

Matric Results

2024



Last year, my opening paragraph read: What a way to end an incredible relationship and journey with the WCED! We are so proud of our pupils' performance in the 2023 WCED NSC examinations and so excited for the opportunities that lie ahead.

And here we are – in the ‘ahead’.

I feel immense gratitude and pride in sharing with you the excellent IEB NSC results achieved by the Class of 2024. Matrics, you have done yourselves, your parents, your teachers and Herschel so proud! Congratulations!

Springbok coach, Rassie Erasmus said, “hulle weet nie wat ons weet nie” and it has become a South African ‘code’ of sorts. We knew. We knew what you knew, and you knew that we knew you were always going to deliver because of the phenomenal work ethic that you have and because of the dedication of your teachers and support of your families. We are so proud of you all – well done!

Great things never come from comfort zones – Neil Strauss

To the Matrics of 2024, I am sure that this quote makes sense to you! This has not been the most comfortable of journeys!

The results reflect a proud tradition of hard work on the part of Herschel pupils and teachers, holistic and enriching participation in school life, impressive time-management skills, and focused, curious engagement. Beyond this, the results reflect an ability to adapt, to dig deep and to absorb pressure, especially in this period of transition from the WCED to the IEB where pupils and staff have grappled with the changes in assessment and a shift to lateral thinking, critical literacies and problem-solving through the application and understanding of knowledge and concepts.

Those tough conversations and IEB meetings that we had when the Matrics were in Grades 10 and 11 put pressure on us all to deliver, and the pressure was certainly felt by everyone! But countering the pressure, I believe, there has been a quiet confidence and consistency having regard to the ability of the pupils and staff, driven by a desire to continue the proud tradition of academic excellence at Herschel. Focused consolidation sessions offered on the weekends, plenty of practice papers and feedback and reflection sessions ensured that the Matrics were well prepared for finals. Notably, improved performances in almost every subject between preliminaries and the final IEB NSC examinations bear testimony to the strategies put in place to support success. This, together with a legacy of teaching at Herschel that has always taken pupils beyond the curriculum.

I know that the Herschel Council joins me in congratulating the Matrics and teachers – all who have contributed to the growth and learning of the pupils – on an excellent set of results! We are so grateful to this team, ably led by Kerri-Lyn East, for their professional and caring input and support during a time of ongoing change and adaptation. Equally important in supporting this achievement is the layered pastoral support that our pupils receive. The focus on pupil wellbeing and an understanding of how hard it is at times to manage change and the busyness of school life, provides a realistic context within which to manage and prioritise, in essence preparing the pupils well for the world of work.

Our grateful thanks to all staff cohorts at Herschel. Thank you to the Grounds and Maintenance, Administrative, Catering and Security staff, who oversee and uphold their respective areas of operation to enable our core business – teaching and learning – to unfold in beautiful, well-kept spaces and in peace and safety. It takes a dedicated team to maintain our campus!

Our thanks too to all parents and guardians for putting your faith in us and entrusting us with the education of your daughters. We are privileged to have had the opportunity to play a part in their education and we value our partnership in preparing these young women for the next chapter of their lives.

Matrics of 2024, it is our hope that you will continue to advocate for what you believe in and for causes close to your hearts; to develop, learn and grow as you determine your next steps. We hope that you will hold the school tagline close to your hearts and that you will continue to ‘learn to make a difference’ wherever you find yourselves.

We hope that you will be brave enough to branch out, to challenge yourselves, to chase what fascinates you, to be consciously curious and to be active citizens in our democracy; socially aware and defenders of that which is just. In the words of activist Rosa Parks: Stand for something or you will fall for anything. Today’s mighty oak is yesterday’s nut that held its ground.

This year, focus on being true to who you are. Be kind to yourself and you will find that this supports your friendships and relationships with those close to you. Practice self-care as part of your daily routine to nurture resilience, healthy self-esteem and self-acceptance. Do not negotiate your self-worth with others.

We wish you every success in your chosen fields of study and work and look forward to hearing how you are doing – so please keep in touch!

[CLICK HERE](#) (if you have not done so already) for the analysis of the Matric results, distilled from the individual results supplied to us by the IEB. On a personal note, I would like to thank Kerri-Lyn East (Deputy Academics) and Tracy Rousseau (Deputy Pastoral), both of whom have worked hard to provide this analysis of the results for publication today.

#Thrivein2025!

Ad dei Gloriam!



HEATHER GOEDEKE
Head

