

National Senior Certificate 2020

Ministerial Release of the 2020 NSC Results



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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MINISTERIAL RELEASE

Message from the Minister



I am deeply honoured to be acknowledging the efforts and sacrifices of the Class of 2020, who have persevered despite the immense odds and have emerged victorious. The learners that will be recognised for their sterling efforts, are representatives of the 578 468 candidates that sat for the 2020 National Senior Certificate examination, despite the doom and gloom. Each learner deserves a medal, for weathering the storm of fear and anxiety and finally writing the examination. Even those that have not attained the NSC, you have taken the first steps to attaining the NSC. You have achieved partial credits, which you could add to following our second chance programme.

The systemic trend of learner achievement of which this cohort has been a part of over the last 12 years was an upward trajectory. In 2009, the National Senior Certificate pass rate was 60% and 109 000 learners qualified for Bachelor admissions. In 2020, 76.2% of learners who wrote the National Senior Certificate examination passed and 210 820 of them achieved admission to Bachelor Studies. Over the last 10 years, the pass rate has remained consistently over 70% since reaching this benchmark in 2011. Internal analyses by the Department of Basic Education on the 2020 cohort indicated that the Grade 11 and Grade 10 results were higher than their counterparts of the 2019 cohort. The predictive analysis pointed to a continued upward trend in 2020. But we did not expect the system to be faced with a devastating pandemic that engrossed education systems, teaching and learning, parents and learners across the world into crisis. This unfortunately impacted on the performance of the Class of 2020.

A total of 578 468 full-time candidates sat for the 2020 NSC examinations. The overall pass rate for the 2020 cohort represents a decrease of 5.1 percentage points from 81.3% in 2019. Although there is decrease in the pass percentage, there has been a notable increase in the number of learners that attained the National Senior Certificate. The decrease in performance is notably sharper in provinces that have a significant rural constituency and is less pronounced in provinces with more urban settings. This may be ascribed to the COVID-19 pandemic conditions having a greater impact on schooling in rural areas and their constrained ability to re-organise and regain lost learning time due to school closures, learner absenteeism, teacher well-being, and access to resources.

The achievement of the Class of 2020 should be acknowledged with due respect to the fallen heroes of education sector. In the past year, the sad loss of teachers and officials who succumbed to the pandemic has robbed learners, families, the education sector and society of a multitude of individual talents, skills, dedication, and commitment that served generations of South African children from early learning to adolescence. The contribution of these “soldiers of learning”, many of whom invested into the achievements of the Class of 2020 will be forever remembered. In light of this I thank parents, teachers, principals, teacher unions, communities, district and provincial officials, and social partners for supporting the Class of 2020.

This brochure commemorates the Class of 2020 and I want to reassure this class that you will be remembered for years to come as the class of grit, tenacity and perseverance



MRS AM MOTSHEKGA, MP
MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION



The Class of 2020



The Class of 2020

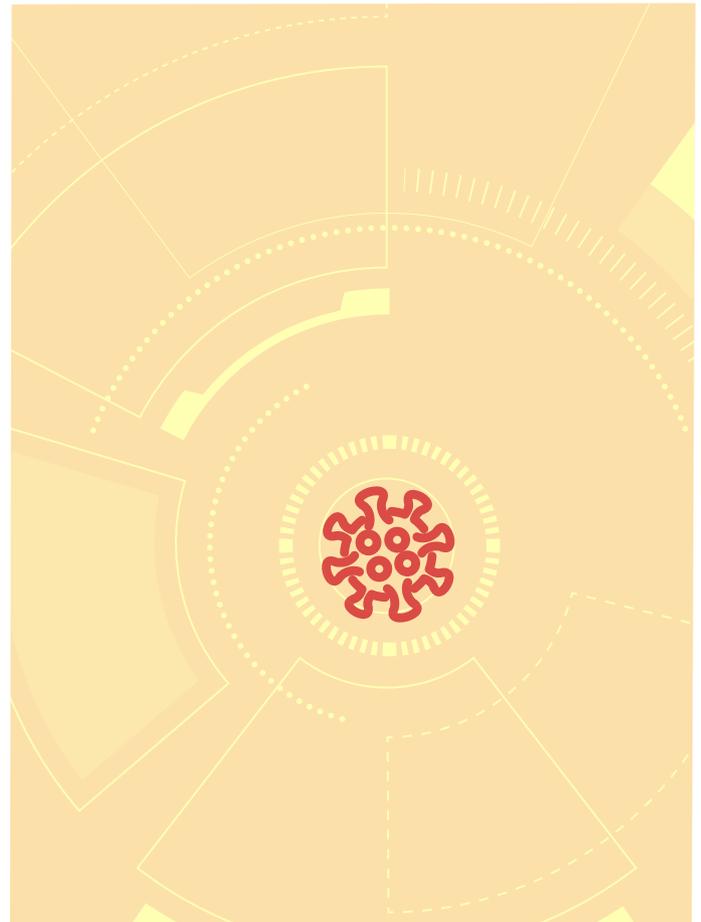
The Class of 2020 is the seventh cohort to be exposed to the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS). Hence, we can infer that this class benefitted from the developments of the last seven years relating to CAPS, which would have created a high degree of stability in the system with regard to the teaching, learning and assessment.

These learners are also the beneficiaries of the educational transformation that heralded the move towards a technologically enhanced curriculum. The Class of 2020 is the third cohort to offer a series of new subjects in the Grade 12 NSC examinations. These include South African Sign Language at Home Language level (SASL HL), Technical Mathematics, Technical Sciences, Civil Technology (Construction /Civil Services/ Woodworking), Electrical Technology (Digital Systems/Electronic/ Power Systems) and Mechanical Technology (Automotive/Fitting and Machining/Welding and Metal Work)..

