



Founded 1921
HERSCHEL
 GIRLS' SCHOOL

Archives

NEWSLETTER

SENIOR SCHOOL

Number 8

28 September 2001

Dear Parents, Staff and Girls

I begin with a comment on the terror attack on the USA. The possibility of a prolonged global conflict and the damage to the cause of democracy are incalculable. Consequently, the events of the next few weeks will be critical as we devise our way forward.

**Terrorist Attack on the United States:
 Tuesday 11 September 2001**

The horror attack against the United States is a tragic catastrophe for mankind. The hijacking of 4 civilian aircraft and the killing of defenceless civilians has torn at the heart of humanity. What has happened will affect world affairs in ways as yet unimagined for a long time in the future. Our lives have been altered forever. None of us will ever feel safe again and we have certainly entered a new world order. The idea of an open society, with individual security, is fundamental to the pursuit of democratic government.

The implications for education are profound, since we need to educate for a world which is impossible to predict. We will need to react quickly as we endeavour to define which skills will be relevant and as we search for greater understanding of trends in education as well as the extent of our responsibility in informing and preparing our pupils.

FOCUS

Minister Kader Asmal: A Single National Matric Examination by 2005?

Minister Asmal made a statement on 11 September that private school matric examinations will end within four years. The Council of Education Ministers has agreed that all Grade 12 pupils should write a uniform examination in 2005. The assurance was given that the examination would be benchmarked against the highest international standards.

This announcement, which took the private education sector by surprise, could affect 5600 pupils who write the IEB (Independent Examinations Board) Examinations, the Cambridge International Examinations, as well as the Movement for Christian Education and School of Tomorrow.

The announcement that the IEB matric examination would not be recognised by government has astonished ISASA (Independent Schools' Association of Southern Africa). ISASA regards the principle of choice - as enshrined in the constitution - as an important democratic right which makes for a healthy education system; and plans to seek an urgent meeting with the Minister to present its case. ISASA supports the idea of one national matric examination, provided the level at which the examinations are set is high enough to ensure quality education in line with international standards.

Herschel is a member school of ISASA, although our pupils do not write the senior certificate examinations of the IEB, having chosen to stay with the State matric examination, in company with Bishops, St Cyprian's, Springfield Convent, St George's, St Joseph's and other independent schools in Cape Town.

Our approach, too, is that we have no problem with a single matric examination provided that the Scottish Examination Authority, or similar independent, international body, acts as monitor for the South African system.

You will be aware, from previous communications, that Minister Asmal assured us that the results of the benchmarking process which was requested in 1999 would be made public. As yet we have had no details of any such results for either the 1999 examination or for the 2000 examination, although in January 2001, Minister Asmal again mentioned referral of our papers to a benchmarking process in order to confirm the standard of the results against an international yardstick.

The Herschel Education Sub-committee of Council has again been instructed to explore the options of alternative exit examinations and we

shall keep parents informed of these findings. You can be assured of our prompt response to any further decisions regarding the exit examination or matric.

**Death of Dr Barbara Silberbauer -
Headmistress from 1970-1980**

We were saddened by the death in August of Dr Silberbauer, who will be fondly remembered by generations of Old Herschelians. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and two granddaughters, Fran and Alexis, who are currently pupils at the school.

Conference for Heads of Independent Schools
The Independent Schools' Association of Southern Africa (ISASA) and Southern African Heads of Independent Schools Association (SAHISA) Conference was held at Port Elizabeth from 26 - 30 August 2001.

I attended this Conference, where the theme was *Rejuvenation* and at which many relevant issues were addressed. The Keynote address on "Governance" was presented by Mr Patrick Bassett, President of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). He emphasised the primary role of a school Council to be one of stewardship and described how the Council, Staff, Parents' Associations, Head and administration interact.

Of great relevance was the session entitled "The Law and Schools", in which legal experts discussed test cases and possible courses of action. The question of Quality Assurance was addressed and the Instrument of assurance presented. This was especially interesting for me since I was a member of the panel of current and past Heads that worked to produce the document.

