

The Phoenix

Waterford Kamhlaba UWCSA Weekly Newsletter

VOLUME 05 | ISSUE 01



PRINCIPAL'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

By Jackie Otula

Welcome back! As we step into 2025 with fresh energy, optimism, and determination, it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all our students, staff, and families—both returning and new. To our new students, this is now your home, and I encourage you to immerse yourself fully in the opportunities, experiences, and transformative learning that have shaped countless leaders who go on to impact the world positively.

This year, we are happy to have new staff members joining our vibrant community. You can read their bios in this newsletter to learn about the incredible talent and expertise they bring to Waterford Kamhlaba. They join a team of educators and professionals whose dedication continues to inspire excellence in everything we do.

The enthusiasm and vibrancy among our students and staff are already visible, showing readiness to embrace and elevate every aspect of this year. I am delighted to share that the 2024 IGCSE and IB results were exceptional, a testament to the unwavering commitment of our staff, students, and parents. Together, we have once again proven that collaboration and perseverance are the cornerstone of maintaining Waterford Kamhlaba's reputation as a beacon of international education of uncompromising quality.

We are profoundly grateful for the support of our stakeholders. Our alumni remain the lifeblood of this institution, their contributions to society a constant reminder of the profound impact of a Waterford Kamhlaba education. To our donors, partners, the Governing Council, and the wider WK community, we owe much of our success. Your belief in our mission ensures we continue to deliver a values-based education rooted in diversity, inclusion, and a commitment to excellence.

Newsletter Highlights

Principal's Weekly Message

New Staff Introductions

From the PSA Desk

SRC Corner

I also want to pay special tribute to the Eswatini Government for its invaluable support. The warmth and hospitality of our host country and its people make us who we are. From their seamless facilitation of permits for our students and staff to their love and encouragement, Eswatini exemplifies the spirit of partnership that we hold dear as a UWC school in this corner of the world.

As I shared with our students and staff during our opening assembly, 2025 is our *Year of Elevation*.

This is the year we raise the bar in all we do— teaching and learning; including teacher development, pastoral care; including community wellbeing, CAS initiatives, sports, and even the smallest day-to-day activities. Together, we are uplifting standards, stretching our goals, and committing ourselves to making 2025 the greatest year yet in Waterford Kamhlaba's incredible history. Thank you for your continued dedication in making this school a truly extraordinary place. Wishing you all a fantastic weekend and a spectacular year ahead!

NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS



ENGLISH TEACHER - PAMELA SITHOLE

Pamela Sithole is a seasoned English and Global Perspectives educator with over 17 years of experience, dedicated to inspiring and positively impacting the lives of young people. She holds a BA in English, a degree in Education and Master's degree in Development Studies.

She actively participates in community projects, and is an avid fan of rugby and football. She is a Zimbabwean who has joined us from *GEMS Westminster School, Ras Al Khaimah* school in Dubai.

PHYSICS TEACHER - MILISCENT WASWA

Miliscent is an accomplished educator with 19 years of classroom practice. She returns to WK on a full time basis to teach Physics, after a year's initial engagement. She holds a B.Ed. degree in Science (Mathematics/Physics) an M.Sc. in Applied Mathematics and is currently at the peak end of her Ph.D. research in Physics.

She is married with 3 children, enjoys outdoor activities and is ready to join us all in the CAS activities.

She is excited to join and serve within the WK community once again.



NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS (CONTINUED)



FRENCH TEACHER - DR CHÂNDNIÉE IYËNGARE

Dr. Chândniée Iyëngare is a distinguished scholar and educator specializing in French Language and Literature, with a doctorate in French and a Master's in French Literature and Philosophy from Université Paul Valéry Montpellier 3, and Université de Rouen, France, in France respectively.

She is a certified expert with DALF C2 proficiency and numerous other qualifications, a published author with two critically acclaimed books as well as several peer-reviewed articles in French. She has 18 years of experience in teaching French Studies across 3 continents, at both the secondary and university levels. As an accredited DELF examiner, her recent role as professor and examiner at the Canadian Armed Forces in Ottawa, Canada, and in Eastern Europe has enabled Chândniée to work with a diverse, and much larger multicultural learner community, adapting to a wide range of learning styles.

JULIET UCHENDU - TEMPORARY BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS TEACHER

Juliet Uchendu is currently completing an MSc in Business Administration and holds a BSc in Economics with a specialization in International Trade. She brings a wealth of experience from diverse roles in education, sales, e-commerce, and cross-border communication. Additionally, she is multilingual and can speak up to five languages. Having pursued her education in multiple countries, including Swaziland, South Africa, and China, Juliet brings a unique global perspective to her work.

She will be teaching IB1 Economics, as well as taking over Trevor Lwere's (who has left to pursue further studies) IB Business Management and IGCSE Business Studies classes. She is from Mozambique.





