



Chisipite Senior School



CHISIPITE SENIOR SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



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OUR HISTORY



Chisipite Senior School opened its doors in 1954 with two members of staff and forty-eight pupils and became the first interdenominational private girls' school in Central Africa. Over nearly seventy years, we have remained a leading girls-only senior school in Zimbabwe with a proud history of preparing girls for successful and enriching adult lives.

We provide a holistic education, which is both rigorous and stimulating for girls between 12 and 18 years of age, and we strive to ensure that each and every pupil finds her School to be a happy and safe environment.

The spring, from which the School derives its name, still rises in a nearby vlei. The name "Chisipiti" is the Shona word for "spring" and this inspired both the fountain badge and the School motto "FONS VITAE CARITAS" - Love is the Fountain of Life.



HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dr Leigh Reilly



Dr Reilly is a proud Alumni of Chisipite Junior and Senior Schools. She has a Ph.D. in Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, and many years of teaching experience at secondary school and tertiary education level.

Her goal is to work, in partnership with parents and supported by Chisipite's talented and dedicated staff team, to create a school community where each and every pupil feels recognised, challenged, fulfilled and stimulated.

"Chisipite Senior School has a long and proud history of educating girls and helping to prepare them for successful and enriching adult lives. This history of offering single-sex education means that we specialise in educating girls by tailoring all aspects of teaching and learning to girls' educational and psycho-social needs; intentionally developing their confidence and empowering them to pursue their dreams."



OUR BELIEFS

We strive to nurture our pupils so that they may flourish and grow to be confident, resilient young women of conviction, compassion, and integrity. We are committed to sustaining an environment where all girls will flourish and develop the skills, as well as character, to succeed in life and contribute meaningfully to society.

All our actions are anchored in a foundation of Christian values.



SCHOOL ETHOS

To generate brave, strong and sincere thinkers who are equipped "to fill the world with love their whole life through".

SCHOOL MISSION

Our mission is to empower pupils to acquire, value and apply knowledge and skills that will support them as lifelong learners and servant leaders, who will be prepared to contribute with courage to the Global Community.

SCHOOL VISION

Our vision is to prepare young women to pursue their aspirations and contribute to the world through faith, hope and love.

SCHOOL CORE VALUES

Spirit, Empathy, Grace,
Respect, Gratitude, Growth,
Faith, Hope, Love.

BENEFITS OF SINGLE-SEX SENIOR SCHOOL EDUCATION

As a long-term member of the International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS), which brings together over 550 girls' schools across 21 countries representing over 350,000 pupils, we advocate for single-sex education which empowers young women to become influential contributors to our ever-changing world.

ICGS' researched studies show that at all girls' schools, their pupils:

- Do better academically, socially, and emotionally.
- Are happier and feel they belong.
- Have higher aspirations and ambitions.
- Experience less bullying and greater respect.
- Are more confident, self-assured, and resilient.
- Participate more in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).
- Are more involved in sport, clubs, and co-curricular activities.



ACADEMICS

DEPUTY HEAD ACADEMICS Miss Vanessa Dabah



Miss Vanessa Dabah joined the Chisipite community in 2002 where she completed her teacher training after having achieved an Honours Degree in English in South Africa. In 2006 she gained international teaching experience in the United Arab Emirates and re-joined Chisipite Senior School in 2010. With over twenty years of teaching practice, she has also held the roles of Form Teacher, Head of House, Head of Lower Six, Junior Deputy Head and currently holds the role of Deputy Head Academics.

Her goal is to ensure that learning is an exciting adventure where pupils can embrace challenges and conquer new pathways to academic success with greater confidence and skill. She understands that pupils can learn as much outside the classroom as they learn from within it; the successes in external examinations are the product of a broad and rich academic experience.

"At Chisipite Senior School we utilise the power of education to offer a myriad of opportunities for pupils to explore, identify and cultivate their passions to empower them to become successful citizens of the world."



TEACHING STAFF

Our teaching staff are qualified, experienced, innovative and committed to developing pupils' unique strengths so that they can access pathways to reach their full potential.

