



GREENSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Term I: 2026 Newsletter

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

~St. Francis of Assisi

Edition I : 20 March 2026

GREENSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

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To our wonderful students and parents, the energy at Greenside High has been unmatched so far this year. Our learners' talents and our teachers' passion have made Term I a massive success. Here is a quick reflection on our top achievements before we recharge for the next term.



Greenside High School Celebrates Outstanding 2025 Matric Results

Greenside High School proudly celebrates the exceptional achievements of the Class of 2025. Our Aces have once again demonstrated that excellence is not merely an aspiration at GHS, but a standard.

The Class of 2025 achieved a remarkable 100% pass rate, with an impressive 90% Bachelor pass rate, and a total of 237 distinctions. These results reflect the academic strength, commitment, and perseverance of this outstanding cohort.



Every day you can choose to be happy, loving and live life to its fullest. Remember, you get to make it up!

~Thom Gottberg



Greenside High School Celebrates Outstanding 2025 Matric Results

Leading this exceptional group is Mihir Modi, who secured first place in Gauteng and third place nationally. Mihir matriculated with eight subject distinctions, achieving outstanding results across all subjects, including 98% in English and 97% in Mathematics. His achievement is a moment of immense pride for Greenside High School and a testament to the calibre of learners within community. Mihir is now studying Actuarial Science at Wits University.

Other remarkable top achievers include:

- **Aryan Sivasundar – 8 Distinctions.** He is now studying Mechanical Engineering at Wits University.
- **Nabila Jassat – 7 Distinctions.** Nabila is currently pursuing Audiology at Wits University.
- **Thabiso Rasimeni – 7 Distinctions.** Thabiso has laid a stellar foundation for her studies in Economic Science at Wits University.
- **Amaan Patel – 7 Distinctions.** Amaan is now furthering his studies in Actuarial Science at Wits.
- **Tayyibah Moosa – 6 Distinctions.** Tayyibah is currently studying Civil Engineering at Wits University.
- **Nkosiyabo Ndlovu – 6 Distinctions.** Nkosiyabo is pursuing Computer Science at the University of Cape Town.
- **Azania Shezi – 6 Distinctions.** Azania is now studying Accounting Science at Wits University.
- **Aydin Kauchali – 6 Distinctions.** Aydin is studying Medicine at Wits University
- **Noluthando Mabusela – 6 Distinctions.** Noluthando is now pursuing BCom Accounting at the University of Johannesburg
- **Zuhayr Alekar – 5 Distinctions.** Zuhayr is now studying Dentistry at Wits University.
- **Thomas Weber – 5 Distinctions.** Thomas is now pursuing Environmental Science and Geology at the University of Cape Town.

As a result of these phenomenal outcomes, Greenside High School has been ranked fourth in the Johannesburg District, further cementing our reputation for academic excellence.





Greenside High School Celebrates Outstanding 2025 Matric Results

The Aces have been a vibrant, united, and dedicated group since joining the GHS family in 2021.

Beginning their high school journey during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, they faced unprecedented challenges. Yet, through resilience, determination, and unwavering spirit, they rose above adversity to achieve excellence.

An “Ace” excels - and the Class of 2025 has truly lived up to this name. They have brought honour to Greenside High School and added yet another gem to the GHS crown.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Grade Heads, Ms Stuurman and Ms Ngobese, whose dedication, mentorship, and guidance have played a pivotal role in shaping this phenomenal group of learners.

We have every confidence that the Aces will continue to achieve great success in their future endeavours. It is with immense pride that we now welcome them into our growing alumni community.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025. Well done, Aces!

Public Speaking Trophy Team

We extend our congratulations to our exceptional Public Speaking Trophy Team on their remarkable achievement.

Competing against strong contenders from St Mary’s Waverley, St Theresa, Sacred Heart, and Deutsche Internationale Schule Johannesburg, our team delivered an outstanding performance that earned them an A symbol, along with highly commendable feedback from the adjudicator and enthusiastic engagement from the audience.

Their thought-provoking speeches on The Illusion of Choice demonstrated insight, confidence, and persuasive delivery.

