From the exploratory first steps of Grade 000 through to the growing discoveries and self-awareness of Grade 7, the Somerset College Pre-Preparatory and Preparatory schools are integrated with the senior College on our magnificent Western Cape winelands campus, building a foundation of academic excellence and a wide skillset in order to equip our students for a changing world.

We create a family environment where students and their parents feel at home. Participation is valued. We encourage our children to be involved and to try everything until they find something that fuels their passion.

- Mr Craig Verdal-Austin - Preparatory Head

**A FUTURE-FOCUSED CURRICULUM & STUDENT-CENTRED APPROACH**

In our Pre-Preparatory school, we believe that play is an integral part of a young child's learning. From Grade 000 to Grade R, we provide a safe and nurturing space for up to 120 children, allowing them to explore their natural environment, as well as develop their physical, cognitive, emotional and social potential. We follow the Independent Schools of South Africa curriculum and are a Reggio Emilia inspired school, committed to stimulating and growing each child's unique abilities.

In our Preparatory classes, we encourage an increasing academic focus as our 500 young students develop their educational skills and aspirations. From Grade 1 to 7, we follow the Cambridge International Primary Programme, integrated with our innovative ESTEAM programme, which offers an exceptional primary school curriculum for all our students to discover and understand more of themselves and the world around them.
Creative problem solving and the growth of interpersonal skills are nurtured in our small classes, with meaningful interaction between teachers and students. We strive to inspire and equip our students to discover and become their best selves – creating a safe and stimulating environment that validates and fosters a belief in their hopes and futures.

You are given an opportunity to be curious as you discover, explore, learn and interact, making friends and memories while you learn and grow together.

- Somerset College Preparatory Student

EDUCATIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITY

With modern classrooms and cutting-edge technology, an expansive and well-resourced library, exciting outdoor adventure programmes, extensive cultural and extra-curricular performance opportunities and well-equipped sporting facilities, Somerset College offers a range of modern and diverse opportunities for all our students to grow in every aspect of their lives.

We are introduced to the leader in us with encouragement and recognition. And we find we have the ability to inspire and uplift others to be successful, giving an even higher sense of purpose and achievement.

- Somerset College Preparatory Alumnus

AFTERCARE

Somerset College also offers a specialised after-care facility that addresses the specific needs of our students and parents during the academic terms. There is also a range of additional holiday-care programmes. Through these care facilities and programmes, we aim to provide a campus that is a home away from home, where children can relax, play and work within a friendly, safe and supervised environment.

JOIN THE SOMERSET COLLEGE JOURNEY

Through providing excellent educational facilities, supporting participation in a diversity of activities and interests, stimulating and stretching academic skills, encouraging the best effort in every task while purposefully building a sense of self-worth and accomplishment, Somerset College Pre-Preparatory and Preparatory students proudly come of age in their educational journey of personal excellence.
One of the top co-educational, non-profit, independent schools in South Africa.

Set on a magnificent 32 hectare Western Cape winelands campus, Somerset College has gained recognition as one of the top co-educational, non-profit, independent schools in South Africa.

Our senior school provides a dynamic learning community for 600 students from Grades 8 to 12, as well as AS and A Levels, and includes the provision of boarding facilities. Somerset College's educational offering is guided by our Christian ethos, which includes the recognition of other religions and the promotion of cultural diversity.

The strongest asset at the school is the quality of those who work and study there. In all that we do, we seek to live our values of dignity, aspiration, creativity and contribution.

- Mr Graham Sayer – Executive Head

A FUTURE-FOCUSED CURRICULUM AND STUDENT-CENTRED APPROACH

At Somerset College, we aim to empower our students to become critical and creative thinkers; the solution-seekers in a rapidly changing world. Our commitment to a relevant and future-focused education finds expression not only in the academic excellence of both the Independent Examinations Board and the Cambridge AS and A level curriculums, but also in our innovative project-based ESTEAM programme (Entrepreneurship, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics).
This strategic development of critical 21st century skills is enabled by committed staff and cutting-edge technology so that our students may thrive in a global and multidisciplinary future.

_We are more than just a school; more than just an educational institution. Exceptional facilities and extraordinary people and achievements make Somerset College the stand-out co-educational learning environment._

-Somerset College Student

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**EDUCATIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITY**

Our teaching and learning environment is further enhanced through our competitive sports offering, a trend-setting outdoor education programme, art and music departments that foster creative talents and personal voices, as well as outreach and leadership programmes that provide students with a host of opportunities to develop personal growth and impactful leadership.