In a bid to ensure that the examinations at the Grade 12 level are more reflective of the scope of the subject, the number of question papers in Accounting and Business Studies have been changed to two. This will allow the learners to be examined on specific aspects of the curriculum in Paper 1 and Paper 2 and hence their preparation is more focussed and also this approach allows learners more time to be tested in the individual papers. This group was the first cohort to be exposed to this new paper format.

In 2019, the policy on Multiple Examination opportunity was discontinued, which implies that the learners that are progressed in 2020, will not be allowed to write their subjects over two years as their counterparts in previous years. This may be regarded as a disadvantage to the progressed learners but it may also be regarded as a stimulant to motivate learners to apply themselves more seriously knowing that they will be subjected to a full examination at the end of the year.

The Grade 12 candidates of 2020, were unfortunately subjected to a myriad of challenges, brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. This resulted in the national lockdown and the disruption to schooling. Despite all efforts by the Department to insulate the Grade 12 class of 2020, from the ill-effects of the pandemic and to grant them maximum exposure to face to face teaching and learning, the challenges posed by the pandemic impacted significantly on the teaching and learning programmes, contact time, access to information etc.



REPORT CARD – CLASS OF 2020

Table 1: Overall Performance of the Class of 2020

Province	2020		
	Total Wrote	Total Achieved	% Achieved
Eastern Cape	72 926	49 691	68.1
Free State	27 928	23 779	85.1
Gauteng	110 191	92 285	83.8
Kwazulu-Natal	135 225	104 938	77.6
Limpopo	78 695	53 634	68.2
Mpumalanga	53 391	39 367	73.7
North West	36 871	28 093	76.2
Northern Cape	11 608	7 665	66.0
Western Cape	51 633	41 250	79.9
National	578 468	440 702	76.2

Graph 1: Comparison of NSC performance 2008 to 2020

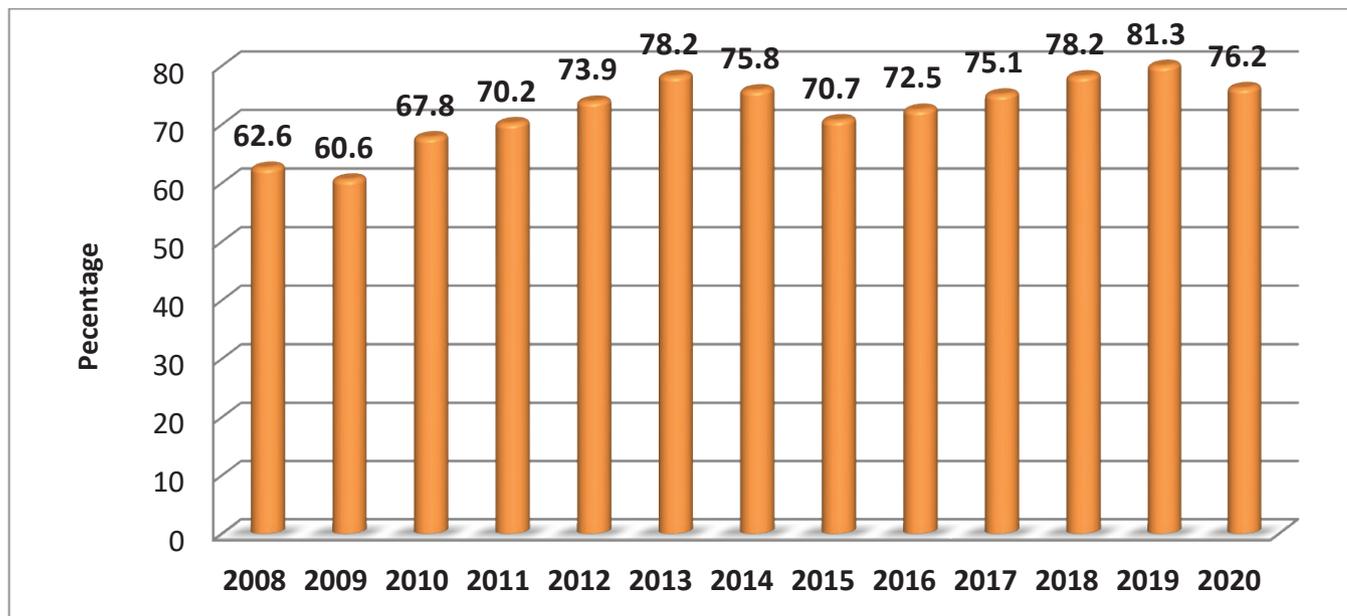


Table 2: Performance of the Class of 2020 by type of qualification

Prov	Total Wrote	Bachelor		Diploma		Higher Certificate		NSC		Total Achieved	%
		Achieved	% Achieved	Achieved	% Achieved	Achieved	% Achieved	Achieved	% Achieved		
EC	72 926	21 886	30.0	17 753	24.3	10 039	13.8	13	0.0	49 691	68.1
FS	27 928	11 284	40.4	8 740	31.3	3 740	13.4	0	0.0	23 779	85.1
GP	110 191	49 680	45.1	30 675	27.8	11 879	10.8	1	0.0	92 285	83.8
KZN	135 225	51 060	37.8	35 195	26.0	18 658	13.8	24	0.0	104 938	77.6
LP	78 695	22 907	29.1	18 588	23.6	12 134	15.4	5	0.0	53 634	68.2
MP	53 391	16 251	30.4	14 421	27.0	8 677	16.3	18	0.0	39 367	73.7
NW	36 871	11 822	32.1	9 987	27.1	6 282	17.0	0	0.0	28 093	76.2
NC	11 608	3 296	28.4	2 797	24.1	1 567	13.5	0	0.0	7 665	66.0
WC	51 633	22 634	43.8	12 444	24.1	6 141	11.9	0	0.0	41 250	79.9
NAT	578 468	210 820	36.4	150 600	26.0	79 117	13.7	61	0.0	440 702	76.2

