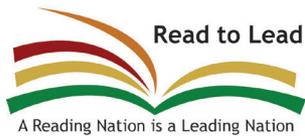


NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION



basic education
Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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FOREWORD – TOP ACHIEVERS

The Class of 2018 sat for the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations in a year that the world united in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the icon, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. In his State of the Nation Address, the President of the Republic of South Africa, the honorable Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa acknowledged that in 'celebrating the centenary of Nelson Mandela we are not merely honouring the past, we are building the future'. The founding father of democracy in South Africa believed that 'education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world' and that 'education is the great engine of development'. The centenary celebration of the birth of a profound struggle hero and global citizen who left an indelible mark on shaping the freedom we enjoy today, is coated with a layer of gold by a 3.1% increase in the NSC pass rate from 75.1% in 2017 to 78.2% in 2018. Nelson Mandela combined traditional rural roots with education expertise and recognised the value of academic excellence. As we celebrate the top achievements of the Class of 2018, we are privileged to align our successes to the astounding achievements of past heroes, such as Nelson Mandela, who have shaped our freedom through excellence in education. I am pleased to present to you the top achievers of the class of 2018. The improved 2018 NSC results are a celebration of the concerted and collective efforts of the educational hierarchy of learner, teacher and system, working as a coherent sector. The significant gains in key subjects such as Mathematics and Physical Sciences is an indication that more learners enter career fields where there is a skills shortage currently. We continue to see significant gains in the margins of improvement among quintile 1 to 3 schools.

Congratulations to the Class of 2018 and specifically the top achievers! Our great heroes of the past, such as OR Tambo and Nelson Mandela, would have been proud of your dedication and effort. Your hard work has been justly rewarded. I encourage you to see this achievement as an important milestone to even greater success in furthering your life opportunities in higher education, in the workplace and as valuable citizens in further shaping our democratic freedom through education. I also thank parents, teachers, principals, teacher unions, communities, district and provincial officials, and social partners for supporting the Class of 2018.

MRS AM MOTSHEKGA, MP
MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION
03 JANUARY 2019



1. TOP MATHEMATICS ACHIEVERS



FIRST PLACE



David Mark Dodkins

Bergsig Akademie/Academy
North West

David's greatest challenge in his school career was working with other learners who were not necessarily as driven as he was. He gradually learned to cope with group projects as he realised that others were also capable of doing their part, as long as they have clear leadership. Highlights in his school career include competing at national level in the ATKV Debate Competition in 2017 and winning a gold medal and a category award at the 2013 Eskom Science Expo ISF. His most important achievement was probably attending the national finals of the South African Mathematics Olympiad for three of his five years at high school. This Olympiad was what made David realise that he wanted to pursue a career in Mathematics. Hence, in 2019, he will be pursuing Actuarial Mathematics at the University of Pretoria.

David's role model is Luna Lovegood from JK Rowling's Harry Potter series. Luna, as a character, challenges the reader to question his or her fundamental beliefs and stereotypes. How others perceive you and your beliefs should not determine how you live your life.

He advises the Grade 12s of 2019 to prioritise. 'If you haven't realised it by now, the results of this year's labour will greatly determine your future.'

His wish for the people of this country is to just learn to be able to accept others and the fact that while we have been shaped by our past, we are not doomed to repeat it.

His favourite quotation is Gandalf's statement in The Return of the King by JRR Tolkien: 'Many that live deserve death. And many that die deserve life. Can you give it to them? Then do not be too eager to deal out death in judgment. For even the very wise cannot see all ends.'



SECOND PLACE



Timothy Schlesinger

Rondebosch Boys' High School
Western Cape

Timothy regards himself as being very fortunate to have been in a great school environment with dedicated teachers and interesting classmates. His school nurtured his potential to thrive and excel.

He finds it difficult to ascribe his inspiration to any individual because so many people inspired him. He confidently attributes his achievement to the bigger role his faith plays. He honours God in everything that he does. His greatest achievements were to represent South Africa at two International Mathematics Olympiads and winning the South African Mathematics Olympiad. Moreover he received his school's Top Academic Achiever Award.