What made their presentation particularly memorable was their skilful use of humour, which enhanced audience engagement while reinforcing their message in a dynamic and relatable way. Well done, ladies!





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Fathers of Greenside

'The Fathers of Greenside' is an SGB Parent initiative aimed at providing guidance and mentorship to male learners at risk. Male staff and SGB parents join these events and form crucial connections with these young men, discussing important matters related to masculinity and valuable life lessons.

This term, we revisited The Wilds Nature Reserve in the heart of Johannesburg. The Wilds is a wonderful park that showcases how the determined actions of one individual can make an extraordinary difference. James Delaney is an artist who resides in an apartment building in Killarney, directly next to the park. Delaney found it odd that he had to get in his car and drive to other parks around Johannesburg simply because The Wilds was considered a dangerous area and a one-way ticket to a mugging (or worse). So, Delaney spent his free time in the park, weeding, gardening, and restoring the overgrown pathways to create a welcoming and inviting space.

No matter how hard he tried, however, he could not convince more people to visit the park because of its reputation. Delaney used his natural talents as an artist and began installing his own creations in the park, mostly large and colourful metal sculptures of animals, as well as some mosaics. This was done to draw the attention of passersby and create a buzz online.

It worked, and now our biggest concern when taking learners there is where we will park, as The Wilds is full of visitors every single weekend. His devotion and actions serve as a reminder to our boys that anyone can make a difference in their community if they take action themselves.



Peace is not something you wish for. It is something you make, something you do, something you are, and something you give away. ~Robert Fulghum



Highlights

Meet the Dyanmic TeachingTeam - Greenside High School 2026





Highlights

Meet the Dyanmic Teaching Team - Greenside High School 2026





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Celebrating Excellence: Mihir Modi, Class of 2025

At Greenside High School we are proud to celebrate the remarkable achievements of Mihir Modi, who has distinguished himself as one of South Africa’s top academic performers. In the Matric Class of 2025, Mihir placed third in South Africa, first in Gauteng, and first in Johannesburg North, scooping up numerous awards and bursaries in recognition of his exceptional performance. While these accolades are impressive, what stands out most about Mihir is not just what he achieved, but how he experienced the journey.

When asked whether any particular award or ceremony made the hard work worthwhile, Mihir’s answer was not about trophies or titles, but about gratitude. He reflected that the most meaningful part of the experience was sharing those moments with his mother. Throughout his matric year, she supported him through self-doubt, exhaustion, and emotional challenges, offering encouragement when he struggled and strength when he needed it most. Following the passing of his grandfather, Mihir witnessed first-hand her resilience and compassion. Being able to celebrate together after months of effort and sacrifice is something he will always treasure. His success, he believes, is due to her unwavering support.

Mihir also spoke with honesty and humour about his approach to studying, describing what he jokingly calls his “unhinged study hacks.” One of his most effective techniques was using a simple kitchen timer to track his study time. This helped him to stay accountable and ensured that he was allocating sufficient attention to each subject. He also created summary pages on coloured cardboard, carefully organised in flip files. These visual summaries helped him to manage the vast volume of matric content while making revision more engaging and structured.

Despite his achievements, Mihir emphasises that his matric year was not without difficulty. There were many days when he felt tired, overwhelmed, and unmotivated. On those days, he focused on showing up and doing what he could, even if it was just one small task. He advises that studying is not an “all or nothing” process, and that working consistently in manageable chunks is far more effective than trying to do everything at once. He also recognised the importance of rest, allowing himself to sleep and recover when needed.

While Mihir excelled academically, some of his most cherished memories at Greenside High School come from outside the classroom. His time in debating stands out as a particular highlight. Debating challenged him intellectually, introduced him to new places and perspectives, and gave him a community of friends beyond academics. He fondly recalls the intensity of Saturday tournaments, the camaraderie among teammates, and the moments of laughter after long competitions. Debating, he says, taught him not only how to argue, but how to think more deeply and reflectively.

When asked what advice he would offer to current matric learners, Mihir’s response was thoughtful and compassionate: “Be kind to yourself.” He recognises that matric is meant to be challenging, and that those challenges are part of personal growth. Rather than being discouraged by difficulty, he encourages learners to reframe hardship as an opportunity to learn and develop resilience.

