



The Wykeham Collegiate

Member of the Independent Schools' Association of Southern Africa

History of The Wykeham Collegiate

(website printed version)

In 1878 Girls' Collegiate School was founded in Pietermaritzburg as an 'Evangelical Protestant Day and Boarding School for Young Ladies' and in 1905 Wykeham School was established as an independent school for young women. A decision to merge the two schools was made in 1988 and The Wykeham Collegiate opened officially in 1990. It quickly became recognised as one of the leading independent schools for girls in Africa. The focus was on academic studies, sport, music and drama.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Between 1995 and 2010 a steady programme of building and re-furbishing has considerably altered and much enhanced the school's facilities. The serene, centrally placed Chapel was established in 1990 and substantially enlarged in 2017. Additional classrooms and the vast, multi-purpose Leoné Hogg Centre were added and in 1998 the Senior Quadrangle was upgraded. In 2001 and 2009 the Junior School opened Poppets (Grade RR) classes and in 2017, a Grade RRR class.

In 2001 a new Computer Centre and a Visual Arts Centre were opened and the Hall was transformed into a multi-purpose Theatre for drama performances. The Adeé Varney Music Centre, a custom-built Music School was created at the east end of the Hall. The Music School saw the addition of a specially built Wind Ensemble Room in 2016, under which a new School Shop was created, as well as a dedicated area for the Archives and Old Girls' Liaison office.

Other additions to both the Junior and Senior Schools included a Creative Laboratory, specialist subject classrooms, a Drama Centre and a Sports Science School (both off main campus), a synthetic turf hockey field and a new Tuck Shop/Change Room complex. In 2005 (Wykeham's Centenary) the Rose Ella Waring Trust donated Rose, the bronze figure in the main turning circle, after whom the new Tuck Shop, *Rosie's*, is named.

LEADERSHIP

At the time of amalgamation, the school was led by Lady Principal, Miss Leoné Hogg, assisted by Mrs Adeé Varney, the Headmistress of the Senior School, and Marjorie Bennett, the Headmistress of the Junior School. When Miss Hogg left the school to join the IEB in 1999, Mrs Judith Brown was appointed as both Lady Principal and Senior School Headmistress and was assisted by two Deputy Heads for Academic Studies and Student Affairs. In 2012, on Mrs Brown's retirement, the current Lady Principal, Ms Susan Tasker, who is also an Old Girl of Girls' Collegiate, took office.

In 1994, Mrs Flick Wright took up the post of Junior School Headmistress and on her retirement at the end of 2014, Mrs Karen Gardner was appointed as Junior School Headmistress.

(Updated 2018)