

STREET ADDRESS:

40 Derby Avenue
Springs Extension
Springs

P.O. Box 474
Springs
1560

Tel: (011) 362 2686
(011) 362 3185
Fax: (011) 362 1485

Email: admin@veritas.org.za
marketing@veritas.org.za

(FORMERLY CONVENT AND CBC, SPRINGS)



Learn, Live and Lead with Love

STREET ADDRESS:

Nestor Road
Pollak Park
Springs

P.O. Box 288
Springs
1560

Tel: (011) 812 2767
(011) 815 6414

Fax: (011) 815 2381

Fax to e-mail: 086 218 5846
Email: veritasc@netactive.co.za
marketing@veritas.org.za

19th January 2016

Dear Parents

It has been an exciting first week welcoming everyone back to school. We wish all our parents, learners and staff a very blessed and successful 2016. A special welcome is extended to our Grade 8s and their parents.

1. Matric results:

The year has begun well with yet another excellent set of academic results for our 2015 Matriculants. The dedication of our teachers and the hard work of our learners have yielded a **100% pass rate for the 18th consecutive year**, and **58 learners attained 61 distinctions**, on the IEB system. We are so proud of this achievement!

Most significant, however, is the huge increase in **Degree Passes** – from 74% in 2014 to 86% in 2015! This is very pleasing : 50 learners out of 58 achieved this University Exemption and the remaining 8 achieved a Diploma Pass (College Exemption).

- **Chloe Mitchell** attained 6 distinctions and missed her 7th distinction by only 1% in one subject. She attained an overall average of 85.4% and is also in the top 1% in the country in Business Studies. Some of her distinctions included marks over 90%. Chloe has been offered a full scholarship and employment at Deloitte and she will be studying toward becoming a Chartered Accountant.
- **Iandro van der Linde** achieved 6 distinctions and an overall average of 84.4%. Iandro missed his 7th distinction by 2% in one subject and he achieved over 90% in Mathematics. Iandro has also been offered a scholarship and has been accepted to study Law.
- **Whitney Howell** attained 5 distinctions after spending much of her study time tutoring those Matric learners who were struggling – she is an amazing young woman.
- **Steven Selkon, Giorgia Silvaggi and Nonduduzo Simelane** achieved 4 distinctions and **Damian Borien** attained 3.
- The following learners attained 2 each – **Diane Athiemulam, Rachel Chizungu, Stephanie Loock, Landiwe Gama, Keletso Pule, Elriqve Visser**
- Those who achieved 1 distinction each include: **Eleni Dravillas, Tristan Fenton, Erin Grobler, Gabrielle Katsapas, Stanley Mabonga, Itumeleng Macatolle, Bavumile Mkhonza, Pontsho Moloi, Ronaldo Ruiters, Lauren Moyanga, Vanessa Padi, Charles Patrick, David Scamuzzi, Cheryl Stapelberg and Maceena Whyte.**

Our Matric learners serve as excellent role models for all our other learners.

2. Staff News:

- We were saddened by the passing of our colleague from the Prep School, Sharon Edwards, who lost her battle with cancer in December.
- Our condolences to Mr Robert Anderson whose father passed away, Ms Danielle Sherlock who lost her father and Ms Monique Gillespie whose grandmother passed away.
- We wish Freda Kelty good health as she continues her treatment and welcome back Judy Fuchs after her operation
- Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Barbosa on the birth of their daughter, Cataleah, and to Mr and Mrs Ngwenya whose daughter was born in December.
- We welcome the following new staff members and wish them a very happy tenure at the College: Mrs Campbell who is our new receptionist, Ms Rebecca Curry who taught English at Wits University and who joins us in the English Department; Ms Danielle Sherlock who tutored Engineering students at Wits and who is now teaching English to Gr 8s, 10s and 11s; Mr Robert Anderson, our new Business Studies and RE/LO teacher who has worked in South Africa and overseas mentoring businesses; Ms Tess du Plooy, who assumes the role of locum for Mrs Barbosa while she is on maternity leave; and our two new coaches who have joined us in the Sports Department: Mr Cameron Billson and Mr Damian Berluti. The passion and commitment that is evident on the staff body this year is extremely heartening.

