

The Phoenix

Weekly Newsletter

14 MARCH 2025

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Principal Otula

More than a school.



Asia Week

Celebrating the rich heritage of Asia.



Residential Life

Celebrating our Form 1 boarding students.



Sports

House Swimming Gala and more.



More Than a School



In the heart of Eswatini stands a testament to resilience, tradition, and the unbreakable bond between past and present—our beloved school. Through the years, WK has weathered the storms of time, the ebb and flow of change, yet it has never wavered. Its walls, steeped in history, continue to echo with the voices of generations that have passed through its doors.

This school is not just a building; it is a living, breathing part of our community. It is where dreams were first nurtured, friendships formed, and futures shaped. Despite the passage of time, the school has not only remained standing, but it has produced thousands of successful alumni, serving as the foundation for every student who has walked through its corridors.

Just as the above amphitheatre remains formidable, hosting all our vibrant performances and bringing people together, WK continues to bring us together today—its classrooms are its stage, and its students and staff, the performers. It is here where the next generation takes their turn in the spotlight, carrying forward the legacy that was built before them.

Waterford Kamhlaba defies age. It stands as a symbol of unwavering strength, reminding us all that no matter how much time passes, the power of education, unity, and service will always remain.

As a Kamhlaban, let us be reminded that every performance, every conversation, every innovation, and each one of us, is part of this age-defying institution. We thrive here under its humble roofs, and aim to get out into the world, to effect change and make the world a better place; taking away a piece of the WK charm and magic. To all the athletes who represented WK at sporting events this past weekend, to all the students learning and acquiring knowledge and skills every single day, to all those who are participating in community service, and to our broader WK community of parents, donors, friends and supporters, our hats are off to you. Let's continue building the legacy.

Waterford Seeks Tomorrow's Changemakers; 2026 Applications open

We are pleased to confirm that we will be conducting local Entrance Testing for 2026 entry here on campus on **Saturday 15th March** – starting at 8am. Please **register** your child with Martha Dlamini at martha.dlamini@waterford.sz. Please also spread the word through your family, friends and professional networks. We do appreciate the ongoing advocacy of current parents in our recruitment efforts. Boarding applicants are welcome on any weekday by making an **appointment** with John Storer at careers@waterford.sz. We will be in Nairobi on **Saturday May 24th** for our East African pool and in Harare at a date tbc next term. We look forward to meeting the latest crop of wise and kind candidates – further **details** can be found at www.waterford.sz/admissions/apply

Thank you!

Asia Week 12 - 19 March

Dear Waterford Kamhlaba Community,

We are delighted to invite WK Parents, Guardians, Siblings, Students and Staff to 2025 Asia Week, a special student-curated event designed to foster cultural exchange, deepen our understanding of diverse traditions, and celebrate the rich heritage of Asia. This week-long experience will be an opportunity for intentional knowledge transfer, meaningful dialogue, and immersive cultural appreciation. On Wednesday 12 March, we officially opened Asia Week with a vibrant assembly and keynote address by

Prof. Paul Seung-Hun Yang
President/Vice Chancellor/CEO
Eswatini Medical Christian Univ.



Throughout the week, students will lead engaging activities, discussions, and performances that highlight the beauty and diversity of Asian cultures. We invite you to participate, learn, and share in this vibrant celebration.

Asia Night will be held on Saturday 15 March. The event starts from 16h00 to 20h00.

Asia Night is a student-led event that shares the captivating culture of the Asian community at WK. Asia Night is a combination of performances, games, Photo Booth, trivia (kahoot), myth and storytelling, and most importantly, the Asia fair. The fair offers a wide array of options ranging from Asian foods and drinks to Asia-related goods and fun activities all provided by students, local families and businesses.

Please note that there is transportation from DHL Mbabane at 15:30 on the 15th of March to pick up students. However, transportation will not be provided by the school; hence, parents and guardians are responsible to collect the students after the event (latest by 20:30).



