



3 January 2019

Dear Parents and Girls

We are inordinately proud of the Class of 2018! We congratulate them on a 100% Bachelor Degree pass rate which will allow all of the girls to pursue tertiary studies in 2019 and beyond.

In particular, we congratulate the following candidates on being placed on the *IEB List of Outstanding Achievers* Countrywide. They are among 61 pupils from 41 schools nationally.

Antonia Grindrod (8 distinctions)

Cenelle Gounden (7 distinctions)

Andrea Plumbley (8 distinctions)

This means that they achieved within the top 5% of learners in 6 or more subjects and scored 80% or more for Life Orientation.

Candidate distinctions:

8 Distinctions: Antonia Grindrod
 Humairaa Khalid
 Andrea Plumbley

7 Distinctions: Tayla Daykin
 Cenelle Gounden
 Isabella Hitchings
 Laura Jackson
 Caitlyn Le Grange
 Kiara Padayachee
 Rhea Valjee

6 Distinctions: Olivia Du Plessis
 Thandiwe Moyo
 Puja Pande
 Kate Phillips
 Tejal Ramjee
 Ruth Thumbi
 Rafaella Van Der Westhuyzen
 Nina Wiggins

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5 Distinctions: Phoebe Darby-Wade
Kirsten Dorkin
Reyhana Jacobs
Singita Khosa
Emma Lloyd
Taryn Naidoo
Shreya Nathwani
Isabelle Pattenden
Suzanna Spooner

4 Distinctions: Almira Abdool-Samad
Raeesah Arbee
Ayla Asad
Kiara Fernandes
Erin Johnson
Chloë King
Leandri Kleyn
Nina Mabusela
Jenna Matthews
Rethabile Moshesh
Kaley Mottram
Jordan Savic
Sumaya Simjee
Kirsten Stamatis
Lara Valenti

The following candidates achieved results that placed them in the **top 1% of the IEB candidates nationally in individual subjects**:

Antonia Grindrod (Business Studies, English Home Language, French Second Additional Language, isiZulu First Additional Language, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Physical Sciences)

Rhea Valjee (Business Studies)

Kate Phillips (Business Studies, Consumer Studies)

Kirsten Dorkin (English Home Language)

Ruth Thumbi (English Home Language)

Cenelle Gounden (English Home Language, Life Sciences)

Thandiwe Moyo (English Home Language)

Taryn Naidoo (English Home Language)

Raffaella Van Der Westhuyzen (English Home Language)

Jenna Matthews (English Home Language)

Diyara Prakash (Hindi Second Additional Language)

Andrea Plumbley (History, Life Sciences)

Rethabile Moshesh (isiZulu First Additional Language)

Humairaa Khalid (Life Orientation)

Kate Hill (Mathematical Literacy)

Olivia Du Plessis (Visual Arts)

There is so much to celebrate; not only in terms of our Top Achievers, but also with regard to the number of 'personal bests'. Well done, girls! Not only have you done yourselves proud, but you have done your families and the Durban Girls' College family proud and we salute you on this wonderful set of matric results.

At the end of 2018, a number of old girls returned from UCT, Stellenbosch and the University of Pretoria to express their gratitude for the preparation they received at school, for University life. They may not always be convinced that we understand the demands of 21st Century campus life, but in fact, we do consciously engage the skills that they acquire as First Year university students. The IEB (Independent Examination Board) is an excellent foundation for this and we are convinced of its credibility, bench-marked assessment standards and relevance for the tertiary space.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers at DGC for their hard work and loyalty, for their subject leadership and expertise, their mentorship and for the role that so many of them play in the marking processes (from portfolio and practical moderation, to being examiners, to marking and moderating the NSC IEB papers up in Gauteng); all of which constitutes professional development and feeds back into the experience the girls get in the classroom, enriching their understanding of each subject.

CEO of the IEB, Anne Oberholzer, states that “Active citizenry demands curious, motivated, ethical individuals who aspire to live in a better world.” We believe that the curriculum presented by the IEB supports this objective and that the methodologies engaged promote collaboration, problem-solving and critical evaluation. There is no doubt in our minds that within the South African curriculum space, the IEB presents the best option for assessment and learning and the benchmarking standards support this.

Thank you to you, the parents, for your ongoing support and commitment to excellence and for facilitating the opportunities your daughters have. Without this, the enriching aspects such as rites of passage, excursions and tours (both sporting and cultural), visits by guest speakers and theatre experiences would not be possible and we are deeply appreciative of your support in enabling experiential enrichment.

Our challenge at Durban Girls’ College is to be cognisant of contributing positively to education in South Africa by enriching our community; producing young women of substance who find their niche and qualify to be productive; who champion social responsibility, social justice, equality and environmental challenges so that they are equipped to face the realities and uncertainties of a rapidly changing world. They need to be collaborative and adaptable and we need to share their accomplishments outside of the academic sphere, along with the National Senior Certificate results, so that we do not focus singularly on results, but instead, present a more complete view of their commitment and sense of purpose.

Anne Oberholzer speaks of the importance of supporting these young adults with “the respect and encouragement that they deserve and need” and as they embark on their tertiary studies in a country that faces many challenges, I would like to endorse her sentiment wholeheartedly.

Heather Goedeke
Head of High School