



*Founded 1922*

# HERSCHEL SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**No. 11 – 22 October 2021**

Dear Parents

This week's edition is a bumper issue! We have been able to revert to levels of activity under Lockdown Level 1 and host some important and rite of passage functions/ceremonies.

This year's **Matric Dance** was hosted at the Kenilworth Racecourse. It was an elegant and beautiful occasion at which the matrics shone! The Grade 11 Dance Committee, led by Lauren Searll, outdid themselves and from the drop-off to the parade, the mocktails and canapés, the first dance, dinner and Haadiyah's speech, right to the packed dance floor and the bottleneck at the dessert trolley, it was the most wonderful evening. These photographs will give you an idea of the fun that the matrics and their partners had at this beautiful venue. (Photos courtesy of Local Truth Photography and Belinda Gordon)









The **Matric Special Persons' Luncheon** was a memorable occasion. On Tuesday 12 October, we welcomed the matrics and their special guests to an outdoor luncheon on the lawns adjacent the fountain. This function provides an opportunity for the matrics, their invited special people and the staff to gather informally and to enjoy each other's company, reflect on their school years and anticipate their futures. Reyhana Ebrahim delivered a memorable and engaging speech, leaving the matrics, special persons and staff present with pearls of wisdom and food for thought. Headgirl, Haadiyah Ebrahim, acknowledged the role that her mother, Reyhana, plays in her life and this resonated with the audience. The photographs in this edition capture something of the essence of this beautiful outdoor finger luncheon.





We welcomed **Jane Horsfield** and **Megan Smith** to Herschel at the start of this term. Ms Jane Horsfield joins the English Department and we wish her a happy and enriching career at Herschel. We look forward to her contributions to the English Department.

Likewise, we welcome Megan Smith, who has taken up the Academic Support role in the Senior School. Mrs Smith will play an important role in assisting students who require support in any area of academic endeavour, and will run the applications for accommodations, liaising with the WCED in this regard.

Mrs Smith will also focus on career guidance with the Grade 9s in particular and will play an important role in assisting them when they make their subject choices for the FET phase (Grades 10 – 12).



(Ms Jane Horsfield and Mrs Megan Smith)

We are proud of **Juliette Roux** (Grade 11), who as you might have seen on our social media pages, was selected as a finalist to perform in the 2021 Pieter Kooij Music Competition on the 11th September 2021. Recorded auditions were viewed by an esteemed panel of adjudicators who chose 9 musicians to perform in front of a live audience in the final round which was held at the Welgemeend Hall. Juliette was awarded the category prize for the best strings player in the competition. Her accompanist was Albie van Schalkwyk.

Juliette also excelled in the Netwerk 24 Maths Competition, where she placed Second in the Senior Olympiad. Juliette was awarded the Diane Tucker Trophy. The competition was extremely tough and there was little to separate the top three in the competition. We congratulate Juliette on this excellent achievement.



**Sibulele Sodayise (Grade 12)**, who together with Rachel Mol and Noa Duckitt, sang for the audience at the Prize-Giving and Valedictory Ceremony last week, has been granted provisional admission to AMDA College of the Performing Arts, at the beginning of October 2022 at the Los Angeles campus. In joining AMDA College of the Performing Arts Sibulele will become part of the creative community of Hollywood. She will be introduced to the studios and theatres of Los Angeles and Hollywood which become part of 'the classroom'. She will thus get a real understanding of how the business actually works. Hundreds of films, television shows and live performances take place here each day.

Sibulele has been awarded a merit scholarship to the amount of \$10 000 per academic year! We hope that she is as super-proud of this incredible achievement as we are! She is thoroughly deserving of this accolade and we wish her every success.



## PRIZE-GIVING: ACADEMIC CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD UPDATE

**Prize-Giving update:** With regard to the Grade 12 Academic Excellence Certificate list, we congratulate Melissa Dalley, Emily Dalley and Zoë Cohen whose consistent application within each subject has seen them achieve excellent results. We are so sorry that they were not afforded the opportunity to receive their awards with audience appreciation and support, but this does not in any way diminish their outstanding achievements. Emily, Melissa and Zoë have done themselves, their families and Herschel proud!