He advises the class of 2019 to work diligently. Exerting themselves during the year makes life a lot easier during the final examination.

Timothy will be pursuing a Bachelor of Sciences in Mathematics and Computer Sciences at The University of Cape Town.

It is his wish that every child could have the same opportunities that he had. His favourite quotation is, 'I believe in God as I believe in the Sun, not only because I see it but because by it, I see everything else' (CS Lewis).



THIRD PLACE



Liam Edward Gurney

Westerford High School
Western Cape

Since the age of 12 Liam has had to deal with mental health issues relating to anxiety and depression. This made him unable to attend school at times and caused him to struggle with public speaking and some aspects of school. Today, through the support received from family, friends and school counsellors, he has become more confident.

His elder brother has been his inspiration in achieving multiple awards in Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Accounting.

His advice to the class of 2019: 'Hard work is the only way forward. All my peers from the last year who have made it through Grade 12 have done so because they gave nothing but their best. If you work hard for what you want, you will receive it.'

Liam's passion for technology and science will find expression in his pursuit of a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Sciences as from 2019. His role model is Steve Sinclair, who started off as a hobby programmer and is now the creative director of Digital Extremes, which is essentially Liam's dream job.

It is Liam's wish is that all children in South Africa should receive effective primary and secondary education because our education system has the potential to deliver a world-class education, but many in our country don't yet receive that.

His favourite quotation is, 'the woods are lovely, dark and deep,/But I have promises to keep,/And miles to go before I sleep,/And miles to go before I sleep.' – Robert Frost



2. TOP PHYSICAL SCIENCES ACHIEVERS



FIRST PLACE



David Mark Dodkins

Bergsig Akademie/Academy
North West

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SECOND PLACE



Kamva Goso

Intsebenziswano Secondary
School, Western Cape

Kamva believes in the words of Robert Bryne, 'The purpose of life is a life of purpose.'

Limited resources and challenges never discouraged him. A former school friend, Khanya Xhongo, inspired him most because she has a special ability to embrace diversity and she does not sheer away from hard work. Kamva's uncle, Luzuko, a paragon of perseverance, is his role model.

This year he was honoured with a monumental stone which signifies the mark he has left at school. He intends to study Agricultural Sciences at the University of Cape Town and his advice to the Class of 2019 is, 'hard work is essential from the beginning. You will have to make sacrifices. It will not be easy but it will be worth it, as long as you focus on your goals.'

If there is anything he could change, it is to use entrepreneurial opportunities to address the unemployment rate in South Africa.



THIRD PLACE



Jean Durand

Paul Roos Gimnasium
Western Cape

Jean admits that he is extremely fortunate to have supportive parents. His father inspired him because he showed him that if you work hard, success will be your reward.

This lesson on success manifested in numerous ways throughout his high school life. Jean was the captain of the tennis team and won major tournaments. His role model is Roger Federer whose humble nature fascinates Jean.

This achiever advises the Grade 12 learners of 2019 to 'pay attention in class and work consistently throughout the year'. He intends to enrol for a bachelor's degree in Mathematical Sciences at the University of Stellenbosch.

Jean believes that 'every child should have access to high quality education'.



3. TOP SASL HL ACHIEVERS



FIRST PLACE



**Maria Mabokodo
Morgan**

Sizwile School for the Deaf
Gauteng

Maria's greatest challenge was to choose the subjects that fitted her career path of wanting to become a medical doctor.

She defied the odds stacked against her by her hearing impairment. Throughout her schooling career Maria raked in academic achievements. Her leadership abilities have seen her being a chairlady of her school as well as a member of the Representative Council of Learners (RCL).

Her passion is to build a school exclusively for the Deaf so that their specific needs can be attended to wholly without them competing for attention.

She ascribes her success to the faith she has in God. She believes that 'God will never fail you for as long your faith, hope and trust are in Him'.