TEMPORARY SCHOOL NURSE - KHETHO KWAKHE MAYISELA

Khethokwakhe Mayisela is a medical professional who attained her medical degree, MBChB, from the University of Pretoria. She is a Waterford Kamhlaba alumna from 2011 - 2016. She is passionate about assisting the community with their medical needs and equipping people with the knowledge and capabilities to improve their health. She believes in advocating for the vulnerable populations and providing them with a platform to voice their health needs. She has a special interest in mental healthcare.

ENGLISH TEACHER - MOYA LAUFER

Moya Laufer lived in Waterford from 1990 until 2009. Her parents, both teachers and active members of the community, were deeply involved in the life of the school, and their legacy is an important part of her connection to Waterford. Moya studied Theatre and Anthropology, and has had three years at the UWCEA in Tanzania, where she gained invaluable insights into the nuanced challenges and rewards of the UWC framework. More recently, Moya has returned from a transformative experience at the International School of Suva, in Fiji, and she is thrilled to once again be surrounded by mountains. She has worked extensively in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Belonging (DEIJB), striving to create educational environments that intentionally foster a sense of belonging for all.



Promotion: Dr Zoella Groening has been appointed as HOD Science - replacing Sizwe Simelane - who has taken over the Deputy Head of Residence role at Emhlabeni.

Promotion: Thembumusa 'Boy boy' Manyatsi has been appointed as Driver replacing Daniel Kunene (who has retired).



CLUBS FAIR

Waterford hosts a variety of annual events and activities, including sports, that enhance the life of students on campus as part of their learning and development. These events are student-led, with student clubs playing a vital role in making them happen. On Wednesday, new students were introduced to these clubs during the club fair. Below are some highlights from the event.





Parents and staff members during the PSA Breakfast event for new parents on Monday.

FROM THE PSA DESK

On Monday, January 21st, the Parent & Staff Association of Waterford Kamhlaba (PSA) hosted a special "Welcome Breakfast Event" for new parents at WK.

Attending the event were Princess Celenhle Dlamini (PSA Chairperson), Ms. Jackie Otula (Principal), Ms. Nicole Gwindi (DPP), Princess Celiwe Dlamini (Advancement Director), Ms. Tina Lovely (Teaching Staff), PSA Member, Ms. Bridget Farrell and former PSA Chair, Mr. Johannes Lebede.

During the event, the PSA outlined its formal structure and key initiatives for the year, and discussed what it means to be a WK parent in terms of school values and expectations. Current parents shared valuable insights on how to effectively support both Day Scholar and Boarding students. The event also emphasized the PSA's close collaboration with school management in addressing parent-related matters concerning students.

The presentations were well-received by new parents, and we are thrilled that they have chosen Waterford as their school of choice. Welcome to the PSA!

We look forward to having new and old parents participating in our PSA events this year.

For more information about the PSA, please contact us on psachairperson@waterford.sz



Welcome to and welcome back to the Waterford Kamhlaba family!

We are incredibly excited to have you all with us this year. We hope that you will use this year to make lifelong friends from all over the world, learn new things, and create unforgettable memories. Our community thrives on kindness, support, and a shared passion for making a positive impact which we know you will embrace.

As you embark on this adventure, remember that you are not alone. Our dedicated faculty, staff, and fellow students are here to help you every step of the way. Whether you have questions, need advice, or just want someone to talk to, you'll always find a friendly face and a listening ear.

This year please take advantage of the many opportunities available to you. Engage in meaningful discussions, participate in community service, and explore the diverse range of activities and events we have on campus. This is your chance to grow not only academically but also as a global citizen.

We can't wait to see you thrive and contribute to the wonderful mosaic that is Waterford Kamhlaba.

With love always,
SRC Presidents.



SRC Presidents making a presentation during our opening assembly on Tuesday.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 07 February 2025: Michael Stern Lecture Series
- 15 February 2025: Interhouse Athletics
- 19 February 2025: Interhouse Swimming Gala
- 28 February 2025: Half term begins
- 04 March 2025: Half term ends
- 08 March 2025: [Entrance Testing for 2026](#)
- 15 March 2025: [Entrance Testing for 2026](#)
- 05 April 2025: UWC Day
- 15 April 2025: Parents Evening
- 16 April 2025: Lessons end
- 17 April 2025: Term ends



HELP US IMPROVE OUR NEWSLETTER (FEEDBACK)

Help us improve our newsletter (Feedback) We kindly ask for feedback concerning this newsletter. The purpose of the weekly newsletter is primarily to inform parents about anything and everything school-related, from school activities on campus to management decisions, news, schedule changes, updates, event, and other community developments. We kindly ask for your feedback or ideas in terms of how to improve the newsletter – we would like to know whether or not it is helpful and how best to improve it. Send us an email: communications@waterford.sz