There were presentations on "The Development and Implementation of an AIDS Programme in our Schools". The issue has profound implications and a policy has been developed by ISASA, which we will use as a guide for the formulation and implementation of our own internal policy.

A highly motivating presentation was "How to stay competitive in Turbulent Times" from which I derived focus and garnered approaches which might be put into place at Herschel.

The main benefit from a Conference of this nature is the opportunity to share problems and ideas and to enjoy the collegial interaction. In discussion with colleagues one learns so much about ways of improving practices at one's own school.

We value the excellent service ISASA provides which keeps us abreast of regulations and trends in education. There are currently 50 services to

member schools for an annual subscription which is the equivalent of only one pupil's fee per annum. The costs of procuring our own services would be prohibitive.

**Retirement of Mr Desmond J. Loch Davis,
Chairman of Council**

It will be with great sadness that we shall say goodbye to Mr Loch Davis at the end of this year. He has been a member of Council since 1981 and Chairman since 1987. He has worked with three Headmistresses, Mrs Pam Geldard, Mrs Pamela Duff and , and has dedicated his interests to securing Herschel's position as the leading independent girls' school in the Western Cape.



Recently his focus has been to change the governance of the school, to establish Parents' Associations and to institute parental representation on Council. This has been accomplished in the Preparatory School and the initiative is still in place for the same to happen at the Senior School.

I am indebted to Mr Loch Davis for his wisdom in the careful custodianship of, and direction given to, our school, Herschel, over a long and distinguished tenure as Chairman.

**The Enrichment Programme 2001:
The Three Rs**

This ended on a very high note with the assurance that the objectives had largely been accomplished. The finale was a presentation, a summary of the involvements and experiences of the Grade 8 -11s over the two weeks of the programme.

We were moved to hear personal reflections from girls in which they explained how the programme had altered their approach to the plight of others: the aged, the disabled, the blind, the deaf, those with AIDS, Cerebral Palsy, Down's Syndrome and so on.

Our hope is that they incorporate this experience into their lives and reach out and help the less fortunate and deal more empathetically with the people with whom they interact at school, in their own family and in society.

This programme is in its 4th year and I applaud the generous contribution of the staff who have devised new and ingenious approaches whilst being involved in a very demanding timetable incurred through participation in the Six Schools' Examination. I must single out the dedicated effort of Mrs Shealagh Ryan, who together with Mrs Lesley MacIntyre, instituted the programme in 1998, and has ensured its continuation as a relevant and innovative learning experience for all girls from Grade 8-11.

These are examples of comments from the girls which portray their impressions of the Programme:

"It made me see what real problems are and how irrelevant my own are by comparison."

"At first I was scared but now I feel far more comfortable dealing with disabled people."

"Only when you begin to really know yourself can you start to care for others."

The Six-Schools' Examination

Our matrics have completed their Trial Examination and we are delighted with their achievements. The procedure has gone smoothly and I appreciate Mrs Clarke's co-ordination of the process. The Staff will make their decision as to whether we continue with the process in 2002. Bishops has withdrawn and we need to re-assess the advisability of continuing in a process which is very demanding, unless we are certain of the merits of our participation.

The countdown towards the Finals has started and these last three weeks have been a precious academic time, when lessons learned from the combined examination have been incorporated into the matrics' final preparation.

Subject Choice Evening: Grade 9

There was a good response to this meeting from the parents. We heard a presentation from Ms Bews on why English is such a necessary foundation for success in all subjects. Mr Wood then explained some of the processes which shape subject selection and representatives from all departments were there to consult with and advise parents. We reminded everyone that no decisions that are made are irrevocable.

CORRECTION

Mrs Jenny Thompson

02-12-1949 - 18-04-2000

We would like to apologise for printing the incorrect dates in the May Newsletter.

Staff News

- Mrs Renee Scott participated as a member of the South African Team in the World 100km Championships in France.
- Mrs Val Speedy retired from her position as Credit Controller after 12 years at the school. We wish her enjoyment as she now has the time to pursue all her hobbies and interests. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Debbie Frederiks to the administrative team in her place.
- Mrs Sarah du Toit and her husband are the proud parents of a lovely daughter, Jennifer, of whom Sarah was safely delivered on 6 September. Our warm congratulations are extended to them all.
- Ms Louise Roberts has become engaged to Mr Alan Gibbon and we congratulate them both.
- We have appointed two new teachers who will commence their duties in January 2002. They are Ms Debbie Main (Mathematics) and Ms Nicole Doherty (Mathematics / Music).

