

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues, parents, and most especially Paul Roos gentlemen.

As I stand before you today, my heart is full—full of memories, full of gratitude, of pride, and yes, a quiet sorrow. After eight extraordinary years among you, it is time for me to take my leave. And though this farewell marks the end of my time as your rector, it does not—and never will—mark the end of my affection, respect, love or hopes and dreams for you and Paul Roos.

Standing here for the last time is very emotional. So I want you to bear with me.

It has been a long teaching career of 41.5 years. My career took me to three schools:

Grey High School, 11 years and three months

Pearson High School, 22 years and 1 month

Paul Roos Gymnasium, 8 years and 2 months

It was definitely not always easy. Teaching is not easy and running a school is demanding, but I had 41.5 years, unforgettable years filled with incredible experiences and opportunities to grow as a person.

I also met unbelievable special people on this 41.5-year-journey.

At my final assembly I want, to give due credit to the people without whom this Paul Roos journey would not have been possible – our staff.

Aan elke onderwyser, administratiewe beampte, instandhouding- en ondersteuningspersoneellid en koshuispersoneellid, ek wil u uit die diepte van my hart bedank. Julle toewyding, harde werk, en onwrikbare lojaliteit aan hierdie skool het 'n onskatbare bydrae gelewer tot die sukses wat ons vandag geniet. Dit is dikwels agter die skerms waar die diepste impak gemaak word – merkwerk en lesbeplanning wat tot laatnag gedoen word, in ekstra ure op die sportveld of in die koshuis, in die wyse raad en liefdevolle ondersteuning aan ons seuns.

Die prestasies van hierdie skool – akademies, sportief, kultureel en op karaktervlak – is 'n direkte weerspieëling van 'n span mense wat elke dag hul roeping uitleef. Dames en here, julle het nie net inhoud onderrig nie; julle het jong mans gevorm. Julle het nie net take afgetik nie; julle het harte aangeraak.

Ek is opreg trots om saam met julle te gedien het. Julle is die stil helde van ons gemeenskap, en ek dra julle in my hart die pad vorentoe.

As I take my leave, I want to assure you: the legacy of this school rests in good hands – your hands. May you continue to be beacons of light to the young men entrusted to your care. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

Baie, baie dankie.

Vir ons as 'n gesin is vakansies baie belangrik. Ons gesin het die gebruik dat na 'n goeie vakansie moet elke lid van die gesin twee of drie hoogtepunte uitlig.

Dit is gewoonlik vir my 'n totaal onmoontlike taak en dan irriteer ek almal deur te sê alles was lekker.

Ek het myself gedwing om vir elkeen van my 8 jare by Paul Roos een of twee hoogtepunt te kies. Dit is nie 'n maklike taak nie, want die 8 jaar het soveel hoogtepunte opgelewer. Om

die waarheid te sê, elke Paul Roosjaar lewer so baie hoogtepunte op. Ek het myself nie die luukse van 'n lang tyd gegun nie en neergeskryf wat eerste in my kop opgekom het. Ek weet nie altyd waarom nie, maar dit is wat vir my van die jaar uitgestaan het. Ek koppel ook elke jaar aan die hoofseun.

2017. Hoofseun - George Huysamer.

I remember a rainy hockey game against Grey PE, in the then Port Elizabeth. It started storming and the Grey boys ran for shelter. The Paul Roosers stood in the rain, singing at the top of their voices. The final score was 1-0 to Grey, but we did not lose that game.

2018. Hoofseun – Ivann van der Merwe.

The launch of the Paul Roos master plan that changed the face of Paul Roos.
Die meesterplan het daartoe gelei dat ons ten spyte van die feit dat ons nie enige kapitaal gehad het vir projekte nie, sedert die loods van die meesterplan ongeveer 110 miljoen se kapitaalverbeteringe aan die Paul Roos -kampus aangebring het.

2019. Hoofseun – Chris Albertyn

Solidariteit plaas ons nasionaal eerste gemeet aan die vier kernvakke: Wiskunde, Fisiese Wetenskappe, Lewenswetenskappe en Rekeningkunde.
Fase 1 en 2 van die koshuisopgradering is voltooi. Roosinbosch en Splendidior is gevestig asook die matriekgronde.

2020. Hoofseun – Luke Burger

Ons 3 historiese geboue kry Blouplaakstatus en ons rig die solarpanele op. Ons is uiters suksesvol in die bestuur van Covid.

2021. Hoofseun – Devon Milne

Ons open die JF Marais Mediasentrum en die Binnenshuise Krieketfasiliteit.

2022. Hoofseun - Roche Meyer

Die PRG Gholfspan is die SA Skole kampioene en die PRG Koor weer die Beste Seunskoor in Suid-Afrika.

2023. Head Boy - Miguel Carelse

In the first three weeks of term 1, we won more water polo tournaments than in all the years that we played polo. Our first water polo team is ranked second in South Africa. We won The Mazinter Cup for the first time in the school's history.