SECOND PLACE



**Thabile Busisiwe
Qondani**

Kwathintwa School for the Deaf
KwaZulu-Natal

Thabile's favourite quotation is, 'Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time', by Thomas A Edison. These words became the guiding light in her achievements. Notwithstanding her hearing challenge and a poverty-stricken family background, uppermost in Thabile's mind was her desire to reach for the stars.

Thabile is very passionate about studying law and wishes to become the first deaf lawyer to show that hearing impairments cannot and should not prevent anyone from pursuing their dreams. Her role models have been her supportive teachers, her aunt and cousin.

Her drive is to change the dynamics for the underprivileged and poor communities through better education, which will give them an equal chance to become successful citizens. Her advice to the class of 2019 is: 'Staying focused on your studies certainly brings success. It doesn't matter where you come from, what matters is where you are going.'



THIRD PLACE



Ancilla Kaylyn Julius

Dominikaanse Skool vir Dowes
Western Cape

Despite several challenges in her personal life and at school, Ancilla's perseverance ensured that she sat for Grade 12 examinations in 2019.

Her role model and inspiration is her Deputy Principal, Ms McKerry, who never failed to support her.

Ancilla has a passion for Sign Language and Design. Through the latter subject she is able to express her creativity. Her advice to the Class of 2019 is to manage their time well. She intends to study Information Technology.

She dreams of a world where Deaf education can be offered on the same level as education for the hearing. Ancilla believes that one should never give up the good and always follow the heart and not the mind.



4. TOP TECHNICAL MATHEMATICS ACHIEVERS



FIRST PLACE



**Phiwayinkosi
Mhlongo**

Bona Comprehensive School
Gauteng

Phiwayinkosi's greatest challenge was that his domestic environment was not conducive to studying. He managed to secure a spare classroom at school to study at night.

His mother is his role model because she is a problem solver and has supported him relentlessly. He intends to study civil engineering and he advises the Class of 2019 as follows: 'They must study every day and make sure that they are ahead of the teacher. They should form study groups while there is still time because when you are in a group you learn new things that you would not have found if you were alone.'

Phiwayinkosi was inspired by Albert Einstein, because he was the greatest scientist of all time. He strives to follow in this genius's footsteps.

Having won a Technical Mathematics Award at the SAICA Camp in Gauteng and being the top learner at his schools are merely the beginning of his achievements.



SECOND PLACE



Lungiswa Sibisi

Tetelo Secondary School
Gauteng

Lungiswa has a keen interest in technical subjects such as Engineering Graphics and Design and Technical Mathematics. This interest will be nurtured when he pursues studies in Architectural Design.

He is fully aware of the importance of time management and believes that one should not be afraid to burn the midnight oil to be successful. His great grandfather, who passed on many years ago, is his role model and still an inspiration to this day. This icon in his life taught him to respect every human being, to be humble and to work hard to achieve.

Lungiswa advises the Class of 2019 to remember that one's background should be used as an opportunity to grow. He further advises that one should never forget one's history and that history should inspire one.



THIRD PLACE



Mhlali Fipaza

Bashee Senior Secondary School
Eastern Cape

Mhlali believes that the early bird catches the fattest worm. He advises the Grade learners of 2019 to be committed to their studies because success can only be attained by diligence, good time management skills and by being focused.

Although his greatest challenge was to venture into a technical stream and study subjects such as Technical Mathematics and Technical Sciences, he made a success of this by maintaining a positive attitude. His teachers' relentless support will forever be appreciated.

Mhlali's father, who shaped his character, is his role model and his inspiration.

This year, Mhlali intends to study Architecture.



5. TOP TECHNICAL SCIENCES ACHIEVERS



FIRST PLACE



**Phiwayinkosi
Mhlongo**

Bona Comprehensive School
Gauteng

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SECOND PLACE



**Atlegang Stevens
Busang**

Ekangala Comprehensive High
School, Gauteng

Nelson Mandela's conviction that every child has a right to proper education and it is the weapon one can use to change the world, inspires Atlegang. It is this conviction which spurred him on to not be satisfied with his average marks at school but to be compared with the best.

He lives by the mantra, 'If you want to be a king, you must work like a slave.'

