



MATRIC RESULTS 2025

January 2026

Success is best when it's shared. (Howard Schultz)

What a privilege it is once again to write to our Herschel community at this significant moment in the school year. Each January, as the results are released, we pause to recognise not only academic achievement but the journey behind it. Today, I am filled with pride and gratitude as I share with you the outstanding IEB NSC results of the Class of 2025. Matrics, you have done yourselves, your families, your teachers, and Herschel proud. Congratulations!

2025 demanded much of you. In assemblies, in classrooms, and most recently at Prize-Giving, we spoke about four attributes that are important in a world undergoing rapid change: curiosity, choice, contribution, and courage. These values, lived out daily, are embedded in your results. They reflect not only academic accomplishment but the character, integrity, and resilience with which you have approached your final school year.

Your achievements are rooted in **curiosity**: a willingness to ask 'why,' 'what if,' and 'why not'. Your ability to engage laterally and critically across disciplines and your capacity to adapt to increasingly complex global narratives, holding your ground in the face of uncertainty, is noteworthy. You have proven that while AI may assist us, it cannot replace what makes learning meaningful: human thinking, independence of mind, and a commitment to understanding.

Your results also reflect deliberate **choice**: the disciplined decisions made over months and years, the hours of consolidation, the practice papers, the reflection, and the maturity to own your learning. As always, improved performances across most subjects between prelims and finals confirm the depth of this commitment and the effectiveness of the strategies put in place to support you.

What stands out even more is your **contribution**: the way you have supported one another, strengthened the school's academic culture, and leaned into the layered pastoral structures that enable you to flourish. Academic excellence at Herschel is never achieved in isolation. It is supported by relationships, mentorship, wellbeing, and a deeply embedded culture of care. I am grateful to the academic and pastoral teams for the professionalism, integrity, and intentionality that underpins this success, not only in the Senior School, but also in the Preparatory School and our feeder primary schools. Your teachers across the years have played a role in your academic journeys, growth, and successes.

None of this would be possible without **courage**: courage to persevere through pressure, to ask for help and to rise after disappointment. You have shown courage in facing a world that seems to shift daily, and you have imagined possibility. You have shown the courage to stand firm in your values, to think independently and to choose purpose over apathy. It has been a defining feature of the Class of 2025.

We extend our deep gratitude to all staff cohorts across the School – Academic, Administrative, Pastoral, Grounds and Maintenance, Catering, Cleaning and Security – for their steady commitment to creating a campus that is safe, beautiful, and conducive to learning. It takes an entire team to support success and growth.

The Academic Staff Team has gone above and beyond, navigating the transition to the IEB (this being the second year of IEB NSC results) with intention and commitment. These results speak volumes about their expertise, hard work, and dedication. I want to acknowledge the lengths that they go to for each of the pupils in their classes – we are blessed with an exceptional and dynamic teaching team. My heartfelt thanks to Kerri-Lyn East, the Subject Head Team and all teachers for their role in the learning environment that we are creating at Herschel. An essential part of academic success is the holistic offering, which grows the girls physically, emotionally, psychologically, socially, and spiritually too. Their involvement in the broader life of the School supports cognition, develops empathy, friendship, care, and a sense of community, and results in the academic success and growth of each girl. My sincere thanks to Kerri-Lyn East and Tracy Rousseau for their leadership, counsel, and dedication, and for their focused efforts in compiling today's detailed analysis of results.

To Herschel Council, our sincere thanks for the time, expertise, care and leadership you provide in support of all that we undertake at this special school. Your oversight and governance have helped to establish a dynamic and responsive learning environment. Thank you to our parents and guardians for the trust you place in us and for partnering with us in the education of your daughters. Your support, encouragement, and engagement have played a significant role in shaping your daughters' journeys.

Matrices of 2025, you stand on the threshold of your next chapter at a time of extraordinary change. May you continue to hold curiosity as your superpower; to make choices with intention; to contribute in ways that uplift others and to act with courage even when the path is not clear. Do not outsource your thinking. Do not silence your questions. Do not underestimate the impact of your presence in the world.

As you step into the next chapter, take with you not only the seriousness of your achievements, but also a sense of humour, balance and perspective. Laugh often. Sleep occasionally. Learn to cook at least one decent meal. Phone home. Back up your work. Avoid group chats that should have been emails or face-to-face conversations. And remember that you do not need to have your entire life figured out by the end of January. You are allowed to grow, to explore, to change your mind, and to breathe.

Your blood will always be pink, and that bond does not fade once you leave the Herschel gates. We hope you will return soon to visit, to share your stories, to mentor younger Herschel girls, and to continue strengthening the community that has supported you. You are part of a legacy now; one that values courage, curiosity, contribution and choice, and we look forward to seeing the ways in which you will carry this forward.



As you leave Herschel, may you continue to live out our motto – to learn to make a difference. In the words of Dr Jane Goodall, whose life and legacy shaped our closing assembly: You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

[*Click Here*](#)

for the analysis of the Matric results, distilled from the individual results supplied to us by the IEB.

Ad Dei Gloriam.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'H Goedeke', written in a cursive style.

HEATHER GOEDEKE
Head