Asia Week embodies the Celebration of Diversity by providing a space for students to intentionally share knowledge, traditions, and perspectives from various Asian cultures. It encourages the WK community to engage with diverse histories, languages, art forms, and ways of thinking. More than just a celebration, it is an opportunity for learning, reflection, and connection—helping us move beyond cultural appreciation to cultural exchange.

By participating, we not only honor the richness of Asian identities but also strengthen our global mindset, reinforcing the UWC mission to make education a force for peace and a sustainable future.

Details of the specific activities are below. Please come and be part of the experience.

In Community,
Asia Week Student Leaders





12 March

16:00 - 17:00 Dabke Workshop (CCLD)
16:00 - 17:45 Henna Session (Energy Hub)

13 March

16:00 - 17:00 Feel Good Yoga (CCLD)

14 March



16:00 - 17:30 Field by Tennis Courts

15 March

16:00 - 20:00 Asia Night (Field)

16 March

18:00 - 20:00 Asian Film Evening (Assembly Hall)
"How to Make Millions Before Grandma Dies."

17 March

16:00 - 17:30 LGBTQIA+ Rights in Asia (Energy Hub)
16:00 - 17:00 Borneo Community Song (CCLM)

18 March

16:00 - 17:30 Chinese Board Games Workshop (TBD)

Lower School Reading Programme

The English department launched the Lower School Reading Programme to foster a love of reading and encourage lifelong reading habits. Over time, this initiative has grown to include the first academic unit of each year (Form 1 to Form 3), the Extra English programme, and the Reading Room.

The Independent Reading Unit introduces the programme and basic literacy skills to Lower School students, completed in the first two weeks of each year. This unit prepares students for critical reading and independent engagement with texts by IGCSE. A key component of the unit is the challenge to read thirty books in a year, which proves to be a significant challenge for many students.

The Extra English Programme was developed to address two main issues: the lack of designated reading time and gaps in English skills. Initially, there was no specific time for students to practice reading skills, and without this, less learning occurred during lessons. Additionally, some students needed extra help with spelling, punctuation, and comprehension. Extra English provides a lesson every two weeks where students receive assistance, while those not needing help have dedicated reading time.

The Reading Room is a designated library space for Lower School students, created to provide easy access to reading materials. Previously, books were circulated between classrooms, which was inefficient and disrupted lessons. The Reading Room solved this issue by providing a central, easily accessible location for students to collect books. The English department maintains this room and ensures its organization in their free time.

The English department and the Library collaborate to encourage a love of reading, providing appropriate and engaging materials for students. We also encourage students to carry library books at all times.

We strive to instill a love of reading at WK, and we ask for your support in encouraging your children to read at home to help us achieve this goal.

Shop the Essentials

Visit the bookshop and stock up on the following available items plus many more!

Uniball eye fine 0.7 black and blue | Pilot G-2 0.7 black and blue | Bookbags assorted colours | Cruzer Glide 3.0 USB Flash Drive 32 GB



eGoli the City of Gold

Last week the IB art students embarked on a long and wondrous adventure through the artistic gold mine that is Johannesburg, South Africa. The 4 day excursion took us through not only many a university and gallery (of which there were many) but also through the minds and souls of different artists, artworks and artistic techniques. From the magic of sketching, to the difficult and delicate process of print making, to the pure bliss of merely observing an artwork that resonates with your soul, this trip was remarkable and inspirational in its simplest form.

Not only was it a milestone on our artistic journeys, the simple pleasure of living, eating and enjoying beautiful art together strengthened our sense of community as the IB art classes. Because no matter how early the morning, how disruptive the weather or how tiresome the activities, there was always a group you could turn to and complain with, and nothing says community quite like that.

