



HERSCHEL SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

No. 1 – 30 January 2023

Greetings to all parents and pupils!

My first communication to you was a celebratory one in which we applauded the outstanding achievements of the matric Class of 2022! On the back of their exceptional results in the WCED NSC Examinations, we are all very proud of the academic performance of last year's Grade 10 and 11 pupils, who we celebrated with in a special Prize-Giving ceremony on Tuesday last week.

This provided us with an opportunity at the start of this new year, to wish each and every pupil at Herschel a learning journey that is rich and varied, fulfilling and exciting. The start of a year is always a good time to set goals and to go after them and we encourage our pupils to do this in a holistic and healthy manner, not to compare themselves to anyone else, but to focus on their goals, their growth and their learning as they journey at Herschel. I am well aware of the phenomenal work ethic, pressure and discipline that so many Herschel pupils hold themselves to, and as I said at the prize-giving ceremony, my role as Head is to remind them to pace themselves and to work at balancing structure and focus, with creativity, friendship and selfcare. I cannot emphasise this enough. We see the results of negative pressure and stress and as teachers and parents we need to work together and guide the girls to develop healthy expectations of themselves and to recognise their strengths while identifying areas for growth and development.

Only two weeks in and we have started well on the sporting front with excellent performances in waterpolo, indoor hockey and basketball. The results have been published via social media platforms and we congratulate players and coaches alike!

We welcomed Maryke Eloff as our new Head of Sport earlier this month and look forward to her leading this vital part of life at Herschel with a growing team in Pam Bowren, who you know, Nicole Mangondo (who joins us this week) and Annemie Klopper (School medic, and biokineticist) who has been instrumental in setting up the Herschel Gym and reorganising first aid and medical care at Herschel. We look forward to focusing more intentionally on the holistic development of the female athlete. This requires a multi-disciplinary approach to competitive sport, without compromising on the social and fun aspects of sport that are very important for holistic development, confidence, physical development and wellbeing.



The cultural space has been equally productive with rehearsals for this term's senior school production and Herschfest on the horizon (17 February). The Music Department is in full swing setting up ensembles, assembling the chorale and the choir and preparing for another full year of making music and providing entertainment at the many Herschel functions that we host. Our campus has been vibrant and there has been a sense of excitement to the start of this year. What has amplified this is the fact that we are mask free and have been able to dive straight into a new year with a sense of gratitude! It is my sincere hope that this positivity is something that we can all thrive on; that it provides impetus to a positive force for change and growth at Herschel.

The Jagger and Carter House functions were well attended and provided staff and parents with a wonderful opportunity to connect. The pupils had fun bonding in their houses and getting to know each other and their house leadership teams. I look forward to meeting you all at this week's Rolt and Merriman House functions. Tracy Rousseau, together with the House Directors and Assistant House Directors, is working hard at putting the House system at the centre of our pastoral approach, especially with regard to building relationships and a sense of belonging and we welcome ideas and feedback that will assist further with growing an authentic sense of community in our school.

We thought that education was disrupted with the forced move online during the pandemic, and in a sense this 'precursor' has set us up well to integrate and deal with the further and far more rigorous changes likely with the integration of artificial intelligence and ensuing tech platforms. One of the most important shifts that we need to make is one that recognises that the **learning** that takes place should be our focus. Up until recently, marks or results have dominated people's marker for success or achievement. This measurement has come at the expense of a growth mindset and learning. In a society

obsessed with marks, defaulting to "what did you get?" as opposed to "what did you learn?" has been a problem. It is going to require intentional effort and focus to shift towards a more sustainable and holistic educational philosophy that sees beyond marks. This challenge is of course complicated further by the 'measurements' in place for university entrances, hence the need to look at education holistically and progressively. There is intense conversation around this shift currently, and many educational leaders are assessing the need to integrate skills into the curriculum, creating more opportunity for practice and failure, improvement and growth and placing less emphasis on achievement and measurement. This does not compromise the level of knowledge and excellent academic standards; it reintroduces learning as a dynamic continuum, reducing fear of failure.

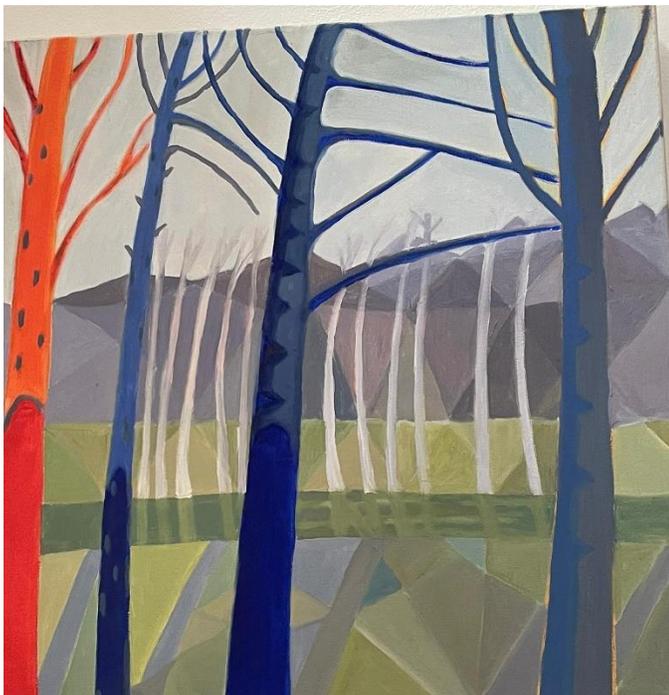
I LOVED this short videoclip on Edutopia, shared with staff by Kerri-Lyn East (Academic Deputy) in our staff development group via Google Classroom. It speaks to four strategies for making the shift towards learning: <https://twitter.com/edutopia/status/1588959833000067077>

