

BI-ANNUAL REPORT



2024

DECEMBER



#amberfield #cobblestcollege

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College Reflection



The decision to join the IEB has afforded Amberfield College the opportunity to establish our own standards as an independent school. This shift brings greater flexibility into the curriculum, unlocking creativity and encouraging self-directed learning. We are excited about the potential for our learners to flourish within this enriched framework.

We are introducing new methodologies that can significantly enrich the learning experience. Approaches such as project-based learning, blended learning, and inquiry-based learning are designed to accommodate various learning styles, increase engagement and foster critical thinking and collaboration. These methods will help learners develop essential skills for the modern world, including problem-solving and adaptability.

In line with our vision, we have undertaken a review of various academic policies. Streamlined and flexible policies empower educators and encourage innovation, creating an environment conducive to modern teaching practices. Updated policies will be shared with the school community once they have been finalised.

We have started working closely with schools within our IEB clusters, recognising that networking and collaboration are essential for creating standardised, high-quality approaches. These connections enable us to share best practices, align our standards and maintain consistent quality across the board.

Our first face-to-face workshop on assessment, facilitated by the IEB, took place on October 11. It was an interactive and engaging session involving the entire College staff. Additional workshops are planned for 2025, and we look forward to deepening our understanding and enhancing our skills in alignment with IEB standards.

In September, we embarked on our first-ever European tour. Forty-four learners and four teachers had the incredible opportunity to explore Italy, Switzerland and France. This journey was a life-changing experience, providing valuable cultural and educational insights. We are already looking forward to the next tour in 2025.

With an exciting year ahead, we remain committed to creating meaningful experiences and continuous growth opportunities for our learners and staff.

Mr Ponnien



COLLEGE FUTURE

Our commitment to “business as usual” remains steadfast, with our primary focus on educating and nurturing young minds. Reduced staff turnover is already positively impacting learner outcomes, creating a stable environment conducive to continuous academic excellence.

With our transition to the IEB, the emphasis on staff development will intensify. Staff training is the backbone of our sustainable success. By investing in continuous professional development, we are equipping our educators to adapt to evolving curricula, employ innovative teaching methods and remain motivated. This commitment not only benefits our learners directly, but also fosters a culture of growth and progress within the College.

Amberfield College is excited about the future, knowing that this support will enhance the opportunities available to both learners and staff alike. We look forward to a dynamic, enriching journey ahead.

Mr Ponnien



PRESCHOOL



The importance of Learning Through Play

The Nature of Learning Through Play

Research shows that children are naturally curious, with an innate drive to explore their surroundings. They approach the world as young scientists, keen to experiment and learn. Through play, they engage with their environment in meaningful ways, supporting their cognitive and emotional development.

Cognitive Development

Learning through play not only aids children in acquiring knowledge, but also plays a vital role in developing brain structure. This process enhances cognitive abilities and fosters the critical thinking skills that are essential for lifelong learning.

Emotional and Social Skills

Beyond cognitive growth, play also strengthens essential emotional and social skills. Through play, children learn to collaborate, negotiate and empathise with others, helping them grow as flexible and engaged learners.

Key Elements of Play

In 'Einstein Never Used Flash Cards', five key elements of children's play are highlighted, underlining its importance in learning. These often include imagination, exploration, social interaction, creativity and problem-solving.

The Benefits of Music and Dance in Pre-Primary Education

The annual Pre-Primary Concert and Graduation at Amberfield College is a joyous event celebrating the growth and talents of our pre-schoolers. Watching young children dance and move to music brings smiles, but beyond the joy, these activities have significant developmental benefits. This report outlines the key advantages of music and dance for preschool-aged children.

Benefits of Music and Dance

1. Engagement of the Brain

Music and dance stimulate cognitive development. Music helps children learn about sounds, words and patterns, enhancing auditory skills, while dance allows them to explore and control body movements, forming vital neural connections in early brain development.

2. Cultivation of Communication Skills

Participating in group music and dance fosters communication among children. Singing, rhyming and coordinated movement help them interact effectively, developing listening skills and building social confidence for future school experiences.

3. Expression of Emotions

Music and dance provide a creative outlet for emotional expression. Whether children feel happy, nervous, or tired, these activities help them release feelings constructively, especially if they struggle to articulate their thoughts verbally.

4. Development of Physical Skills

Engagement in music and dance enhances physical skills such as balance, coordination and control. These activities serve as aerobic exercise, supporting fitness and well-being and reducing stress.

5. Promotion of Creativity and Imagination

In an age dominated by screen time, music and dance encourage creativity and imagination. They inspire curiosity and provide opportunities to explore diverse cultures through the arts, fostering understanding and appreciation of diversity.

The participation of pre-schoolers in music and dance is not only entertaining, but essential for their holistic development. By engaging in the performing arts, children improve cognitive, social, emotional and physical skills while nurturing creativity. As we celebrate our young learners during the Pre-Primary Concert and Graduation, it's essential to recognise and promote the profound benefits that music and dance offer in their early education.