Table 3: Full-time candidates' performance at 30% and above in key subjects, 2019 to 2020

Subjects	2019			2020		
	Wrote	Achieved 30% & Above	% Achieved	Wrote	Achieved 30% & Above	% Achieved
Accounting	80 110	62 796	78.4	92 767	70 014	75.5
Agricultural Science	92 680	69 132	74.6	96 155	69 916	72.7
Business Studies	186 840	132 571	71.0	207 045	161 224	77.9
Economics	107 940	74 796	69.3	118 484	81 536	68.8
Geography	271 807	218 821	80.5	287 629	216 467	75.3
History	164 729	148 271	90.0	173 498	159 737	92.1
Life Orientation	610 234	609 101	99.8	589 870	586 360	99.4
Life Sciences	301 037	217 729	72.3	319 228	226 700	71.0
Mathematical Literacy	298 607	240 816	80.6	341 363	275 684	80.8
Mathematics	222 034	121 179	54.6	233 315	125 526	53.8
Physical Science	164 478	124 237	75.5	174 310	114 758	65.8

Top Mathematics Achievers



1st

Daniël Alwyn Gouws
Hermanus High School
Western Cape

Daniël learned that one has to step out of one's comfort zone in order to develop inter-personal skills and effective communication with peers and teachers. He gained confidence once he participated in various activities, such as the Eskom Expo, and faced the challenges of Grade 12 head-on.

During lockdown, he made a conscious effort to work diligently and maintain a balance between work and recreation. He therefore advises the Class of 2021 to be conscientious and ensure healthy habits that complement studying.

Daniël's father was his greatest inspiration, since he modelled resilience and adaptability in the midst of changing circumstances. This young man also admires Albert Einstein for his endless curiosity, perseverance and revolutionary thinking. His favourite quotation was also expressed by Einstein: 'Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.'

Selection for the International Physics Olympiad team and Western Cape Mathematics team were highlights in Daniël's school career. He is passionate about electronic engineering and plans to study this field at Stellenbosch University.

A dignified standard of living for all South Africans, underpinned by financial means, is his vision for South Africa.



2nd

Veren Naidoo
Rondebosch Boys' High School
Western Cape

Veren's pursuit of academic excellence was challenged by the hard lockdown imposed last year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Learners were suddenly forced to move from face-to-face classroom teaching to working online but he felt that he adapted quickly and the lockdown made more determined to strive for success in his Matric exams.

Veren is looking forward to pursuing his passion for Accounting and he intends to study a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Chartered Accounting this year. He is extremely proud of having placed second in the SAIPA National Accounting Olympiad in 2019 and of having been named the top Accounting and Information Technology student in his school for the last three years.

Veren's parents are his inspiration because they have taught him that nothing in life is impossible if you persevere and work consistently, and he is grateful for how they have always supported him.

Veren is motivated by the words of Jimmy Dean: 'I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.' Barack Obama's belief that hard work, determination and belief that education is the means of getting ahead makes him Veren's role model. He also says that Barack Obama's strong family values resonate with him.

If he could share one thing with this year's Grade 12s it would be that they need to always do their best to live a balanced life and to work consistently from the beginning of the year.

Top Physical Sciences Achievers



Karla Reinecke
Hoërskool Waterkloof
Gauteng

Karla's greatest challenge was the uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 lockdown. She was able to overcome this challenge with the help of dedicated teachers who remained positive and used on-line platforms to facilitate learning.

Her Physical Sciences teacher, Mrs Carin de Beer was her greatest source of inspiration. Her passion for her subject has led to Karla's decision to study BSc Biochemistry at the North West University. Sadly Mrs de Beer, whom Karla sees as an influencer and achiever, recently passed away due to Covid-19.

As the dux learner of her school, Karla received awards for Mathematics and Science Expos.

Karla advises the Class of 2021 to keep a balance between consistent Academic work and other activities. She agrees with Albert Einstein that 'In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.'

This young achiever dreams of a South Africa where there would be equal opportunities for all.



Stephanus Johannes Paulus Kruger
Geloofte Skool
Kwa-Zulu Natal

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the greatest challenge that Stephanus felt he faced at school was finding the right balance between academics, extracurricular activities and leisure time. He realised that mental wellbeing was important to ensure that his mind was fresh and ready to study when it mattered.

Stephanus is extremely proud of having been his school's top achiever since Grade 8. He represented his peers as a member of the Representative Council of Learners for five years and he was privileged to serve as the President of the RCL in his Grade 12 year.

His advice to this year's Grade 12s is that they should enjoy every moment of their final year at school by working hard to achieve their goals.

Mrs Smidt, Stephanus's Maths teacher, ignited his passion for Mathematics and he acknowledges that without her encouragement, he would not have achieved the heights that he has in the subject. Stephanus intends to study Actuarial Science at the University of Pretoria.

According to Stephanus, gender-based violence is a huge problem that stems from the perception that women are not equal. He would love to see a society where all genders are respected as being equal.

Bill Gates's quote, 'It's fine to celebrate success but it is more important to heed the lesson of failure' motivates Stephanus, as does the example set by billionaire philanthropist, Elon Musk who is an inspiration to many South Africans as he too grew up here. Stephanus is inspired by Musk's determination to change the world and he hopes, one day, to have the same impact on society as Elon Musk.



