

# FALCON COLLEGE

ESIGODINI - ZIMBABWE

## *Our Motto*

Sic Itur Ad Astra - Reach for the Stars

## *Our Vision*

Falcon College aims to be a leading Southern African centre of academic, cultural and sporting excellence for young people

## *Our Values*

Vital, disciplined and persevering in body  
Curious, enthusiastic and fair in thinking  
Sensitive, helpful and respectful in relationships  
Humble, honest and wise in leadership  
Cheerful, confident and generous in spirit

## *Ethos*

Enduring Christian values and morals, tempered by relevant 21st century education

Personal growth through motivation and goal setting

A balance of western individual competitiveness and the African Ubuntu spirit of co-operation and teamwork

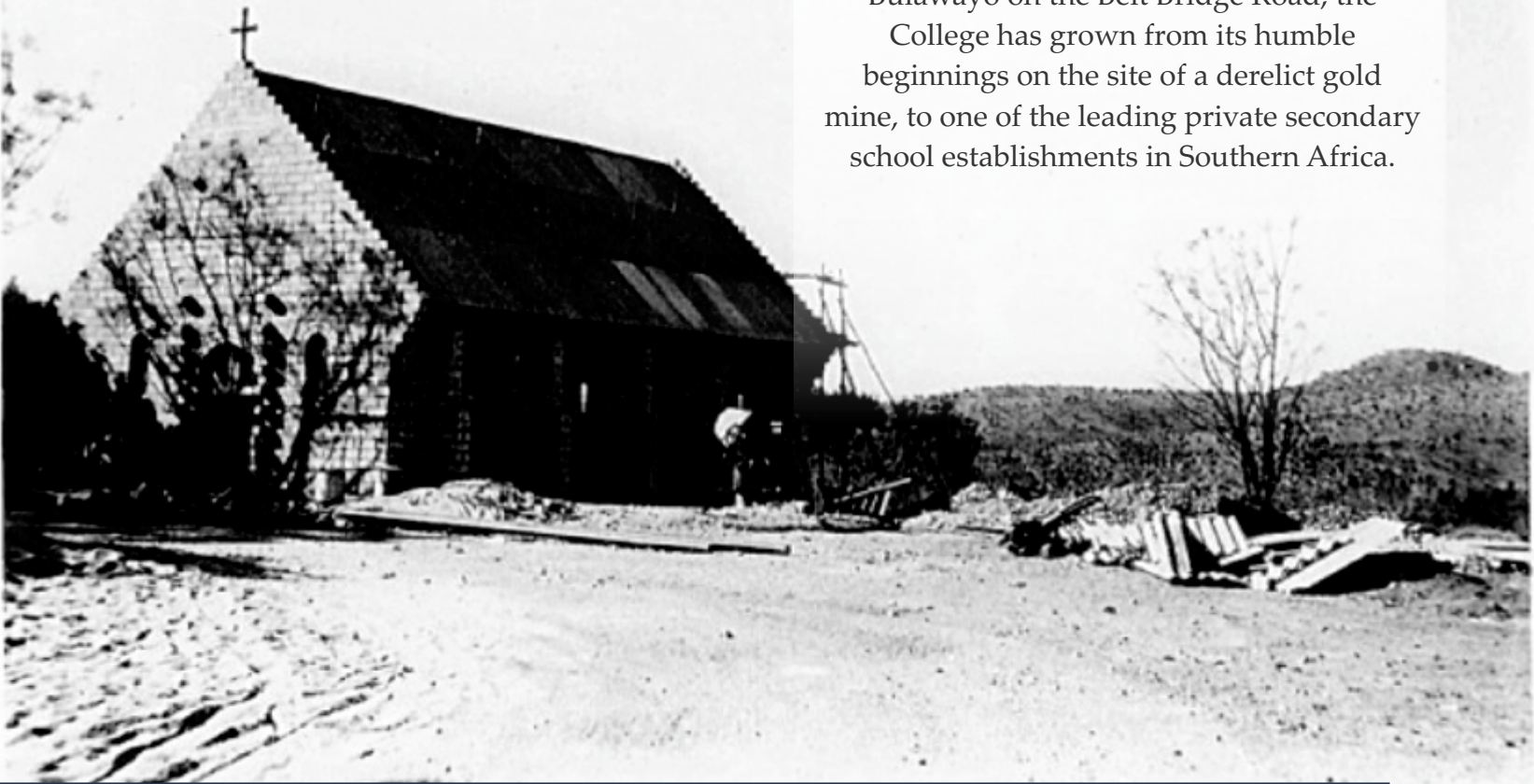
A positive, enabling environment in which students can grow into effective, respectable young people, capable of realising their full potential in life



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Falcon College is a school built on imagination, perseverance and sustainability. Situated fifty kilometers South-East of Bulawayo on the Beit Bridge Road, the College has grown from its humble beginnings on the site of a derelict gold mine, to one of the leading private secondary school establishments in Southern Africa.