Computers

Computers play a significant role in the development of pre-schoolers, providing access to educational resources such as interactive games and videos that make learning enjoyable. They also help develop digital literacy skills from an early age, preparing children for a technology-driven world. Interacting with computers enhances fine motor skills as children learn to use a mouse or touchscreen. Additionally, educational software fosters problem-solving and critical thinking through interactive challenges.

Computers promote collaborative learning, allowing children to work together on projects or games and building teamwork and social skills. They also support language development by providing access to storytelling and language games that enrich vocabulary. When used thoughtfully in the curriculum, computers can complement traditional learning methods, providing a well-rounded educational experience.

Swimming

Swimming is invaluable for pre-schoolers, promoting physical fitness and improving motor skills through active movement in the water. It teaches essential safety skills, helping children understand the importance of caution around water. Swimming can also boost confidence as children learn new skills and techniques. Socially, group swimming fosters teamwork and peer interaction, enhancing social development. Finally, swimming is an enjoyable way for pre-schoolers to release energy and participate in a healthy activity.

Mrs Pretorius



PRESCHOOL FUN DAYS







As I reflect on the second half of the academic year, I would like to commend and celebrate our learners, teachers and parents for their unwavering dedication and effort that have guided us through this busy term.

Academic Top Achievers

A heartfelt congratulations to our top 10 achievers who performed exceptionally well throughout the year. We are immensely proud of the following top achievers in each grade:

- Grade 1: Tsholofelo Lesolang
- Grade 2: Tlotliso Rammupudu
- Grade 3: Kenya De Bruin
- Grade 4: Aratwa Dyi
- Grade 5: Lebone Msimanga
- Grade 6: Noah Berry
- Grade 7: Shyla Govender

Academic Challenge

Our Grade 1-7 learners developed their performance skills in preparation for the Royal Schools and Amberfield College Academic Challenge. During this event, learners participated in various categories, including Spelling Bee, General Knowledge, Mental Maths, Poetry and Chess.

I am pleased to announce that our learners were the overall winners in all categories. Well done to all the participants who made us immensely proud!

Science Expo

At Amberfield College, we promote our learners' academics to ensure they become lifelong learners who connect with the world. Our Grade 3 learners were introduced to natural disasters and created their own volcanoes, sparking excitement throughout the school.

The Grade 4 learners conducted research and experiments on solar energy, while the Grade 5 learners focussed on conductors and insulators. Grade 6 learners discovered the best circuits to use, and Grade 7 learners researched renewable energy.

Together, as a school, we identified, researched and presented solutions. Well done to all our learners who created the most beautiful and interesting projects!

Mathematics and Science Olympiads

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Noah Berry (Grade 6 Maths Olympiad) and Julian Visagie (Grade 7 Natural Sciences Olympiad) for representing Amberfield College at the provincial level. Well done to all the other participants for their hard work and dedication!

Pirate Day

Ahoy, mateys! The Grade 6 English learners embarked on a pirate adventure, dressing up as pirates to fully immerse themselves in the theme. This fun activity sparked engagement and creativity, enhancing the academic value of the day.

They watched a video on the history of pirates, learning about contemporary piracy, and explored a poem about pirating that led to lessons on external analysis.

Learners investigated how famous pirates met their ends and endured terrible food, all for the lure of freedom on the open sea. The exercise featured a pirate too kind for his crew, leading to mutiny, which taught valuable lessons on character and leadership.

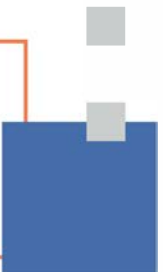
In grammar, the Grade 6 learners plundered the treasure of adverbs, adjectives, punctuation, sentence structure and sentence types—all while sticking to the pirate theme. It was a swashbuckling experience that sharpened both minds and pens.

Conclusion

Teaching and learning thrive through a quality curriculum with clear learning expectations, effective teaching and well-prepared lessons. During my unscheduled class visits and interactions with the learners, it was delightful to witness the engagement and interaction between teachers and learners throughout the lessons. The effective teaching and learning conducted in the classrooms are commendable.

Keep up the good work! A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated teachers and hardworking learners for your commitment and excellence.

Mrs Derbyshire



PRIMARY SCHOOL

FUN DAYS



Amberfield Primary School has had a vibrant and eventful year, filled with numerous special days that have brought excitement and invaluable learning opportunities for our learners.

Grade 7 Career Day

One of the highlights of our school year was the Grade 7 Career Day, where learners had the chance to explore their future aspirations by dressing in attire representative of their chosen careers. This event was a wonderful mix of creativity and ambition, as learners showcased outfits ranging from doctors and engineers, to artists and lawyers. The day fostered imagination and encouraged learners to think about their futures and set achievable goals for themselves.