For those interested in how education is changing and in some of the current topics/conversations that are shaping approaches to education, Edutopia is a useful resource.

In our first assembly, I shared with the pupils and teachers that I had asked ChatGPT (developed by Open AI) to generate my 'welcome back' speech and that had I chosen to give it, it would have served the purpose well! ChatGPT is an artificial intelligence text generator which generates human-like text in response to questions and prompts via a natural language processing (NLP) capacity which is impressive, despite there being limitations and some inaccuracies. It has caused a stir on many platforms, given its capacity for use in education, research, industries making extensive use of searches; think tourism and hospitality, health and medical, law and the like. Watch this space!

On a practical level it will lead to our need to ensure that responses submitted are authentic and not generated by smart bots on behalf of our pupils! Universities have already commented on this potential issue.

It was awesome to venture into town last week – 6 Spin Street, specifically, to view Anne Foale-Price's paintings at an exhibition titled *One Art*. What a powerful visual reminder of the fullness of life, and of the catharsis and poetry in the creative process. On behalf of the Herschel community, I would like to extend our warm congratulations to Anne. Anne teaches Art in the Preparatory School where our pupils benefit from her passion, talent and creativity. When teachers exemplify continued growth and learning, it is inspiring because it is transformative in the lives of pupils who sense their teachers' engagement and passion and flourish in such spaces.



In closing this first Newsletter, I would like to share with you, a George Dei quote which I shared with the staff and pupils in our first week back. It inspires us to grow forward together; a caring community, aware of our individual and collective responsibility to make Herschel a happy, safe and nurturing school:

Inclusion is not bringing people into what already exists; it is making a new space a better space for everybody.

Wishing you a happy and productive week.

Heather

NEW STAFF TERM 1 2023



Front Row (L-R): Aileen Schippers (Fees Officer), Alexa February (Life Orientation teacher), Helene Swanson (Afrikaans Locum), Philippa Broadhurst (Science teacher)

Back Row (L-R): Maryke Eloff (Head of Sport), Lydia Titus (Reception and Admin assistant), Freddy Nyezi (Drama Locum), Pamela Collie (English teacher), Brittany Nygaard (History locum)

Absent: Nicole Mangondo (Sport Department)

CLASS OF 2022 MATRIC RESULTS



Founded 1922

HERSCHEL
GIRLS SCHOOL

Extraordinary achievements by the Herschel Matric Class of 2022

98 Candidates

100% Pass Rate

100% Bachelor's Degree Pass

459 Distinctions

(including Advanced Programme Maths & Advanced Programme English)

Average of 4.7 distinctions per candidate

12 pupils attained an aggregate of over 90%

52 pupils attained an aggregate of over 80%

92 of 98 pupils attained an A or B aggregate

36 pupils achieved 6 or more subject distinctions

64 pupils achieved 4 or more subject distinctions

Students in the Top 1% Nationally



Kate Forrest
Further Studies English



Anna Cousins
Further Studies English



Katherine Bennett
Further Studies
Mathematics

Top Herschel Achievers 2022



Juliette Roux
The Dux for 2022



Amelia Oppelt
Second Position



Sofia Angeliniadis
Third Position

Outstanding Pupil Achievements



Amelia Oppelt
9 Distinctions



Sofia Angeliniadis
8 Distinctions



Ruby Chames
8 Distinctions



Amber Dowling
8 Distinctions



Kate Forrest
8 Distinctions



Dayna Harris
8 Distinctions



Amy Hartmann
8 Distinctions



Daniella Jähnig
8 Distinctions



Jessica Kirsten
8 Distinctions



Catherine Laubscher
8 Distinctions



Lulama Lingela
8 Distinctions



Hannah Owen
8 Distinctions

Outstanding Pupil Achievements



Outstanding Pupil Achievements



Outstanding Pupil Achievements



Some of our pupils elect to complete their National Senior Certificate examinations and additionally offer the Further Studies subjects, previously known as Advanced Programmes. These subjects offer interested pupils an academic extension and challenge.

We are extremely proud of 3 of our pupils who out of about two and half thousand pupils, came in the top 1% in the country in the IEB Further Studies (FS) examinations in 2022. Kate Forrest and Anna Cousins in FS English and Katherine Bennett in FS Mathematics.

An extract from Anne Oberholzer's (CEO of the IEB) press release on 16 January 2022: 'The Further Studies examinations now form part of the IEB's International Senior Certificate (ISC) qualification which is offered by the IEB to participating schools in Eswatini, Mozambique and Namibia.

