



WESTERING
HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Term 3 of 2026



SOARING TOWARDS EXCELLENCE

OPTIMA VOICES CHOIR

A TERM OF MUSIC, CULTURE, GROWTH & COMMUNITY

Term 3 has been an exceptionally busy and rewarding one for Optima Voices, with a **strong focus on performance, learner development, cultural collaboration and fundraising**. It has been wonderful to see our choir members take ownership not only on stage, but also behind the scenes in helping to build and support the choir programme.



ECHOES OF HERITAGE

One of our biggest highlights was the Echoes of Heritage Cultural Evening, held in our hall on 12 August 2026. **The evening was organised as both a celebration of our diverse cultural heritage** and a collaboration initiative for Optima Voices.

It grew into a wonderful, lively event involving performers from Westering High School as well as visiting schools and groups.

The programme brought **together Optima Voices, the WHS Cultural Choir and WHS Marimba Band, alongside the VP Choir, VP Cultural Choir, VP Band, Alex Culture Choir** and **visiting drama groups**.

Seeing learners from different schools sharing one stage through choral music, instrumental music, drama and cultural performance was a particularly special part of the evening and created a wonderful sense of community.



WHS GOT TALENT OUR ICONS:

Another **major highlight** was **WHS Got Talent – Icons**, which was organised as both a school talent showcase and a fundraiser in support of the choir.

The event gave a wide variety of WHS learners an opportunity to perform and allowed us to celebrate talent outside the traditional choir setting. It was **wonderful to see so many learners participating, supporting one another** and contributing to the success of the event.



FUNDRAISING FOR THE FUTURE

Fundraising has been an important focus for Optima Voices throughout the term. We successfully hosted a number of initiatives to raise funds for the choir, while at the same time creating enjoyable and meaningful opportunities for our learners and the wider school community.

The support received from learners, staff, parents and our community has been greatly appreciated.



LEARNERS TAKING THE LEAD

Behind the scenes, our choir members have also become **increasingly involved in the running of Optima Voices.**

Learners have assisted with fundraising and events, communication, equipment and general organisation. **Seeing them take greater responsibility and develop their leadership skills has been one of the most rewarding aspects of the term.**



LOOKING AHEAD

Overall, it has been a **full and memorable term for Optima Voices.** Through Echoes of Heritage, WHS Got Talent, our fundraising initiatives and our regular rehearsals and performances, our learners have had **opportunities to grow in confidence, work together and share their love of music with others.**

We are incredibly proud of everything that has been accomplished and grateful to the learners, staff, parents, visiting schools and supporters who have played a role in making this term such a success.

We are excited to see what Term 4 brings for Optima Voices and look forward to continuing to grow, perform and create memorable experiences together.

DEBATING

TAKING OUR VOICES TO THE NATIONAL STAGE

Throughout the previous terms, both our **senior and junior teams** participated in the **Nelson Mandela Bay League**, with our **Junior team** progressing to the **quarter-finals**.

Both teams were invited to the Eastern Cape Provincial Trials, where **our Junior team achieved an impressive 2nd place overall**, competing against some of the province's top schools.



Jaron Hillier also achieved 4th place for Best Junior Speaker at the provincial trials.



REPRESENTING THE EASTERN CAPE

It is with **great excitement** that we announce that **Kungawe Slate and Jaron Hillier** made the travelling side for the **Eastern Cape Debating Squad** and will be **representing the province at the upcoming South African National Schools Debating Championships**, taking place at Hilton College from **8 to 13 December**.

MARIMBA BAND

REBUILDING, PERFORMING & LOOKING TOWARDS 2027

The goal for Term 3 was to **rebuild the current band going into 2027**. We are unfortunately losing several matriculants who have been critical members of the Marimba Band for the past few years. Therefore, it is highly important to have an established group of players going into 2027.

The rebuilding process has been going well, as the students have been able to add a few more songs to their repertoire while also becoming more comfortable working together as a band.



