inspiration.

Tickets cost R50 and can be purchased from the assistant bursar.

JUNIOR & SENIOR MARIMBA BANDS

Term 1 has been a slow term for the Senior Marimba Band where we've mainly been focusing on learning new material and sharpening up on what we had done last year. We've performed at Open Day and the Interact Valentine's Day sale.

Term 1 has been an exciting time for the Junior Marimba Band. A fresh group of vibrant Grade 8 learners have joined us this year. Samir Solomons, Samiha Vencencie and Tiyyalah Hendericks have joined as Junior Band Leaders. They have done an excellent job in leading and guiding this fresh group and we are extremely optimistic for the year.



BRENDON JORDAN
HOD LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP

RCL 2025

Congratulations to the following learners who make up the RCL Executive Team. We look forward to you leading and guiding with each class representative, the school to 'adventure together'. The Exec has identified the idea of "togetherness" as the goal for 2025.

Chairman: Liyabonga Aja
Vice Chairman: La’eeq Gajjar
Secretary: Yolani Nconco
SGB Representatives: Mavuyo Badi and Lindiwe Zililo.
Portfolio Heads: School Cheer: Masanelisiwe Cgawe
Social Media: Abigail Naidoo and Kyle Naidoo
Sport: Kushail Pillay assisted by Owen Francis
School wellness: Khazimla
Academics: Uminathi Jikwana



YOUNG ENTREPRENEURIAL SOCIATY

The Young Entrepreneurial Society hosted another successful market day at our annual open day!
Great to see learners with an entrepreneurial spirit!



JCC

Westering Junior City Council and Society received high praise from the JCC for our commitment and work. Heading the stationery drive, we delivered stationery to over 16 schools. Recycled old files into beautiful classroom decorations. The support of all our members at the monthly council meetings are greatly appreciated.

SCHOOL STARTS FOR TERM 2 ON 8 APRIL 2025

SERVICE

BOOK ROOM

The Book room team has worked tirelessly to ensure that students have access to the resources they need for academic success. By managing the circulation of textbooks and learning materials, they’ve made it easier for learners to excel in their studies.

COMPUTER CLUB

The Computer Club has once again been a hub of creativity and technological exploration. Students have had opportunities to enhance their skills, from coding to digital design, making this club a true highlight of our extracurricular offerings.

CRICKET SCORING & UMPIRING

Cricket enthusiasts have had a bustling Term 1, with a dedicated team of 30 learners stepping up to provide crucial scoring and umpiring services. Special thanks to Connor Kramer in Grade 12 for his leadership in managing this team, ensuring smooth cricket matches across the board.

DEBATING

The Debating Society has had an eventful term, hosting a well-received workshop in January, which introduced new learners to the art of debate. Senior debaters, led by La’eeq Gajjar and Cassidy Harmse, showcased exceptional hosting skills during the senior league debates and are now preparing junior teams for the prestigious Alex Festival later this term.

FLAG MONITORS & E-MEDIA

This year, we are excited to see a fresh wave of leadership take flight as the responsibility of Flag Monitors has been entrusted to our vibrant Grade 8 students. These young leaders are now proudly overseeing the raising and lowering of our school flags, symbolizing the spirit and pride of Westering High School. The E-Media team lead, by Miss Engelbrecht, worked endlessly to ensure all copies, laminations and general academic materials were rolled off and available to ensure for a successful Open Day. Special thanks to Jude Hillier who leads by example when called upon. Well done E-media team!

HOCKEY TECH TABLE

The Hockey Tech Table division, in collaboration with Eastern Province Hockey and SAHA, will be making WHS history by sending six students to the Grand Masters Tournament as technical members guided by Mr. Q. Rudman who has been appointed as a technical official—an outstanding first for Westering High School!

STREAMING CREW

The Streaming Crew has had a stellar start to the year, successfully streaming our Open Day and hockey fixtures for the 1st boys’ and girls’ teams. These streams provided valuable digital analysis for our teams while showcasing school events to a wider audience. Their dedication continues to enhance our school’s digital presence, and we’re excited for what’s to come!

PASTORAL

PEER PROMOTORS (BLOOD DRIVE)

Westering High School has shattered records with an incredible 210 units donated in our Term 1 blood drive! A massive thank you to all the learners who waited patiently after school to donate—your generosity is truly inspiring. Huge kudos to the Peer Promoters for going above and beyond to ensure this event was a huge success. Your passion, dedication, and hard work never go unnoticed. Together, we’ve made an extraordinary impact, and we couldn’t be prouder!

ENVIRO CLUB

The Enviro Club has been actively involved in environmental initiatives, from organizing a beach clean-up to engaging in recycling projects like the “Tug Toy” initiative. They also raised funds through a hugely successful cake sale, supporting future environmental causes. Their recent hike at Van Stadens Flower Reserve deepened their appreciation for nature and conservation.

INTERACT

Interacts passion for service has shone through this term, with members spreading love and kindness to those in need. From spending quality time with the elderly at Malabar Home to organizing a successful Valentine’s Day fundraiser, Interact is truly embodying the spirit of "Service Above Self." They also contributed to a clothing drive and are gearing up to participate in the upcoming Ironman event.

IMPACT

The Impact club has had a meaningful start to the year, spreading joy at the Lillydale Old Age Home and celebrating Valentine’s Day with thoughtful handmade gifts for the school staff. Their upcoming worship evening promises to be an inspiring event, continuing their mission to uplift the community through acts of kindness and faith.

PEACE CLUB

The Peace Club has undergone an exciting transformation this term, evolving into the “Wellness Society.” This shift reflects their broader focus on mental and social well-being, creating a space for students from all backgrounds to come together, share experiences, and support each other in navigating life’s challenges.

WESTERING MUSLIM SOCIETY

The Westering Muslim Society has had an enriching term, preparing for the holy month of Ramadhan with weekly meetings and prayer sessions. Their pre-Ramadhan event with Apa Bushra was an inspiring opportunity for students to reflect on the spiritual significance of the month. With new divisions for girls, the society is growing stronger and more inclusive than ever.

GUEST SPEAKERS & TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

This term, we were privileged to host guest speakers who shared valuable insights on personal development, career pathways, and higher education. These sessions, in collaboration with various universities, are paving the way for our students to confidently step into their futures.

CONCLUSION:
Term 1 has been nothing short of dynamic, with our students, staff, and communities coming together to make a lasting impact. Every service and pastoral activity has played an integral role in creating a vibrant, inclusive, and supportive school environment. As we look forward to the rest of the year, we are excited about continuing this momentum and fostering even greater involvement in the weeks to come.
At Westering High School, we continue to build a foundation of excellence, compassion, and service—preparing our students for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we thrive!