## Falcon's history - over 60 years of excellence



In 1953, a group of men had the foresight to develop the abandoned Bushtick Mine together with its clubhouse and the dry surroundings, into a secondary school for boys. With the first intake of thirty-six boys, they adapted the buildings and the Matabele bush to meet the needs of the school. Mine houses became boarding accommodation for the boys, mine offices were taken over as classrooms and the mine recreation centre became the school hall.

As enrolments increased, so too did the changes overtaking the school. Whilst some of the original buildings remain, many have been transformed and new ones added, always remaining faithful in style to the original mine buildings. Today, pupils attending the school enjoy some of the best sporting, academic, technical and outdoor facilities available in the region, promoting a thoroughly well-rounded education.



# Realising Potential

The 2000 hectare wilderness campus and self-sustaining Falcon community provides a positive, enabling environment in which students grow into effective, respectable young men and woman capable of realising their potential in life.

Falcon is a dynamic, forward-thinking school, which enjoys a good reputation amongst private schools in Southern Africa. It has maintained the traditional approach to educating young people, while being fully connected to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



*"We will aim to ensure that all our teaching is fun, engaging and inspiring, with lessons being designed as a genuinely educational experience rather than simply a tool of examination preparation."*





## Education

Falcon College offers an all-round education for students from Form 1 to 6. Supported by a team of dedicated staff, the College provides teaching of a wide range of subjects at IGCSE and A Level.

In Form 1 and 2, the students follow the Cambridge International (Secondary 1) Checkpoint curriculum, in the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science.

In Form 3 and 4, students follow the Cambridge IGCSE curriculum (Secondary 2).

In their final two years at the College, students aim towards the Cambridge International AS and A level qualifications (Advanced Level). We offer a wide range of Cambridge qualifications.

While educational instruction is aimed at promoting academic excellence, the basic mandate of teaching at the College is to impart sufficient knowledge to each student to allow them to make their mark in life. Teaching is balanced to allow for the acquisition of a sound understanding of each subject and the development of specialist technical skills while, at the same, encouraging students to use their imagination, to be creative, to develop their perceptive abilities, and to learn self-expression. In short, our students learn to learn. Teaching methods employ a combination of group work and individual exercises. Theory is married to practice, as students learn in the classroom what they often have an opportunity to try out in the field. Good foundations are set in each of the student's chosen subjects, no matter what their academic capabilities. Those who are particularly gifted, have the opportunity to take part in inter-school competitions and attend specialist events.



**ACCOUNTING; ART & DESIGN; BIOLOGY; BUSINESS STUDIES; CHEMISTRY;  
COMMERCE; TRAVEL & TOURISM; ENGLISH LANGUAGE; ENGLISH LITERATURE;  
PHYSICS; GEOGRAPHY; HISTORY; COMPUTER SCIENCE; MATHEMATICS;  
MUSIC; NDEBELE; PHYSICAL EDUCATION; FRENCH**



To prepare our students for the computing demands that will be required of them, Falcon College is strongly committed to information technology education. To that end, we have two computing labs where the students are given training in computer science. In addition, students gain an understanding of programming basics, helping them understand how to design software applications, instructing the computer to perform a task. This allows students to interact with and gain confidence in using computers. Should they decide that a career in computing or programming is for them, Falcon College will provide an excellent grounding for this.

Falcon College has a campus wide Wi-Fi network, which allows users to stay connected. This network is connected to the internet via fibre optics. With the use of devices, students and teachers can use the network during lessons, bringing to life aspects of the subjects being taught. Students can also use the network for study and research purposes.



## Information and Communication Technology



*"The wonderful richness of our community owes much to the range of cultural, religious, linguistic and social backgrounds from which our pupils come."*



## Design and Technology

Falcon College recognises that technology is driven by the needs of a modern society and that a curriculum that places emphasis on technological capability and literacy is the envy of many learners and stakeholders.

The changing emphasis on Science and Technology education is the reason for embracing a rich technology curriculum at Falcon College. Design and Technology is a subject concerned with practical action, which is aimed at solving technical and practical problems in a technologically advancing 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is for this reason that the College continues to develop and equip the department in order to realise its ultimate goal of providing a centre for a hands-on learning experience through a problem solving and learner-centred teaching approach.

