



Stanford Lake College

The Stanford Charter

Preamble

Stanford Lake College, founded in 1998, is an independent English medium co-educational high school situated in the Limpopo province of South Africa. Four hundred kilometres northeast of Johannesburg lies the Magoebaskloof, picturesquely sited between Tzaneen and Polokwane, near the hamlet of Haenertsburg.

The College is idyllically situated on the banks of Troutbeck Lake and Stanford Lake, near Ebenezer dam in the Wolkberg Mountains, which form part of the northern Drakensberg range. The slopes are covered with indigenous forests as well as large tracts of pine forests, an important feature of the Magoebaskloof region.

We are a people of optimism, imagination and commitment. Stanford Lake College is a place of learning where acceptance and belonging prevail. We value the unique richness of every individual member of the school community. At Stanford we thrive on challenges and stretching ourselves beyond the ordinary.

The College, originally a hotel called Troutwaters Inn, was purchased by the Letaba Education Trust in 1997 through the sale of debentures to future parents. The hotel rooms were refashioned into the founding boarding house and two classroom blocks were built to accommodate the original 73 pupils from Grade 8 to Grade 10. Stanford now boasts an enrolment of 260 pupils from Grade 8 to Grade 12. With the increasing demand for boarding space, another 2 well-appointed boarding houses were added to the campus over the past few years. A further block of classrooms was built that include modern science and biology laboratories. This capital expenditure has been financed via loans from The Development Bank of South Africa. Stanford Lake College is predominantly a boarding school serving learners from Tzaneen, Polokwane, Louis Trichardt, Botswana and Zimbabwe. Most pupils are weekly boarders from the surrounding regions although there are a growing number of termly boarders from further afield.

Stanford Lake College welcomes pupils from different cultures, religions, races and languages. The school follows the Christian calendar and festivals whilst acknowledging the needs of the other religions within the Stanford community.

Stanford Lake College started as a community project and is guided by the Board of Directors of the Letaba Educational Trust, who set policy and act as the custodians of the ethos of the College.

The school executive is responsible for ensuring that the primary function of the College, ie education is carried out effectively.

We believe that the role Stanford Lake College will play in providing successive generations of children with an excellent and broad based education in Limpopo is a vital one. There are no government subsidy programmes in place at present nor are any envisaged in the foreseeable future. It is therefore inevitable that improving our facilities will require private funding.

This document has been compiled to provide you with a background to Stanford Lake College, its vision, objectives and mission and to inform you of our future development plans.

Our Vision:

To optimise our uniqueness, and in so doing, to develop balanced, globally astute individuals within the Stanford Lake College family

Stanford Lake College Values

I have integrity – I am honest and trustworthy

I have courage – I stretch myself beyond the ordinary

I have respect – I show it and I earn it

I value quality – I will ignite a passion for excellence

I have commitment – What I start I will finish: I am accountable

Tshanduko – I learn for life

Ubuntu – We are a family, celebrating the strength in our diversity

Our Mission Statement:

Growing together for Life

Together we will:

- Have a Christian foundation delivering a progressive English medium education
- Live the Stanford Lake College values in our co-educational, independent school
- Develop learners as socially responsible and empowered citizens
- Instil an awareness to protect our environment for future generations
- Motivate learners to broaden their spiritual, academic, cultural, social and physical potential
- Promote within our school the Round Square IDEALS of: ***International understanding, Democracy, Environment, Adventure, Leadership, Service***

Into the Future

Recently, the Letaba Educational Trust, a section 21 company, and the controlling body of the College, redefined the focus for Stanford Lake College over the next period. Our school is good and during the next phase of our development we intend to take Stanford from good to great. Many of the challenges do not have financial implications but form part of our continuing drive for an educational institution, which will remain a beacon of excellence in our province. The improvement of the campus, however, has financial costs and therefore we invite you to become part of this exciting new phase in the further development of Stanford Lake College.

Stanford Lake College utilises tuition and boarding fees to fund normal operating costs and meet existing borrowings obligations. *The Letaba Education Trust* will be used as the vehicle to finance further capital development. Donations to the Trust from a public company are exempt from donations tax. Donations under section 18A are not taxable as Letaba Educational Trust is a public benefit organisation. Because the trust is an educational organisation the donation is also deductible from taxable income, with a limit of 10% before the donation is made. Although the existing parents all contribute to a development fund to meet the recent capital expenditure, the task of fully achieving the above objectives are beyond the means of the parent body.

Unsolicited donations have been received from parents and external sources in the past but the scale of our future developments demands that funds also be raised elsewhere.

Please join us in a partnership to fully realise our goal of producing fine upstanding citizens, the future of South Africa.

The Plan

The aims, objectives and actions that form the core of this plan are presented in four different sections. It is important to note that none of the sections takes priority over the other. All of the sections will be implemented simultaneously on a planned basis, funding permitting, to take Stanford Lake College to new heights, from good to great.

1. Deliver Quality Education

Objective

- To deliver a unique educational programme that will produce a graduate who cares for the natural, social and cultural environment in a global context. Continue to focus on our unique environment in both the curricular and co curricular programmes.