Takudzwa Newo Ronnie Chikonye
Bhukulani Senior Secondary School
Gauteng

Takudzwa Chikonye, who found that studying during the lockdown was extremely challenging, acknowledges that his main support came from Kutlwanong, an organisation that assists Mathematics and Physical Sciences learners every weekend. In fact, both his role model and inspiration came from two individuals of the organisation, Mr Mandla Nkomo, the centre manager, and Mr Tumelo Mabitsele, the CEO of Kutlwanong.

In addition to the support received from this organisation, Takudzwa also depended on his parents and prayer to carry him through his darkest days. This top achiever excelled academically from Grade 8 to Grade 12 and believes that the Grade 12s of 2021 should not be anxious but they should use their time wisely.

He advises the 2021 cohort to trust their educators and believe that they also dream of their learners' success. UCT will be the home of this top achiever for the foreseeable future, where he will be studying Actuarial Science.

He believes that the Education system in South Africa must be overhauled in order to not only provide quality education for every learner but also to compete globally. He believes that the greatest lessons are learnt through pain.



Top Technical Maths Achievers



Peace Simphiwe Phangisa
D.D. Mabuza High School
Mpumalanga

Simphiwe advises the Class of 2021 to keep their focus on their Academic programme and respect the staff. He believes that diligence is non-negotiable.

One of Simphiwe's greatest challenges was a shortage of text books, necessitating the sharing of books, which proved difficult during lockdown. Despite this obstacle, he managed to achieve outstanding results in the course of his Grade 12 year. He intends pursuing tertiary studies this year.

An electrical engineer in Simphiwe's community was a great source of inspiration: he completed his studies at an early age and went on to secure employment at Eskom.

This young star's father is his role model, since he plays a significant role in his family and community.

Simphiwe dreams of changing the way that foreigners are treated in South Africa. He also feels that young people should be exposed to more practical work experience. He believes the following: 'If Plan A fails, there are 25 more alphabet letters to try out!'



Mthobisi Brian Hlatshwayo
Dd Mabuza Comprehensive High School
Mpumalanga

Mthobisi Hlatshwayo believes that the key to success is to focus on the goals and not the obstacles.

He is keen to continue his studies in the field of Mechanical Engineering, however, this desire is accompanied by a certain amount of trepidation. Despite his consistent achievement in Mathematics and Physical Sciences, Mthobisi always experienced challenges with studying but these challenges were mitigated by the support he received from his family and teachers.

His brother, who placed a great emphasis on studying, was his main inspiration; but his father earned his admiration.

This young achiever advises the Grade 12s of 2021 to work hard and to prepare for their final examination as soon as possible – this is especially important as the rate of employment in South Africa is extremely high and education will assist in bringing this rate down.



3rd

Lungisani Mduba
Katlehong Technical Secondary School
Gauteng

Lungisani's greatest challenge in 2020 was the lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Tuition was curtailed and learning and teaching did not take place in his situation. However, he performed well in his Grade 12 year, and was pleased with the distinctions he achieved in the preliminary examination.

This young achiever advises the current Grade 12 learners to retain all the information from Grade 11, since it will be essential in Grade 12.

Mr Khumalo, Lungisani's Technical Mathematics teacher, inspired him while teaching his favourite subject. He hopes to study Mining Engineering, and to improve safety in the mines. His favourite quote is 'I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past.' – Thomas Jefferson

Isaac Newton is Lungisani's role model, since he discovered new laws that have increased mankind's understanding of Science. This aspiring scientist would like to see the implementation of more practical components, so that learners can achieve better results.



Top Technical Sciences Achievers



Phumlani Zuma
Nomathiya Technical High School
Kwa-Zulu Natal

Phumlani advises the Class of 2021 to pursue their Academic goals single-mindedly and choose their friends wisely, since distractions can cost them dearly. His tip is to study every day as if there were a test the next day.

One of Phumlani's greatest challenges was a lack of self-confidence. When he attended his Mathematics teacher, Mr Mdaka's extra classes in Grade 9, his knowledge of the basics led to an improvement in his other subjects. In Grade 12, he held the first position in the class, and excelled in Technical Science and Technical Mathematics.

Samwelisiwe, his elder sister, was a great source of inspiration. She matriculated from a rural school and went on to become a successful chemical engineer. His role model is Mxolisi Ntuli, a civil engineer, whose character is exemplary. Phumlani has always been fascinated by engineering and intends studying Mechanical Engineering this year.

This young achiever's favourite quote is 'I must show you how great I am' (Muhammed Ali). Phumlani would like to motivate other young South Africans, especially those from poorer circumstances, while his vision is a corruption-free South Africa with a healthy economy and more job opportunities.



Mcebo Lindokuhle Mthethwa
Sibusiso High School
Kwa-Zulu Natal

Mcebo was faced with many challenges throughout his school career, particularly after his father passed away. It required a great deal of resilience to remain positive and motivated. His grandfather's pension grant was the only source of income; yet he remained determined to succeed and overcome the obstacles presented to him.

This talented young man was a top learner in Grade 11 and attained outstanding results in Technical Sciences and Technical Mathematics in his Grade 12 year. A career in Civil Engineering is Mcebo's goal, since it would enable him to pursue his passion. He advises the Class of 2021 to work diligently and adhere to teachers' instructions in order to succeed.

Mdudeni Mtshali, Mcebo's uncle, has inspired him profoundly and is his role model. He is the only educated person in the family and values education, while wishing to impart the gift of education to others. His exemplary character has left a great impression on his nephew.

The education system should focus more on skills, in Mcebo's opinion. Citizens should not always be reliant on employment, but be able to create work. Self-employed individuals would ease government's burden by contributing to the economy.

Mcebo's favourite quote comes from Bill Gates: 'If you are born poor it's not your mistake, but if you die poor it's your mistake.'



