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It Peter's Girls' Prep School

ON THE COMPLETION OF THEIR THIRD EVALUATION

23 September 2019

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Independent Quality Assurance Agency

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Messrs Royce, Webb and Macauley Rector and Principals St Peter's Prep Schools Boys & Girls P O Box 37 Rivonia 2128

22 July 2019

Dear Mr Royce and Colleagues

<u>IQAA EVALUATION OF ST PETER'S PREP SCHOOLS BOYS & GIRLS 2019</u>

"It was exciting to see the youngest Grade R pupils familiarising themselves with basic robots in preparation for coding." Cheryl Kindon, Pre-school Mentor

"The boys are exposed to varied, dynamic and relevant teaching methods in well-equipped classrooms and learning spaces." Kathy Abraham, Junior Primary Mentor

"I value the nurturing environment and the fact that my child is embraced for who she is." St Peter's parent

I have read all the relevant documents and reports pertaining to the evaluation of St Peter's Boys & Girls Prep Schools and find throughout them a powerful message of caring for children and teachers alike, as well as a theme running through both the boys' and the girls' schools, of varied, dynamic and relevant teaching, with a bold outlook on developments in curriculum and a strong drive to make full use of all the innovations now available to schools.

My general comments on each section of the St Peters' School family must start at the early years, not because this is chronological but because it is here that all the future successes have their roots. At IQAA we often read of schools' concerns about the variety of societal stresses which trespass on young children's developmental journey, and the subsequent extra effort needed to get the children going on a healthy and confident learning path. So, it was really good to read of the very great care being taken to ensure that the foundations of education have every chance of being established well through the generous use of interns,

Independent Quality Assurance Agency Directors:

Samuel Isaacs (Chairman)
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• Anne Oberholzer • Mark Potterton • Confidence Dikgole
Eugenie Rabe (Executive Director)
Lynne Rivett-Carnac (Mentor Representative)

the group rotation and collaboration to ensure more individual instruction, the *Middle Room* and other support initiatives. Lucky children, well done.

The Girls' School, established in 2006, is comparatively new and with present numbers topping 550 it has clearly already established itself as a fine primary school. Obviously, a thoughtful curriculum and generally sound teaching are at the heart of good schooling and these are, of course, taken very seriously and are carefully nurtured in the school. However, I am particularly excited to see that among the major strengths reported in the IQAA report are the staff morale and the girls' development of independence and responsibility, as well as a campus free from bullying and discrimination. In addition, I note that the promotion of diversity and inclusion and an emphasis on nation building are receiving a lot of attention.

The much older Boys' School (1950) has had a fine reputation throughout most if not all its life-span, so it was not a surprise to see that the excellence is continued. Happy boys, high academic standards, staff wellness and values are listed among the major strengths and the statistics around the take-up of music – four choirs and 250 boys learning an instrument – are very exciting to read of. I am delighted to read of the emphasis on staff development and of teachers who list their priorities as *valuing respect* and *classrooms that provide a safe space*. So much of this is about humility and leadership and it wasn't a surprise, therefore, to read in the mentors' report that, "The Rector, Heads and IET were fully receptive to the mentors' guidance and their subsequent preparation and communication throughout the process was excellent." I congratulate you.

Thank you for the kind hospitality extended to our mentors, Kathy Abrahams, Cheryl Kindon and Jenny Mundell all of whom report so positively on your schools. Thank you also to Vijay Maharaj who so ably led the teams involved in this evaluation. I note too that Greg Royce undertook the extremely arduous task of writing the school reports and congratulate him on the fine writing and presentation. At IQAA we are very aware of the amount of work that an IQAA evaluation requires of the schools.

You may proudly share your report, and my concluding comments, with whomever you choose in your school community. A certificate confirming the successful completion of this evaluation will be sent to you in due course, together with an IQAA logo to display on your website and promotional material.

Kind regards

EUGENIE RABE

Executive Director

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