Learners who are on the streets and take drugs instead of being at their school desks is one of Atlegang's concerns. His commitment to ensuring the country produces responsive and responsible citizenry is encapsulated in his desire to pursue a career in engineering.

His advice to the class of 2019: 'It is not impossible to score those distinctions. The road to success requires serious determination and hard work. It is certainly not a walk in the park. All you need to do is to study hard and work smartly.'



THIRD PLACE



Sipamandla Cibi

Richard Varha High School
Eastern Cape

Sipamandla's greatest challenge was to walk long distances to school on a daily basis. He was raised by a single parent and the family depends on a social grant. Despite these challenges, Sipamandla maintains that resilience is the key to everything and that his conditions at home helped him to achieve greater heights.

His mother is his greatest source of inspiration because she supported the family relentlessly.

At high school he won several awards for academic achievements and he wishes to study quantity surveying in the current academic year. However, a great challenge is that he will need to source funding for his studies.

He advises the Class of 2019 to work hard no matter the circumstances they face. They should sacrifice who they currently are for who they want to be in the future.



6. TOP ACHIEVERS IN QUINTILE 1



FIRST PLACE



**Molelekeng Anna
Mokoena**

Tsebo Secondary School
Free State

Molelekeng believes that, 'Good enough is not good enough if it can be better, and better is not good enough if it can be best'. She gave of her best at high school and since Grade 10, she was crowned as the top academic achiever.

Her mother is her inspiration because she always prioritised and valued education. Oprah Winfrey is her role model because this world icon, who is humble and caring, values education and encourages young women to become leaders.

'The earliest bird catches the fattest worm. Study ahead of time, that way you will have enough time to revise' is her advice to the Class of 2019.

This academic year she intends to study Medicine at the University of Witwatersrand.



SECOND PLACE



**Muzomuhle William
Mthembu**

Ndlela Secondary School School,
Mpumalanga

In life, you either make it or lose it. This is the attitude and mantra Muzomuhle adopted after losing both his parents at a very tender age.

For four consecutive years, he was awarded the Principal's Award for being the best learner at his school. He draws his inspiration from Bill Gates, the Microsoft billionaire, whose innovation and unceasing quest to alleviate poverty continues through the Bill Gates Foundation philanthropy.

Muzomuhle wants to follow in Bill Gates' footsteps by pursuing a career in Petroleum Chemical Engineering as a service to the people of this country and his own community of Ethandukukhanya Township.

It is his desire to inspire the youth to realise the value of education instead of wallowing in activities that do not benefit humankind.

His advice to the class of 2019: 'It all starts with a positive attitude and a relentless determination to succeed. Put these together, you will never go wrong!'



THIRD PLACE



Sinolwethu Sesethu Mfedu

Sinolwethu Sesethu Mfedu
Eastern Cape

Sinolwethu believes that humble beginnings can lead to wonderful endings. It is not what you have; it is what you do with what you have. Although she comes from a humble background, financial constraints and a lack of resources did not hamper her ambition to achieve. She relied on her teachers and those around her for information.

Since 2016, Sinolwethu has been raking in awards as a top student at her school and her advice to the Class of 2019 is to 'know what you want and set goals to achieve it. Never lose sight of the prize: Passing Matric with flying colours. Begin early and use time wisely. Ask for help and give help in your academics!'

She intends to study in a commercial field at the University of Cape Town and looks up to Patrice Motsepe as her role model because he is a living example that South Africans have the capability to earn a living and go beyond that.



7. TOP ACHIEVERS IN QUINTILE 2



FIRST PLACE



Kamva Goso

Intsebenziswano Secondary
School, Western Cape

Kamva believes in the words of Robert Bryne, 'The purpose of life is a life of purpose.'

Limited resources and challenges never discouraged him. A former school friend, Khanya Xhongo, inspired him most because she has a special ability to embrace diversity and she does not shy away from hard work. Kamva's uncle, Luzuko, a paragon of perseverance, is his role model.