Grade 7 Entrepreneurs' Day

Equally impressive was the Grade 7 Entrepreneurs' Day. This event offered learners a taste of the business world, allowing them to set up their own mini-businesses and showcase their entrepreneurial skills. Learners displayed remarkable creativity and business acumen, selling a variety of products and services to their peers and teachers. This hands-on experience provided valuable lessons in planning, marketing and financial management.

Spring Carnival

The Spring Carnival was a joyous celebration that brought the entire school community together. Marking the arrival of spring, the event featured an array of fun activities, games and performances. Learners, teachers and parents alike enjoyed colourful inflatables, lively games, exhilarating rides and a memorable colour run, all fostering a spirit of camaraderie. The carnival was a delightful way to build community spirit and celebrate the season.

Oncue Theatre's Production of Aladdin

A magical highlight of the year was the visit from Oncue Theatre, which treated learners to a spectacular production of "Aladdin." The performance captivated the learners with dazzling costumes, an engaging storyline and impressive acting. This cultural experience not only entertained, but also enriched the learners' appreciation for the arts, allowing them to explore creativity beyond the classroom.

These special days at Amberfield Primary School provided memorable experiences that promoted both educational and personal growth among our learners. We look forward to continuing this tradition of inspiring and exciting our learners through future events that nurture their talents and aspirations.

Mrs Ramjuguth



PRIMARY SCHOOL

Culture

The primary school has demonstrated exceptional dedication and teamwork in preparing for a series of festivals held during Term 4. Taking place from October 14th to 18th, the events included the HSC and CSC Festival, the Music and Singing Festival, the Drama and Public Speaking Festival, the Dance Festival and the Art Festival. Each festival highlighted the learners talents and creativity, reflecting the hard work of both educators and learners. This extensive preparation highlights the school's commitment to fostering artistic expression and enhances the learners confidence and collaboration skills in a supportive environment.

Public Speaking

This year's public speaking journey began with an introduction to the basics, focussing on voice projection, breathing techniques and stage presence. Learners then progressed to crafting argumentative speech-es, learning to incorporate credible sources to strengthen their arguments. The journey culminated in the Public Speaking Festival, where learners performed exceptionally, showcasing their talent and hard work before peers, parents and judges. This experience built their confidence and highlighted their growth as skilled communicators.

Hindu Student Council

This year, we embarked on an incredible journey of learning, growth and a deepened connection to our rich heritage. We celebrated our culture through traditional dances, songs, speeches and sacred rituals. We distributed prayer files with devotional songs and music and observed Hanuman Jayanti, Purattasi, Navratri and other significant events. We hosted havans, including Saraswati Puja, for exam success and organised a successful cultural festival showcasing learners' talents. Additionally, we established the HSC Library for spiritual and cultural resources and encouraged recitations from sacred scriptures. We are immensely grateful for parental support and enthusiasm. As we look towards 2025, we are excited to continue nurturing our learners' spiritual and cultural heritage.

Drama

The foundation phase drama group worked diligently on their performances for the festival during Term 3 into Term 4, performing a short play and a poem. Learners in Grades 4-7 engaged in warm-up exercises, improvisation games and scene work to develop their acting skills. They explored character development, learned stage directions and practised teamwork in group performances. Their efforts culminated in a major production, which included script reading, rehearsals and a showcase before an audience. Throughout the year, they built confidence, creativity and a passion for the performing arts.

Dance

"Dance is the hidden language of the soul, expressing what words cannot convey."

Foundation phase dance students worked hard to refine their performance for the dance festival this term, delivering a remarkable display of talent. Every participant showed great skill in mastering choreography in sync with the music, with commendable energy and expression throughout. Each dancer received a certificate in recognition of their enthusiasm. Learners from Grades 4-7, part of the extracurricular dance programme, demonstrated exceptional dedication and effort during Terms 3 and 4. Their commitment led to a polished and captivating performance, showcasing both individual talents and teamwork, highlighting the importance of perseverance and creativity.

Christian Student Council

The Christian Student Council meets every Friday from 13:00 to 14:00, with 85 learners currently attending. The sessions focus on prayer, worship, thanksgiving and engaging activities such as games and quizzes. Learners are studying the Books of the Bible, Psalm 1 and The Lord’s Prayer. They spent the year preparing for the CSC Festival, which was a great success, generating 147 entries in total. It is inspiring to see so many young people eager to share the word of the Lord. Amen!

Art

Our Foundation Phase art learners have been busy this year, creating an array of wonderful artwork! Starting with a drawing of Earth, they moved on to creating a buzzing bee, doodle patterns, a charming snail and a vibrant umbrella scene. To close the term, they embraced the festive spirit with colourful Christmas trees. This year, we introduced different sketching techniques, including self-portraits and explored watercolour painting. In later terms, learners sketched and painted seasonal themes, such as a daisy with a butterfly. Our Grade 4-7 learners created illustrations based on monthly themes, such as love-themed images in February, youth-focussed art in June and Women’s Month illustrations in August. The Art Club will conclude with a tie-dye t-shirt project. We look forward to a creative 2025!

