



HERSCHEL SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

No. 18 – 25 November 2022

Dear parents and pupils

Education is a change space. It needs to be.

The days of a 'job for life' are over. A recent LinkedIn report predicted *150 million new technology jobs in the next five years, [with] almost all of the roles in LinkedIn's "Jobs on the Rise" report for 2022 already [being] done remotely* (Forbes.com). With digital technologies driving change, all industries will be disrupted in time. For an overview of some of the changes needed in education to ensure that our pupils are ready for the future world of work, watch this short video by Bernard Marr, futurist and strategist: <https://youtu.be/F3ZciZvPgOI>

To navigate today's world, we need to nurture agile and creative, solution-finding mindsets and to encourage our pupils to challenge themselves, learn who they are and what they stand for, and strive towards growth. While achievement is part of this journey, it should not be the only focus. Too much emphasis on achievement can stymie growth because fear of failure and an 'obsession' with achievement prevents young adults from trying something new, experimenting with learning styles, being creative and putting themselves 'out there'. An interesting observation that I have made having taught for 20 years in boys' schools and now, for 13 years in girls' schools, is that the achievement narrative is far more manifest among girls. Don't get me wrong, boys' schools also focus on achievement (those of you in big boys' schools will know the pressure that comes with sport and performance, especially!) but there is a stress or pressure that

surrounds performance that is more visible in girls' schools. This is something that we discuss regularly. Notably, post Covid, there are higher levels of anxiety, fear and uncertainty and we need to look at what tools we can provide pupils with to assist them as they navigate their adolescence, young adulthood, friendship and high school years in a time of rapid change and volatility. The VUCA (Volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity) concept describes the situation of constant, unpredictable change that is now the norm, and we need to prepare pupils by equipping them to navigate and to withstand this, accepting of course, that by its very nature such a world is not something that can be controlled, or managed – but it can be responded to. We need to focus on this.

A values-based and holistic education promotes growth and development inclusive of academics, sport and wellness, culture, community engagement, self-awareness and spirituality. Lived Herschel values – authenticity, accountability, empathy, equity and equality, kindness and respect – along with people's chosen values, provide the bedrock for a relevant and enriching education. Herschel provides plenty of opportunity for holistic growth and it is this multi-faceted experience of school life that helps to build character and to develop the grit and grace needed post school. While we have enjoyed a return to full activity this year, I am conscious that the lag impact of Covid has affected people differently and while for some, this return has been seamless, for others it has been hard. The extended period of isolation experienced

by many has resulted in loneliness, fear, a sense of disconnection and uncertainty and we need to be mindful of this and not underestimate the toll on mental health. We have noted increased incidences of anxiety, some immature social behaviour, apathy (a 'why should I?' attitude) and a decline in manners and accountability. That said, an accountability framework which is supportive, encouraging and structured can provide the safety and reassurance required for re-entry and we need to partner in this. If you have concerns, please reach out to your daughter's tutor, House Director, Deputy House Director, Tracy Rousseau (Deputy Pastoral), the HSU (Herschel Support Unit) as per the channels of communication we have shared. It is important to talk about this and to action support.

I would like to know that every pupil at Herschel has a 'go to' person; that special teacher, tutor or coach who can be approached when a word of advice or reassurance is needed, when there is special news, or perhaps a point of concern that needs some discussion or resolution. Please check in with your daughters and ask them whether they have such a person and if they do not, please encourage them to find that connection. In my discussions with older pupils in Grades 11 and 12, I have noted how important this is.

Speaking of special teachers and coaches, last week the staff, past teachers and Heads, sports coaches and Heads of Sport at some of our competitor schools, gathered at a special farewell dinner held in honour of Helen Botha. Helen's family, her husband Johan, sons Craig and Michael (online in Bali) were all present to hear the tributes and gratitude expressed to Helen for 40 years of incredible service to Herschel. What a legend!

This past week has seen the Grade 12s continue with the NSC examinations which seem to be going well. This is something we judge according to noise levels before the exam and afterwards! A loud buzz and a certain pitch is indicative that all is well, while silence

is definitely not a good sign! So far, it has been mostly noisy! The Grade 10s and 11s have also been hard at work and their sessions have run smoothly. The Grade 9s will start their first exams on Monday and we hope that this experience will stand them in good stead going forward.