2024. Head Boy - Riley Norton

Our first rugby team was first on the SA Schools' ranking list. 36 -3 against Grey College. Our first hockey team was second on the SA Schools' ranking list. 'n Nuwe astrobaan is in gebruik geneem wat ons daaglik toegang tot drie astro's gee.

2025. Hoofseun - Simeon Rudolph

The Old Music Block was renovated. The old Creative Arts classroom was magnificently redesigned as an intimate 80-seat theatre. We dominated the Boland Regional Golf Competition. Our first team first and second team second. We won the Sun City Golf Tournament, as well as the Zimbabwe Junior Open.

Hopelik sal julle my onthou:

1. As een wat werklik in julle belanggestel het. Dat ek werklik vir julle omgee.
2. As een wat altyd trots op julle was / en altyd op julle wil trots wees.
3. As die een wat julle wou aanspoor om jouself te motiveer om nog verdere hoogtes te bereik. Because if you are not growing you are dying.
4. As die een wat altyd daarna gestrewe het om vir Paul Roosers die beste geleenthede te bied.
5. Die een wat graag vir julle die beste infrastruktuur / geriewe wou gee, omdat ek glo die Paul Roos brand en die Paul Rooser verdien die beste en het die regte geriewe nodig om op die hoogste vlak te presteer.
6. Hopelik sal julle my onthou vir my strewe om die gebalanseerdheid van die Paul Rooser nog verder uit te brei. My strewe om aan alle Paul Roosers wat in enige aktiwiteit presteer erkenning te gee.
7. The one who emphasised the importance of a sense of occasion.
8. Die een wat absoluut glo dat ons in die top vyf in die land van enige skoolaktiwiteit kan wees en beslis een van die top vyf seunskole in die land is.
9. The one who believed in the value of the Paul Roos education.

Eight years ago, I walked through these gates with a sense of excitement and a deep sense of responsibility. I came not simply to lead a school, but to help shape lives, to take this school forward and to make a difference. What I did not fully anticipate was how much you, in turn, would shape mine.

To the boys—gentlemen *you* are the heart of this school. You gave me energy and intent. Matrics, I have watched you grow and develop from Grade 8 boys into confident, bold successful young men.

Never underestimate the power of your character. Your academic results will open doors, but it is your integrity, your kindness, and your resilience that will carry you through those doors and into the world beyond.

So allow me to leave you with a few thoughts — only 4. Absoluut niks nuuts nie.

1. Embrace the Paul Roos experience. Remember that attending Paul Roos is more than attending school. It is a lifestyle, it is an adventure. Savour it, value it. Make the most of every opportunity.

Remember that you have the privilege to be part of a 159 year legacy. Next year this fantastic institution will celebrate its 160th birthday.

2. Remember but most important, live the seven Paul Roos core values: Pride, Respect, Gentlemanship, Humility, Excellence, Integrity and Responsibility.

3. Always remember that our pride in our school is vested in the ethos, values and the spirit of Paul Roos- and not in our many successes and achievements.

4. Work with the staff. Value, respect and support them. They have only your best interest at heart.

Then my advice for life going forward. Only 5.

First, remember that excellence is not perfection. Excellence is the daily commitment to growth. Do not fear mistakes—they are the proof that you are trying.

Second, choose courage over comfort. Staen op vir wat reg is in die lewe. Right is might.

Third, stay curious. Keep learning. The degree or qualification you will one day carry is not the end of your education. It is a key—use it to unlock new questions, new perspectives, and a deeper understanding.

Fourth, be kind. In the grand narrative of life, people will not remember your grades, your trophies, or your titles. They will remember how you made them feel. Let that be your legacy.

And finally—never forget where you come from. This school, this brotherhood, will always be a part of who you are. Carry it with pride. Give back when you can. And wherever life takes you, know that you have a home here.

Wat my toekoms betref, het ek besluit om vir 'n jaar as konsultant vir 'n privaatskoolgroep te gaan werk. Ek gaan 'n 70% pos bekleed. Ek vertrou dat ek daar 'n bydrae sal kan maak. Aangesien ek net 'n 70% pos aanvaar het, glo ek dat dit my die geleentheid sal gee om meer tyd in Hermanus deur te bring. Na die jaar sal ek besin oor die toekoms. Ek gaan definitief nog 'n jaar in Stellenbosch bly en sal julle op die dorp en in Hermanus sien.

Dankie vir die voorreg om vir 8 jaar julle rektor te wees. Thank you for the opportunity to walk this journey with you. Thank you for trusting me, supporting me, challenging me, and teaching me. Dankie dat ek deel van die Paul Roosfamilie en Paul Roos -gees kon wees. Dit is en bly net 'n ongelooflike voorreg.

Daar gaan 'n kort oorgangsperiode wees tot die nuwe rektor in September by julle aansluit.

We have qualified passionate senior staff to lead the school in this transition period. As I step away, I do so with deep peace, knowing that the future of this school rests in capable hands and courageous hearts.

Ek groet julle met 'n ongelooflike dankbaarheid en met 'n diep liefde vir die spesiale plek en sy mense.

God bless.

SEMPER SPLENDIDIOR