Mihir’s achievements are extraordinary, but his story is also a reminder that success is built on perseverance, support, balance, and self-compassion. Greenside High School congratulates Mihir on his outstanding accomplishments and thanks him for representing the school with such excellence and humility. We look forward to seeing all that he will achieve in the future.

Whatever you think you can do or believe you can do, begin it. Action has magic, grace and power in it.

~Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



Midmar Mile swim

Eleven of our high school students recently took on the demanding challenge of the Midmar Mile Swim, demonstrating determination, resilience, and exceptional team spirit. This iconic open-water swim is known for testing both physical endurance and mental strength, making the achievements of our learners especially noteworthy.

Our school commends Lebo Mofokeng, Malikhah Bhyat, Zia Khan, Lazar Moothoo, Ziyaad Bartiss, Chaska October, Hayden Singh, Rayhaan Mohammed, Yasser Bhyat, Jessica Khumalo and Khumisho Maphangane for their outstanding performance.

All eleven students successfully completed the race in under 50 minutes - an outstanding accomplishment that reflects the hours of preparation, discipline, and commitment they invested leading up to the event. Leading the group was Grade 11 learner Zia Khan, who delivered an impressive performance with a finishing time of 34 minutes. Close behind was a strong field of teammates who pushed themselves to achieve personal bests. Grade 9 learner Jessica showed tremendous perseverance, finishing in 47 minutes and rounding out an exceptional team performance. Regardless of individual times, every swimmer demonstrated courage, focus, and a willingness to push beyond comfort zones.

Beyond the times recorded, what stood out most was the unity and support shared among the team. From race preparation to the final stretch in the water, students encouraged one another, celebrated milestones together, and embraced the experience as a collective achievement. The positive energy and camaraderie were evident throughout the day, reflecting not only athletic ability but also strong character and sportsmanship.





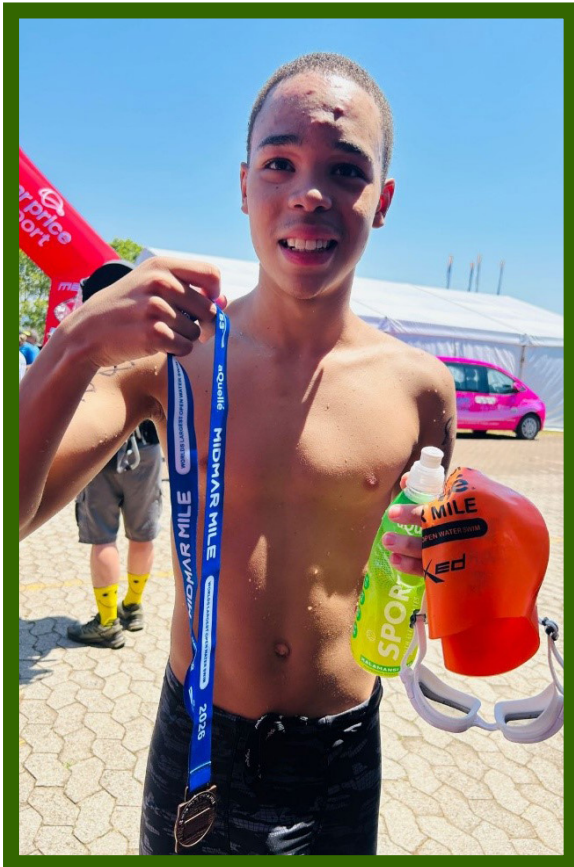
Midmar Mile swim

Following the race, the team enjoyed a well-deserved celebration. The group headed down to the beach, where students cooled off with a relaxed swim in the ocean, sharing laughs and reflecting on their accomplishment.

The day concluded with dinner at a beachfront restaurant, where the team enjoyed pizza together - a fitting end to a day defined by effort, achievement, and shared success.

We are proud of these learners for representing our school with such dedication and enthusiasm. Their performance at the Midmar Mile is a testament to what can be achieved through hard work, teamwork, and a positive attitude. They have set a powerful example for their peers and have created memories that will last far beyond the finish line.