A massive thank you to all parents and supporters of the Golf Day held at The Royal Cape Golf Course on Friday 18th November. Your support of this fundraiser is greatly appreciated as the funds raised allow us to complete special projects at Herschel. Given that much was put on hold during the pandemic, there are several projects that require actioning and facilities that require upgrading or repurposing.

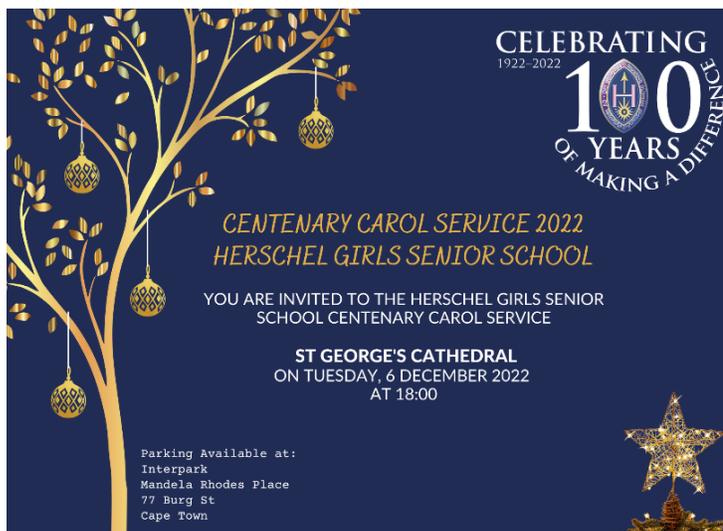


As we near the end of a busy year, please diarise the Centenary Christmas Celebration which takes place on The Field (Astro) at 18h00 on Monday 5th December. We look forward to welcoming the Herschel community to this special year-end service for all ages. It is a time for joy, fellowship and celebration! Those of you who play musical instruments and would like to join in please know that you are welcome to do so.

As we wrap up this busy year, focusing on examinations, report writing, planning for 2023, reflecting on what has worked well and what needs revisiting, as well as hosting the many functions that celebrate special moments, it is important to press pause when we can!

Our lives are full! This weekend, I hope that somewhere, sometime, you are intentional about finding the time and space to press pause!

Heather



CENTENARY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION ON THE FIELD AT THE PREP SCHOOL, 5TH DECEMBER 18:00.

This is a whole school celebration to which you are all warmly invited. Students, parents, staff, HAU, friends and family; please join us. Bring your picnic blanket and picnic but **NO ALCOHOL WILL BE PERMITTED**. We respectfully ask that you ensure you clean up your picnic area before you leave. Any parents, past pupils or staff that would like to join our Orchestra to accompany the congregational carols, please contact Mrs Crystal Davids at cdavids@herschel.org.za

CENTENARY CAROL SERVICE AT ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, 6TH DECEMBER 18:00.

This service is compulsory for students and staff. If your daughter needs to be excused for a specific reason from the service, please notify her House Director via email, 48 hours before the time.

Family and friends are very welcome to join us for this special celebration of our Centenary year. Parking is available opposite the Cathedral at Mandela Rhodes place. Please note this is paid parking.

FAREWELL DEAR HELEN

The staff performed "Great Heart" by Johnny Clegg because it speaks to Helen's great heart and kindness: watch the performance here:

[Staff Farewell song](#)



Mr Alfred Boko, Mr Chief Mde, Mrs Helen Botha, Mr Monde Sibizo and Mr Thula Songelwa



Past Heads Mr Bruce Probyn and Mrs Pamela Duff were special guests at the farewell dinner.



Senior School staff performing "Great Heart"



Ms Liane Karstens, Mrs Helen Botha & Ms Marise Laubscher



Mrs Sarah McArthur, Ms Rochelle Klassen, Mrs Nuraan Barendse & Mrs Helen Botha

The Justice Desk's Mbokodo Club

Join The Justice Desk for an incredible day of music and entertainment, featuring local celebrities including Zolani Mahola, Marco Spaumer, Meghan Hector and, of course, our very own Mbokodo Project girls!

All proceeds will go towards The Mbokodo Project, which provides girl survivors of rape and gender-based violence with leadership and empowerment workshops, mental health care, trauma counselling, and self-defense and fitness classes.