Exchange Programme

The tragedy in the USA has created a dilemma for the parents of our Exchange students. They now have to make a difficult personal decision in a matter of days. We said farewell to Jenny Piles who has returned to West Buckland, England and Gabby Wickham to Benenden, England. The Australian students, Jacqueline Horvat and Meaghan McCalman, have returned home, as have the Indian students, Mrinalini Aggarwal and Rishma Gill. We appreciate the contribution they made during their stay.

Sarah Whitehead and Jessica Glass have left for India and Jill van Aswegen for England. We have no doubt they will be embarking on an experience which will change their lives.

Sports Dinner: Wednesday 12 September

The Guest Speaker was Nick Mallett, who entertained the girls with anecdotes from his playing and coaching background. We greatly value the tireless hard work of the Director of Sport, Mrs Helen Botha, and all the coaches of the different sports. Our congratulations go to all those who have made sport at Herschel the resounding success it has become. Our Sportswoman of the Year 2001 is Sarah Bernstorf, a worthy winner indeed.

Matric Mothers' Luncheon: Friday 14 September

This was very well supported and marks the commencement of the final rites of passage whereby we say goodbye to the matrics of 2001. There were 7 mothers who are Old Herschelians and 18 girls who have completed their entire schooling at Herschel.

Matric Art Exhibition: Tuesday 25 September

This was a celebration of the work of the art students over the past five years and the individual exhibitions were stylishly displayed in the Mary Jagger Hall. The work of the Ceramics pupils was also on display and showed the talent of all the students, as well as the extent to which they have been inspired by their teachers.

Final Matric Drama Practical Examination: Tuesday 25 September

The Matrics presented their group theme programmes in front of a full theatre. I would like to thank Mrs Tessa Steyn and Mr Alan Committee for their efforts and the girls for excelling in an evening of absorbing theatre.

Broadening of Management Team

It is our intention to extend the team and thereby consult more comprehensively with the staff of both schools. There are two new Senior Academic Heads, Ms Denise Baws and Mrs Michelle van Schalkwyk, and a Senior Operations Head, Mr Andrew Scott. They will join the executive and will liaise closely on issues pertaining to all aspects of learning, developing and utilising staff.

The Preparatory School Management Team has also grown. We are proud to announce that Mrs Annette Champion is to assume the position of Deputy Head of Herschel Preparatory from January 2002. She will replace Mrs Annette Woolley who has been appointed as Head of Grade 4-7 at St Cyprian's. Mrs Cindy Summer is HOD: Pre-Preparatory, Mrs Dorothy Rains is HOD: Senior Preparatory, while Ms Heather Bailey assumes the position of HOD: Junior Preparatory.

The Senior and Preparatory Teams met at an inceptional launch, the Horizons meeting, at which they started to identify the challenges and plan their strategy for 2002 and beyond.



Visit our website at
www.herschel.wcape.school.za

The Enrichment Programme is available for your perusal on the website. Just click on Herschel News to find it.

Prefects Elect: 2002

Aison Bateman
Anna Haw
Angela Inglis
Sarah Keevy
Victoria Madden
Cathrin Middemann
Jula Penn
Gillian Salmon
Ma'ayan van der Westhuizen
Mary Waller

2002 Outreach Committee

Congratulations to the following girls who were selected to serve on the 2002 Outreach Committee: Nicole Aspinall, Jennifer de Villiers, Sandiso Maseko, Ma'ayan van der Westhuizen, Megan Watlyn.

Christian Union / GAP committee for 2002

Chairperson: Jennifer de Villiers
Grade 12: Aison Bateman, Tory Madden and Ma'ayan van der Westhuizen
Grade 11: Shelley Hanslo, Amy Jansen
Grade 10: Jessica Collins and Leanne de Villiers

UCT Expo 2001

Congratulations to all our girls who entered investigations in the 2001 UCT Expo. 2 gold, 6 silver and 2 bronze medals were won by Herschel girls. The gold medal winners will attend the National Expo in Pretoria during the September holiday. They are Nicole Gedye, Aimee Upshon and Taryn Moller.