We invest in their continual professional development, both internally and through Cambridge Assessment International Education to ensure that we keep abreast of trends in education so that our pupils are equipped to succeed in both external examinations and beyond the classroom.

The classroom experience at Chisipite is highly engaging for pupils as teachers conduct lessons in a congenial and engaged manner. We encourage pupils to take ownership of their learning, which fosters independence and develops self-awareness.



A DIVERSE CURRICULUM

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum to ensure that whatever our pupils' abilities are, they will achieve their full potential. Having the opportunity to study a diverse range of subjects challenges our pupils to take risks and helps them to identify their passions.

In Form One and Form Two, all subjects are compulsory and are geared towards preparing the pupils for their IGCSE subject choices. From Form Three, pupils are required to take IGCSE Biology, English Language, English Literature, French, and Mathematics. They have the freedom of choosing up to four additional subjects depending on their interests. After completing IGCSE, pupils are invited to choose from a diverse range of subjects suited to all skills. In Sixth Form we offer subjects such as Thinking Skills and Global Perspectives which equip pupils with a toolkit for navigating tertiary institutions and the modern world.

From this year ATS Schools will incorporate a digital baseline assessment through Cambridge Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM) as part of the Central Assessment Paper in July. We will also be implementing similar digital baseline assessments to Form Two and Form Four pupils through CEM which measures student aptitude in three key areas: Vocabulary, Mathematics and Non-verbal ability (Patterns). It is a proven to be an excellent way of using data to identify areas that require further attention, areas where pupils are excelling and to monitor pupils' progress.



SUBJECTS OFFERED AT CHISIPITE SENIOR SCHOOL



SCIENCES

Biology
Chemistry
Computer Science
Mathematics
Physics



ARTS & HUMANITIES

Art
Art & Design
Digital Media & Design
English Language
English Literature
French
Geography
Global Perspectives
History
L1 & L2 Shona (CHISZ)
Sociology
Thinking Skills



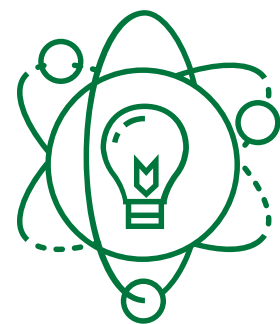
COMMERCIAL

Accounts
Business Studies
Computers – ICDL & Coding
Economics
Travel & Tourism



PRACTICAL

Fashion and Textiles
Food & Nutrition
Information and
Computer
Technology
Physical Education
Music





ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Our academic departments offer varied academic enrichment opportunities across the year groups to strengthen our pupils' skills and curriculum-based knowledge and to broaden their minds.



Academic Enrichment includes but is not limited to our annual Accounting Seminar and Science Fair; astronomy evenings; Geography outings; trips to art galleries; art, digital media and theatre workshops; Shona cultural outings; Travel and Tourism trips to Dubai and hosting professional guest speakers and authorities in diverse fields.



EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

All pupils and staff are issued with a Microsoft Teams Account which is used as both a communication and storage tool.



Our three computer labs have been refurbished to ensure that our pupils are equipped to meet the ever changing digital world. In addition, most of our classrooms are equipped with Interactive SMART Boards which are used to complement our pupils' learning.



Our Art Department has 14 iMacs which are primarily available to those pupils sitting Art and Design, and Digital Media and Design external examinations. We also have a stock of iPads which are available, upon request during school hours, for pupils to utilise.

From Form Three, pupils are encouraged to bring their own devices; we advocate that these empower both pupils and teachers to make the best use of technology to support and enhance pedagogy in the classroom.



RECOGNITION

For their exceptional examination results from Cambridge Assessment International Examinations, every year, many of our pupils are successfully placed at top universities around the world. Their outstanding grades reflect their maturity and determination, but most importantly that they are prepared for their next steps. We are proud to have contributed to a significant chapter of our pupils' educational journey.



ACADEMIC FACILITIES

Spread over 25 acres, our campus is set within a backdrop of lush lawns and regal trees. A full-time Estate Manager ensures that the built and natural environment remains in pristine condition.