Our prestigious annual **Prize-Giving Ceremony**, where we took pleasure in recognizing and celebrating our Grade 12 students for their exceptional hard work and commitment, took place on Wednesday evening.

Staff, learners and parents then bid farewell to the Matric Class of 2021 at a moving Valedictory Ceremony.

We wish our 2021 Matrics all the best as they prepare for their final exams!



(Jessica Prevôt, Dux of the School 2021)





(Natasha Paul, Second place (Proxime Accessit))



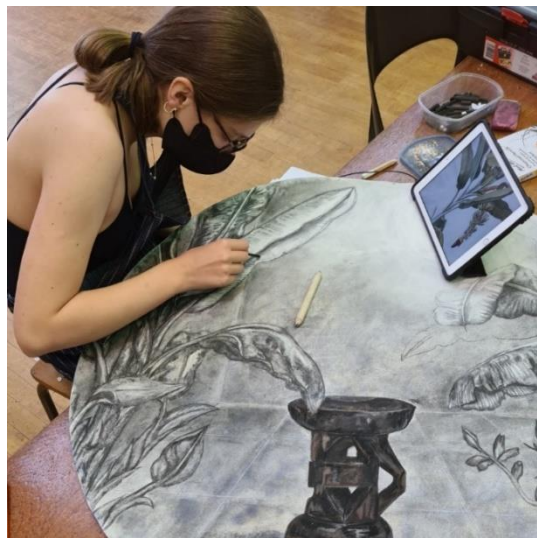
(Aria Ward, Third Place)

**GRADE 12 SPECIAL AWARDS (the full Prize List will be printed in the annual school magazine)**

PricewaterhouseCoopers Book Award for Accounting and Mathematics .....	Safiya Mia
Prize for Enthusiasm in Afrikaans Home Language .....	Maryam Ameen
Ethel Hill Cup for Spoken English .....	Epiphany Stransham-Ford
Bilingual Oral Proficiency at Home Language level .....	Maryam Ameen
Mrs McCormick's Prize for Spoken French .....	Safiya Mia
Janet Steyn Prize for Interest in the Humanities.....	Epiphany Stransham-Ford
Daphne Beames Aequa Mente Cup .....	Jessica Prevost
The Alicia Wilkinson Silwood Prize for Practical Cookery .....	Emily Dalley, Saskia van Der Byl
Mary Muller Picture of the Year .....	Georgia Horrigan
Stobie Musicianship Prize .....	Robyn Dunn
Choral Prize.....	Olivia Beauchamp
Jennifer Sale Drama Trophy for Outstanding Performance .....	Kayla Casewell
Annette Hartmann Trophy for the Dramatic Arts .....	Noa Duckitt, Caitlin Wilson-Trollip
McClurg Trophy for the Theatre Arts.....	Bibi Aishah Balim
Waterfield Prize for Commitment, Initiative and Fellowship in the Creative Arts .....	Noa Duckitt, Sibulele Sodayise
Jenny Torr Prize for Service to the Library .....	Maryam Ameen, Sarah Gordon
Erasmus Community Service Trophy .....	Aliya Bhorat
Claremont Rotary Club Prize.....	Jessica Prevost
Kirsten Locke Fellowship Award. ....	Chloë Rumbelow
Sandra Wingfield Fellowship Prize .....	Amaara Abdulla
The Jenna Lowe Trophy .....	Isabella Slabber
Schönborn Trophy for exceptional achievement.....	Hannah Pearse
Pietas Trophy presented by the Labia Family. ....	Gemma Wellington
Pamela Duff Award for an Enquiring Mind .....	Natasha Paul
The Di van Zyl Award.....	Maryam Ameen, Sarah Gordon
The Head's Award for Compassionate and Authentic Leadership .....	Laura Formby
The Head's Award for Compassionate and Intuitive Leadership .....	Jenna Betty
The Head's Award for Dedicated Servant Leadership.....	Haadiyah Ebrahim
The Old Herschel Award for Service, Loyalty and Leadership (trophy).....	Haadiyah Ebrahim