Cape Town Elsteddfod Prize Winners' Concert (18 August 2001)

Superb results were achieved by our girls who participated in the Cape Town Elsteddfod.

Trophy Award Winners: Piano

Francisca Witt Memorial Trophy – Concerto 14 years and under: Ariella Cairn

Doris Lardner Cup for sight reading – 14 years & under: Ariella Cairn

Lily Savitz Cup – Bach – 17 years & under: Tessa Eadie (Tie)

Denise Blumenthal Mason Cup – Bach – 14 years and under: Sarisha Govender

Prize Winners : Strings

R50 Robert Hinings Award – for best violin recital – 15 years and over : Candice Erasmus

Robert Hinings Trophy to winner of Robert Hinings Cash Award – Violin Recital – 15 yrs and over : Candice Erasmus

Kaapse Afrikaanse Eisteddfod Results

Flute: Zoë McClarty (Honours ++ and Honours)
Kristina Miller (Honours+ and Honours)

Piano: Sarisha Govender (Honours+)
Nastassja Koen (Merit ++ and Honours++)
Joanne Kirkby (3 x Honours)
Beverley Lombard (2 x Honours+ and a Silver Medal)
Nemlia Nabe (Merit ++)
Stephanie Rainier (Merit)
Jill van Aswegen (Honours ++)

Herschel Chamber Orchestra conducted by Mrs Helga van der Merwe, with Candice Erasmus as leader, received Highest Honours and the Trophy for Large Ensembles (orchestral instruments).

Interact

Letters of thanks for donations from our girls were received from:

- CANSAs for the support during the "Cuppa for CANSAs" Campaign
- The Haven Night Shelter in Cape Town

Employees of the Month (August)

Congratulations to the following staff members who were selected as employees of the month. We thank them sincerely for the outstanding way in which they perform their duties.

Cleaning	:	Patricia Petersen
Catering	:	Maria Visagie
Grounds	:	Lionel Nondula
Maintenance	:	Frank Majola

SPORT**Netball**

Interschools' Netball Tournament:

Under 14: This enthusiastic team developed well through the season and won their section at the interschools' tournament. This is a team to watch in the future!

Under 16: They were the winners in their section, with Wynberg second. With Clemmie Hugo-Hamman and Jenna Pardon, steady and calm, shooting the goals, the end result could only be successful. Well done!

Under 18: Their third place in the tournament belies the magnificent character and commitment that this team has shown in the competition. We are indeed proud of them all.



Congratulations to Vanessa Wood, who has been selected for the Transnet and HTG Western Province Netball Training Squads.

Riding: Inter-schools' Two Phase Competition

Once again our riders braved the very blustery and cold conditions to take part in the "Inter-schools' Two Phase Competition" at The Riding Centre in Hout Bay on Women's Day, August 9. Two teams of three girls were entered to represent the Senior School and one team of four girls to represent the Preparatory School. The cross country course caused many more problems than in other years and several teams were eliminated but all our riders managed to finish. Our A & B Senior School teams did very well to finish 3rd and 4th respectively.

Congratulations to Clare McMullen, Kate McMullen, Sarah Desmarais, Taryn Thome, Karen Lamont and Frances Ions. In addition, Clare McMullen was placed 6th overall in the individual event.

Tennis

Jessica Collins reached the U16 girls' Semi-finals of the Watlons Western Province Tennis Junior Masters.

In closing

This has been a productive and full term and the staff and girls have risen to the challenges with resolve and enthusiasm. I so appreciate the way everyone has worked this term. Their achievements bear testimony to the work accomplished.

I hope this holiday period, although short, will be a restful time in which to gather our resources for the last term, with final examinations commencing for the matrics and the rest of the school facing the final few months of 2001.