We're immensely grateful to our generous swimming sponsor, Professional Poolcare Services C.C, for supporting our participation in the Midmar Mile. Your contribution of swimming caps helps our students grow in confidence, teamwork, and skill in the water. Thank you for making a real difference in our swimmers' experience!



The team and sponsor Professional Poolcare C.C.

"Being your best is not so much about overcoming the barriers other people place in front of you as it is about overcoming the barriers we place in front of ourselves."

— Swim Teach



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Inner Beauty Through Outer Beauty

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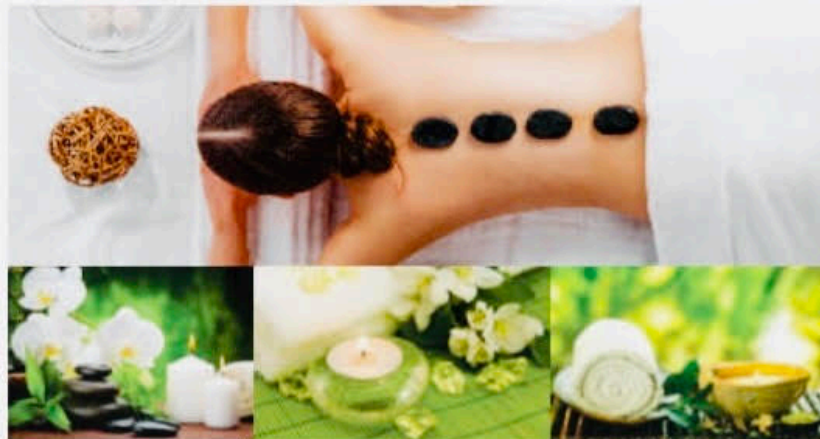
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Learner Wellness Day — Event Report

Overview: What Happens When You Let Teenagers Breathe?

Turns out, quite a lot. Greenside High School's Wellness Day on 15 March 2026 was, by every honest measure, a brilliant success. Learners arrived at a school that looked familiar but felt different: no bells dictating the tempo of their thinking, no desks arranged in rows of quiet obedience, no pressure to produce the correct answer before the correct time ran out. Instead, they found clay, paint, grass under their feet, and the radical invitation to simply be.

Wellness Day rests on a premise that sounds obvious once you say it out loud, but which our school calendars don't always reflect: learners who feel well, learn well. Research in adolescent neuroscience and positive psychology has been saying this for years. Wellness Day gave us the opportunity to actually listen - and what we heard back, in the laughter from the quad and the quiet concentration in the gym, was deeply encouraging.

Why Teenagers Need This (More Than They'd Ever Admit)

Adolescence is a spectacular, exhausting, slightly chaotic business. The teenage brain is in the middle of a renovation project that won't be finished until the mid-twenties — the prefrontal cortex, responsible for planning, impulse control, and rational decision-making, is essentially still under construction. Meanwhile, the emotional centres of the brain are fully operational and running at full volume. This is not a character flaw. It is developmental biology.

What this means practically is that adolescents have an urgent, physiological need for activities that help regulate their nervous systems, process their emotions, build their sense of identity and agency, and connect meaningfully with their peers. A traditional school day - however excellent - cannot meet all of those needs between the hours of 07:30 and 14:00. Wellness Day was designed specifically to fill some of those gaps, and it did so with both purpose and joy.

The Activities: Something for Everyone

The day's programme was built on a beautifully simple principle: that not every learner needs the same thing to feel restored. Some of our teenagers are natural movers who store tension in their muscles and release it through their feet.

Others are quiet creators who find their calm in colour and texture. Some simply need permission to play. Wellness Day offered all of it.

Active Rest, Ball Games, and the Obstacle Course

The outdoor activities gave learners something that schooling often forgets to prioritise: joyful, uninhibited movement. During active rest, the brain's default mode network - responsible for memory consolidation, problem-solving, and creative insight - becomes highly active. This is why the best ideas tend to arrive not at a desk, but on a walk. The T-Block Quad, Top Field, and Bottom Field were alive with laughter, friendly competition, and the kind of spirited encouragement between peers that quietly but powerfully builds community.