Eric Mavimbela
DD Mabuza Comprehensive School
Mpumalanga

Besides tough family circumstances, poverty and bullying, Eric's greatest challenge this year was definitely caused by the Covid-19 pandemic but his positive attitude and ability to adapt quickly to the situation that presented itself allowed him to overcome any difficulties he experienced. Added motivation was the dream of achieving a place of the list of national top achievers.

Eric is inspired by his mother who, as a single parent, has been everything to him and his five siblings. His role model is his brother, Phumlani who became like a father figure to him when their father passed away many years ago. Eric looks up to them and hopes to make them proud with his achievements.

Eric is hoping to further his studies and is excited to learn new things.

Mentoring and helping others is important to Eric. He lives by the motto, 'Genius is 1% talent and 99% hard work' and his advice to the Class of 2021 is that they need to support one another, never stop learning and always be true to their principles.



Top South African Sign Language(SASL) Home Language (HL) Achievers



Daniel Johannes Emmenis
Transoranje – Skool vir Dowes
Gauteng

Daniel Emmenis ascribes his success to his educator and role model, Ms Jackie Oosthuizen. Her support helped him to overcome his hearing loss and to communicate, using Sign Language.

He was also selected onto the Representative Council of Learners for four years and 2020, saw his being appointed as the Chairperson. Daniel aspires to become a teacher of Deaf learners and believes that South Africa will be better if all schools taught South African Sign Language to facilitate communication.

The Grade 12s of 2021 will benefit from hard work and asking questions, whilst respecting their educators. Both these attributes: respect and work ethic will enable growth.



Sinoyolo Sisekelo Ngubane
Kwathintwa School for The Deaf
Kwa-Zulu Natal

Sinoyolo Ngubane's mother was her greatest inspiration as she believed in her daughter and helped her to overcome the challenge of being deaf.

The six awards that Sinoyolo achieved in Grade 10 was the highlight of her school career. Her South African Sign Language educator, Ms Z. Moosa's accomplishments have encouraged this young lady to enrol for a Bachelor of Education degree. She would like to pursue her dream of educating young deaf children.

This shining star does not believe that other people's limited perceptions should define anyone. The message that she would like to share with the Class of 2021 is that hard would pays off and the sky is the limit. Her plea for South Africa is that the deaf people of this country be treated fairly – as equals.



3rd

Khadeejah Hansrod
Fulton School for the Deaf
Kwa-Zulu Natal

Khadeejah's greatest challenge was the strain caused by the Covid-19 lockdown. She was able to address this challenge with the help of supportive teachers and her mother's practical assistance in meeting lockdown requirements. Her mother, Ayesha, is her greatest inspiration; she has been most supportive in assisting her. She learned sign language in order to communicate with her daughter from an early age.

This young achiever's favourite quote is by Malcolm X: 'Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.' She has illustrated this truth by achieving numerous academic certificates since primary school. She would like to study Accounting at university and hopes that she will be accommodated at tertiary level as has been the case in her Grade 12 year.

Khadeejah's passion is a broader engagement with sign language and more opportunities for deaf learners, with a wider scope of subjects. She advises the Class of 2021 to study consistently and not to succumb to anxiety when they sit for the examinations. She also pleads with all stakeholders never to repeat the leaking of papers that marred the 2020 examination.

Her role model was her late grandfather, who was a great source of motivation. He always assisted others in the community and played a significant role in shaping Khadeejah's strength of character.



Top Achievers - Quintile 1 Schools



Blessing Mlambo

I.R. Lesolang Secondary School
Gauteng

Blessing had to learn to believe in himself, despite living in an environment where unemployment and crime are rife. His elder sister and brother had achieved success through education, which motivated him to focus on his future. His motto was 'Vision is everything.'

This young man's mother was always a source of strength and inspiration. She modelled an approach to life that he would apply: consistent diligence from the early grades at school. Blessing wants to enrol for a BCom Accounting degree at the University of Cape Town.

Blessing's advice to the Class of 2021 is to write down their dreams and goals and believe that everything is possible. His wish is that more be invested in the talent and skills of the youth. He believes that their creativity can be harnessed to boost South Africa's economy.

Steve Harvey, who loves what he does and uses his talents, is Blessing's role model. Harvey's life lesson, 'Your gift shall make room for you', has given this young achiever food for thought throughout his school career.



Dester Weltegebriel De Salegn

Highveld Secondary School
Mpumalanga

Dester de Salegn is a young woman who aspires to study Genetics and Developmental Biology at the University of the Witwatersrand in 2021.

In 2020, her greatest challenge was time management as she had to balance her studies with household chores – creating an implementable timetable assisted her in this regard. What drove Dester to be the top achiever throughout her school career was the desire to make her mother proud. She attributes her success to her mother's strength, motivation and support.

She believes that the Grade 12s of 2021 will benefit from always putting their best foot forward, despite the obstacles. Her maxim, 'I can; I will; I must' was pivotal to her accomplishment. According to Dester, discrimination is the main hurdle which has to be overcome by all South Africans. All people should be treated with equal dignity and respect.



3rd

Pearl Khosa
PP Hlungwani High
Limpopo

Pearl has had to overcome many challenges on her road to success. She changed primary schools twice because she was the victim of bullying and she had to wake at 4am to walk 45 minutes to get to school every day. As the Head Girl of her school, Pearl felt the weight of her teachers' expectations but instead of buckling under the pressure, she was even more motivated to succeed.

Pearl is inspired by a past learner from her school: N'wayitelo Masia made the school proud when she matriculated in 2018 and Pearl is determined to emulate her achievements so that the school is as proud of her as they are of N'wayitelo.

The young star from Limpopo wishes that all schools were provided with equal resources as it is sad to realise that rural schools are not given the same attention as urban schools. She says, "Libraries and science laboratories are important for all learners."