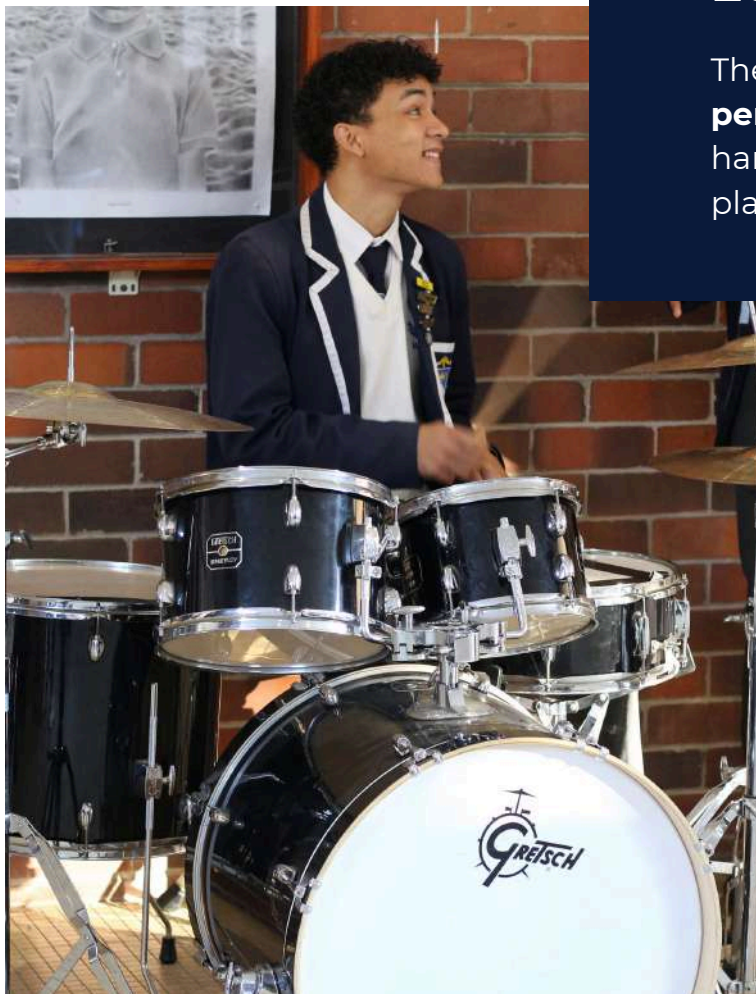
ECHOES OF HERITAGE

The band had the **great opportunity to perform at the Cultural Evening**. They handled themselves extremely well and played fantastically.

WESTERING'S GOT TALENT

The band, this time joined by the outgoing matriculants, **paired up with the Steelband to perform at the Westering's Got Talent talent show**.

They had the audience grooving and singing along. It was definitely an emotional performance for me.



THANK YOU TO OUR OUTGOING MEMBERS!

On the subject of the matriculants, I would like to give a special mention to:

Palesa Headbush, Asemahle April, Inothando Jack, Rebecca Wilson, Bothando Mkhengcele, and our outgoing Co-Chairpersons, Samir Solomons and Samiha Vencencie.

I appreciate everything you have put into this band. Every practice attended, every performance played, and all the times you had to carry those heavy instruments. **The jokes, the laughter, and the good vibes. I appreciate you all so much.**

WELCOMING OUR NEW CHAIRPERSON

I would also like to congratulate our new **Marimba Band Chairperson, Tiaylah Hendericks.**

I know how passionate you are about music and about creating amazing music on the marimba. I pray that the next year will be filled with good vibes, growth, and amazing music.



SPORT:

A BUSY TERM OF COMPETITION, ACHIEVEMENT & TEAM SPIRIT

Term 3 has been another busy sporting term, with winter derbies coming to an end and summer sports kicking in again.

PROUDLY REPRESENTING SOUTH AFRICA

We are **extremely proud** of the following learners who were **selected for various SA teams**:



Meah Kemp – SA U16B Hockey



Benjamin Banda – Chess



Samiha Vencencie – Karate

Nike Roberts was also **selected for the Eastern Cape U16 Hockey** team that toured Germany.

DERBY SUCCESS

Our teams all produced excellent results in the final derby matches.

Our **Founders Weekend against VP** was a **huge success**, with many teams producing excellent results.





SUMMER SPORTS ARE BACK

We also started the **summer season with cricket and athletics back in full swing.** Our cricketers took part in the Pearson Festival, where we faced some strong opposition.