Of particular note: learners who do not typically engage in formal sport found genuine enjoyment and belonging in these sessions. Physical activity, when approached with playfulness rather than performance pressure, turns out to be for everyone.

Who knew? (The researchers did, actually. They've been saying it for decades.)

Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson



Learner Wellness Day — Event Report

The Power of Letting Learners Choose

Perhaps the most intentional design feature of Wellness Day was the element of agency. With the exception of the Study Skills session, learners chose their own activities. This is a small thing that is actually a large thing. Agency - the experience of making meaningful choices about one's own learning - is one of the strongest predictors of engagement and wellbeing in young people. When learners choose, they invest. When they invest, they benefit more deeply. The consistently high levels of genuine engagement observed across all stations were, in no small part, a direct consequence of this.

In Conclusion

Wellness Day was not a day off from learning. It was a day of learning something different - something that classrooms, through no fault of their own, cannot always teach: how to rest well, create freely, move joyfully, and manage the complicated business of being a teenager in a demanding world. The activities were purposeful, the spaces were alive, and the learners were - as they always are - when given the chance - wonderful.

We look forward to doing it all again.

Grade 8 Orientation 2026

The Grade 8 Orientation is one of the most important experiences for new learners at Greenside High School. Being part of the Orientation is a crucial part of bonding and building the sense of community for which Greenside strives. This year's orientation programme was nothing short of amazing, from learning the war cry and Shaza Waka to enjoying a camp, standing around a fire and sharing marshmallows. This was truly a remarkable experience that put the value of community in action.



Things are always working out for me. ~ Abraham-Hicks

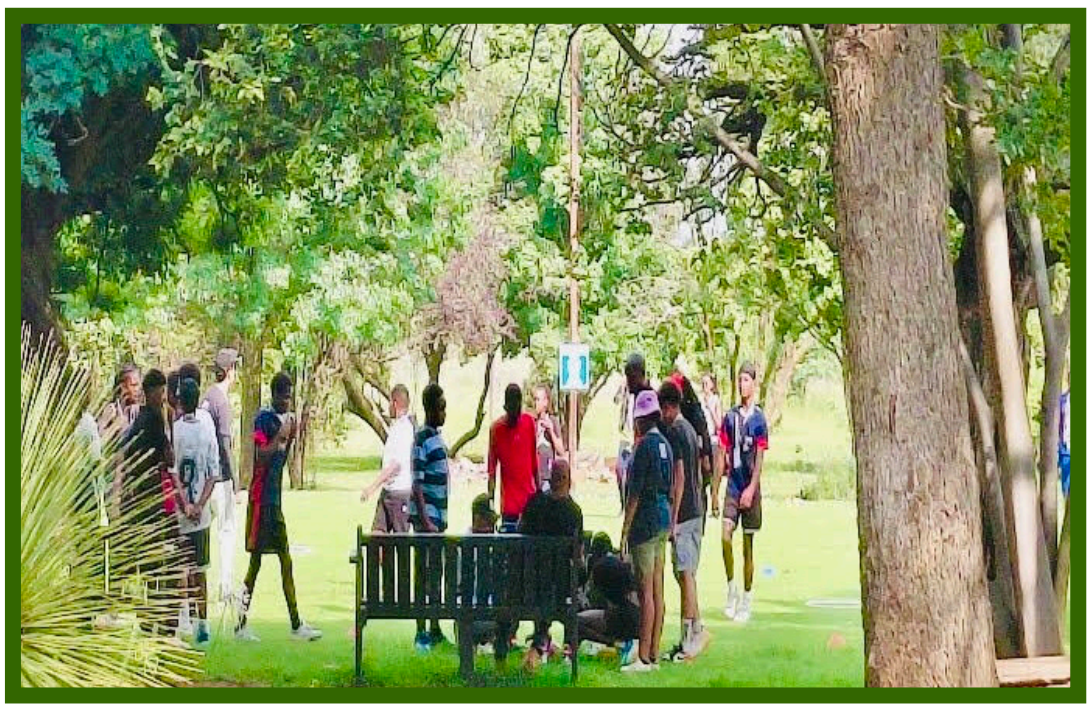


Grade 8 Orientation 2026

The Orientation Programme allowed the Visionaries to let their guard down and learn the true value of sharing, rising above challenges and working as a team.

