



HERSCHEL SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

No. 6 – 21 April 2022

Dear Parents and pupils

A short message from me this week, as I have hit the road running ... as have many of you!

It is exciting to have returned to the installation of both generators in the Senior and Preparatory Schools; well-timed from a load shedding perspective as we grapple with levels 4 – 6!



The new Astro is in use too, and we look forward to a full set of fixtures against Bloemhof this Saturday. The School Gym is also operational, and I am glad that this space will provide support for our sportswomen and for girls wanting to enjoy the facility more recreationally too.

I hope that the April / Easter holiday provided an enjoyable break from the school routine. This holiday was almost as busy as Term One for some of the Herschel pupils and staff! I am pleased to report that the overseas hockey tour was a great success, with both teams thoroughly enjoying the games and clinics,

as well as the sights and experiences to be found in The Netherlands and Germany. It was perhaps a lot colder than the girls anticipated, something that many of them commented on when I asked them how the tour had gone. What was clearly evident was the impact of friendship, shared experiences and memories made. I am grateful to the accompanying staff (Maryke Eloff, Pam Bowren, Andrew Scott and Denzil Dolley) who also enjoyed the tour and who commented on what a wonderful tour group this was.

A group of pupils enjoyed a beautiful hike, based at Eerste Tol on the Bainskloof Pass. They hiked 15 kms up and down the Happy Valley Trail in the Lemietberg mountains and spent a good few hours rock-hopping down the Rocker-Hopper Trail in the Witte River. My thanks to Wendy and Sandy Paterson, and to Brittany Nygaard for accompanying them. Spending time in nature is restorative and healthy and the photos certainly reflect this.



The Easter Service was beautiful – a celebration shared and enriched through music – choral and instrumental – at St Saviour’s Anglican Church. We are blessed with an incredibly talented and creative music department at Herschel and this supports the development of the girls and the various ensembles, choirs and musicians who enrich each service / occasion at Herschel. The participation of both staff and pupils is very special. I enjoyed watching pupils express their appreciation of some of their teachers’ musicianship at the service. It was heartfelt.

Next week, in the spirit of having some fun and entertaining our girls, some of the staff have been in rehearsal for a production – *Music and Murder* – which will run over two nights on the 25th and 26th April. We are hopeful that our pupils will support staff! We are so fortunate to be entertained on so many levels by the talented pupils we have at Herschel and this is a little bit of a ‘giving back’ and creating some space for fun and laughter.

We would like to urge all parents to please drive very carefully in the roads around the school. Please be vigilant of the movement of girls in these areas, especially at drop-off and pick-up times. Traffic is congested and people are often in a hurry, overtaking quite fast, or ‘taking a gap’. There have been a couple of instances where we have had close calls!

We fully appreciate the frustrations around Herschel traffic, given our location. It is extremely busy! Our priority is the safety of our pupils arriving and leaving and while we can control – to some extent – what happens within the gates of Herschel, we cannot control what happens outside! Thank you!

I look forward to seeing some of you on Saturday at the first matches that we’ll be playing on the new astroturf.



A special Eid-ul-Fitr to our Muslim friends and families at Herschel. May you enjoy all the festivities and blessings of the year.



Enjoy the weekend!

Heather.

Our sports app SOX is no longer operational. We are very excited to launch our new sports app **Sportiva** in the next few weeks. Watch this space for more information!

STAFF NEWS

We welcomed Renee Swartz at a special assembly this week. Renee begins her tenure as the Head of the Preparatory School and we wish all the very best.



In the Senior School, Sheldon Cross joins us in the Cultural Department as Dramatic Arts teacher. Welcome, Sheldon!



In other exciting staff news, Ms Carmen Nicholls got married in the holidays and she is now Mrs Wilsch!! Her email address therefore changes to cwilsch@herschel.org.za



ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Ameera Yacoob (Grade 11) who competed in the Western Cape Inter Cape Regional Chess Championships in Mossel Bay as part of the WP U19 Girls team. They came in second place, and Ameera beat WCM Olympic Player Rebecca Selkirk. Furthermore, she competed in the Western Cape High School Championships Finals, where she came first, winning a gold medal and making her the top U19 Girls Chess player in the Western Cape.



Awards Assembly

Congratulations to all pupils who received Sport and Cultural Awards at our Awards Assembly held this week.



Jessica Schilz received an Honours Award for South African Representation in Tennis



Romy Myers received an Honours Award for her participation in Drama.



Basketball Awards



Indoor Hockey Awards



Tennis Awards



Drama Awards



Swimming Awards



Music and Ensemble Awards



Water polo Awards

EASTER SERVICE

On Wednesday we held our Easter service at St Saviour's Church. A solemn service interspersed with beautiful choral pieces and divine instrumental renditions by our music pupils and staff.



HERSCHEL STAFF PRODUCTION!

There has been a murder at the manor! Someone has murdered the wealthy and charismatic Mr Harrington and the inspector is on the case. Who could the murderer be when everyone is a suspect? Join the Herschel staff for an evening of mystery, music, and murder! Tickets are available on Quicket: <https://bit.ly/MusicandMurderStaffProduction> COME AND SUPPORT!



SPORTS WRAP: ST MARY'S HOCKEY FESTIVAL AND OVERSEAS TOUR

There were two major hockey tours over the course of the holidays: St Mary's Hockey Festival and the overseas tour to the Netherlands and Germany.

With much excitement the 1st team left for Johannesburg on the 29th of March to partake in the St Mary's Tournament. The team played extremely well even though we were faced with a really challenging first pool. We finished second in our pool which secured us a spot in the combinational round. Taking several points over to this pool gave us a huge advantage. However, after loads of hockey, and a really rough first pool, we lost narrowly to Collegiate meaning that we did not qualify for the semi-finals. The team should be extremely proud of themselves for finishing 8th out of 32 schools. Thank you to the team for never giving up, for adapting to the extreme weather conditions and for always giving one hundred percent. (Ps: Well done to the matrics, Ms Eloff and Mr Dolley for successfully pulling off the most exceptional April fools' prank of all time!)