This year he was honoured with a monumental stone which signifies the mark he has left at school. He intends to study Agricultural Sciences at the University of Cape Town and his advice to the Class of 2019 is, 'hard work is essential from the beginning. You will have to make sacrifices. It will not be easy but it will be worth it, as long as you focus on your goals.'

If there is anything he could change, it is to use entrepreneurial opportunities to address the unemployment rate in South Africa.



SECOND PLACE



Nqobile Nzimande

Langsyde Combined School
KwaZulu-Natal

Nqobile Nzimande did not allow a lack of resources to be an impediment in the pursuit of her dreams.

Her greatest inspiration has been her father, who is a teacher by profession. He was instrumental in igniting her passion for Mathematics and being the Top Mathematics Achiever in her matric year.

Her advice to the class of 2019: 'Give all your energy at the start of the year. Devote yourself to your studies as soon as the year starts off. Be consistent in your standards and set goals. Always look to achieve beyond what you already have achieved. Do not over exert yourself, work at your own pace and still have time to live a balanced life.'

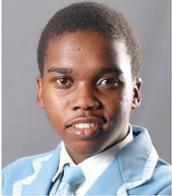
What Nqobile has always wished for is to pursue a career in Actuarial Sciences at the University of Cape Town.

Nqobile believes that there is a need to equip the youth with the necessary skills to be able to enter the workplace. And it all boils down to having access to information about certain careers as early as one's school years. Access to the internet is vital as well as to motivate the youth to see the opportunities education opens.

She lives by this motto: 'All things splendid have been achieved by those who held the belief that something inside them was superior to any situation or challenges they encountered in their journey'



THIRD PLACE



Bongumenzi Cedric Ndlovu

Zama High School
KwaZulu-Natal

Bongumenzi's favourite quote is, 'If your mind can conceive it, and your heart can believe it, then you can achieve it' (Muhammad Ali). This quote resonates in the achievements of this young man who raked in scores of academic achievements in high school. His sister, Nonkwanda Ndlovu, inspires him because she is a high flyer who is never distracted by challenges. Bongumenzi's father is his role model who was never shy to support him.

In his early high school years Bongumenzi encountered severe challenges with allergies that affected his eyesight, but this did not derail him. This year he intends studying medicine (MBChB) at the University of Cape Town. If there are two things he could change in South Africa it is to reduce the unemployment rate and to address the levels of poverty in South Africa.

His advice to the Class of 2019 is, 'there is no success in indolence, only hard work, perseverance, dedication, determination, focus, discipline and GOD induces success'.



8. TOP ACHIEVERS IN QUINTILE 3



FIRST PLACE



**Kharendwe
Mudzielwana**

Thengwe High School,
Limpopo

Kharendwe found it challenging to adapt to a new environment after changing high schools but this has taught him to cope well with change. Her sister, Pfunzo, is her greatest inspiration because she has set an example of how rewarding hard work can be.

Hard work has earned Kharendwe several subject awards and awards as a top achiever. Her advice to the Class of 2019 is, 'study very hard, try to practise as many previous question papers that they can find as it helps you to see how the examiner thinks/works. Where they don't understand they should ask their teachers or their fellow mates. They shouldn't forget prayer'.

Kharendwe intends to study Accounting sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her favourite quotation is, 'Success .



SECOND PLACE



**Avukile Austin
Nkayi**

Nyanga Senior Secondary School
Eastern Cape

Avukile was ranked as one of the Top 50 Achievers by the Siyandisa Foundation. This earned him a scholarship. Without this scholarship, he would have been compelled to walk a significant distance to school on a daily basis.

Vincent van Gogh taught him that 'if you hear a voice within you that says you cannot paint, then, by all means, paint! And that voice will be silenced'. Avukile's role model is a neighbourhood friend, Lindokuhle, who managed to qualify as a doctor in spite of his challenging circumstances. Coupled with his friend's inspiration, this young man's spirit of perseverance motivated him to get accepted by the University of Cape Town to study medicine.

His advice to the Grade 12 learners of 2019: 'Do not give your best! Give the best effort that ever existed.'