They showed enthusiasm while participating in follow the leader, built lasting friendships and got to know their grade heads.

We are proud of the progress that they made along the way. It is no secret that the programme came with some challenges and many of our Visionaries were pushed beyond their comfort zones, but we were proud to watch them grow, and learn the value of respect and kindness. We look forward to witnessing their continued growth and success.





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Grade 8 Tree Planting Ceremony

Trees are a beautiful symbol of growth, strength and the interconnectedness of all things. As a school, Greenside High strives for a sense of community. Our Visionaries honoured this value by sharing in the special tradition, the tree planting ceremony. Every year, together with the grade 8 group, Mr Strauss, the deputies, and grade heads plant a tree to welcome the new grade 8 group. Each learner participates by taking some sand and placing it over the roots of the tree. This allows them the opportunity to make their mark at Greenside and contribute to something meaningful and beautiful.

Over the next five years they will get to witness not only their own growth but also the growth of this tree. Trees undergo various challenges; they are sometimes faced with scorching heat or drought and even storms. They also go through the painful process of pruning. In the same way, our Visionaries will also face challenges at times. May their tree serve as a constant reminder to root themselves in courage, strength, perseverance and kindness. When challenges arise, may the tree be a reminder to be resilient and stand tall on the darkest of days. May they weather the storms of life and remember the progress that they have made along the way.

Planting a tree allows their legacy to live on as many will sit under the shade of that tree long after our Visionaries have graduated from high school. There is a proverb that states "a tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds." May our Visionaries make us proud by bearing fruits of courage, honesty, compassion, respect, community, critical thinking, humility, honour, enthusiasm, courtesy, open mindedness, and integrity. We wish the class of 2030 green pastures and immense growth at Greenside. We are excited to walk this path together and witness our Visionaries bloom.





Sport

A Term of Growth, Resilience and Rising Standards

The first term of 2026 has proven that Greenside High School's sports programme is firmly on the right track. Success across multiple sporting codes reflects our unwavering commitment to excellence and holistic athlete development.

Our learners have consistently demonstrated extraordinary perseverance, sportsmanship, and determination - the defining qualities of true sporting character.

Basketball: Building Momentum

The U19 basketball programme has exhibited impressive competitive spirit throughout the term. The boys' team secured narrow victories against Glenvista High (36-31) and Saheti (38-34), with the latter match displaying exceptional defensive discipline in the closing minutes.

The U19 girls' team opened their campaign with an 18-4 win against Curro Protea Glen and maintained strong momentum with further victories over Woodland International College and Glenvista.

Both programmes are showing positive growth and remain on an upward trajectory.

Chess: Strategic Dominance

Chess has emerged as a formidable force this term. Our Senior Boys' team secured a commanding 20-10 victory over Roosevelt High School in a five-round tournament.

The A team produced dominant performances against Hyde Park (5.5-2.5 and 8-0) and maintained their strong form with victories over Alpha College and Parktown Boys (both 5-3).

The Junior Boys' team achieved notable success, finishing third overall (Bronze Medal Position) at Northcliff High School, which included a commendable draw against Hoërskool Helpmekaar Kollege. Special recognition goes to Dominick Nathane, who won a board prize on his birthday, and to Brian Ncube, whose crucial must-win point secured the bronze medal. Our B team also impressed with a 4-2 victory over Hyde Park.

The Girls' team demonstrated tremendous resilience, securing a hard-fought 4.5-3.5 victory against Rand Girls despite being short of two players - a testament to their determination and tactical acumen.

Journalist Naziya Davids-Easthorpe from the Rosebank Killarney Gazette interviewed our learners. These interviews have been published gazette.





Cricket: Commanding Performances

The cricket season has yielded outstanding results, particularly from our first team. Notable achievements include a commanding 48-run victory against Sir John Adamson, a 101-run win over Roosevelt, and a comprehensive 132-run victory against Ferndale High.