Somerset College also offers a wide array of extension opportunities through diverse clubs, local and overseas sports, cultural and academic tours, provincial, national and international competitions, current affairs and expert speakers, and a challenging personal development programme. This is all supported by a dedicated pastoral system, consisting of tutors, Grade Heads and our Student Development Unit, which ensures that students are known and valued as individuals with unique potential, who are a dynamic part of growing our future together.

_We are able to achieve to the top of our ability, representing ourselves, or even our country on so many levels. It is something world-class and I take pride in being part of Somerset College._

-Somerset College Student

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**JOINING THE SOMERSET COLLEGE JOURNEY**

At Somerset College, we endeavour to offer the fullest education for our students, rich in real learning, diverse opportunity and inspiring possibility. We are proud to champion modern, innovative and relevant education, investing in the mission of equipping our students for the many and varied individual and collective journeys that are to be undertaken in life. Here, every student is encouraged to engage, endeavour and thrive in a values-driven culture of innovation and excellence where, together, we can dynamically lead and build the 21st century.

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For further information and any admission queries about joining Somerset College and our exceptional educational journey, please contact:

admissions@somcol.co.za  |  +27 (0)21 842 8005  |  www.somersetcollege.org
Somerset College is proud to offer the Cambridge Assessment International Examinations. This CAIE is a highly respected global syllabus where students develop a deeper understanding of focused subjects through advanced and interactive teaching techniques, giving them an excellent grounding and preparation for their university studies.

The Cambridge Programme is viewed as a world-class international qualification and is highly esteemed by leading universities around the globe, opening doors to a wide range of tertiary institutions locally and internationally.

Since its establishment in 2016, the Somerset College Cambridge Programme has achieved outstanding results. These are not only a testimony to the talent and dedication of our students, but also to our exceptional teachers, who enthusiastically inspire and equip students in their pursuit of their individual goals.

Our results have gained both national and international recognition, with our students achieving some of the highest Cambridge accolades:

“Top in the World” for Mathematics, English and Afrikaans (AS-Level),
“Top in South Africa” for Computer Science and Economics (AS-Level),
Both inside and outside of Cambridge classrooms, our students develop an engaged and informed curiosity towards the world. The Cambridge Programme further fosters the growth of independent, confident and responsible young adults through the intensive nature of the syllabus and the peer-to-peer collaboration that takes place in the programme.

In addition, at Somerset College, we facilitate a fully integrated school culture by opening all school activities and extra-murals to our Cambridge students, including sport, camps, music, theatre, clubs, portfolios, events, leadership positions and awards. Every Cambridge student is an integral part of the wider Somerset College community and enjoys a holistic educational experience that encourages new talent and student ongoing contribution to our thriving campus life.

The Cambridge Programme has taught me how to have a more in-depth perspective on the world around us. It is exactly what you expect from an organisation that is part of a leading university.

- Somerset College Cambridge Student

Our Range of Cambridge Subjects

At Somerset College, the Cambridge Programme is completed in the last two years of high school. In their AS-Level year, students are required to take a minimum of five subjects, while in the A-Level year a minimum of three subjects is recommended. Somerset College offers a rich and challenging diversity of subjects, including:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics (Statistics, Mechanics, Further Mathematics, Pure Mathematics)
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Economics
- Art and Design
- History
- Geography
- Computer Science
- Afrikaans
- French (other languages are offered by special arrangement.)

Joining our Cambridge Community

International candidates must have a minimum of six IGCSE credits. They must have achieved an A or B in IGCSE examinations (or equivalent) for the subjects they wish to pursue at AS and A-Level. South African candidates, who have completed their Grade 10, may apply with a minimum of 60% in the subjects being considered at AS-Level.
Boarding at Somerset College is a fundamental part of our thriving campus and school spirit. This is where students experience an even deeper sense of presence and involvement, through the combination of mutual respect, camaraderie and tradition. Those who are part of the collective “Helderberg” boarding houses are proud to call Somerset College “home”.

Securely located on our 32-hectare estate, we offer safe and comfortable boarding facilities to students from Grade 8 to 12 and Cambridge, who come from all over South Africa and the world. Most of our boarders are weekly boarders from the Western Cape, while our international students, who come from other African countries, Europe, Asia, North America and Australia, board full time.

Calling Somerset College Home

Being part of Somerset College’s boarding house brings a unique aspect to one’s personality. Here I have learnt so many life lessons that shaped the person I am today and I owe it all to this place – my home.

Somerset College Boarding Student

AN EXPERIENCE OF VALUES

Here, students live their boarding experience to the full. Being surrounded by peers and mentors gives them a good balance of working hard and having fun, all the while enhancing social and emotional intelligence, developing self-reliance, and creating confident personal organization.
Somerset College boarders are encouraged to commit to, and develop, respectful, meaningful and mentoring relationships in order to live out a culture of care for those around them. Whether it be as simple as demonstrating good manners or clearing up together after meal times, Somerset College’s boarding is characterised by enthusiastic unity and dynamic tradition, where living among so many different individuals means being part of a unique family.