Actions

Academics:

- Continue to strengthen our academic rigour to meet and exceed the needs of the Independent Examination Board and the university entrance requirements of South African institutions

- Consider subject options relevant to future graduates needs
- Rigidly apply the requirements of the Life Orientation syllabus to create a personal development portfolio for each pupil that includes academic, cultural, co-curricular activities inside and outside of school, leadership, life skills, community outreach and international opportunities
- Make certain that every Stanford student has the ability to use the most recent technological innovations, which are relevant and affordable to current, and future educational needs
- Plan and implement a portfolio whereby each teacher will develop a personal professional plan linked to key outcomes of the school with regular evaluations
- Source, retain and develop teachers of a high standard who are committed to the vision, mission and values of the College

Co-curricular Activities

Objectives

- Stanford is committed to the development of the whole person. We want to mould our students into young men and women of strong character, who are generous, kind, open-minded and have a sense of humour. The co-curricular programme is an important and essential part of the school with an emphasis on producing well-rounded, multi-talented citizens.

Actions

Sport

- Continue to compete with purpose and strive for excellence, always within the school's values of fair play and sportsmanship
- Provide parents and the community with information and details on available cultural and sporting activities

Art, Culture and music

- Develop the art and cultural facets currently offered at Stanford through music, debating, school productions and more involvement in available national and international platforms

Adventure and technology

- Enhance the outdoor programme using adventure activities such as kayaking, rafting, and rock-climbing and ropes courses to develop risk taking and problem-solving skills, which are then used in the technology classes
- Continue to take whole year groups camping and hiking in the mountains
- Develop the teaching of technology to produce problem solvers, responsible risk takers and job creators
- Continue to host the South Africa Adventure Challenge for High Schools

International Round Square Organisation

- Live the Round Square IDEAL at all times
- Highlight the benefits of belonging to the International Round Square organisation
- Develop our exchange programmes locally and abroad
- Focused integration of the Round Square philosophy in positions of leadership amongst the pupils

Environmental Awareness

- Integrate our unique environment into the curriculum more substantially and actively involve students in the preservation of the earth
- Nurture a genuine love and awareness amongst the community for the environment and the role each individual can play in preserving the beauty that surrounds us
- Develop a sustainable recycling project at the College with the proceeds to be allocated to environmental awareness projects in the community
- Initiate a carbon neutralising tax in the form of tree planting to highlight the use of non-renewable resources
- Re-establishment of indigenous flora on the campus through careful landscaping
- Keeping our lake, campus and rented properties free of invader weeds
- Ensure that the environmental awareness and work done on school treks is maintained and developed
- Join the Eco Schools network

Sustained Community Outreach

- Entrench the value of service to the community by making a real contribution towards the upliftment of people and communities and highlight the value of doing, as well as giving, to those less fortunate
- Encourage more pupils to continue with the President's Award for community service after the initial bronze award
- Establish meaningful partnerships with other schools
- Expand the literacy programme in outlying schools run by the Grade 11s to include life skills
- Encourage our pupils to guide and mentor the Aids orphan families Develop our library training programme at outlying rural schools to improve their library facilities
- Continue to support outlying rural schools in developing their teacher skills and offering administrative advice where appropriate
- Concentrate on sharing our current expertise in the critical fields of maths and science in the outlying schools

Pastoral Care

Boarding

- Providing an environment which is safe, happy and conducive to positive development

Spiritual

- Continue to nurture the spiritual heart of Stanford, through prayer fellowship and song, thereby maintaining the strong Christian ethos, yet remaining sensitive to other people's faiths
- Build on the traditions of Stanford to instil a greater feeling of school pride
- Social behaviour
- Strictly adhere to the Code of Conduct drawn up by the College and update the student handbook when necessary
- Monitoring and controlling the social malevolence of cell phones and other technology

2. Good Corporate Governance

Objective

- Continue the advancement of relevant good governance on all levels

Actions

- Revisit the Constitution governing the Letaba Education Trust and the Trust Deed on a regular basis
- Support and promote excellent stakeholder relationships
- Comprehensive risk management strategies, particularly in finance and safety to be monitored systematically
- Rigorously adhere to the ISASA governance best practice guidelines

3. Customer Satisfaction and Market Share

Objective

- Implement, maintain and regularly evaluate an effective marketing strategy to ensure student capacity. Build communication systems among all our key constituents, including students, staff, parents, prospective parents, past parents, debenture holders, alumni and the wider community.

Actions

- Review customer needs and expectations on a regular basis
- Broaden the recognition of the Stanford Lake College brand through an active marketing plan
- Refine networking and partnerships both within the school community and beyond
- Continually update the website www.stanfordlakecollege.co.za and make it more interactive

- Substantially increase alumni participation in school programmes as active members of the Stanford community and encourage participation in our development fund
- Develop more effective means of networking with the neighbouring community schools
- Establish staff and parents' forums
- Rationalise internal fund raising drives
- Continuously improve our image and the profile of the Stanford Lake pupil.

4. Sustainable Development and Growth

Objective

- Through judicious planning and fastidious monitoring of our internal controls ensure that Stanford remains a viable educational establishment offering quality service and good value for money.

Action

- Develop the campus for better delivery of service in all aspects of campus life