

# Message from the Executive Headmaster

## Mr Mike Thiel



It is my great pleasure to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to each one of you to the St David's Marist Inanda Challenge Cup Tournament in 2025. We are thrilled to have you all on our campus for this much-anticipated celebration of schoolboy football.

To our Title sponsor Nedbank and our secondary sponsors and partners, Adidas, Orlando Pirates and aQuellé, I express my deepest gratitude for your involvement. We value your commitment to developing youth sports, with all its associated benefits on an individual, and societal level, and are proud to have you as partners in this endeavour.



To all the players, officials, and spectators, I trust that your time on our campus will be filled with camaraderie, friendly competition, and the sheer joy of playing the game of football. At St David's Marist Inanda, we firmly believe that nurturing talent at the schoolboy level is vital in identifying tomorrow's football stars and leaders and look forward to an exciting blend of individual flair and disciplined teamwork throughout the matches.

As we cheer on our teams, let us also remember that success in soccer and in life is built on the principles of sportsmanship, fair play, and collaboration. I encourage everyone to compete with passion and determination while upholding the values of respect and integrity. The value of this tournament, and school sports in general, lies in providing a platform for disciplined participation. It is through such experiences that young individuals develop a lifelong love for sports played with the right values.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the St David's community, who have contributed in various ways to make this event a resounding success. With 38 participating teams this year, including a new U12 category to the weekend's games, we continue to witness the growing prestige and significance of the St David's Marist Inanda Challenge Cup.

This achievement would not have been possible without the continued support of our parents, sponsors and partners. Your generosity ensures that we can continue nurturing the spirit of sportsmanship, teamwork, and discipline in our youth.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Mr Brad Ireland, Ms Shannon Botha and Mr Franco Gilardi, and our dedicated sports staff for their tireless efforts organising this event. I also acknowledge Mr Thomas Ramutshindela and the grounds staff for ensuring our campus is ready to host this grand tournament. Also to our Advancement Team for the work done across marketing, media and sponsor relations and event management - to all these teams, your hard work and commitment do not go unnoticed.

A special acknowledgement of all the phenomenal women who surround and support us - as we celebrate Women's Day on Saturday, 9 August, we acknowledge your sacrifice and service to the betterment of our families, communities and our country.

Once again, I extend my warmest welcome to each one of you, participants and supporters alike. May the 2025 St David's Marist Inanda Challenge Cup Tournament be an unforgettable experience filled with moments of triumph, camaraderie, and fair play.

Yours sincerely,

**Mike Thiel**  
*Executive Headmaster*  
*St David's Marist Inanda*