3. First week:

Our Grade 8s have enjoyed their first week of High School as Mr Swart's Orientation Programme familiarised them with new programmes, rules and policies, and introduced them to their mentors in Matric. Grade 8s will accompany Mr Swart and the Leadership Council to Parnassus on Wed 20th January and will return from their camp on Friday 22nd. Gr 8 – 12 learners have quickly settled into their academic routine and lessons are in full swing.

4. Parent Information evenings:

Important information will be imparted at the Information Evenings on Tuesday 19th January (Grades 8 and 9) and Thursday 21st (Grades 10, 11 and 12), starting at 18h00. Parents are requested to attend.

5. Homework Classes:

We offer free extra lessons from 14h:30 each day, starting 25th January. We also offer free coaching sessions on the sports fields. Any learner who is not in one of these sessions from 14h40 must be off the premises or in the paid, strictly supervised Homework Class in the hall (R40 per afternoon, added to school fees account). Learners who wait for their transport at the tuckshop area or anywhere else on the property after 14h40, including in bathrooms or behind buildings etc, will be charged the full Homework Class fee and will be sent to join the Homework Class. This system is sanctioned by the Board of Governors in an attempt to control the safety hazards that accompany loitering and casual, unsupervised socialising on the College premises. Learners who are in Homework Classes must be collected by parents from inside the hall. We request parents' support on this matter as too many incidents that have negatively impacted on Health and Safety issues, have been reported.

6. Examinations:

Learners will write two pre-examinations on 17rd and 18th March. The following academic week falls between two long weekends and during this week, normal lessons will resume. The examination programme begins in earnest after the Easter weekend, on 29th March. The dates for the celebration of Easter are chosen by the Pope and we must factor into our planning these dates as well as the number of days available to us to write the examinations. *The calendar is to be found on the Communicator.*

7. Support from Parents:

Parents are requested to become involved at the College by volunteering their services. The same parents regularly help out at functions and staff require assistance with the many duties they must pick up outside of teaching. All parents are requested to offer time, expertise or donations to help the College to continue progressing.

8. Extra lessons:

Dates for extra lessons for each subject will be posted to the Communicator this week.

9. E-books:

We have not found publishers whose textbooks are of an acceptable academic standard and which support the rigours of the IEB system. Coupled with the fact that we are in an area that cannot access a stable and reliable internet connection, an fully-fledged e-learning programme is not deemed appropriate for the College at this stage.

We continue to research and investigate its worth.

10. Communicator:

Important information is posted to the Communicator and is used to inform parents

About on a variety of issues. Please download the Communicator:

www.school-communicator.com

11. Unlicensed drivers:

Learners are reminded that anyone driving recklessly or without a licence on school premises will be banned from bringing a vehicle onto the property and will be reported to traffic authorities.

12. Inter-Catholic Cricket:

We appeal to parents to support the CSO cricket, which we are hosting, on Saturday 23rd January and to allow their children to attend the matches. Our teams deserve to feel appreciated and supported. Our new Sports Department is working hard to ensure that Sport progresses but they require a show of interest from everyone, participants and spectators alike.

13. Sports:

- The coaches are passionate, driven to achieve and motivated to bring fun and enjoyment into all our sports codes. Please support them, as I will, by ensuring that your child has the correct PT kit (green golf shirt and blue shorts) as well as the correct kit for each sporting code. This will be determined by the coaches and the information imparted to your child.
- Points will be allocated to each child based on wearing the correct kit, on involvement and on attendance and the points will count 5% toward the RE/LO mark. No marks will be allocated to sporting ability – a positive attitude and commitment is all that is required, in line with work ethic and values taught in the LO curriculum.

- A “Learn-to-Swim” programme will begin soon – Mr Billson will run this programme for which a large number of learners have already signed up.
- The Sports programme is set to be far more structured than ever. We wish all our learners and coaches well for a successful sporting year.

14. **Performing Arts:**

The Performing Arts programme begins soon and, as always, the professionalism that governs this programme will continue under the leadership of Mrs Pellizzon who will inform learners as the calendar is filled.

It remains for us to wish everyone at Veritas College a productive, enjoyable and successful year.

Mrs T A Holland
Head: Senior School

Mr D Connors
Principal