“We may not all be the same ages or come from the same places but there is nothing more powerful than when we all come together for our house - standing with your arms wrapped around your friends' shoulders, cheering your heart out!”

- Somerset College Boarding Student

A TRUSTED STRUCTURE AND FAMILY COMMUNITY

We offer two boarding houses: Founders’ House for girls and Vineyard House for boys, with each house enjoying the dedicated service of their own boarding parents, who, as the Heads of Boarding, develop and supervise a positive sense of community within the houses.

A comprehensive and qualified support staff, including an in-house nursing sister, learning support tutors and resident boarding house assistants, along with the convenience of a full catering and laundry service, further ensures a well-structured and supervised boarding “home” where our students have the focused independence and nurturing resources to excel in their education.

For further information and any admission queries about joining the boarding houses and making Somerset College your home, please contact:

admissions@somcol.co.za | +27 (0)21 842 8005 | www.somersetcollege.org
With the rapid rate of technological development and the increasing pace of change in society, the need for relevant approaches to teaching and learning has never been more critical. Indeed, champions of innovation and education, such as Sir Ken Robinson, Jack Ma, Salman Khan, Sheryl Sandberg, Simon Sinek and Elon Musk all recognise that the current system of education is not serving children well enough and the world is changing so quickly that society urgently needs to educate differently.

It is within our changing world that the importance of 21st century skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and solution-seeking is emphasised. With this inspired future-focus, we are proud to introduce our ESTEAM programme and ESTEAM Innovation Centre.

**SOMERSET COLLEGE IS ESTEAM**

ESTEAM stands for Entrepreneurship, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. It is Somerset College’s inspirational project-based learning programme, where the pursuit of knowledge and the mastery of critical 21st century skills are powerfully partnered with cutting-edge technology and international connectivity so that our students may excel in our current reality and thrive in their as yet unknown futures.
Primarily housed in our new state-of-the-art and environmentally friendly Innovation Centre facility, but integrated across our whole school with our respected IEB and Cambridge curriculums, ESTEAM aims to put Somerset College at the forefront of South African and international educational innovation.

WE ARE THE INNOVATION CENTRE

ESTEAM also represents the heart of our school’s development, enriching the lives and expanding the horizons of our students and our community at large. The Somerset College ESTEAM Innovation Centre will be an epicentre of aspiration, creation and contribution, providing excellent infrastructure and facilities to enhance this development.

Dedicated Research, Art, Design, Physics and Robotics areas have been built with every space, studio and laboratory custom-equipped for collaborative innovation and entrepreneurial pursuit. Specifically selected design, coding, development and proto-typing software and machinery are further complemented by our specialised creation and construction workshop.

THE FUTURE IS HERE

Through ESTEAM, Somerset College has positioned itself to creatively challenge the paradigm of traditional schooling and push beyond the boundaries of classroom learning. We know that for our students to be leaders in innovation they must be educated in an environment that encourages thought, challenge and change. In choosing to become an ESTEAM school, Somerset College is committed to equip our students to be agile and able citizens in the world of the future.

For further information and any admission queries about joining Somerset College as the centre of educational innovation for the 21st century, please contact: admissions@somcol.co.za | +27 (0)21 842 8005 | www.somersetcollege.org
Culture is at the heart of Somerset College; led by strong academic departments in Music, Visual Arts and Dramatic Arts, creative expression is fully integrated into everyday school life. Here, our students’ creativity is inspired and encouraged through the guidance of accomplished teachers and the regular performance and exhibition opportunities available at Somerset College.

Our creativity gives us the space to explore, portraying our individuality and establishing identity in an encouraging and unique learning environment.

-Somerset College Student

No matter the genre of work, visual art and design form an everyday part of school life, with students’ artwork and installations displayed throughout the campus. From the very first explorations of tiny fingers and colourful paints to the highly refined and moving senior exhibition pieces, Somerset College encourages a love for artistic expression and celebrates the personal passions and visual voices of our students.
We express the inner world through personal imagery. Creating a vibrancy that adds more to our daily lives.

-Somerset College Student

INNOVATIVE PRODUCTIONS AND PURPOSEFUL PERFORMANCES

Whether it be the highly anticipated annual school productions, popular regional eisteddfods and national competitions, or our innovative student-produced theatre and more intimate grade exhibition and class performances, Somerset College offers a dynamic stage for all students. With a unique combination of critical thought, challenging creation and artistic purpose, drama is integral to the imagination and expression of Somerset College’s cultural vision.

Drama exposes us to an entirely new kind of learning. We develop skills not found in a typical classroom setting. Giving life to vision.