Facilities comprise over 60 classrooms, an Art Centre, 3 newly-renovated computer labs, 3 kitchens for Food & Nutrition, 3 Fashion & Textile rooms, a Music Centre, a Lecture Theatre, 7 Science labs, a library and the Sixth Form Study Centre. Regular refurbishment ensures that our built environment and its surroundings remain conducive to the pupils' learning and wellbeing.



PASTORAL

DEPUTY HEAD PASTORAL Mrs Heena Padayachee



Mrs Heena Padayachee has been with Chisipite Senior School since 2010. A Bachelor of Arts graduate in English and Linguistics, her tenure at the School began as a teacher of English Language and Literature. She soon embraced many other aspects of school life and progressed from being a Form Teacher, to the Head of Form Three, to the Junior Deputy Head, and currently holds the role of Deputy Head Pastoral.

Her goal has always been to serve the school and in so doing, to ensure that the pupils at the school become the best versions of themselves. Her primary role is to oversee the measures that are in place to safeguard the emotional and spiritual needs of the pupils. Whilst this includes overseeing the disciplinary aspect of school life, it serves a greater purpose in making respectable global citizens of our pupils.

"Chisipite Senior School prepares girls to 'be brave and strong and true' in all that they do. We believe that our girls develop their courage of conviction and find their voice whilst with us. With an ever-changing world, we know that our responsibility is to ensure that we provide the foundation for our girls to flourish wherever they choose to go and whatever they choose to do when they leave us."



PASTORAL CARE



We are sensitive to the inevitable challenges that come with adolescence as well as the demands of academic and co-curricular commitments, and we offer our pupils consistent support and encouragement.



Every year group has a Head of Year (HOY) who oversees their pastoral care during the course of the year. The HOY is also the first point of contact for parents who need to contact the school about all matters regarding their daughter. HOYs are committed to the overall well-being of the girls in their care. This ranges from assisting a pupil settle into the demands of their courses, to facilitating their alignment to the Chisipite ethos, to looking at disciplinary and restorative measures that may need to be implemented. Their focus is to make every opportunity a learning one for the pupils and as such, to prepare them for the next stage of their life.



We are increasingly focused on raising the awareness of the importance of good mental health and encourage pupils to seek help and gain access to support. We have two trained Counsellors who are available to provide support to pupils in a safe environment.

With Life Skills, Careers and Form Period sessions built into the timetable to help equip our pupils not only to navigate this period of adolescence but to look ahead and consider the choices that they make in the present and how those will impact their future, we prepare our pupils mentally and emotionally for the future.



Upper Six pupils are given the opportunity to receive basic training to become a “Listener” which provides an additional way in which they can serve their community. This is a supportive role where the individual is trained to listen as opposed to advise. Pupils approach Listeners as a safe sounding board in a situation when they feel an adult will not fully understand them. This aids their mental health and well-being as they face common life stressors. Any issue that raises alarm bells as being a potentially serious health and safety issue, is referred to the Counsellors and any relevant Heads of Years if need be.

Our resident qualified SAN Sister provides first responder care to pupils on campus.

We are also increasingly committed to raising awareness, amongst our pupils, their parents and the community at large, about the dangers of substance abuse and of addictions of any kind. We have been working closely with Project Kuararama, a non-profit organisation, who have engaged with our pupils and parents to prepare our community to safeguard against the temptations that are prevalent in society at large.

Situated near the Heart of the School, the iconic Chisipite Senior School Chapel provides a serene space that offers present and past members of our community a place of sanctitude, reflection, as well as celebration.





SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Service to others is integral to the ethos of Chisipite Senior School, and this fundamental aspect of our identity is embodied in our Servant Leadership System which is aimed at fostering leaders who lead by example with integrity, empathy, and humility, and who learn and grow to become resilient and flexible stewards.

We believe that every pupil has the potential to lead, and by entrusting them with leadership responsibilities, we support them in learning the value of service to others, team and individual agency, and accountability to themselves and the wider school community. We believe our unique Servant Leadership System sets our school leavers apart and equips them with life skills for success.