Singing

Throughout the singing class, we focussed on two group songs selected for the term. Learners interested in the Music Festival in Term 4 also began practising individual pieces. Their hard work was evident in their performances at the Music Festival, with learners making the most of backing tracks to enhance their performances.

Marimbas

The Marimba Club had a vibrant term, with new members joining and growing the group from 18 to 25. New learners quickly adapted, showing a real passion for marimbas by practising during breaks and after school in preparation for the Amberfield College Music Festival. Their outstanding performances were recognised with gold certificates, a testament to their dedication.



PRIMARY SCHOOL SPORT



Our third term kicked off with the highly anticipated Athletics Inter-house competition, showcasing a remarkable array of promising athletes. Throughout the season, these athletes continued to impress, culminating in our team finishing in 4th place at the PEPSAA Inter-Schools Athletics. Notably, four of our athletes earned medals at the Prestige Athletics Day, where only the best athletes from 28 schools in PEPSAA participated:

Onkgopotse Kganakga: Girls U/10 70m Hurdles – Bronze Medal

Keshav Naidoo: Boys U/13 80m Hurdles – Bronze Medal

Tsakane Chauke: Girls U/12 Shot Put – Bronze Medal

Sinesipho Konleka: Girls U/12 High Jump – Gold Medal

Our Boys' and Girls' Soccer teams demonstrated exceptional skill, dominating their respective leagues and beating all competitors in the pool stages. The U/13 Girls reached the semi-finals but unfortunately faced defeat. In contrast, the U/13 Boys played outstanding football, ultimately winning the Tshwane Intra Soccer Cup! Congratulations to the boys and Coach. Sujan for this remarkable achievement. The U/11 Girls finished in 5th place in the Pretoria League after losing in their quarter-final match.

Our Chess learners had an impressive season, showcasing remarkable talent in their games. They finished in second place in the league after a hard-fought battle, losing only to Robert Hicks Primary School. This marks two consecutive years of finishing as runners-up, and we are hopeful for a victory next year.

Term four proved to be short and busy, with only four weeks available for matches before exams, compounded by the frequent threat of Highveld thunderstorms in the afternoons. Both the Softball and Cricket teams performed admirably; however, the league results were inconclusive due to numerous matches being called off because of inclement weather.

The Swimming Gala Team excelled during the League Placing Galas in term four, achieving fantastic results and impressive times from our swimmers. We are excited to announce that we will be competing in the Pretoria Schools League next year, facing new distances and entering an Inter-Schools Competition. Many new challenges await our swimmers!

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all the parents of Amberfield College for their unwavering support, allowing their children to pursue their dreams on the sport's field. To all our sport superstars, we are incredibly proud of each and every one of you! We can't wait to see what 2025 will bring. See you on the fields, courts, tracks and in the swimming pool!

Inspiring Tomorrow's Innovators

As November unfolds, we're excited to highlight the remarkable progress happening in our robotics classes! Robotics is far more than assembling machines, it sparks creativity and builds teamwork among our young learners.

In a world increasingly shaped by technology, we are enhancing our curricula by integrating robotics. From the foundation phase through to high school, learners engage in hands-on activities that nurture creativity, critical thinking and collaboration.

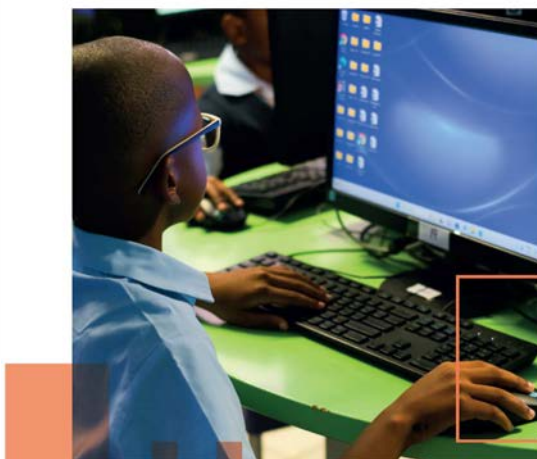
Currently, our learners are working with Lego robots. Grades 1–5 use Lego Essential robots, while Grades 6 and 7 utilise Lego Prime robots. During ICT lessons, learners build and code robots as part of the curriculum, covering a variety of topics. They explore patterns, dive into the world of Lego, and learn the basics of coding, ultimately applying this knowledge to construct robots capable of performing specific tasks like navigation.

Robotics in primary schools is gaining significant momentum, especially with the introduction of competitive robotics challenges. Recently, our Lego Robotics teams, Connection Point and 4th Revolution, participated in the Gauteng Robotics Championships on 26 October 2024. Competing among 37 teams, including Grade 8 and 9 learners from other schools, they excelled—demonstrating both skill and determination.