**"You can't use up Creativity. The more you use, the more you have." – Maya Angelou**

The Grade 12s undertook their three-day **Final Art Practical** last week and we look forward to seeing the work that they have produced. The accompanying photographs show these talented young artists hard at work. We wish them well and have no doubt that they will have done themselves and their teacher, Ms Nicola Jordan, proud!





On Sunday, 10 October, 15 of our students were **Confirmed** by Archbishop Thabo and took their first Communion. It was a joint event with students from Herschel, Bishops, St Cyprian's and St George's Grammar. Confirmation is an important step in the Anglican Church and an opportunity for the students to reaffirm their faith.

The Heads of the Schools, parents, guardians and friends joined together with the Chaplains and Archbishop Thabo at Bishops Memorial Chapel for this beautiful occasion.

The Herschel students were great ambassadors for our school, and we congratulate them on their Confirmation.



Toward the end of last term, **Kevin Smuts** informed us that he and his wife Cara have been offered and have accepted an exciting opportunity overseas. We are so excited for them and all that this venture promises, but unfortunately it does mean that Kevin has had to hand in his resignation as Director of Fusion at Herschel as of 2022.

Kevin has been with us for 17 years and founded Fusion at Herschel.

We know that Kevin will take great care in who takes over the care of Fusion and that he will be integrally part of a handover process, but we also know that his special touch, passion and commitment is irreplaceable. Kevin has brought magic to Herschel music and so many of his students. Thank you for the music, Kevin! We wish you and Cara every success and happiness in your move overseas.





This is a relatively short term with an academic focus, especially for the senior grades who will write their year-end examinations starting in two weeks. That said, with Lockdown Level 1 allowing for sport and cultural events, we look forward to some fixtures and events taking place over the next few weeks. As we look ahead, we urge all members of the Herschel community to take care and to continue to apply and observe all Covid-19 protocols in place to ensure our individual and collective health and safety. Please note that it is important to report to the school any incidence of a Covid-19 positive diagnosis, or precautionary self-isolation. We do not want to become complacent and to jeopardise the upcoming holiday period, which everyone is looking forward to, after what has been a tough year.

We will be appointing the student leadership team for 2022 in the weeks ahead. This process is one that is evolving in response to the changes that are taking place at Herschel and we recognize the need for inclusion, innovation and service, wanting our students to experience the opportunity to lead in areas about which they are passionate, and in ways that ensure that there is accountability, growth and commitment.

#### **Covid-19 vaccinations for teens**

As you are aware, the Covid-19 vaccine is available to teens between the ages of 12 and 17. The WCED and DoH are both actively encouraging school students to be vaccinated and we support this. On a practical note, we would advise you to take your daughters to be vaccinated on a Friday afternoon, or Saturday morning to allow for a rest period should they experience symptoms. Matrics are being encouraged to get vaccinated to offer an additional layer of protection during the final examinations.

A reminder to our parents visit our **Parent Hub** - our theme this term is Mental Health and we already have two articles - one on the effects of Covid-19 on different aged children and the other on building resilience to assist in facing adversity.

Here is the link:

<https://herschel-dat-peae.blogspot.com>



#### **GIFTING FOR NON-ACADEMIC STAFF AT HERSCHEL**

It is that time of year where we thank all staff for the multi-roles played daily on our beautiful campus and in the operational life of the school. We are requesting donations to be paid into the school's FNB Account number 50151103336. Sort code: 201109. The account name is "Herschel Association". (Please ensure that you select Cheque Account). We are incredibly grateful for the roles played in all areas of operation, including grounds, maintenance, cleaning, security and catering.

You will receive an email from your House Reps in this regard.