Design and Technology offers learners an opportunity to identify, analyse and explore design situations in a creative and innovative way.

At Falcon College, the technology curriculum embraces development of skills in Graphic Designing, Product Designing, Systems and Control and Practical Technology, which are aimed at making our world look and work better technologically.



*Embracing Technological Capability and Literacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

# Clubs and Societies at Falcon

Accounting Club	First Aid	Public Speaking
Angling	French Club	Quest Society
Aquatic	Geography Club	Raptors Dance Club
Art Club	Golf	Senior Debate
Chess	Hunters and Guides	Service and Development
Choir	Interact	Shooting Club
Computer Club	Investment Club	Technology Club
Cooking Club	Junior Debate	Toastmasters
Discipleship Club	Media Club	Visual Basic Programming
Drama Club	Mylne Society	Vocal Groups
Duke of Edinburgh	Natural History	Volleyball
Etiquette (U6)	Novices	Yoga Club
Falconry	Peregrine	

With more than twenty different clubs and societies, every student at Falcon has the opportunity to participate in a variety of cultural and extra mural activities in order to develop specialist interests and skills. There is something for everyone: outdoor enthusiasts, natural history buffs, adventure seekers, the socially conscious, politicians and economists in the making, performing artists, future pop stars, the musically minded, photographers, martial artists and animal lovers.

Falcon is home to the annual Cultural Festival, the main cultural event for schools from around the country with activities including dance, art, singing, music, writing and drama.

Considerable effort has been expended in revitalising our music and drama departments culminating in 2011's phenomenally successful production of 'The Lion King' and the equally well-acclaimed productions in the years since then.



*Scene from Jesus Christ Superstar 2018 production*



# Sports and outdoor activities



*Falcon College prides itself on having produced some of the finest sportsmen in Zimbabwe and now we will hopefully produce some incredible sportswomen in the not too distant future. We are lucky with the facilities we have at Falcon which allow the students to play a variety of sports throughout the year. As juniors, students are expected to play at least two sports each term before making a decision on a single sport they would like to excel in once they become a senior. Watching pupils develop throughout their time at Falcon is something that all our coaches enjoy and take pride in. Whether you coach the Under 14 B team or the 1<sup>st</sup> team, you have played a part in moulding a young sportsman's mind as well as teaching them invaluable life lessons and skills. Sport is a big part of Falcon College life and will continue to be for many years to come.*

**- Mr G Ewing**  
*Director of Sport*



## GIRLS' SPORTS:

Athletics	Basketball
Cross Country	Cricket
Hockey	Karate
MTB	Squash
Swimming	Tennis
Water Polo	







## House system

The House System is designed to foster teamwork while developing individual responsibility and initiative.

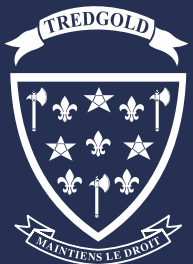
The new student is placed in one of seven Houses to encourage self-discipline rather than enforce discipline. Students from Form 1 to Upper 6 live together in their Houses and develop a fierce loyalty to their House and to one another. A healthy rivalry exists between Houses as they compete in a broad range of activities, from academic performance and a wide variety of sports, to adventure courses, music, drama, as well as public speaking and quiz challenges.

Responsibility for every aspect of a student's life, whilst at school, ultimately lies with his Housemaster who is assisted by several house tutors and carefully selected prefects.

As part of the Astra 'balanced score card' programme, every student at Falcon is expected to spend some 25 hours per annum involved in community or other charitable work, cheerfully and effectively. The House system encourages delegation of authority to instil leadership, responsibility and personal accountability in the students.

The girls have brought a competitive element into the classroom, which is beneficial to everyone. I think that we are richly blessed with this intake of girls with a good cross-section of abilities. Their work ethic and their attention to detail have really given the boys a new perspective on school life.

The girls have really embraced the system and have been involved in all the things that Falcon boys get involved in, from war cry practices, to various clubs and societies.



## The Chapel

Falcon College was founded on Christian principals but not affiliated to any specific church denomination. It remains inter-denominational and pupils, staff and speakers are welcomed to our services from a wide range of church backgrounds. The chapel is central to the school programme, yet the majority of the services and meetings are voluntary. We do not have a full-time school chaplain but there are many committed Christians on the staff and a good number of ordained church ministers available to assist and advise. We have our own worship band and suitable pupils are appointed as Christian Leaders to assist with the running of the chapel activities.





