



Antony Roy Clark

Antony Clark grew up in Grahamstown and went to St Andrew's Prep (1965-9) and then on to College on a Duthie Memorial Scholarship in 1970.

He had a distinguished school career, displaying leadership qualities from a young age, captaining a variety of teams and succeeding in a range of activities, academic, sporting and cultural. Inter alia, these included winning Academic Honours, captaining the First Cricket XI and being Vice-Captain of the First Rugby XV and Squash Team. He achieved provincial colours in cricket and squash, won the Best Actor Trophy and was Head of School in 1974.

He excelled academically at Rhodes University and proceeded on a Douglas Smith Scholarship in 1979 to Downing College, Cambridge where he graduated with an MA in History, was President of the Downing College Middle Common Room and played some cricket for the university at first-class level.

After returning to South Africa, Antony initially taught at Westerford High School in Cape Town, and then, in 1992, became Headmaster of St Joseph's Marist College, a position he held for two years before being appointed as the youngest Headmaster of a major South African school to St Andrew's College in 1994. During his time as the 16th Headmaster of College, the school was invigorated. Within a year of his arrival, the school roll which had been at its lowest since the 1930s began to climb steadily, fund-raising initiatives commenced in earnest and many positive changes were made both on the campus and in terms of the well-being of the boys. Having grown up on the campus, he knew the school intimately and this was of great benefit to him in his role.

In 2002, the opportunity arose for him to move to the United Kingdom and, recognising that he could not stay at College for his entire career, he and his young family moved to Gresham's School, a 450 year old, co-educational school set in the North Norfolk countryside where he assumed the Headship. Six years later, in 2008, he was appointed as Headmaster of the prestigious Malvern College, a position he held for 11 years. During this time the school blossomed, the campus was developed significantly and two new Houses were built as enrolment reached the highest ever in the history of the school. Seeing a business opportunity, he began a franchise operation starting two schools under the Malvern College banner in China as well as a school in each of Hong Kong and Egypt with a view both to promoting British education for pupils who would not have had that opportunity and to providing an additional revenue stream for the school in Malvern. This programme has been most successful and has been extended to Switzerland and elsewhere.

In 2019, he returned to South Africa and specifically to Michaelhouse, a school he had always admired, as Rector.

Antony is married to Brigitte, an academic lawyer who has lectured at six different universities both in the UK and in South Africa and they have three children: Andrew, an economist with Lloyd's Bank in London; Francie, a solicitor with a large London firm, Leigh Day; and Kath who is studying to become a teacher.

Antony has just completed 30 consecutive years as Headmaster of five different schools and is widely acknowledged as one of South Africa's finest educational leaders, having had an extraordinary career both in this country and internationally.

We warmly welcome him as the President of the Old Andean Club for 2022.