Learners dedicated countless hours to designing robots capable of executing complex tasks. Competitions like these teach invaluable lessons that reach beyond robotics, including project management, teamwork and resilience.

As the robotics revolution continues to unfold in classrooms, the future looks bright for the next generation of engineers, scientists and innovators. For many learners, it all begins with a simple yet powerful question: "What can we create today?"

Thank you for being a vital part of our vibrant school community. Together, we can inspire the next generation of innovators and problem-solvers!





HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMICS

Amberfield College High School Bi-Annual Report: End-of-Year Reflection

“Learning is not attained by chance; it must be sought for with ardour and attended to with diligence.” – Abigail Adams.

As we conclude the academic year, I am pleased to present this bi-annual report highlighting the accomplishments and progress of Amberfield College’s High School.

Our Grade 12 learners faced their Prelim Exams with nervous anticipation but ultimately performed well. As they currently undertake their final examinations, we extend our best wishes for their success. Throughout the year, Grade 12 tasks have been moderated at the district level, and we are pleased to report that feedback from moderators has been overwhelmingly positive. Our Grade 12 Valediction on October 16, 2024, celebrated the remarkable achievements of many learners whose diligence has undoubtedly paid off.

At Amberfield College, we believe that outstanding academics set the standard for our institution. We are excited to announce our transition to the IEB for Grades 8 to 10 in 2025. Our educators are engaged in rigorous training to ensure the best academic outcomes, fostering critical and analytical thinking skills that will empower our learners to compete on a global stage.

Our learners in Grades 8 to 11 participated in the challenging Old Mutual Maths Olympiad, with some advancing to round two. This experience has helped them appreciate the importance of creative thinking and applying classroom concepts. Additionally, many learners explored the fascinating Sci-Bono Discovery Centre in Johannesburg, where they engaged with hands-on exhibits showcasing principles of science and technology.

The internal Science Expo for Grades 8 and 9 was a resounding success, with learners showcasing innovative projects, experiments and discoveries across various scientific fields. Next year, we are excited to participate in the ESKOM Science Expo.

Recognising the importance of career choices for our Grade 9 learners transitioning to Grade 10, we hosted speakers from the University of Pretoria to guide parents and learners in making informed subject selections. Earlier in the year, psychometric tests provided insights into learners’ preferences, and we introduced the YENZA Career Choices Programme during Life Orientation periods to help learners understand their strengths and areas for development.

In October, our Grade 9 learners completed systemic tests in English, Maths and Natural Science. We look forward to receiving the results in January next year. Our Saturday and holiday classes have been well-attended, offering learners valuable revision opportunities. Daily intervention and one-on-one sessions with dedicated educators have significantly supported learners' academic progress.

Our Grade 10 learners visited The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), where they gained exposure to advancements in healthcare, agriculture, energy, the environment and material science. This eye-opening experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

At the beginning of each term, we proudly celebrate the outstanding achievements of our Top Ten learners. Their exemplary dedication serves as a source of inspiration for their peers, encouraging hard work and commitment to their studies.

This year marked our inaugural overseas educational trip, with 44 learners travelling to Italy, France and Switzerland. They immersed themselves in vibrant cultures, explored iconic landmarks, and learnt about culinary treasures. We look forward to planning a trip to Japan next year.

As a pilot school in the district for the General Education Certificate, we provide pathways for learners who may not be academically inclined, to transition to FET/TVET colleges after Grade 9. This initiative ensures that all learners can achieve their full potential.

As we strive to improve our results and enhance our educational offerings, we are excited about the journey ahead and the new experiences that await our learners.

"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows." – Sydney J. Harris.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to nurture the next generation of learners at Amberfield College.

Mrs Jarmat



HIGH SCHOOL ELC

Members of the Executive Learner Committee (ELC) 2025:

- Kaone Poee
- Tumo Mokoena
- Palesa Mokoena
- Ontonda Raphulu
- Thabang Shai
- Motheo Makamo
- Malwande Sangweni
- Lesedi Mathume
- Nakisani Mamaila (Zimema)
- Neil Mozagba
- Ronewa Mbubana
- Tshegofatso Selota
- Amantle Moagi
- Ashton Moodaley
- Junior Matsebatlela
- Oluhle Simelane
- Miyelani Mpangane
- Thoriso Seleke
- Azi Kewana
- Sikhanyiso Simelane
- Boitumelo Mabena
- Taliyah Singh
- Reatlegile Modirapula
- Tahlia Naidoo
- Hlamalani Matshela
- Kekamaatla Phogole
- Seopa Mametja
- Wavhudi Malovhele
- Lerato Chimone
- Mahlako Mabapa



The Executive Learner Committee (ELC) of 2025 is actively engaging in their responsibilities and adapting to the challenges that lie ahead. Their initiatives thus far reflect a commitment to fostering school spirit and community involvement.