## Facilities and Resources

In pursuit of excellence, the College is committed to the ongoing investment in and development of modern, state-of-the-art academic, technological, sporting and cultural facilities for the benefit of staff and students. The College maintains an extensive fleet of vehicles including modern Yutong coaches, which transport all the students to domestic and regional sporting and cultural events.

The Information and Communication Technology Centre includes Wi-Fi internet access across the campus, backed up by a strong reference library to ensure that the students have access to the best online and paper-based information retrieval systems needed to support their studies.

The gym is modelled on similar facilities in SA and the USA, which ensures that those with particular talents receive specialist training to develop their abilities using the latest programmes and techniques.

Ultimately, a team of dedicated, experienced and highly qualified staff nurtures each student's knowledge, skills development and personal

growth. From the "San" Sister to the Estate Manager to the university-educated specialist teachers, the College endeavours to recruit staff that will contribute to the realisation of the College's mission to create effective, respectful and capable young men and women.

The interests of the College, the staff and the students themselves are represented by a proactive Board of Governors who oversee the management of the school and ensure that policies are upheld, and corporate governance maintained.

### *Available Facilities*

- MST Frame
- Swimming Pool
- Gym
- 5 x Sports fields in Summer
- 7 x Sports fields in Winter
- 2 x Basketball Courts
- 4 x Squash Courts
- 5 x Tennis Courts
- Off road running/riding in Quiet Waters
- 2 x Volleyball Courts
- Golf Driving Range

# The Astra Programme

In working to achieve its vision and mission, and in line with the College's values, Falcon has established the Astra programme, which derives its name from the school motto, "Sic Itur ad Astra." The points of the Astra programme have four aspects, namely service, culture, sports, and academics.

The programme is aimed at ensuring that each student achieves his or her own personal goals. This requires that they set their own personal vision and map their way to meeting goals in the areas of their academic, cultural and sporting life. Teachers, parents and staff are encouraged to mentor students through the programme and to review and re-evaluate progress at set times each year. Goals should be specific, measurable and achievable but must require determination and perseverance to attain.