THE GREEN MACHINE

The Green Machine is Chisipite Senior School's moniker for co-curricular activities, and 2023 marks the launch of its visual representation. The icon is closely linked to our core values and School motto, Fons Vitae Caritas. As 'Love is the Fountain of Life', we come together as a well-oiled machine to celebrate life and flourish in all our activities.

Our Green Machine icon illustrates vitality, teamwork and community. This is represented by the heart symbol and the abstract depiction of joined hands or a team huddle. These elements speak to working together to achieve our common goals in a diverse and multicultural community where all members are valued and respected.



THE HOUSE SYSTEM

The four Houses are a key feature of life at Chisipite Senior School and pupils enjoy a healthy rivalry in Inter-House Sports, Music and Speech and Drama competitions, culminating in the coveted House Cup and Junior House Cup awarded at the end of each year.

SPRING



Named to acknowledge the importance of water at the school. Spring is also closely tied to our Shona name 'Chisipiti'. The trait that embodies this House is **'Service'**.

ANDERSON



Named after Beryl Anderson, who established Chisipite Senior School and was dedicated to the education of young women. The trait that embodies this House is **'Courage'**.

ST PAUL'S



Named after the disciple Paul, who wrote 1 Corinthians 13 vs 1-13, our school reading. The trait that embodies this House is **'Dedication'**.

PATRONS'



Named after and to acknowledge not just the original patrons of the school but also the countless members of the community who have contributed towards the school's success. The trait that embodies this House is **'Vision'**.

SPORTS

Our wide range of sporting disciplines help pupils to learn valuable life skills such as teamwork, accountability and self-confidence to prepare them to be physically, mentally and emotionally resilient individuals. Our ethos is founded on hard work, passion, fair play and the elevation of the team above the individual.

In addition to many competitive sports played at home and away, we participate in various tournaments throughout Zimbabwe, Southern Africa and beyond.

Over the years, many of our athletes have gone on to gain provincial, national and international representation honours across different age groups and sporting disciplines. Currently, we have pupils representing Zimbabwe in Hockey, Swimming, Squash, Tennis, Triathlon and Water Polo.



CHISIPITE SENIOR SCHOOL'S SPORTS FACILITIES

ATHLETICS & CROSS COUNTRY



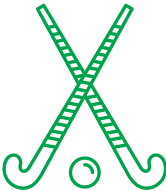
- 1 x Track
- 1 x Discus Circle
- 1 x Shot Put Circle
- 1 x Javelin Pitch

BASKETBALL



2 x Courts

HOCKEY



- 2 x Grass Fields
- 2 x Indoor Courts

ROWING



- 7 x Single Sculls
- 5 x Double Sculls
- 3 x Quad Sculls
- 1 x Boat Trailer
- 6 x Ergs

SOCCER



1 x Field

SQUASH



2 x Courts

TENNIS



10 x Courts

SWIMMING & WATER POLO



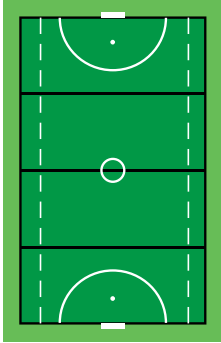
- 1 x 2m deep
- FINA Approved Pool

VOLLEYBALL



2 x Courts

ASTRO TURF



MUSIC

Our Music Department is one of the most diverse music departments in Zimbabwe. There is a marimba and mbira group in each form, a standard classical orchestra and various quartet groups, a host of both western and African choirs, as well as contemporary groups such as the Glee Club and Guitar Club.

The department hosts a wide range of concerts each year tailored to the different styles of music that we offer, such as the African Extravaganza, Choral Evenings, and String or Wind specific concerts.

We fair exceptionally well in the National Music Eisteddfod, with pupils taking home several Honours and First Grade Awards.

As well as being a respected music department locally- the school also plans international music tours for our students to gain more exposure to music on the global scale. In order to prepare for these tours, pupils are encouraged to take exams offered by the London College of Music.