Diana van Zyl
(MRS) A D VAN ZYL
HEADMISTRESS

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2002

Wednesday 23 Jan – Thursday 28 March

Wednesday 10 April – Friday 28 June

Tuesday 23 July – Friday 27 Sept

Tuesday 8 Oct – Wednesday 4 Dec



Alan Committie in
"The Clown Jewels"
 A Tribute to Visual Comedy

Venue : Herschel Theatre
 Date : 19 October 2001
 Time : 20:30
 Tickets : R40.00 each

Refreshments will be available.

Dates to remember



08 October
 School re-opens 07:50

10 October
 Speech Day

11 October
 Valedictory

12 October
 Herschel Golf Day at Royal Cape



2002 MATRIC DANCE

Exciting plans are afoot for next year's Matric Dance, so keep reading your notices, e-mails and the school notice board.

We want everyone to be involved and to have loads of fun, so if you have any suggestions or ideas please speak to someone on the committee. Let us make this really special for the 2002 Matrics.

GIRLS' DANCE COMMITTEE

Sarah Desmarais, Angie Jacobs, Jenna Paxton, Jess Schipper, Mary-Kate Vensteld, Tiff Vos and Tammy Woods.

PARENTS' DANCE COMMITTEE

Di Slingsby	Chairlady
Sally Silberbauer	Vice Chairlady
Fiona Combrink & Robyn Davel	Décor
Liz Wood & Rosemarie Saunders	Food
Sue Murray	
Frances Whitehead & Anthea Vos	Fundraising

Of course and our special Mrs Helen Stanford!

The next event for you to support is the Fashion Show to be held on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th October ably co-ordinated by Mrs Combrink and her committees.

GIRLS' FASHION SHOW COMMITTEE

Jo Cruse, Tiffany Harries, West Kamen, Namhla Nabe, Taryn Pereira, Jacqui Pickup, Jenny Steyn and Caroline Wood.

PARENTS' FASHION SHOW COMMITTEE

Geraldine Jansen	Chairlady
Jenny Jacobs & Frances Whitehead	Food
Frances Coates	Ticket Sales
Gail Woods	Fashion Houses

CLASS FORUM REPRESENTATIVES

8D	Zintle Gantsho
8E	Rolien Slotema
8I	Fabia Naser
8P	Jena Theron
9D	Kirsten Rich
9E	Katherine Lamond
9I	Tamyan Joseph
9P	Valerie Maku
10D	Shelley Hanslo
10E	Lufumo Masutha
10I	Kerrie-Lee Perrins
10P	Kayleigh Weldon
11D	Kim du Preez
11E	Hayley King
11I	Julia Penn
11P	Ma'ayan van der Westhuizen
12D	Gervaise Christie
12E	Nehtra Govender
12I	Joanne Kirkby
12P	Alia Sattar

CLASS ABSENTEE MONITRESSSES

8D	Victoria Brown
8E	Romy Fuchs
8I	Pumeza Sipamla
8P	Simone Peinke
9D	Kathryn Nell
9E	Nicole Gedys
9I	Michelle Jacobs
9P	Debra Goldschmidt
10D	Anu Bindal
10E	Rizqah Johaar
10I	Sally Saunders
10P	Juliet Urquhart
11D	Anne-Marie De Camara
11E	Nicole Hopkins
11I	Kim Sheppard
11P	Danielle van der Hoven
12D	Leanne Dittmer
12E	Libby Howard
12I	Sophie Lehr
12P	Kristy Stade

**"UNDER THE ILEX TREE"
CALLING ALL GR 12s**

*Do not forget to buy your copy of the
school video
R50-00 only*

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Bunur - Mr Mike Connolly

☎ 670 7514

Reception / Secretary - Mrs Jean Pollock

☎ 670 7500

PA to Headmistress - Mrs Elzabe Fowles

☎ 670 7511

Fees Officer - Mrs Debbie Frederiks

☎ 670 7519

Administrative Officer - Mrs Trish Palmer

☎ 670 7518

Marketing & Communications Manager

Mrs L Grabler

☎ 670 7516

Kitchen - Julia Rothquel / Thyra Smith

☎ 670 7522



We were quite surprised to see
how seriously our new traffic warden
is taking her responsibilities!

8/5/5/8