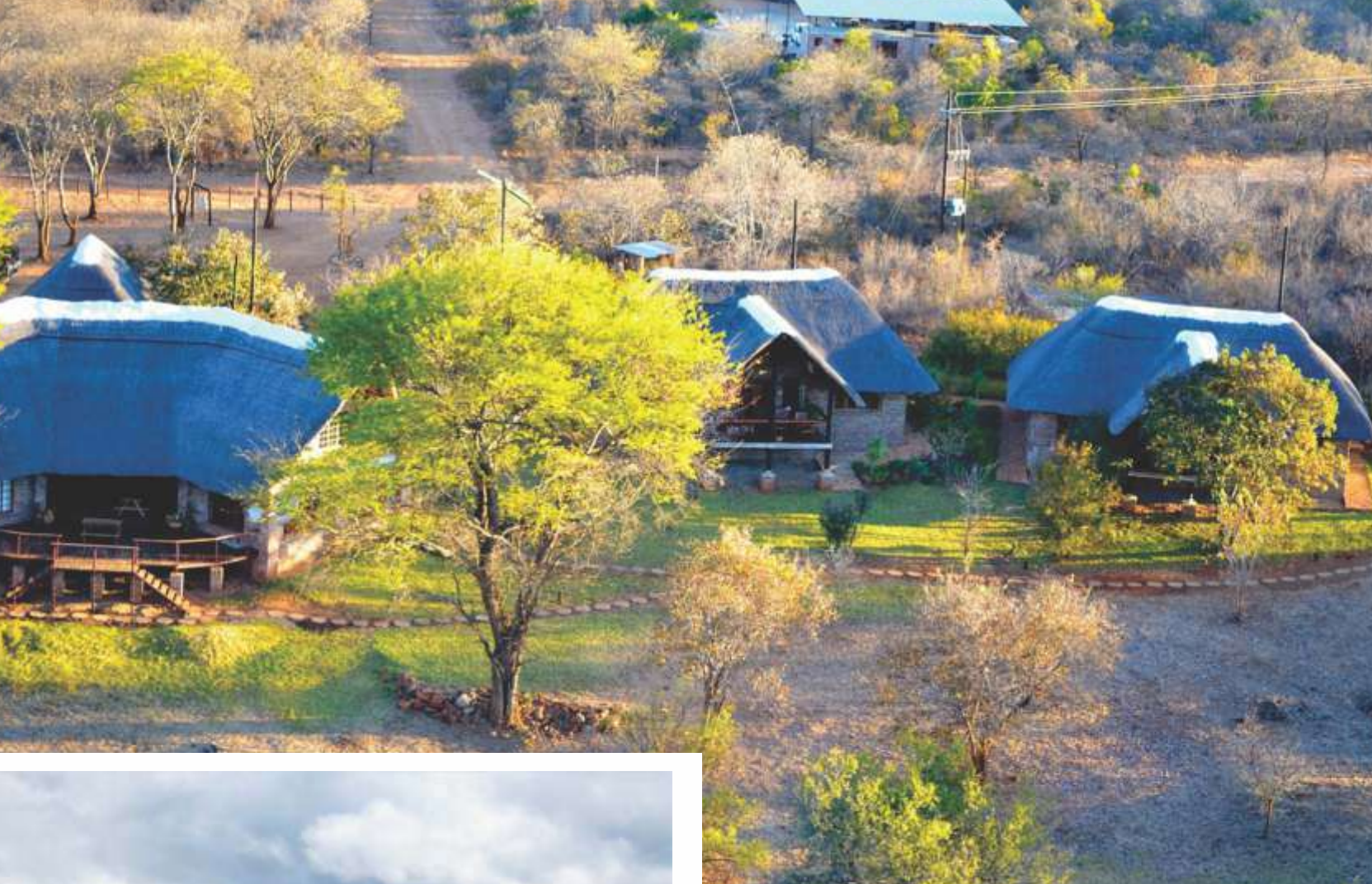


Created over twenty years ago, the Nature Reserve and Wilderness Area covers 810 hectares immediately adjacent to the College campus. Over 300 hectares have been game fenced and stocked with an impressive variety of wild life. Several picnic sites with braai facilities, nature trails, three well maintained chalets and two en-suite lodges, allow visitors to take full advantage of this magnificent facility. Students are encouraged to take "bush exeats" always in groups of three or more, walking, fishing, picnicking with a packed lunch or just enjoying being outdoors.

These outings and "time out" with parents in the unspoiled bush are very popular. Quiet Waters also offers enormous educational benefits to the Natural History Society as well as Biology, Geography and Environmental Management students. Tremendous fun and challenges are experienced on the annual Adventure Courses where juniors spend a couple of nights under staff supervision fending for themselves in the bush.

The College is privileged to own a nature reserve and wilderness area on the Quiet Waters Conservation site adjacent to the school. Here students are encouraged to enjoy walks and game viewing, and to take part in environmental and Natural History activities designed to create keen conservationists who are skilled in bush survival basics.

## Quiet Waters Conservation Scheme



QUEST AFRICA revolves around values-based 'action-learning' and provides school leavers and young people with an opportunity to discover who they are and where they want to go in life while equipping them with a set of skills and values which makes any career path more achievable. This challenging programme is designed to produce strong, confident, 'can-do' characters who graduate from Quest with a real edge on their peers, fully prepared and equipped to face either tertiary education or their first job in the 21<sup>st</sup> century world of work.

This unique, exciting and fundamental shift in education is designed to expose young men and women to a broad spectrum of LIFE – with all its attendant opportunities and challenges, helping to guide them to career choices they may not have

*- A journey of exploration, inspiration and self-discovery*



reviously considered. It is a no-holds-barred approach to education, introducing options that are more out of the ordinary, unlike mainstream academic courses usually offered.

It includes a focus on outdoor careers, ranging from hunting and guiding, safari operation and lodge management through the more hands-on technical trades such as mechanics and construction to aspects of sports and fitness. More specifically Quest helps to define a young person's purpose and potential in life, at the same time as challenging them both physically and mentally, in order to create a strong, confident, respectful and effective young adults.

Quest Africa currently comprises two campuses, one in Matabeleland, Zimbabwe and the other in the Kaba Valley on the Eastern Cape Coast. Quest Africa, Falcon Campus, is situated in the heart of Matabeleland at the foot of the Mulungwane Hills.



**THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S  
INTERNATIONAL AWARD**

“The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has helped countless young people on their sometimes difficult path to adulthood.” HRH, the Duke of Edinburgh

For the past 7 decades, the Duke of Edinburgh scheme has inspired and transformed the lives of millions of young people from all walks of life. From volunteering to physical activities, life skills to expeditions, achieving the award is a passport to a brighter future, valued by employers and universities.

In 2017, Falcon began offering the Duke of Edinburgh scheme to its students after recognising how important it is to their future. We are one of 3 schools offering the award in Zimbabwe and have 8 trained staff to deliver the award.