SPEECH & DRAMA



The Speech & Drama Department is a vibrant and energetic community of actors and theatre technicians. With three staged productions a year, two arts and culture evenings, plus participation in the NIAA Speech & Drama Festival, the scope for pupils to participate in the performing arts is large and exciting.

Our three productions include both a Senior and Junior Play as well as a Musical. Throughout the year the actors' skills are developed in Spoken Word, Improvisation, Acting, Musical Theatre Performance, Script Writing, Directing, and Public Speaking.

Technical Theatre pupils gain working knowledge of the technical and administrative side of performance. This includes Stage Management, Lighting and Sound Design and Operation, Costume, Set and Prop Design, as well as Front of House Management.

Our performing arts based curriculum allows pupils to gain confidence in their abilities, hone their passion into viable skills, make new and unexpected friends, and to immerse themselves in the magical world of theatre and film.



CLUBS & SOCIETIES

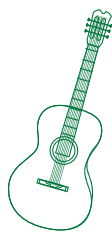
We offer a wide variety of co-curricular clubs and societies which are tailored to meet the diverse needs of our pupils so that they can cultivate their unique passions and talents.

These vibrant communities enable pupils to interact and develop important life skills such as creativity, confidence, self-discipline, effective communication, and the ability to work in teams in a fun and engaging environment.

MUSIC

Authentic Voices of Africa

Chapel Choir
Junior Choir
Senior Choir
Madrigals
Marimba
Mbira
Flute Choir
Guitar Club
Orchestra
Strings
Jazz Band



Pan-African Orchestra



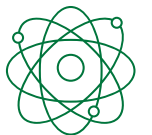
SPEECH & DRAMA

Junior Speech & Drama
Senior Speech & Drama
Technical Theatre
Public Speaking
Spoken Word
Chacapellas



CLUBS

Art
Business
Chess
Conservation
Current Affairs
Debate
Eloquence
Fashion
First Aid
Interact
JIFE
Magazine Committee
Maths
Mental Health
Model United Nations
Orators
Quiz
Science
World Affairs



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

This is an internationally recognised programme that gives young people the opportunity to discover new hobbies and talents. It is offered to all those from 14 years old to 25 years old. It consists of three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. For each level, you are required to complete a set of hours and partake in the Adventurous Journey. For each level, participants are required to do physical (sport) activities, voluntary service, and a new skill. The Duke of Edinburgh programme encourages young people to attain many essential skills, such as teamwork, organisational strategies, communication and problem-solving, which are of benefit throughout life as well as contributing positively to university applications and CVs.

THE ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY

These explorations or expeditions give participants the opportunity to learn about the environment, develop self-confidence and work withing a team. Journeys take from 2 – 5 days depending on the award level. Each journey must have a purpose where participants carry out a study on an aspect of the environment. They then present their study to their assessor, family, and friends.



BOARDING HOSTEL

Our Boarding Hostel provides weekly boarding facilities in a safe and secure environment, with the option of staying in on a Friday for a Saturday morning fixture.

FACILITIES

Our recently refurbished boarding facilities provide a modern, yet cosy environment for the boarders' home away from home. All furniture and facilities in the Boarding Hostel balance functionality with aesthetics in a way that combines the comfort of home with the practicality of a productive and comfortable living space. Rooms are spacious with high ceilings that allow in a lot of natural light as well as enable excellent ventilation. Each room houses a maximum of four girls, or two 6th Form girls, allowing all to commune while giving each the space to read and reflect should they so wish. Bathrooms feature the modern, uncluttered clean designs that are now standard globally. The dedicated study areas are optimized so that pupils can focus and work with minimal interruptions, while the Common Room, beautifully decorated in vibrant colours, provides a relaxing, attractive and comfortable space for pupils' downtime.



SUPERVISION

Boarding Hostel life is overseen by a Hostel Parent and complement of onsite teachers who supervise girls and carry out day-to-day administrative roles. In turn, teachers are supported by a team of support staff who ensure the facilities remain in pristine condition. A trained medical professional is resident on site to provide basic care. Should any pupil require further treatment, the School maintains working relationships with selected medical service providers. In line with the School's ethos of Servant Leadership, senior girls organise themselves and assist in ensuring discipline and the wellness of their younger 'sisters'. A professional security company provides round the clock services that ensure that all residents and their belongings are always safe. This level of supervision means that boarders are always safe, secure, nurtured and cared for.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

One of the ways we “fill the world with love” is by participating in initiatives that assist less privileged members of the community.