No part of this of course would be possible without our wonderful teachers and supervisors, to whom we owe the biggest thank you. To Ms. Lovely, Mr. Greg, Ms. Natalia and Babe Eric. Thank you so much for the amazing experience and your help and support during all the challenges. They say art is an extension of one's soul and it's safe to assume this group encapsulates perfectly.

Seeing as it would be at the very least unethical not to share the beauty and serenity of this experience, here a few photos taken by us of the trips highlights...Enjoy!

By: Liv Toussaint IB1

Waterford Athletes Shine

This past week has been extremely busy for Waterford's athletes and sports teams, with the Inter **House Swimming Gala** happening on Thursday the 6th of March and multiple cross border and regional tournaments happening over the weekend.

The Inter House Gala was an amazing showcase of talent, teamwork, and house spirit with swimmers from all houses giving it their all. In the end, Henderson emerged victorious, claiming the Inter-House Swimming Cup with an outstanding Points. Meanwhile, Guedes won the Spirit Cup after bringing unstoppable energy, loud chants and support for their swimmers throughout the day. It has been an excellent season for our Interhouse events, and we now look forward to preparing for the Interscholl Events so we emerge victorious once again. A warm and hearty good luck to all the athletes who are preparing to represent the Waterford community, we have all our faith in them.

On Saturday, we had our **public speaking** teams competing against other local schools in Eswatini. Our team put in a strong effort, with notable performances in both the prepared and impromptu speech categories. We had both our Junior and Senior teams participating and the competition was a valuable experience with our speakers showcasing great skill and dedication.



Waterford also had its Under 16 and Under 20 **Chess** teams competing on Saturday. Both our teams delivered strong performances, securing second place in their respective categories and bringing home medals. Despite narrowly missing the top spot, the teams demonstrated resilience and competitive spirit, making it a proud achievement for Waterford.

Additionally, we had our Under 14 and Under 18 **girls soccer** teams competing locally this weekend. They placed incredibly well emerging as champions in both the U14 and U18 categories. It was a proud moment for the teams and Waterford as they brought home gold medals and trophies.

On home soil Waterford hosted a **Rugby** tournament in which our under 15 and senior boys participated. Our junior boys, who formed a team on short notice, are commended for their incredible effort, guts, and willingness to play. They gained valuable experience that will undoubtedly help them in future competitions. Our senior boys, on the other hand, played some beautiful rugby, showcasing a lot of heart and determination. They emerged victorious, winning the tournament and being crowned as Champions.

Waterford's **volleyball** teams went on a cross-border trip to Fourways, Johannesburg, where the Under 14, Under 16, and Under 19 teams competed against other schools in South Africa. This was the first time some of the players had competed crossborder and it was a great test of skill and teamwork, with multiple of Waterford's teams making it to the quarterfinals. The Under 19 boys delivered a fierce performance, securing third place in their category and bringing home bronze medals.

In addition to many of the sports tournaments that have transpired this weekend, the **senior basketball teams** (both boys and girls) were invited to compete in the annual basketball festival hosted by the International School of South Africa. The girls placed 4th overall and the boys placed 9th, an excellent achievement for both teams considering the prestige of the festival but also, we applaud the players for coming together as a team to play together for the first time, showing their dedication and determination to building new connections which was showcased this weekend. A huge applaud to Phoenix and the coaches for ensuring such a fantastic environment.

A special and congratulations to the following who won individual awards this past week:

Laura - Best Overall Senior Speaker, Best Prepared Speech, Best Impromptu Speech (Public Speaking)
Leeford - 3rd best impromptu speech and 2nd Best Overall Senior speaker (Public Speaking)

Simeon - Under 20 best player (Chess)

Sanuthi - Trophy for best female player across all age groups (Chess)

Ayla Begg - Top Goal Scorer in Under 14 Category (Soccer)

Thula Carson - Goalkeeper of the Tournament in the Under 18 Category (Soccer)

Chuma Ndlovu- Selected for the All-Star Girls Basketball Team in the U/19 category

