When I found out I was privileged enough to have the opportunity that PAWS provided, I was very excited. I had no idea what it entailed, but going to any game reserve, especially one like Kariega, was exciting enough on its own. At Kariega, we went on two different game drives and saw a wide variety of animals: lions, buffalo, elephant, wildebeest and of course rhinos. The moment one sees rhinos in the wild is a breath taking one – especially seeing Thandi with her calf, a survivor like no other. I got to see the conditions that the anti-poaching team live in. The fact that these people give up a normal lifestyle with comfort we take for granted – all to save the animals that can’t save themselves – is truly inspiring. Seeing wild animals up close again has fuelled my enthusiasm to hopefully join the ranks of people like Gavin de Lange of PAWS and the anti-poaching team one day. Thank you PAWS, for making the education of the young generation a top priority, as it should be.

Candice Denner.

Clarendon Girls High School - East London.