Pupils look forward to 'Takkie Day', 'Orange Day' and other such initiatives which, while providing a moment of respite from the conforms of uniformity, also serve a much larger social awareness of the less fortunate in our society. In addition, Form Classes learn to raise funds in cash or kind which they then deliver to organisations or institutions that they have recognised as being in need.

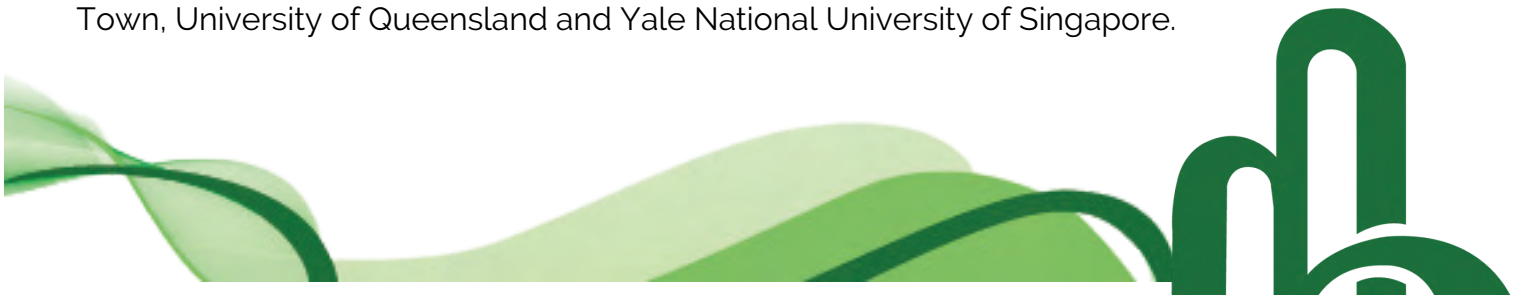


CAREERS

With a close working relationship with over 45 organisations who come to visit our campus annually, the Careers Department also has a strong online relationship with tertiary institutions across the globe. The strong foundation provided by the School ensures that our pupils are successfully placed at universities of their choice.

Apart from university and business representatives speaking to our pupils, our Careers Guidance Counsellor meets with the Sixth Form pupils on a weekly basis to provide them with the advice and guidance to effectively manage their transition into the wider world. With the use of Microsoft Teams, the Careers Counsellor also provides pupils with links to reputable institutions to research to find what suits them best.

Sixth Form pupils are also encouraged and supported by the School to attend, in person or virtually, university summer schools at accredited tertiary level institutions during their studies. Our pupils have studied at renowned universities across the globe including, but not limited to: Cambridge University, Durham University, King's College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Stellenbosch University, Trinity College, University of Pennsylvania, University of Cape Town, University of Queensland and Yale National University of Singapore.



LIFE AFTER CHISIPITE SENIOR SCHOOL



Our alumnae, fondly known as Fontanians, are part of a global sisterhood that spans generations and geographic locations. We are delighted to receive regular visits from our alumnae, and it is always remarkable to hear about their diverse and successful careers. Fontanians are encouraged to get in touch with us on fontanians@chisipite.co.zw

THE FUTURE

We are in the process of an expansive refurbishment programme to 'Future-Fit' our campus. This year we are celebrating our Platinum Jubilee marking a significant milestone in our long and proud history of educating and empowering girls.

Commemorating our storied past; celebrating our platinum present; embracing our promising future.







GREEN MACHINE

CHISIPITE SENIOR SCHOOL



Fons Vitae Caritas
Love is the Fountain of Life



Phone
+263 242 490714/5



Email Address
info@chisipite.co.zw



School Address
**Hindhead Avenue, Chisipite, Harare
PO Box CH30**



Chisipite Senior School



chisipite_senior_school



www.chisipitesenior.com