Key Initiatives and Responsibilities

1. Fundraising Activities:

The ELC has successfully organised the sale of chips, kotas and baked goods with the intent of raising funds for sport's initiatives. This effort is being overseen by the Head of Sport, Ms Hurn.

2. Heritage Day Event:

The committee has taken charge of monitoring and organising a Heritage Day event, working under the guidance of Amberfield College's Head of Culture, Ms Mahlase. This event celebrates the diverse cultural backgrounds of our learners and enhances community engagement.

3. Duties and Responsibilities:

The ELC members have adapted to existing responsibilities, including break duty. They have also introduced new duties, such as morning gate duty and afternoon duty, to enhance the school environment.

4. Fostering Team Spirit

The ELC members have successfully cultivated a culture of good communication and mutual support. Initially unfamiliar with one another, they have grown to inspire optimism within the group regarding the various initiatives they plan to implement in the upcoming year. One notable initiative is the continuation of the mentorship programme established by the ELC in 2024. Having benefited from this programme themselves, they recognise its importance in fostering future leaders and are eager to provide the same support to upcoming ELCs.

5. Strengthening School Departments

The ELC of 2025 is dedicated to enhancing the different departments within the school—academics, sport and culture.

Their plans include:

- Strengthening the peer tutoring programme to assist fellow learners academically.
- Hosting more culturally relevant events to promote inclusivity and celebrate diversity.
- Implementing a school spirit committee aimed at boosting participation in sports and fostering a sense of unity among learners.

The committee believes in recognising and celebrating learners' efforts and achievements across various departments. By doing so, they aim to instil a sense of optimism and cooperation, encouraging more learners to engage actively in school activities.

Outlook for the Future

The ELC of 2025 comprises a group of optimistic learners equipped with the potential for success in the upcoming year. By maintaining open lines of communication, focussing on team building, and showing care for one another, they are well-positioned to achieve their goals and positively impact the Amberfield College community.

As the year progresses, the ELC is committed to executing its initiatives with dedication and enthusiasm, paving the way for a vibrant and engaged school environment.

EUROPEAN ADVENTURE TOUR

A Journey Through Europe's Icons

This year's European Adventure Tour offered travellers an unforgettable experience across five of Europe's most historic and scenic cities. Over 12 days, our expert guide, Francois Ciccione, orchestrated every detail, ensuring seamless transitions from one destination to the next. The itinerary was an ideal blend of guided tours and free time, covering cultural landmarks, historic sites and independent exploration. While the tour involved plenty of walking, everyone rose to the challenge, adding to the authentic European experience.

Highlights from Each City

Rome

Our journey began in Rome, a city steeped in history and charm. From the grandeur of the Colosseum to the artistry of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican Museums, Rome left an indelible impression. Travelers delighted in tossing coins into the Trevi Fountain, wandering Piazza Navona, and enjoying authentic Italian cuisine and gelato.

Florence

In Florence, art and beauty surrounded us. Highlights included Michelangelo's David at the Galleria dell'Accademia, the iconic Ponte Vecchio bridge, and Botticelli's Birth of Venus in the Uffizi Gallery. Leisurely strolls along the Arno River offered scenic views and a taste of Florence's elegance.

Venice

Venice captivated everyone, with a gondola ride through its canals as the quintessential experience. From exploring St. Mark's Square and the historic Doge's Palace, Venice balanced history with charm. Free time allowed travellers to discover narrow streets, unique shops and hidden gems.

Geneva

Our next stop was Geneva, where a scenic coach tour showcased the picturesque Swiss city. The Jet d'Eau fountain was a memorable highlight, and sampling Swiss chocolate and cheese added a delicious note to the experience.

Paris

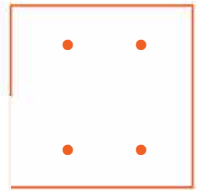
The tour concluded in Paris, where participants ascended the Eiffel Tower for sweeping views, admired masterpieces in the Louvre, and wandered the artistic neighbourhood of Montmartre. French cuisine—croissants, baguettes, and local dishes—completed our Parisian adventure.

Special Experiences Along the Way

Beyond iconic landmarks, the tour featured unique experiences. A pasta-making class in Rome offered a taste of Italian culinary traditions, while Disneyland Paris provided a day of magic and fun. Guided tours by local experts in each city enriched our understanding of Europe's history and culture, and a boat tour in Venice revealed stunning views of its waterways. Free time allowed everyone to explore at their own pace, with ample opportunities for shopping and personal discoveries.

The European Adventure Tour was a rich experience filled with history, art and unforgettable moments. As we look forward to future travels, we thank all who joined us and welcome new travellers to explore the world with us!





Throughout Terms 3 and 4, our culture has flourished as a vibrant reflection of our core values: people, integrity, perseverance and excellence. These values have guided our interactions, fostering a supportive community where every individual is valued. This report highlights key events, including the high school talent show, community outreach, culture festivals and various competitions that celebrated culture and creativity.