SEPTEMBER HOLIDAY TOURS

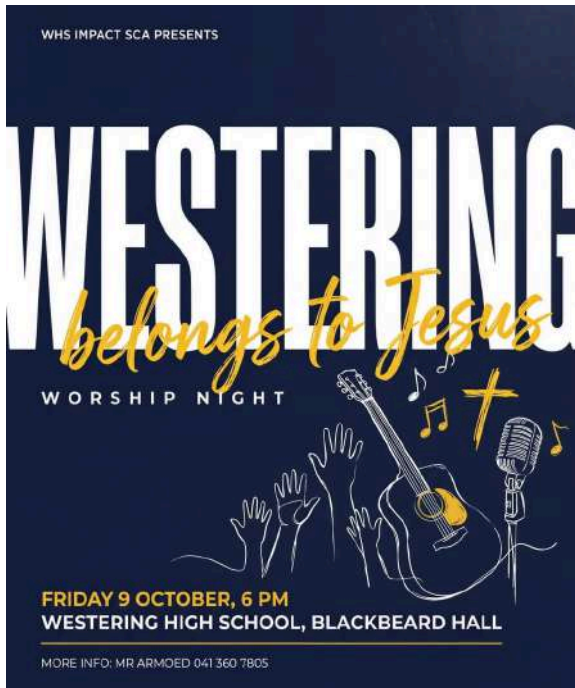
We will have four teams away on tours in the September holidays:

- 1st and U15A Boys – Cape Town
- 1st Girls – Worcester
- U14A Boys – George

Our athletes have also been hard at work and look forward to the upcoming competitions



PASTORAL & SERVICE



SERVICE BEFORE SELF

Term 3 was undoubtedly **one of the busiest and most demanding terms of the school year**, yet once again, Westering High School's Pastoral and Service departments continued to operate with purpose, commitment and an unwavering focus on making a difference.

Across our various service portfolios, **staff and learners continued to embody the Westering spirit of "Service Before Self."**

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE

MAKING AN IMPACT

Our **Enviro Club**, under the dedicated leadership of **Mrs Jouma**, was selected to **represent the school at the Provincial Environmental Competition Awards in Queenstown.**

The team's commitment to environmental responsibility was rewarded with an outstanding 2nd-place finish, bringing home an impressive R40 000 in prize money!

This achievement is a tremendous **reflection of the passion, hard work and dedication shown by Mrs Jouma and her Enviro members.**

Westering High School is exceptionally proud of a team that continues to demonstrate that meaningful change starts with learners who are willing to take responsibility for the world around them.





INTERACT

Preparing to Serve

The **Interact Club**, led by **Mrs E. Jekels**, has been hard at work preparing for the year ahead.

A dedicated Interact workshop was hosted for new members, providing an opportunity to establish expectations, discuss upcoming activities and outings, and set the tone for another year of meaningful community service.

With a **strong focus on developing young people who understand the value of giving back**, Interact continues to be an important part of Westering's service culture.



IMPACT

Faith, Purpose & Community

Following the **tremendous success of the Term 2 Worship and Prayer Evening**, Mr Armoed, who oversees and leads our Impact service, will once again be hosting an evening of worship and prayer early in the new, yet short, term.

With **final examinations approaching**, the evening will provide learners with an **opportunity to pause, reflect and find strength in their faith**.

In an increasingly demanding world, **Impact continues to reinforce the importance of remaining grounded, resilient and connected to one's beliefs**.

BLOOD DRIVE

Service That Saves Lives



Following a **successful handover from Mrs Lombard to Miss Blignaut**, Westering's Blood Drive continued to make an enormous difference during Term 3.

Despite an exceptionally busy and demanding term, **Miss Blignaut and her team rallied the Westering community to donate more than 90 units of blood**.

That means more than 90 opportunities to assist someone in need a powerful reminder that a simple **act of service can have a life-changing impact**.



A CULTURE OF SERVICE

Service Before Self

Despite the pressure and packed nature of Term 3, our Pastoral and Service departments continued to function with consistency, dedication and teamwork under the guidance of their respective staff leaders.

Whether **protecting our environment, serving our community, strengthening faith, supporting one another** or **helping to save lives**, our learners continue to demonstrate that service is not simply something we do at Westering; it is part of who we are.

Westering High School continues to strive for the best, while remembering that true leadership begins with putting others first.



MARKETING & SOCIAL MEDIA

SHARING THE WESTERING STORY

It has been an **exciting term for marketing and social media** at Westering High School. We were delighted to **welcome Daneel & Luke from Digital Native on board to manage our social media platforms**.

As **proud Westering old scholars**, they bring not only fresh ideas and a digital perspective, but also a genuine passion for our school and its community. Their enthusiasm and creativity have already added a wonderful energy to the way we showcase the achievements, activities and spirit of Westering High School.



WOSA LEGACY CLUB

Another **exciting highlight** was the **launch of the WOSA Legacy Club** during our **Founder's Day weekend**.

The **initiative encourages old scholars to remain connected to their school and contribute towards future projects** through a monthly donation of just R100.

It is a wonderful way for our old scholars to continue investing in the school that played such an important role in their lives.