Pearl wants the Class of 2021 to realise that, Covid-19 or no Covid-19, matric requires focused effort and lots of sacrifice. She advises them to listen to their teachers and to be disciplined. She says that it is okay for them to take time to relax but their studies need to remain their number one priority.

"Roots of education are bitter but the fruit is sweet" is Pearl's favourite quote. She plans on studying Actuarial Science because she loves challenges, especially those related to numbers.



Top Achievers - Quintile 2 Schools



1st

Tapiwa Maobvera
Micha-Kgasi Secondary School
North West

Tapiwa's advice to the Class of 2021 is to make the most of every opportunity afforded them and to appreciate those who support them in these trying times. He has shown that diligent work and a refusal to be discouraged by circumstances lead to Academic success.

This young achiever's mother has played a significant role in inspiring him, by modelling perseverance and dedication. She always motivates him to reach for the skies and not to be deterred by others' opinions.

Tapiwa excelled at school as the top learner from Grade 10 to Grade 12, and intends to register for a BCom degree in Actuarial Sciences at the University of Cape Town. He hopes that others will also gain access to a quality education, and overcome the obstacle of insufficient facilities and materials at schools in rural areas such as his *alma mater*.

The author Brian Tracy said: 'By the yard it's hard, but inch by inch, anything's a cinch.' Tapiwa believes that this approach to life ensures success.



2nd

Thembelihle Tsengane
Little Flower Combined School
KwaZulu-Natal

Thembelihle is a top achiever, who has performed outstandingly from an early age. She has received numerous academic awards and participated in several Science, Mathematics and Accounting Olympiads. Her route to success was not easy. She had to overcome illness in her Grade 8 year, with the help of her parents and teachers, and navigate her way through lockdown. The Siyandisa Foundation assisted her with resources in this challenging time, enabling her to complete her studies.

Many individuals have inspired this resilient young woman. She highlights the role of her teachers, who worked tirelessly. Their dedication was evident during lockdown. She now wishes to pursue a career in Medicine and has applied to the University of Cape Town. The ability to save lives is her primary goal.

Thembelihle's role model is King Solomon. Although he was not a perfect being, he was favoured by God and chose wisdom above worldly riches. Her favourite quote is from Scripture: 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).'

The education of South African children is a burning issue according to Thembelihle, and she cites challenges such as the Fourth Industrial Revolution and further pandemics. She believes that a public-private partnership is needed to develop a holistic approach that will combat the lack of technology and resources.



3rd

Simamkele Bongo

Xolilizwe Senior Secondary School
Eastern Cape

Simamkele Bongo attended a rural school with no science laboratory – a hurdle which he overcame by watching YouTube videos. This self-motivated young man was inspired by a former awards recipient, who also attended a rural school, Lomso Dumezweni.

After consistently being the top achiever at his school, Simamkele lists being named the overall top achiever in the Amathole East District as his second greatest achievement. He intends qualifying as a doctor from the University of Cape Town, and thereafter practising medicine in his community. His mother played a pivotal role in his very successful scholastic journey.

The Grade 12s of 2021 will benefit from his words of encouragement: perseverance, discipline, determination and humility will ensure success. Simamkele is concerned by the lack of health facilities in the poorest communities of the country and believes that this is an area that has to receive attention. The top doctors in the country should reach out to these communities to foster healthy living.

Albert Einstein's quote strikes a chord in this young man, 'Everybody is a genius but if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.'



Top Achievers - Quintile 3 Schools



Lerato Paballo Tuba
Tsogo Secondary School
North West

Lerato Tuba is a young woman who took every opportunity, from Grade 1, to achieve the success that she believed that she was capable of achieving. The greatest challenge that she encountered was finding a quiet place to study. This led to her studying on her way to and from school – and during intervals.

Her Grade 1 teacher, Ms Nomsa Beauty Mkwanazi, believed in her and she ascribes her pursuit of excellence to this phenomenal educator. Her drive and determination saw her being promoted from Grade 5 to Grade 6 in the second term of 2014.

This aspirant student of Medicine will register at the University of Pretoria in 2021. Her advice for the current cohort of Grade 12s is that they should start working hard from the first day and envisage the results that they would like to achieve.

The positivity of Lerato's mother and her favourite quote, 'I did not come this far only to come this far,' form the foundation of her ambition. One of her dreams is to rectify the way in which domestic violence cases are treated in South Africa.



Ayabukwa Nombela
Manzomthombo Senior Secondary School
Western Cape

Learning to accept change and be adaptable in order to extract the best possible schooling experience was an essential skill Ayabukwa had to develop when she moved from a rural school to a township school. Her ability to adjust quickly saw her become a top achiever in Grade 11 and Grade 12.

Ayabukwa is inspired by her parents who never give up and she is motivated by the words of Oprah Winfrey: 'It doesn't matter who you are, or where you come from. The ability to triumph begins with you. Always.'

Ayabukwa would like to see more employment opportunities being created for unemployed graduates in South Africa. Her advice to the Class of 2021: 'Stay focused on your studies and persevere in any situation.'

She is looking forward to pursuing her dream of studying medicine this year.



Luyanda Khuzwayo
Gugulesizwe Secondary School
Kwa-Zulu Natal

Luyanda Khuzwayo overcame several health issues, to become a top achiever throughout his school career. The resilience of his mother carried him through the years and he is inspired by her strength and compassion.

This young man, a former Ambassador for the Shokweni CP School, intends serving the community and health services of Kwa-Zulu Natal by studying Medicine in 2021. This dream is encouraged by the humility and work ethic of Dr R. M Khanyile, Luyanda's role model.