A Night to Remember: High School Talent Show

The Talent Show was a tremendous success, featuring performances from learners across all grades. The acts included singing, dancing and instrumental performances, promoting confidence and showcasing the diverse talents within our school community. Highlights of the evening were the High School Choir, a Hip Hop Duo, the piano performance and group dance acts. Each performance was outstanding and the judges were truly impressed.

Azi Kewana's mesmerising piano performance captivated the judges and audience, taking them on a musical journey that showcased her skill and ability to connect with listeners, which was impeccable to experience.

Spreading Joy: Charity Outreach

Our Beauty with a Purpose Committee (BWAP) and the High School Choir embarked on a meaningful journey to Irene Homes, bringing not only much-needed donations, but also a melody of hope and joy. This visit was a powerful reminder of the impact we can have when we come together to uplift our community. It emphasised empathy and social responsibility, helping our learners understand the importance of inclusivity. Feedback from both learners and residents highlighted the positive effect of this interaction.

Starry Night Gala Evening Competition: Reddam House Waterfall

Our Amberfield College High School choir soloist (Lerato Ngoato) and the Amapiano Dance Crew had the opportunity to participate in the JHB Junior Council Arts and Culture Gala evening at Reddam House Waterfall. Both performances delighted the judges and audience, who commended the choir for their heartfelt harmonies and the dance team for their technical prowess. The Starry Night Competition encouraged our learners to express their creativity through song and dance.

The judges and audience were amazed by our choir's ability to harmonise in different South African languages, a beautiful representation of diversity.



Debate Competition: The Annihilators

Our debate team showcased exceptional skill in matches against Curro Thatchfield and Lyttleton Manor High School. Topics included, "Is the two-state solution still viable for the Israel-Palestine conflict?" and "This house believes that social media helps the GBV movement." Muhle Masango was awarded Best Speaker for the seniors, and Murangi Muneri earned Best Speaker for the juniors. Our team won several accolades, reflecting their dedication to research and argumentation.

Heritage Day Event: "Unity in Diversity"

Heritage Day was celebrated with vibrant displays of cultural diversity, featuring traditional clothing, food stalls and performances representing various cultures. Students participated in storytelling sessions and shared their heritage, fostering respect and understanding among peers. This event was a significant step in promoting cultural awareness within the school.

Celebrating Culture Week: A Showcase of Creativity and Community

Culture Week was a resounding success, highlighting the incredible talent and diversity within our community. Attendees left feeling inspired and connected, having experienced the richness of various artistic expressions. As we reflect on this year's festivities, we look forward to future opportunities to come together and celebrate the unique tapestry of our cultural heritage. Thank you to all the organisers, artists and participants who made Culture Week possible. Let's continue to embrace and celebrate our diversity throughout the year!

Terms 3 and 4 have been filled with activities that enriched learners' educational experiences and fostered a sense of unity. The events highlighted above have played a crucial role in developing learners' talents and promoting values of empathy, respect and creativity. We look forward to carrying this momentum into the next academic year.



HIGH SCHOOL ICT

The introduction of ICT for Grades 8 and 9 has had a positive impact in high school, equipping learners with relevant, world-ready skills as technology and computers become central to our lives.

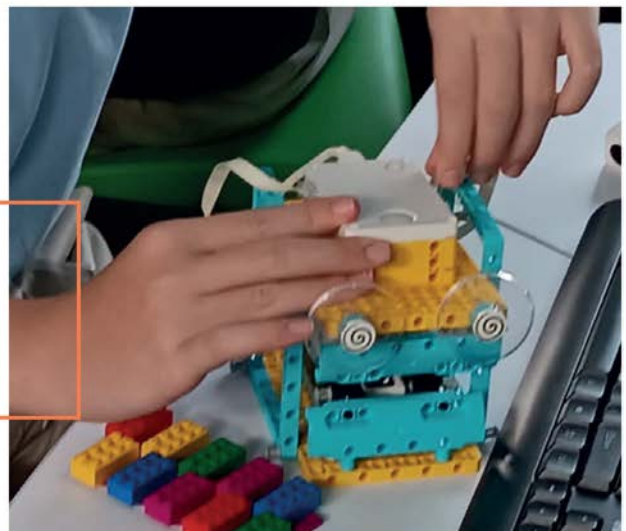
Progress in Grades 8 and 9

So far, learners have covered the following content:

- Minecraft: Introduced in term 1 and term 2, engaging learners in a creative, interactive environment.
- Microsoft Office Suite: Continued lessons on MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint tools and functions.
- Online Quizzes: Interactive quizzes have been used to test and reinforce learners' knowledge and skills.

ICT Plan for 2025

We plan to extend ICT training to offer learners ICT skill certificates and foundational qualifications. In a rapidly digitalising world, these skills are essential for thriving in the digital age.