THIRD PLACE



Felicia Makondo

EPP Mhinga High School
Limpopo

In 2017, Felicia was one of the top three national winners in the prestigious SAIPA National Accounting Olympiads. She strives to become a chartered accountant and is driven by her favourite quotation: 'If you believe in it, then fight for it.'

Felicia realised early on that a healthy balance between hard work and the time needed to give one's body time to rest is a master stroke. No amount of trials and tribulations should deter one from pursuing one's goals. This inspiration is drawn from her school principal, Mr SS Chauke.

This young achiever believes that education should produce a calibre of citizen who can take up the gauntlet and fight corruption in all its manifestations. To achieve this, she is pursuing a BCom Accounting Sciences degree at the University of Cape Town in the 2019 academic year.

Her advice to the class of 2019: 'Time management is key and work smart while giving yourself time to rest.'



8. TOP ACHIEVERS IN QUINTILE 4



FIRST PLACE



**Maiar Mamduh
Mostafa Ahmed**

Potchefstroom Girls High
North West

Maiar's greatest challenge has been to adapt to undesirable circumstances. Moving to a new town in her high school life left her depressed. She overcame this by knowing that she has to make the best of any situation.

Her parents' exemplary efforts in raising her inspired her and they are her role models.

Maiar played squash for the North West team and she intends to study computer and electrical engineering at North West University. Her advice to the Grade 12 learners of 2019 is, 'Always believe that you can achieve greatness. No hard work goes unacknowledged'.

This young achiever wishes to change the face of education by focusing on improving underprivileged communities. In view of this, her favourite quote is, 'We have to do the best we can. This is our sacred human responsibility' (Albert Einstein).



SECOND PLACE



Tiisetso Molata

PJ Simelane Secondary School-
Gauteng

Finding himself in a multi-racial environment for the first time in his schooling career was complicated by the lack of financial resources to stay focused without feeling left out was one of the hardest things Tiisetso had to endure. Unable to keep him in a multiracial school for lack of financial resources, Tiisetso requested his parents to find him a place at PJ Simelane Secondary as it was closer to their home.

When many would find themselves forlorn at being 'downgraded', Tiisetso showed great resilience and tenacity by immersing himself into his studies at the opportunity presenting itself by being at PJ Simelane Secondary School. This paid off when he was chosen to attend a Weekend to Remember Incentive sponsored by Investec for the best achievers in Physical Sciences and Mathematics held in Cape Town earlier in 2018.

His advice to the class of 2019: 'One of the key things is to work hard. Always strive to be better than yesterday. When you do well, don't allow complacency to set in. Be both book smart and street smart.'

Tiisetso credits his success to the assistance offered by Kutlwanong, a non-profit organisation that offers extra tuition for key subjects like Maths and Physics for high school learners in Soweto.

In 2019, Tiisetso will be pursuing a Bachelor of Engineering degree with specialisation in Electrical Engineering at the University of Pretoria.

He envisions a South African education system which puts more emphasis on technology subjects that will position the country as one of the catalyst players in the Fourth Industrial Revolution global economy.

He lives by the dictum: 'You are only as good as your last game.' This is what keeps him grounded.