Individual brilliance was evident in the performances of Nimalan Thirumalai Madapusi, Ismaail Hassen, Melokuhle Dladla, and Brandon Moyo. Greenside High School will compete in the Schools Champions Trophy final on 25 March for the second consecutive year.

We wish our team the very best of luck.

Our girls' cricket team is in the development phase but progressing positively. Greenside fielded its first girls' cricket team in a series of matches in the Central Gauteng League, competing against established schools. This valuable exposure will undoubtedly accelerate the team's growth. We commend all our girls for representing the school with pride.



**"CHAMPIONS KEEP
PLAYING UNTIL THEY
GET IT RIGHT."**

-BILLIE JEAN KING



Rugby: Competitive Excellence

Our rugby teams have proven their mettle in highly competitive environments.

The U14 girls' team enjoyed a perfect start to their Golden Lions Rugby League campaign, winning all their opening matches: 60-0 against Bracken, 32-0 against Raiders, and 22-5 against the Barbarian team.

At the Saheti tournament, our open boys' team placed seventh overall out of 18 teams, while our U16s finished second in the Bowl final against Dainfern College, placing tenth overall in a fiercely contested tournament.

These results reflect the solid foundation of our rugby development pathway. Our U16 and Open boys' teams also enjoyed victories against Roosevelt High School. Our U16s won 19-0 against RHS U16B, and our Opens won 43-5 against RHS 3rds. The boys produced phenomenal tries and tackles on the day, kicking off what promises to be an exciting season.



"You have to fight to reach your dream. You have to sacrifice and work hard for it." - Lionel Messi



Touch Rugby: Fighting Spirit

Both our senior and junior touch rugby teams have demonstrated remarkable fighting spirit and competitive resolve throughout the term.

The senior boys secured victories against Reddam House Waterfall (2-1) and Reddam House Bedfordview (7-4), while our junior boys defeated Ashton College (2-1). The first boys' team earned a commendable 5-5 draw against Reddam House Bedfordview, showcasing their ability to compete at the highest level. Our junior boys also secured a 2-0 victory over Curro U14 and played to a 2-2 draw against Curro U15, demonstrating consistency across multiple fixtures.

Our girls' touch rugby teams have shown tremendous determination and growth. The U14 girls engaged in competitive fixtures, including a narrow 3-2 loss to King David Linksfield U14A - a match that showcased their defensive tenacity and attacking potential.

The first girls' team battled bravely in a 2-1 loss to Redhill first girls, displaying excellent team cohesion and tactical awareness against quality opposition. These performances indicate a programme developing depth and competitive character, with our girls demonstrating the resilience and commitment that define Greenside sport.

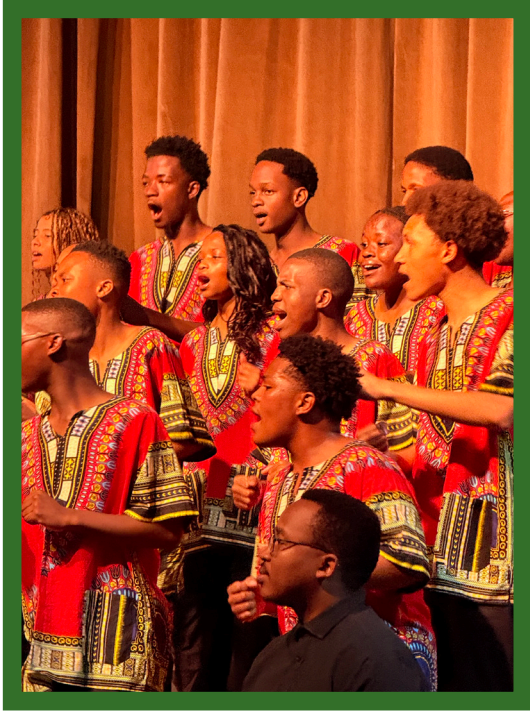


“Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.”
– Winston S. Churchill



Highlights

Choir at its Best - Greenside High School 2026





Highlights

Plays Festival - Greenside High School 2026



**"Don't wait for people to tell you who you are. Show them."
— Laura Benanti**