HIGH SCHOOL SPORT

The past six months have been an exciting period for our sport's teams, marked by outstanding achievements and promising developments across multiple disciplines.

Our senior softball team put on an impressive display of skill and teamwork, achieving a commendable second-place finish in their league this season. Their remarkable talent and dedication have set a high standard for the programme. Meanwhile, the junior team is also making significant strides, delving deeper into the game and beginning to understand the intricacies of softball. This growth in both understanding and execution has coaches and fans eager to see how these young athletes continue to develop. With the seniors leading by example and the juniors learning the ropes, the future of our softball programme looks bright. Congratulations to both teams on their fantastic achievements!

Our soccer programme also had a remarkable season, with talent and determination on show at all levels. The First Team excelled, securing an impressive second place among seven competing schools. Their commitment and teamwork throughout the season earned them respect from both opponents and fans. In the U/17 category, our team took third place, demonstrating skill and progress that reflects the dedication of both players and coaches. The U/15 team truly shone, emerging as league champions and setting a high bar for excellence within the programme. Although the U/14 team faced challenges, their resilience and willingness to learn are encouraging signs for future improvements. With continued support, there's no doubt they will rise to the occasion.

This season, our netball teams demonstrated the power of hard work, achieving impressive victories and showcasing their skills across various competitions. The U/17 and U/15 teams celebrated significant success by winning the prestigious Fast Five tournament, with teamwork and determination key to their triumphs. In addition to tournament victories, all teams, including U/15, U/16 and U/17, excelled in their friendly matches, consistently showing growth and skill development. Notably, the U/15 and U/17 teams also triumphed at the Voortrekkerhoogte Sports Expo, returning home as champions. Their outstanding performances have further solidified their reputation as formidable contenders in the netball community. Congratulations to all our netball teams for their hard work and achievements! The future is bright as they continue to build on their successes.

Our athletes showcased their talents and dedication at the recent Grey and Oranje Athletics meeting in Bloemfontein, representing our school with pride. The girls' team delivered an impressive performance, finishing third in their division, a testament to their hard work and commitment. This achievement not only highlights the skills of our athletes but also lays a strong foundation for future competitions. Congratulations to all our participants for their outstanding efforts! We look forward to even more remarkable achievements in the coming year.

As we approach the end of the year, we remind our athletes that practice will continue until 13 December to ensure they remain prepared and focussed through the holiday season. As we wrap up this busy period, we encourage everyone to enjoy a well-deserved break. Take time to relax, recharge and stay fit over the holidays. Safety is paramount, so please prioritise your well-being. We look forward to resuming practices early next year and are excited about the thrilling sport's opportunities ahead.

Happy holidays everyone! Stay fit, safe and ready for more exciting competitions in the New Year!



Aftercare

YEAR-END REFLECTIONS

As we conclude the 2024 academic year, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I reflect on the positive changes and significant milestones achieved at the Amberfield College Aftercare Centre. This year has been marked by growth, community engagement and a strong commitment to the well-being of our learners and their families.

Growth

The Amberfield College Aftercare Centre has become a vital support system for our learners and their parents. At the start of the 2024 academic year, we welcomed nearly 176 learners. Over the months, our enrolment grew significantly, culminating in a total of 200 learners by year-end. This increase highlights the trust and support we've received from parents, affirming the value of our aftercare programme.

Holiday Care Programme

We are pleased to report the success of our holiday care programme, a key aspect of our services. This initiative allows parents peace of mind to maintain their professional commitments, knowing their children are in a safe and enjoyable environment. For aftercare learners, holiday care is provided at no extra cost, a benefit that many parents have appreciated. Photos from our September holiday care period capture the joy and engagement experienced by the children.

Re-Registration for 2025

Looking ahead, we've begun encouraging parents to register their children for the 2025 academic year. With limited spaces available, we want to ensure all interested families have the chance to secure a spot. Early responses indicate that approximately 90% of our current parents plan to continue with the aftercare programme, reflecting their satisfaction and the positive experiences their children have enjoyed with us.

Open Day Participation

On October 26th, our Aftercare Centre proudly participated in the final Open Day of the year. Our team presented a beautifully arranged stand and engaged with prospective parents, highlighting the many benefits of our aftercare services. The enthusiasm and interest shown by attendees were encouraging and we are hopeful that many will enrol their children for the 2025 academic year.

Gratitude and Farewell

On behalf of the Amberfield College Aftercare Centre team, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all parents, learners and staff. The year 2024 has been incredibly rewarding and your unwavering support has allowed us to fulfil our mission of nurturing and guiding young minds. Being entrusted with the care of your children has been a privilege and a purpose we are honoured to uphold.

As we bid farewell to families leaving our school community, we cherish the journey we've shared and wish you all the best in your future endeavours. The beautiful memories we've created together will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Wishing everyone a joyous and safe festive season ahead.

Ms Violet Seabi