He advises the Grade 12s to work hard and believes that resilience will carry them through the year. They should also enjoy their final year and cherish the memorable moments. Luyanda is concerned about the availability of resources to rural schools and how this prevents learners from reaching their full potential. Leo Buscaglia's quote, 'Change is the end result of all learning' is particularly pertinent to this young man.



Top Achievers - Quintile 4 Schools



Dipika Somaroo
Effingham Secondary School
Kwazulu-Natal

Dipika managed to remain inspired despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Like other Grade 12 learners, she was anxious and uncertain about her academic future. Yet she managed to focus her thoughts and compose herself, working consistently and relying on her strong faith. She was able to motivate herself in order to ensure that her earlier years of dedication would not go to waste.

This driven young woman was a top achiever at school, earning numerous awards. She intends to enrol for medicine, either at the UKZN School of Medicine or the University of Cape Town. She believes that she will be able to uplift the social wellbeing of others by practising as a doctor.

Her advice to the Class of 2021 is to retain their academic focus in the face of the ongoing pandemic. A healthy balance of all aspects of one's life is essential on the journey to success.

Dipika's role model is her father. He has provided a moral compass and modelled an excellent work ethic and sound values. The epidemic of violence against women and children is a grave concern, which Dipika feels should be addressed urgently. She would like to create awareness and be an agent for change.

Her favourite quote is the following: 'Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation.' – Nelson Mandela



Willem Lodewijk Kurpershoek
Middelburg Hoërskool
Mpumalanga

Willem Kurpershoek lives by the quote, 'The only person you should strive to be better than, is the person you were yesterday.' This quote saw this young man representing Mpumalanga on the cricket pitch in 2019 and being selected as the Head boy of his school, in 2020.

Being an avid sportsperson and an excellent learner brought about its own challenges and finding a balance was the ultimate test. Both passions were fuelled by Willem's competitive nature and he was inspired to improve on his sister's matric results.

His Accounting teacher, Ms Adendorff, and his Mathematics teacher, Ms le Roux, also played a pivotal role in his pursuit of excellence. Willem has registered at the University of Pretoria, where he will study Medicine.

He acknowledges that Covid-19 could have an impact on the 2021 Grade 12s' attitude but they should see beyond the pandemic and adopt a positive outlook. They should set goals and work hard and accept that 'It is what it is.' All South Africans should shelve the negativity as a change in mindset will unite South Africans and the country would be able to prosper through cohesion and unity.



3rd

Jana Geyser
Rustenburg High School
North West

Jana learned the important life lesson that mistakes are an essential part of the learning process and pathway to success.

This young achiever's father, a life-long learner, showed that a student should never give up on her dreams. She therefore became a goal-driven individual who constantly follows her dreams. She believes in Aristotle's quote: 'We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.'

Jana's advice to the Class of 2021 is to retain a sense of balance and embrace their circumstances while pursuing their goals. Her role model is her mother, who embodies selflessness, kindness and faith. She intends studying MBChB, since a career in medicine will pave the way towards serving others.

A successful South Africa is one of Jana's dreams. Her wish is that our people would reach out to one another, to secure a successful future for all.



Top Achievers - Quintile 5 Schools



Reynhardt Buys Pearson High School Eastern Cape

Reynhardt Buys is a young man driven by the passion to improve at all costs. This changed when he started accepting that perfection was not attainable. This realisation led to him enjoying his final year at school despite the pandemic.

He acknowledges Mr Rademeyer, the deputy principal as a great support during his school years. His advice to the current cohort of Grade 12s is to find a balance during this year – a feat which he managed to accomplish in 2020 – with being both a prefect and a top achiever.

Reynhardt is both keen and anxious to pursue his studies in Actuarial Science at the University of Stellenbosch. He credits the example set by his mother as his inspiration to excel and this inspiration is captured in his personal motto, 'When you become the image of your own imagination, it's the most powerful thing you could ever do.' He also believes that racial disparities are hampering true transformation in South Africa.



Colombe Cynthia Obono Eyono Westville Girls' High School KwaZulu-Natal

The greatest challenge Colombe has experienced is being able to focus on her academics in the face of the national crisis of gender-based violence. Issues of gender are close to Colombe's heart and the constant bombardment of stories about femicide, rape and abuse, and the reality that, as a woman living in South Africa, no place is safe took a toll on her mental health. She comforted herself with the thought that excelling academically was a stepping stone to finding solutions for gender inequality and this motivated her to focus on her school work.

Colombe wishes she could eliminate the gross economic inequality that characterises South Africa. More specifically she would like to improve the economic independence of all South African women so that the trend of women being trapped in abusive relationships to secure financial stability can be reversed.

Colombe says that, apart from their work ethic and love for learning having inspired her, both her parents are beacons of empathy and selflessness. These qualities have inspired her to be kind and understanding toward others. 'umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu' is a statement that resonates with Colombe; it summarises the importance of human connection, community and empathy - principles by which she tries to live.

Colombe advises the Grade 12s of 2021 to work consistently and not to procrastinate. She believes that hard work is not more important than mental well-being and that they should put aside time to look after their mental health by practising activities like journaling and meditation.

Top Achievers

Learners who experience barriers to learning



Sonja Jamima Jonkers

Jan Kriel Hoërskool
Western Cape

Sonja Jonkers, who has been diagnosed with Congenital Structural Myopathy, was inspired by her parents and dreams of giving them a better life, despite always being dependent on a facilitator.

She is highly motivated and through hard work she has gained independence in terms of mobility (she steers her wheelchair with her right foot) and she has mastered the use of the Tobii Eyegaze technology that enables her to use a computer by controlling the keyboard, mouse and other functions with her eyes.