The conduct of the ISC including Further Studies, is externally quality assured by Stellenbosch University Unit for International Credentialing (SU-UIC). The IEB has ensured the benchmarking of the Further Studies curricula and assessment so that South Africans can be assured that educational standards in this country are globally competitive.

The ISC qualification has been benchmarked by Universities South Africa (USAf) as well the UK equivalent of SAQA, namely UK ENIC. Through a thorough benchmarking exercise, they have concluded that the ISC qualification is comparable in demand to the to the UK's AS (Advanced Subsidiary) levels, Australia's Senior Secondary Certificate of Education and Kenya's Certificate of Secondary Education. The Further Studies courses, however, are comparable in demand to the A-levels of the UK.'

For more information on Foreign universities, please refer to the following two links:

[Circular Foreign Universities](#)

[Foreign Universities List](#)

Grade 8 Science Single Focus Day

For our first Single Focus Day for 2023, our Grade 8 students visited the Heart of Cape Town Museum and the Science Centre.



2022 Grade 10 and 11 Prize-Giving Assembly

We held our Grade 10 and 11 Prize-Giving last week where we acknowledged and celebrated the incredible academic achievements of the students who performed exceedingly well in Grades 10 and 11 in 2022. Special mention must be made to the students with the top three averages in the grade, based on all three terms of the year, who received grade medals as well as Certificates of Academic Excellence:

Grade 10

Third place: Kaitlyn Knight

Second place: Cate Lea

First place: Taskya Pillay



Grade 11

Third place Salma Moosa

Second place Esther Couves

First place Kelsie Lawrenson



Special Award: Sonia Beck Essay Prize

The Sonia Beck Essay Prize is awarded to the Grade 11 student whose research essay is adjudged to be the best by both internal and external moderators.

The runner-up was **Keryn van der Westhuizen** who researched “How do social, economic, and cultural factors affect gender disparity in the STEM fields when comparing developed and developing countries?”

The winner of the Sonia Beck Prize is **Kelsie Lawrenson** who researched “As a significant contributor to climate change, to what extent can crop farming and resultant waste management in the United States be altered to mitigate the effects of the climate crises?”



HERSHFEST

Join us on the 17 February for 'Hershfest' - a magical musical celebration on our 101st Founder's Day. Started by incoming Cultural Head Olivia Doidge in 2019, Hershfest is an event for the whole family.

Come and experience a wide variety of contemporary acoustic music performed by the talented students from Grades 6-12. Bring your own picnic or have a bite to eat from one of our food trucks.

In addition, performers from the Herschel Rock Bands, 'High Maintenance' and 'Major Storm', our acapella group 'Fusion' and the Marimba Band 'Amawhololo' will add to the ambiance whilst you unwind under the fairy lights and the stars. Bring your friends and family in support of this special Herschel Community event!

Tickets are on sale now via Quicket. R80 Students, R100 Adults, Children under 6 free.



HERSCHFEST

**CONTEMPORARY ACOUSTIC
MUSIC FESTIVAL**

A Night of Music under the Stars

17:30 - 21:00

17 FEBRUARY 2023

INKWENKWEZI MUSIC CENTRE LAWNS

**BRING A PICNIC, FOOD TRUCKS WILL
BE AVAILABLE**

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON QUICKET

Herschel Padel Tournament

The inaugural Flagship Herschel Padel Tournament is fast approaching. Team bookings to participate are available. All proceeds will go towards the Herschel hockey squad for their international tour in April.



Navigate Safely Forward

presents the

THE FLAGSHIP HERSCHEL PADEL TOURNAMENT



Join us for a social day of padel, music, refreshments, and fun:

Date: Saturday, 11 Feb 2023

Venue: Africa Padel Claremont

Entry fee: R2,000 per team:

- Rackets and balls provided
- 24 men and women teams
- Beginners and intermediate pools
- Minimum of 2.5 hours of game time

Email your entries to:
alea@coronation.co.za

All proceeds go towards the
HERSCHEL HOCKEY SQUAD
touring the Netherlands in April 2023.





You're Invited

to help make a difference

This is your chance to help offer top-quality educational opportunities to outstanding and deserving women

Book now - Tickets selling fast

Date: 4th March 2023

Time: 6pm | Dress: Formal

Cost: R650 Per Person

galadinner@herschel.org.za

www.herschelgaladinner.co.za



**GALA DINNER
VALENTINE'S DAY RAFFLE
IN AID OF THE HERSCHEL
BURSARY FUND**

Spoil a loved one this Valentine's Day with a hamper full of decadent treats:

- Teddy Bear*
- Biscuits & chocolate treats*
- Gelish manicure*
- Alcohol-free bubbly*
- Candle*
- Serendipity Creamery voucher*
- Mug & smoothie cup*

Tickets will be on sale via the Karri app from 1st February - 10th February (raffle closes at 16h00)

R20 per ticket or R50 for three tickets.



It's her journey

Save the Date

Herschel Girls School
Grade 8 2024 Open Day
13 & 14 February 2023

Bookings open on Quicket 1 February at 8:00
and close on 6 February at 16:00

Learning to make a difference