The concert kicks off at 14:00 on Saturday, 26 November at the Herschel Girls School Theatre. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS! Book your tickets on Quicket:

<https://bit.ly/TheMbokodoProjectFundraiser>



FUNNELS & FAULTS ELECTIVE

Our Grade 9 Funnels & Faults elective made model volcanoes and then made concoctions of baking soda, dish soap, food colouring, vinegar and Mentos to ensure they could make them erupt! Lots of tense moments were experienced as our students eagerly awaited the outpouring of "lava", but these were soon followed by much joy and laughter.



FAREWELL TO A LEGEND

We say farewell to Ms Wendy Walter, retiring from the profession after 40 years of selfless service, the last 10 years at Herschel.

A no-nonsense teacher, known for her passion for her subject and respected and loved by her students, we wish her well on the journey ahead.



DESIGN IN GRADE 10 ROCKS!

The Grade 10 Design students have spent the better part of this term constructing their architectural models of a new Art and Design Centre - and they are magnificent. Inspirational designs, contemporary and organic lines, with strong architectural forms.



CLOTHING SALE

We are nearing the much-anticipated pre-loved clothing and goods sale. Thank you so much to those who have dropped items off at reception. We do appreciate your support.

Just a final reminder to those who may not yet have taken a look to see what they can contribute in the line of clothing, kitchenware, toys, books, linen and bedding. Items can be dropped off at the Sports Centre.



CENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS

The Herschel Alumnae Union will be selling their Centenary commemorative items at the Centenary Christmas Celebration taking place at the Prep School on the Asto on Monday, 5 December.

Come and get your Christmas shopping done early! For a full list of the wonderful items available for purchase, please visit <https://oha100.co.za/>





The much-anticipated Herschel Gala Dinner and Auction takes place on Saturday, 4th March 2023. It is not only the flagship fundraiser for the Herschel Bursary Fund, but also a social highlight on the school calendar! We are excited to invite you to join us for a magical evening of dinner, dancing and giving. The highlight of the evening is the auctioning of fantastic and sought-after prizes hosted by a professional auctioneer.

Herschel was founded in 1922 and the Herschel Bursary Fund offers financial support to young students entering high school who have the talent, academic potential and character to benefit from all that Herschel offers. The pandemic has highlighted inequity in education, and we recognise our need to act in a socially responsible manner and to seek ways of increasing access to excellent education for young women.

Over 120 students have benefited from the bursary scheme at Herschel and are assisted either in part, or completely by the Bursary Fund. Our annual fundraiser aims to ensure the sustainability of this fund so that Herschel can continue to offer a relevant and dynamic education to as wide a community as possible. All money raised on the night goes towards the Bursary Fund.

However, we cannot do this without the assistance of the entire Herschel community. Please join us in our efforts to offer more top-quality educational opportunities to students from diverse backgrounds.

THERE ARE VARIOUS WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE BURSARY FUND:

- **PLEDGE OR DONATE ANY AMOUNT:** Any amount donated will be greatly appreciated whether it is R100 or R100 000. Donations are welcome as soon as possible ending 4 March 2023.
- **TABLE BOOKINGS:** Rally your friends and book a table of 8 or 10. Individual tickets are available. Tickets are R650 per person.
- **DONATE ANY BEVERAGES TO BE SOLD ON THE NIGHT OF THE BURSARY DANCE (ALCOHOLIC OR NON-ALCOHOLIC)** such as wine, champagne, whiskey, gin, soft drinks, craft beer, mineral water, etc. Or, if you have any contacts in the beverage industry who may be able to assist with donations, please let us know.
- **PROVIDE AN AUCTION ITEM FOR THE LIVE AUCTION OR RAFFLE:**

Items such as spa and beauty treatment services, special wines and whiskies, jewelry, artworks, holiday trips (overseas and local), wildlife safaris, and professional services have proven to be popular and attracted high bids. Furthermore, create a special event such as a cooking class or donate a signed copy of a popular/sought-after book, a restaurant voucher...the options are endless. Think about what you would love to bid on or win in a raffle!

HERSCHEL BURSARY FUND EFT DETAILS:

Account Name:	Herschel Association
Bank:	First National Bank
Branch Code:	201109
Account Number:	50151103336
Type of Account:	Cheque
Reference for Payment:	HBFD2023 followed by Surname e.g., HBFD2023SMITH

Should you have any enquiries, please contact Verna at galadinner@herschel.org.za



2023

Gala Dinner & Auction

SAVE THE DATE

March 4th

formal invitation to follow