[View WOSA Legacy Video](#)



[View Video](#)



[View Video](#)



[View Video](#)



[View Video](#)

SHOWCASING THE WESTERING EXPERIENCE

We continue to showcase the incredibly busy programme at Westering, highlighting the **many opportunities available to our learners across sport, culture and academics**.

From sporting fixtures and cultural activities to academic achievements and school events, **there is always something happening at Westering!**

Our Facebook and Instagram pages provide a wonderful platform to share these moments with our wider school community. **One of the highlights of our marketing efforts is being able to celebrate the achievements, successes and special moments of our learners** and give them the recognition they deserve.



SOCIAL MEDIA INSIGHTS

ONBOARDED
AUGUST 2026

GROWING YOUR DIGITAL COMMUNITY

Since taking over the management of Westering High School's social media platforms, Digital Native has been pleased to see positive organic growth across the school's Facebook presence.

Between 1 July and 28 September 2026, the Facebook page recorded more than **1.4 million views**, reaching **247,878 viewers** an increase of **9.5%**. Content interactions (**engagement**) also increased by **2%**, while total watch time grew by an exciting **18.2%**.

One of the most encouraging indicators has been the **108% increase in link clicks**, showing that your digital community is not only viewing and engaging with content, but increasingly taking the next step to find out more!

REACHING THE WESTERING COMMUNITY

Importantly, all **1,413,924 views** were generated **organically**, with no advertising spend contributing to the page's reach during this reporting period. The content receiving the highest number of views included posts celebrating members of the Westering community, recruitment opportunities, school services and academic achievements. This highlights the value of sharing the people, achievements and opportunities that make Westering unique.

The page also recorded **502 new follows**, representing a 4.8% increase during the reporting period. These results provide an encouraging start to our digital journey together. As we continue to showcase sport, culture, academics, school life and the achievements of our learners, we look forward to growing your online community and sharing even more of the Westering story. **We are very excited for what term 4 holds!**



A Special Sponsorship!

We were also thrilled to **partner with Eastern Cape Motors**, who recently **sponsored a Ford Territory** for a **lucky staff member** to enjoy for the weekend.

The excitement was high as the lucky draw took place, with **Mr Ferreira** being the fortunate name drawn.

We extend our **sincere thanks to Eastern Cape Motors** for their **generous sponsorship** and for adding such an exciting initiative to our school community.



WESTERING
HIGH SCHOOL

A special thank you to Timothy Reddy and the team at Eastern Cape Motors for giving Mr Ferreira the opportunity to experience the Ford Territory over the weekend.

We appreciate your continued support of our school community.

[View our ECM Winner Video](#)

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

We **would also like to express our sincere appreciation** to all our **sponsors and supporters** who have come on board this year, **including those who have generously sponsored kits** for our sporting teams.

Their support makes a meaningful difference and **allows our learners to participate with pride while proudly representing the Westering name.**



CELEBRATING OUR WESTERING FAMILY

Our **Founder's Day weekend** was a memorable celebration of the Westering family.

It was wonderful to **welcome so many old scholars back to school** and see them reconnect with friends, staff and fellow alumni. The old scholar sporting events created a fantastic atmosphere, with many former learners enthusiastically taking part and proudly representing Westering once again.



[View our Founder's Day Video](#)

TELLING THE WESTERING STORY

It is an exciting time to be part of Westering High School. Through our social media platforms, our WOSA initiatives, our sponsors and the incredible achievements of our learners, we continue to tell the story of a **school that is busy, vibrant, proud and always striving for excellence**. We look forward to continuing to celebrate and share all that makes Westering special as we keep soaring towards excellence.

BUILDING A STRONGER DIGITAL FUTURE

Term 3 has been a positive one for ICT. The **network has remained stable**, and **all systems are currently running well**.

THE FUTURE OF MIEBOOKS

We also met with **Optimi**, the company responsible for developing the **miEbooks app**. They are **preparing to launch a new version of the app**, together with an updated administration system.

The redevelopment includes **updated programming code aimed at improving the stability of the app across a variety of devices**. The app has also been streamlined, with unnecessary features that were contributing to technical difficulties being removed. **The new version is scheduled for release in 2027**.

STRENGTHENING OUR WI-FI SECURITY

During the term, we spent some time **investigating ways to improve the security of our WiFi network** and have **identified a suitable approach** that we plan to implement.