Charlie Fourie - 14U Girls (Swimming)

Caleb Williams - 14U Boys (Swimming)

Cira McGinn - 16U Girls (Swimming)

Alwandze Dlamini - 16U Boys (Swimming)

Alex Ramsamy 18U Boys (Swimming)

Tori Fitzpatrick - 20U Girls (Swimming)

Jake Lovely - 20U Boys (Swimming)

Ryan Chigudu - Player of the tournament (Rugby)

Mashumi Mavimbela - Player of the tournament (Rugby)

By: Ella Begg IB1

Form 1 Boarding Students



Celebrating Our Form 1 Boarding Students: A Remarkable Start to the Year

As we find ourselves eight weeks into the term, it's heartening to reflect on the Form 1 boarding students who have already made a wonderfully positive impression. This group of students has proven themselves to be mature beyond their years, maintaining not just high academic engagement but also a neat and tidy living environment. Their enthusiasm and sense of responsibility have made them a true delight to have as part of our school community.

Boarding life offers a unique blend of independence and camaraderie, and our Form 1 students are embracing it with open arms. From the early morning routines to evening activities, their days are structured yet fulfilling. Mornings typically start with a wake-up call, followed by preparation for the day ahead—ensuring their living spaces are organized and pristine before heading to breakfast.

During the school day, they attend classes alongside their day-student peers, fully engaging with the rich learning opportunities available. But it's at the end of the academic day that the essence of boarding life truly comes alive. Afternoons often include a mix of extracurricular activities—ranging from sports practices to creative clubs—allowing students to explore their interests, develop new skills, and form deeper bonds with one another.

Evenings are thoughtfully planned to balance study and relaxation. The students participate in supervised study sessions, which instil good academic habits and a sense of discipline. Weekend schedules offer a mix of organized events and free time, encouraging a balance of structured engagement and personal relaxation. Many weekends have the option of engaging in a community service outing.

What stands out most about this group is their eagerness to support one another. Boarding life fosters a sense of family, and our Form 1 students have embraced this wholeheartedly—displaying empathy, teamwork, and a genuine care for their peers. The boarding house is not just a place to sleep; it's a hub of personal growth, friendship, and shared memories.

We couldn't be prouder of the way these students have adjusted to boarding life and the enthusiasm they bring to everything they do. Their maturity and commitment set a wonderful example for younger and older peers alike. As the term progresses, we look forward to seeing how they continue to grow and flourish in all aspects of their school and boarding experience.

2025 Important Dates

15 March:	Entrance Testing for 2026
05 April:	UWC Day
15 April:	Parents Evening
17 April:	Term ends
19 May:	Term 2: Lessons Start
24 May:	Regional Entrance Testing – Nairobi
2025 School Calendar	

On Repeat

Your go-to spot to discover fresh music and new bands! Whether you're looking for something upbeat or a little more laid-back, we've got you covered. Got a favourite song or band that you can't stop playing? **Send it our way, and you might just see it featured in next week's edition!** Let's share the music that gets us through the week and keep the good vibes flowing.

This week, as we celebrate Asia Week, we're shining a spotlight on the vibrant sounds and rich cultural tapestries of Asian music. From K-pop to traditional folk tunes, the diversity of the region's music offers something for everyone. **BTS (South Korea)** brings an infectious energy with its catchy beat and uplifting vibe, while the lively and passionate melodies of **The 4 Cats (Lebanon)** offer a more introspective and soulful experience. To explore even deeper, we've included a touch of traditional with the beautiful sounds of **Ali Sethi and Shae Gill (Pakistan)** whose compositions have captured hearts globally. These tracks celebrate the spirit of Asia. Have a listen and experience its musical landscape in all its glory.



Update Your Details

Staying in touch with you is our top priority! In order to do so, we also kindly request your co-operation by **updating your contact details**. It is important for the school to always have your most recent contacts.

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, events, 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