-Somerset College Student

DIVERSE DISCIPLINES AND INSPIRED HARMONY

Music is an essential part of the life at Somerset College, woven into all spheres of the school from Pre-Preparatory to the senior College. Our Music Departments offer tuition in a wide range of instruments and diverse opportunities to showcase developing talent through choir and orchestra performances, specialised bands and ensembles, and our annual grand stage POPS concert, the highlight of the musical calendar.

Whether the school is singing their hearts out on the side of the field, singing a hymn in the chapel or watching a friend perform, it is music that binds everyone together.

-Somerset College Student

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Somerset College believes there are many valuable life lessons to be learned outside the traditional classroom setting. We are privileged to incorporate our remarkable setting in the Western Cape as one of our most powerful and unique learning spaces. Our outdoor education programmes start in the Preparatory School and are integrated into a bespoke series of outdoor experiences from Grade 1 to Grade 11, teaching responsibility, building character and fostering friendships.

*The honesty of nature allows us to be our true selves, learning perseverance, resilience and independence.*
- Somerset College Student

**FINDING OUR WAY:**

**THE NATURAL EDUCATION OF THE OUTDOORS**

In today’s world of increasingly urbanised and constructed environments, we are often separated from the reality and experience of our natural surroundings. Our outdoor programmes are a creative approach to reconnect us with nature and provide unique opportunities for discovery, growth and shared experience.

*Our natural environment teaches us a renewed gratitude and confidence. Here we learn to harness all the determination we possess in the pursuit of the final destination.*
- Somerset College Student
ENGAGING THE ENVIRONMENT: AN INTEGRATED PROGRAMME

Starting in the Preparatory School, and staged through Grade 1 to 7, students first acquire basic camping proficiency, then embark on three and four-day camps where they further develop their outdoor skills, concluding their time in the Preparatory with a five-day action-packed experience that includes hiking, camping, community work and leadership training.

The Senior School advances the integrated Somerset College outdoor programme, building on the foundations of the Preparatory School with a three-day team building and orientation camp in Grade 8 and further Grade experiences in the Cederberg and in Elgin that focus on collaboration, communication, leadership, school spirit and community service.

THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

However, the flagship of Somerset College's outdoor programme is the Trek. Undertaken by all our Grade 9 students in November every year, Trek offers a rare and unrivalled opportunity for them to explore our natural surroundings and to further their education in an extraordinary 360km journey of physical discipline, spiritual reflection and self-discovery. As the only school outdoor programme of this magnitude in South Africa, this remarkable 27-day adventure is undertaken on foot, in canoes and on bicycles - traversing the unique and striking landscape of the South Western Cape. Through mountains, valleys, rivers, forests, farmlands, eco-reserves, sand dunes and seashores, Trek is an incomparable educational expedition of aspiration, adventure and growth. A rite of passage from which our young students emerge stronger, fitter, healthier and more mature – ready for their last three years of high school and empowered to come-of-age with purpose and dignity.

We are given the opportunity to accomplish incredible feats on Trek. It is an experience that teaches humility, independence and respect for oneself and others. I saw so much value in the Trek that I came back to do a further three as an accompanying adult. It is something that is truly unique to Somerset College and distinguishes it from any other school in South Africa.

- Somerset College Alumnus

This appreciation and commitment to the outdoors starts within our own school setting. From a campus that promotes environmentally sustainable practices with innovative macro-level design and management, along with daily recycling processes and water-saving projects, Somerset College presents a living environmental platform for all our outdoor programmes.
Sport is an essential part of a well-rounded education, developing physical and mental well-being as well as individual and team skills, while providing opportunities for challenging competition and the life lessons integral to winning and losing games.

Sport at Somerset College motivates an innate drive, growing our capacity and developing our tenacity - pushing us past our boundaries as we form relationships and develop a sense of unity and synergy.

-Somerset College Student

FITNESS FOR ALL

Somerset College offers a comprehensive range of winter and summer season individual and team sports, with specialist coaching staff and excellent training facilities and sports fields.
OUR SPORTS OFFERING CURRENTLY INCLUDES:

- Chess
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Fitness and Kinetics
- Hockey
- Indoor hockey
- Netball
- Pilates
- Rowing
- Rugby
- Squash
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Water polo

THE HOME GROUND OF CHALLENGE AND ACHIEVEMENT

Somerset College has proudly provided the home ground of provincial, national and Olympic representatives but our aim is to inspire every student to engage, challenge, learn and contribute with a proud heart.

Sport is as much about learning and growing as it is about competing. It provides a place for the community. We are proud of ourselves, of one another and of being together.

-Somerset College Student

For further information and any admission queries about Somerset College, please contact:

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