EXPLORING INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY

More recently, we **purchased an interactive touchscreen panel**. Over the coming months, we **will be testing its features** and using it in a variety of situations. This will help us determine whether investing in additional interactive panels would be beneficial in the future.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2027

Finally, we have submitted our ICT budget request for 2027. **Improving WiFi coverage and reliability remains an ongoing priority**, and **we hope to continue strengthening the school's network infrastructure during the coming year**.

WESTERING STAFF NEWS

GENTLE GOODBYES, WARM WELCOMES AND WONDERFUL CELEBRATIONS!



This term has been one of **farewells, fresh beginnings** and **plenty of reasons to celebrate!**

We said a **fond goodbye** to **Mrs Rudman** and **Mrs Lombard** and wish them **both every happiness and success as they begin their new adventures.**

After an incredible **33 years of service**, **Mr Swanepoel retired at the end of Term 3.** We thank him sincerely for his many years of dedication to Westering and wish him a well-deserved and happy retirement!

We are delighted to welcome **Ms Nel and Ms Matiwana** to our **academic staff**, **Ms Pikanini** to our **administration team**, and **Mr Dumpies** to our **estates team**. We hope they will enjoy being part of the Westering family and quickly feel at home.

A **warm welcome back** to **Ms De Kock and Ms Sontshi**, who returned from maternity leave. It is wonderful to have you back!

There have also been some **lovely personal celebrations**. **Congratulations to Ms Sontshi on her engagement**, and to **Ms Blignaut**, who will return in the new term as **Mrs Nell!** We also extend our

congratulations to the Van Tonders on the arrival of their **beautiful baby girl.**

Congratulations to Mrs Rademeyer and Mr Cronje, who have taken on the roles of **Grade 10 and Grade 11 Heads respectively.** We wish them every success in their new leadership roles.



A special **congratulations to Coach Pango**, who was selected as the **EP U17 7s Head Coach** and **Coach Robin**, who has been chosen as the **EP u16 cricket boys selector** a fantastic achievement!



And finally, a **heartfelt thank you to Mrs Cloete and Mrs Jenneker** for their willingness, flexibility and support this term as they stepped in as guest teachers. Your contribution is greatly appreciated!



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

REFLECTING ON A SUCCESSFUL TERM 3

As we come to the end of **another busy and productive term**, I would like to take a moment to **reflect on the many achievements and opportunities** that have made **Term 3 a memorable one** for our school community.



THANK YOU TO OUR WINTER SPORT STAFF

A **special word of appreciation goes to our coaches and staff involved in winter sport**. We had a very successful season, and this would not have been possible without the commitment, time and dedication of our staff.

Thank you for developing not only the sporting abilities of our learners, but also the values of **discipline, teamwork**, perseverance and sportsmanship.

Many of our **teachers give generously of their time beyond the normal school day, attending practices and derby days**.



CELEBRATING CULTURE

Our **Culture Department also deserves special recognition** for an exceptionally busy term.

The department continues to **create opportunities for our learners to showcase their talents**, develop their confidence and participate in activities beyond the classroom.

Thank you to every staff member involved for providing our learners with the opportunities to express themselves and experience the richness that cultural activities bring to school life.

THE HEART OF WESTERING: TEACHING & LEARNING

I would also like to **sincerely thank our teaching staff for their continued commitment to teaching and learning**.

The academic programme remains at the heart of what we do, and **I appreciate the countless hours our educators invest in preparing lessons, supporting learners, providing additional intervention classes and ensuring that our learners are given every opportunity to succeed**.

TO OUR LEARNERS

To our learners, thank you for your **enthusiastic involvement in our extra-mural programmes** throughout the term.

Your commitment, participation and willingness to represent our school is truly appreciated. **Thank you for always wearing the Westering badge with pride** and for representing our school with respect wherever you go.

You are an important part of what makes our school special.



LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FINAL TERM

The final term is now upon us, and I encourage you to take responsibility for your academic progress.

The final examinations should not be approached as something to prepare for only in the last few weeks. **Start studying early!**

Do not wait until the final stages before making an effort. Every lesson, every assignment, every revision session and every opportunity for additional support contributes to your final success.

Your future results are built through the effort you put in today.



APPRECIATING OUR SUPPORT STAFF

Finally, I would like to **extend my appreciation to our administrative, support and estate staff.**

Much of the work that keeps a school functioning effectively happens behind the scenes. From administration and communication to maintaining our grounds, buildings and facilities, your contribution is essential to the daily life of our school.

Thank you for your dedication and for always being willing to assist where needed.

A FINAL WORD

Thank you to every member of the Westering family for your contribution to a successful Term 3.

Thank you!