Her positive attitude and hard work saw her being the top achiever in Grade 9 at Paarl School. This attitude also stood her in good stead during the pandemic – where she kept apace with her peers even though she was exempted from attending school. She believes that these qualities will assist the current cohort of Grade 12s.

Sonja intends pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Cape Town. This strong young woman admires Mrs Simons for her independence and resilience. Sonja's South Africa is one where men and women are treated as equals. She acknowledges Oprah's quote as one which should motivate everyone to be the best version of themselves, 'Not only are you responsible for your own life but doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment.'



Della Rose Cooper

Muriel Brand School
Gauteng

Della Cooper found that dictating responses to her question papers to be the most challenging aspect of being at school – especially in Mathematical Literacy. She was inspired to excel, by her peers, educators and scribes.

Della was the top achiever throughout her high school career and she managed to balance that with her participation in school concerts. This selfless and inspirational young woman advises the 2021 cohort of Grade 12s to stay safe during the pandemic and to remain focused. They should also value their teachers' advice.

Her plans for the future include attending university in 2021. She ascribes her work ethic to her primary school facilitator, Thandi Maseko. This role model encouraged her to study and to work hard. Della believes that the greatest challenges faced by South Africans with disabilities are the lack of schools and access to buildings and public places.

Despite her challenges, this environmentalist encourages everyone to take care of the earth and to take heed of the quote from a movie *Arthur Christmas*, 'It was a gift, a great big ball wrapped in oceans and mountains.'

Important information

Re-checking and Re-marking of scripts

- a) Learners who are not satisfied with their subject results for the National Senior Certificate have until 26 March 2021 to register for re-marking, re-checking or viewing of the script.
- b) Application forms for re-checking and re-marking are available at the District offices and the schools and centres where candidates sat for the examination.
- c) The fees (per subject) are:
 - Re-mark: R120
 - Re-Check: R29
 - Viewing: R234
- d) Viewing of scripts may be done only after the re-mark or re-check of results. The closing date for applications is 7 days after the release of re-mark or re-check results.
- e) Candidates from no-fee schools, and learners whose parents have applied for and have been granted a concession on the payment of schools fees, are exempted from payment of fees for re-marking and re-checking.

Withheld results

Why are my results withheld?

Results are withheld because of irregularities.

What could I do if my results are withheld?

- a) Contact your school or district office to request reasons for the withholding of the results.
- b) Appeal in writing if your results are withheld.

May/June examinations

A second opportunity is granted to all candidates that have written the 2020 Combined November examinations, to improve their results in the June 2021 examination. This applies to candidates that have passed but want to improve their results, as well as candidates that were not successful. The only criterion to write the June 2021 examination are the following:

- a) The candidate must have registered for 2020 Combined November examination.
- b) Candidates can only register for subjects registered for in the 2020 Combined November examination.

Candidates who were absent in the Combined 2020 November examination, will also be allowed to write the 2021 June examination, provided they have a valid reason for being absent. In the case where a candidate misses one or more papers in the November examination with a valid reason, the candidate has the choice whether to write only the incomplete papers or the entire subject (all written papers).

What is the closing date for application?

The closing date for applications to register for the 2021 June examination is 26 March 2020 for both manual and on-line registrations.

Where and when do candidates register?

Registration is done by a candidate immediately after receiving his/her results and at the centre where he/she sat for the examination.

Where could I access the NSC Examination Timetable for June 2021?

The timetable could be downloaded at www.education.gov.za.

Alternative options

Candidates who do not qualify to write the May/June 2021 examination, have the following options:

- a) Re-enrol for the NSC at a school, provided that the candidate is younger than 21 years of age.
- b) Register as a part-time candidate at a Public Adult Education Centre, provided that the candidate is older than 21 years of age.
- c) Register for vocational education and training at a Further Education and Training college.

Second Chance Matric Programme

The aim of the Second Chance Matric Programme is to provide support to learners who have not met the requirements of the October/November examination or May/June examination and may want to improve their results.

Requirements for further studies

The minimum requirements for a candidate to obtain an NSC are that a candidate should achieve 40% in three subjects, one of which is an official language at Home Language level, and 30% in three subjects.

What are the requirements to be admitted to a tertiary institution?

(a) Higher Certificate

The minimum admission requirement is a National Senior Certificate with a minimum of 30% in the language of teaching and learning of the higher education institution as certified by Umalusi. Institutional and programme needs may require additional combinations or recognised NSC subjects and levels of achievement.

(b) Diploma

The minimum admission requirement is the National Senior Certificate with a minimum of 30% in the language of learning and teaching of the higher education institution as certified by Umalusi, coupled with an achievement rating of 3 (moderate achievement, 40% - 49%) or better in four recognised 20-credit subjects. Institutional and programme needs may require additional combinations of recognised NSC subjects and levels of achievement.

(c) Bachelor's Degree

To meet the minimum admission requirements to a Bachelor's Degree study at a higher education institution, a candidate must obtain, in addition to the National Senior Certificate, an achievement rating of 4 (Adequate Achievement, 50% - 59%) or better in four subjects.



Contact the relevant provincial official to guide you on examination-related enquiries:

Province	Official	Telephone Number
Eastern Cape	Mr EM Mabona	(043) 604 7709
Free State	Mr K Basjan	(051) 404 8318
Gauteng	Mr B Ngubane	(011) 355 0307
KwaZulu-Natal	Dr R Penniston	(031) 327 0245/(031) 327 044
Limpopo	Mr NW Mphahlele	(015) 290 7627
Mpumalanga	Mr C Manyabeane	(013) 766 0006
Northern Cape	Ms P Phuzi	(053) 839 6302
North West	Mr D Moroeng	(018) 388 0803
Western Cape	Ms T Singh	(021) 467 2945

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