THIRD PLACE



Rolf Martin Behrens

Rustenburg High School
Northern Cape

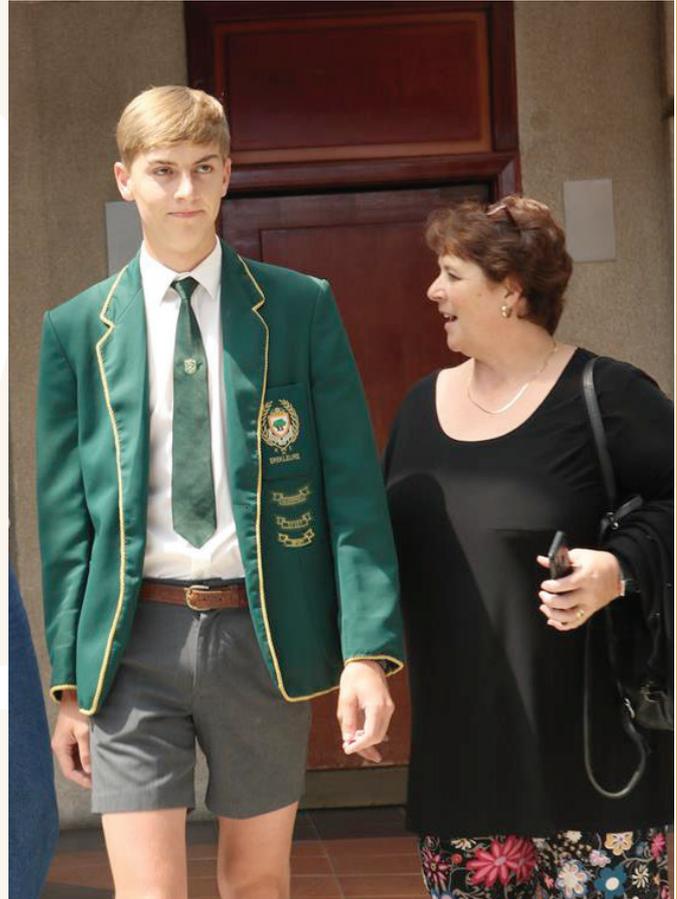
Rolf believes in the great potential South Africa possesses that we tend to miss. He believes 'together our country can change for the better'.

He finds motivation in people who are able to use their personal hurdler to achieve great things. Rolf Behrens is inspired by anyone who has been able to defy the odds stacked against them as well as dealing with their own personal hurdles to achieve great things. Such individuals are proof that no matter how heavily the odds are mounted against one, one can always triumph.

His participation in different school activities, most notably hockey and debating, earned him a battalion of friends and recognition. This helped him overcome his fear of inadequacy as an outsider, having come to Rustenburg High from a little-known primary school.

'Winning is not everything, it is the only thing!' is his favourite quotation that guides his ambitions. In 2019, he will pursue Actuarial Science at the University of the North West.

His advice to the Class of 2019: 'Do not blink. Grade 12 is over in a flash. Pay attention in class and do not fall behind!'



9. TOP ACHIEVERS IN QUINTILE 5



FIRST PLACE



Justine Lara Crook

Rustenburg Girls High School
Western Cape

Justine's greatest challenge was when her father passed away this year just before her preliminary examinations were due to start. Her mother supported her throughout this difficult time. She maintained a positive attitude and continued to do the things that made her happy, such as playing hockey and spending time with friends.

Her mother is her role model. Despite financial challenges her mother always made sacrifices to send her to an excellent school, which has only inspired her to persevere.

One of her greatest achievements was being awarded the President's Award in gold after completing the bronze and silver levels. She raked in numerous academic achievements.

Grade 12 taught her that it is important to work hard, but one must also leave time for oneself. She intends to enrol for a bachelor's degree in Astrophysics or Mechatronic Engineering. Justine admires Malala Yousafzai's strength of character in defying societal expectations.

Justine firmly believes that Science and Technology could generate solutions to improve and develop infrastructure to give all South Africans access to needs such as running water, electricity, equal education, safety and efficient transport.

This young achiever's favourite quotation is, 'Always be yourself because the people that matter don't mind and the ones that mind don't matter'.



SECOND PLACE



David Mark Dodkins

Bergsig Akademie/Academy
North West

David's greatest challenge in his school career was working with other learners who were not necessarily as driven as he was. He gradually learned to cope with group projects as he realised that others were also capable of doing their part, as long as they have clear leadership. Highlights in his school career include competing at national level in the ATKV Debate Competition in 2017 and winning a gold medal and a category award at the 2013 Eskom Science Expo ISF. His most important achievement was probably attending the national finals of the South African Mathematics Olympiad for three of his five years at high school. This Olympiad was what made David realise that he wanted to pursue a career in Mathematics. Hence, in 2019, he will be pursuing Actuarial Mathematics at the University of Pretoria.

David's role model is Luna Lovegood from JK Rowling's Harry Potter series. Luna, as a character, challenges the reader to question his or her fundamental beliefs and stereotypes. How others perceive you and your beliefs should not determine how you live your life.

