**Semi-structured interview schedule**

**Date: 12/06/22**

**Signature of researcher: JL**

**Name of participant: Frank (Gr. 11 Student)**

1. Briefly tell me about your choral singing experience. **Which choirs have you sung in** and **how long have you been a member in the Kearsney College Choir**?

I first started off at primary school, it’s just a **normal school in Amanzimtoti** where I sang **choir for about two years**. It was just a normal school choir until the **Drakensberg Boys Choir** came and auditioned me, and I was very keen on that. **That choir was a more professional choir and has a unique sound around it since it is a fantastic boy choir**. I was there for **five years** and then I came to **Kearsney** College on scholarship in 2021 and I have been here for **two years** now.

1. Explain your initial reasons for wanting to join the Kearsney College Choir.

I joined this choir for the **unique qualities it has**. For example, the **passion the boys have when we are performing**, the hierarchy, and all those things. It brings **a certain brotherhood into a choir performance.** The **pop sound especially is very enjoyable**.

1. What are some of the highlights (if any) of being a member of the Kearsney College Choir?

Just **performing** and **having a good time** and learning how to **lead others as a senior** in the choir. I am sure that this year, when we go on **tour**, that it would be a vibe.

1. How does choral singing make you feel? **Explain in detail**.

When I sing on stage, I just **enjoy myself**. When I saw a lot of people at first, I was quite **nervous**, but I have **learned to cope with that**. I learned **how to listen to the music**, to **flow with it** and just to enjoy while I sing it. That is also one of the best parts of choral singing, it **brings people around you closer while making music**, making it sound beautiful and making things happen. That is one of the best things when it happens.

1. Do you have friends in the choir? If so, how important are these friendships to you?

I have friends and **they are very important.** I have known one of my mates, James, for a very long time. I have known him since grade five and the only reason why we know each other so well is, well we both enjoy football, but most importantly, **I have known him since we were at the Drakensberg Boys Choir**, and we have been mates ever since then. We have been best mates for five, six years, and now we are here at Kearsney. Both of us are the only guys from our year group to come from Drakies and **we have just always stuck together**.

1. Do the members of the Kearsney College Choir share a unique brotherhood (separate from the rest of the school)? **Elaborate**.

I think we do. Obviously with the first team rugby, that is very big, but I would say that the **choir here is also strong**. As I have mentioned earlier, making music is just different to playing sports or doing academics, **it is just about the beauty music brings**. **I do not think that you will find anywhere else that you can make anything that beautiful with people**.

1. Do you think singing in a choir can bring diverse cultures together, and if so how, and if not, why do you think that is?

Of course. **There was a guy who came earlier this year from Germany, and he came to Kearsney on a music exchange offer**. Like most of the guys here in the choir, **this specific person just clicked because he was excellent in music and everyone else just wanted to learn more from him. Music has no language, it has no ethnicity, it has no race, it is just the beauty of the sound of it that makes people come together.**

1. How do you experience cultural integration (if any) within the choir?

**Coming from an Afrikaans family, I did not have many friends**. Nowadays, **most of my friends are black guys and some white guys**. Personally, **I can fit into any race** group and every single ethnicity. **I have no problem meeting new friends and new people**. I am sure that when I go overseas this year, or anywhere else in my life, I know that it would not be a problem for me.

1. Could you explain what you value most of being a choir member of the Kearsney College Choir? **Elaborate**.

**It is its uniqueness of it**. As I have mentioned earlier, **I do not think that you would find anywhere else where you could produce music like that** or just **come together with people from different race groups**. It certainly **is a special time in my life because, yes, I enjoy my first team rugby and academics**, all those things are hard work, but when I come to the **choir there is an aspect of it where I can enjoy myself and relax and where I could just be myself around other people**.

1. Have you ever experienced personal negativity because of singing in a choir (Kearsney or other)? **Explain**.

**There are some stereotypes regarding that**. For example, **girls are happier to be in choir compared to boys**, but when you have a look at it, men have more diverse voices. Yes, girls do have beautiful voices, but males can sing falsetto, tenor, and bass. **But there is still that stereotype, you can find mates from your previous school, and they could be excellent in sports and academics, and they can sometimes tell you: “that guy is in the choir, and it is nothing special”,** but they wouldn’t know that because they haven’t been part of the choir and have never made music before with other people.

1. What are some of the disadvantages of singing in a choir?

I wouldn’t say that there are any disadvantages. There are only advantages, for example, **you gain so many new skills like reading music, singing, and obviously, you could use that singing skill to sing to your girlfriend or something.** The only disadvantage regarding choir is maybe, as with anything else, time. **It just takes time away**.

1. What motivates you to continuously participate in choral singing?

The **people that you meet**. Even though you meet various different people, **it is about the people that you get to know in a choir and the music you could make together**. As I have mentioned earlier, everytime **I go to choir it becomes that space where I could just sing, where I could show who I really am because the world is rough out there**. It takes **more just being myself and letting the music flow and allowing it to take control, meeting other people, and experiencing new experiences.**