On the 3rd of April the 1st team was welcomed in Johannesburg by the festival team, which is where the real adventure began. We were ready for our two long flights, nine and six hours long, but we finally made it to Amsterdam. We were all so excited and could not wait for our adventures to begin.

Each team played five matches and three coaching clinics with professional Dutch and German coaches in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Cologne and Frankfurt. We really learnt a lot from the Dutch and German coaches as well as the teams we played against as they showed us a new perspective on hockey. After each game we were lucky enough to share a meal with the players at their clubs and we were able to get to know them and

chat to them about their different lifestyles. We learnt a lot from this tour but not only about hockey, it was also an incredible cultural experience. We all really enjoyed having the freedom to explore the four cities we went to. There were many amazing things we were able to do but a few of the highlights included visiting the Anne Frank house, going to the theme park Phantastialand, shopping, the canal cruise, the impressive cathedral in Cologne, trying different foods, hearing Emma and Sophia's beautiful singing 24/7 and Mr Scott saying 'agh nay Pieter' to our very interesting tour guide, Pieter.

Thank you to Ms Bowren, Ms Eloff, Mr Scott, and Mr Dolley for allowing this amazing opportunity and managing all 32 of us. I know it was sometimes stressful, but you did an amazing job and we are incredibly grateful to you all.

And lastly, I just want to say, never forget to have, "high high hopes for a living."

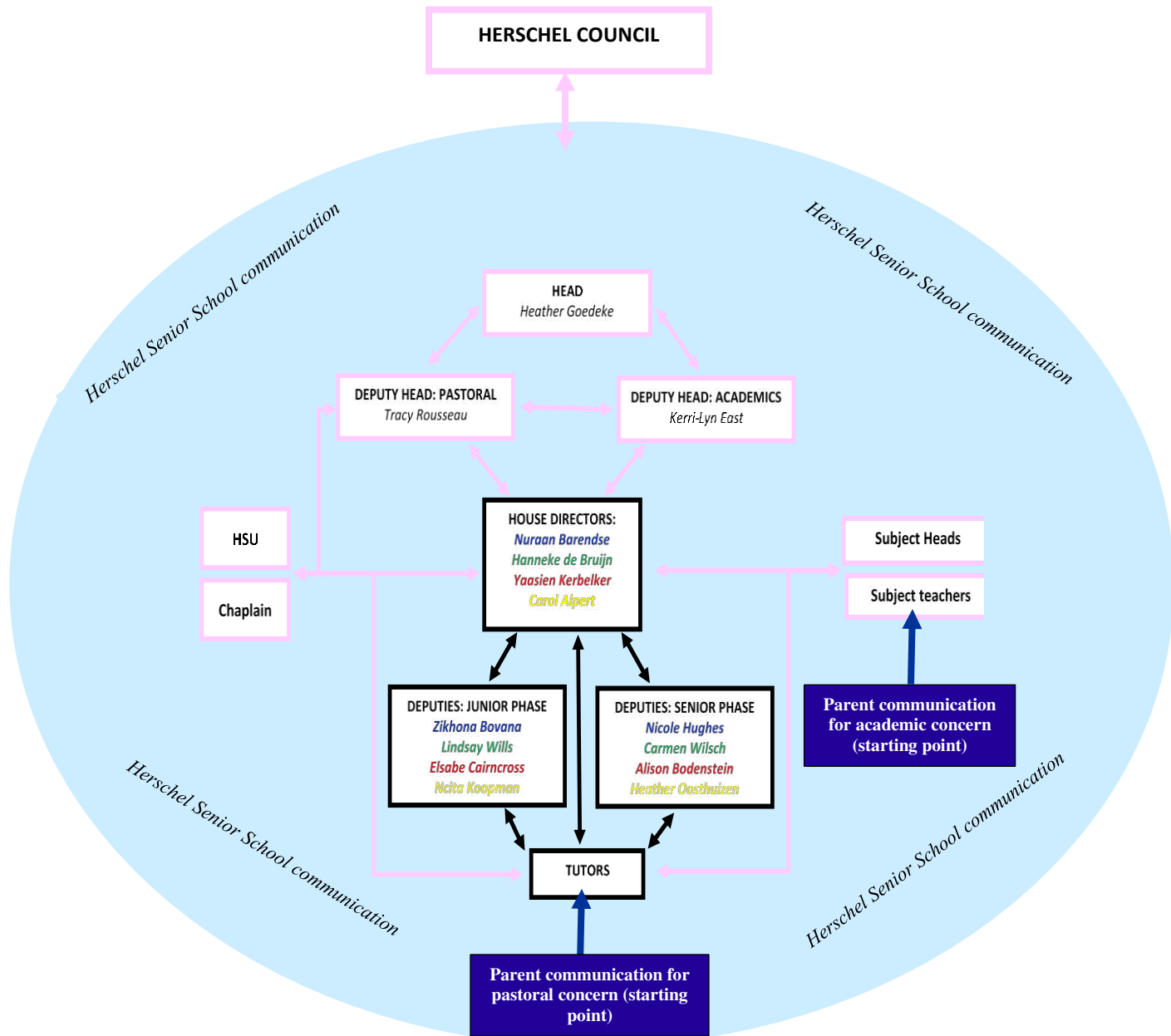
Thank you.

Emma Clarke – 1st Team Captain

Montana Manas – Festival Team Captain







Please take a moment to remind yourselves of our school communication channels.