He advises the Grade 12s of 2019 to prioritise. 'If you haven't realised it by now, the results of this year's labour will greatly determine your future.'

His wish for the people of this country is to just learn to be able to accept others and the fact that while we have been shaped by our past, we are not doomed to repeat it.

His favourite quotation is Gandalf's statement in The Return of the King by JRR Tolkien: 'Many that live deserve death. And many that die deserve life. Can you give it to them? Then do not be too eager to deal out death in judgment. For even the very wise cannot see all ends.'



THIRD PLACE



Jarrod Staples

Westville Boys' High School
KwaZulu-Natal

Time is a precious resource at school, so managing this in order to extract the best possible schooling experience was an essential skill Jarrod had to develop.

Jarrod's mother's calm, meticulous and mature approach to life has served as a constant source of inspiration to strive towards.

Among many leadership positions and recognition awards he has received are the following: Deputy School Headboy, Dux Award, Cross Country Team Captain, member of the team that won the Inaugural CharterQuest CFO Junior Case Study Competition in 2017 and he was a representative for his school at the World's Leading Schools Association in 2016, held in Shanghai, China.

His advice to the class of 2019: 'Persevere, but try to enjoy it. Matric is a mountain to climb, so be ready for it, but don't forget to enjoy the journey. Try to develop a passion for achieving, and your goals will come in due course. Enter the year ready to work, as it never stops, but always remember to make time for yourself to take a break.'

He wants to follow in the footsteps of Elon Musk, a fellow South African, who has become a global business icon by pursuing a career in Chemical Engineering at the University of Pretoria.

In the words of Nelson Mandela: 'It always seems impossible until it's done.' Jarrod would like to see every child afforded equal opportunities for schooling and extra-mural activities, so that all children can find their own passions, pursue them, and have every chance of reaching their goals.



10. TOP LSEN ACHIEVERS



FIRST PLACE



**Mongezi
S'bongasonke
Mbatha**

Prinshof School
Gauteng

Mongezi appreciates the opportunities afforded to him at Prinshof School. His motto is Carpe Diem (Seize the day!) and this manifests in every part of his character and existence.

Since Grade 9, he was crowned as the top achiever at his school and he intends to pursue a bachelor's degree in Informatics at the University of Pretoria.

Mongezi has two role models. This first is Isaac Newton because he changed the world. The second person is Elon Musk because he is currently changing the world.

He dreams of a South Africa where the disparities between the rich and the poor are corrected. His message to the Class of 2019 is, 'You have made it this far, you can go further. Our generation will be the best the world has seen.'



SECOND PLACE



Izak Rohan Crafford

Bergsig Akademie/Academy
Gauteng

Izak's greatest challenge throughout his school life was that Braille material is expensive and that there is a limited availability of Braille resources. This did not discourage him and he always gave his best effort.

He advises the Class of 2019 to work hard and always remember that failure refines your character and that failure is a learning school. It is never an obstacle.

His role model is the composer Bach whose diligence was evident his prolific musical talent.

If there is anything he could change in the world, it is to convince people that disabilities are not abnormalities. He has a vision of a world where people do not see those who live with disabilities as being unapproachable.

Izak will pursue a Bachelor of Arts in languages at University of Pretoria. His favourite quite is by Franz Joseph Haydn, 'I am the master of no instrument but I know the power of all and I know each for what they are.'



THIRD PLACE



Lize Mari van Wyk

Pionier Skool
Western Cape

Lize offered 8 subjects in Grade 12 and her passion for music motivated her to add Music as an additional study field. The extra work was initially a cause for concern but she learned that diligence rewards one.

She raked in several academic achievements and was crowned the Dux learner in 2018.

Her advice to the Class of 2019 is to live a healthy life and that can only be achieved if one learns to manage stress.

This year, Lize intends to focus on her music by working towards advanced performance in piano, singing and playing the guitar. This will pave the way towards studying Musical Theatre at the University of Stellenbosch in 2020.





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