

4 January 2012

Dear Parents

HeronBridge College once again boasts an outstanding set of National Senior Certificate results. Our various Grade 12 pupils certainly achieved well in the past but the 2011 group has raised the standard even further. The results summarise as follows:

- 100% pass rate;
- 100% access to tertiary studies rate (all qualifying to study further at either degree or diploma level);
- 93.6% university entrance rate (44 out of 47 qualifying to attend university);
- 95 A symbols (an average of 2.02 per candidate and up on the 1.9 figure of last year);
- 7 A, 15 B, 21 C and 4 D averages;
- the averages of the top 10% ranging from 82% to 86%.

Particular congratulations go to the top achievers:

- Joanne Tomlinson: 8 distinctions (English, Afrikaans, Mathematics, AP Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, History, Life Orientation), a B symbol for Mathematics Paper 3 and an average of 85% over all 9 subjects;
- Viktoria Bruns: 8 distinctions (English, Afrikaans, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Visual Arts, Life Orientation) and an average of 86% over the 8 subjects;
- Jarryd Webber: 6 distinctions (Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, AP Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Geography, Life Orientation), B symbols for English, Afrikaans, History and an average of 85% over all 9 subjects;
- Constantin Schulte-Brader: 8 distinctions (Afrikaans, Mathematics, Mathematics Paper 3, Physical Sciences, Accounting, Information Technology, German, Life Orientation), B symbols for English, AP Mathematics and an average over all 10 subjects of 83%.
- Christina Sardianos: 5 distinctions (Afrikaans, Geography, History, Life Orientation, Mathematical Literacy), B symbols for English, Accounting and an average of 84%;
- Tatum Morley: 5 distinctions (Afrikaans, History, Visual Arts, Life Orientation, Mathematical Literacy), B symbols for English, Physical Sciences and an average of 82%.

Viktoria is to be commended especially for attaining distinctions in every subject she offered.

The top 10 achievers were:

- Joanne Tomlinson
- Viktoria Bruns
- Constantin Schulte-Brader
- Jarryd Webber
- Johan Maree
- Piero Saieva
- Christina Sardianos
- Tatum Morley
- Jade Moulton
- Amy Bartlett

The subject averages were all as we expected them to be, with one equaling the IEB national average and all the others being above average.

The results speak for themselves. Some comment is apposite, however.

The excellent academic tradition of the past few years at HeronBridge has continued. Once again we have achieved what we refer to as the 100x100: 100% pass rate and 100% access to tertiary studies. I have commented in the past that we have made something of a bogey in our society of the overall pass rate. We judge schools on that figure, sometimes solely so. Schools are more than just that. I do acknowledge, however, the importance of all pupils passing and am of course delighted that all of ours have done so again. We must recognise the team effort required by teachers and pupils to achieve all passing. Pupils do not pass simply by attending a good school, an excellent school in our case! They have to work hard, apply themselves, write well in the stressful examinations - and listen to their teachers! Our pupils did all that and so deserve due approbation now.

The important figure for me is the university entrance rate. Situated where we are in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg and serving the community we do, the vast majority of our pupils study further. Some do take a gap year first but ours are generally young people headed to tertiary study. That all of them can do so again this year, and 94% of them at university, is what counts. For this, they have my special congratulations.

I value enormously the role played by the staff in achieving results like these. The pupils achieved for themselves, but not alone. They could never have done so without their teachers. We are seen once again to have the most outstanding teaching staff. I have said in other contexts that this is the finest staff with which I have ever worked. My point is proved by these results! I am privileged to work together with these teachers; our pupils are privileged to be taught by them.

Let's acknowledge God's goodness in all. He is the one who gives life and talent. We believe he stands firmly at the centre of all we are as a College. May he be honoured for these good results.

Finally, let me just say I'm not surprised by our final academic results. They simply crown 2011, arguably the best year yet for HeronBridge College!

My heartiest congratulations are extended to all our Grade 12 pupils and to all our teachers on achieving these very special NSC results.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DKlein', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

David Klein
College Head