



Veritas College

Springs

(Formerly Convent & CBC, Springs)

Pre-Preparatory & Preparatory

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Senior School

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NEWSLETTER 1

15 January 2015

Dear Parents

Best wishes to all members of the Veritas College family for an excellent 2015. There is an air of immense optimism amongst the staff and learners and the year holds much promise for all of us personally, spiritually and academically.

1. Matric results:

Veritas College is very proud to announce another 100% pass-rate for Matriculants of 2014!

- The Matrics achieved 62 distinctions which is 10 more than were achieved in 2013.
- Our top learners are Peter Dravillas who achieved an average of 83% and 5 distinctions; Paolo Pellizzon with 82% and 5 distinctions; and Kobus Swart with 4 distinctions. Kobus was also ranked in the top 1% of the country for CAT
- Tayla Freedman, Sarah Moore and Sihle Madonsela achieved 3 distinctions each.
- Those with two distinctions are:
Kim de Klerk, Michaela Fortuin, Cameron Maistry, Lwazi Mhlambi, Thando Mashinini, Amy Pinkerton, Alyssa Rebola, Simphiwe Sedise, Kay-Lee Viljoen, Cheryl Zondi
- Those with one distinction are:
Julie Bielovich, Paul Chappel, Donna-Jeanne Correia, Karishma Diraj, Gemma Hamman, Britney Human, Brandon Kalil, Dominique Kerkhove, Nkululeko Mahlangu, Tyla Malloy, Futhi Mhlanga, Fikile Mhlanga, Kaldora Naidoo, Busisiwe Nkonyane, Nomfundo Nkos, Kylan Pillay, Jozua Rousseau, Keletso Sibulele, Ruvashen Soorajpal.





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- The Mathematics Department achieved 9 distinctions; Maths Literacy achieved 10 distinctions; Life Orientation 26; isiZulu 6; English and Afrikaans 3 each (and another five 79%!!); CAT 2; IT, Geography and Physical Science 1 each.
- Many learners achieved 79% in various subjects – excellent, albeit frustrating!
- Four learners were placed in the top 1% of the country for LO or CAT.

Results in all subjects were extremely pleasing. Congratulations to all Matriculants and their teachers for the wonderful results.

2. STAFF CHANGES:

The Senior School staff has seen some changes:

- **Mrs Terry Holland** has taken over from Mrs Pullinger as the Head of the Senior School.
- **Mr Alban Murewi** is the new Head of Physical Science
- **Mrs Bronwyn Cumming** will teach Physical Science to the Grade 8s - 10s
- **Mrs Shelley Bent** will fulfil the role of part-time Marketer for both campuses.

The College welcomes all new staff members to a staff-body that comprises only top-calibre teachers.

3. CALENDAR

Information evenings will be held for various grades in the next two weeks. Please consult the calendar for the dates.

4. REPORTS AND ACADEMICS

Learners will receive five reports this year; Parents Evenings will take place after the CASS report is issued. Veritas College is committed to academic excellence: your child is expected to study hard and to complete his/her homework every day. In line with this commitment, we cannot accept the mediocrity that inevitably accompanies a poor work ethic. We request that parents provide an environment at home that is conducive to regular hard work. This would suggest that a child is able to work at a desk in a quiet, well-lit room with no distractions present – no television, play station or cell phones in the immediate proximity.

5. UNIFORMS AND CONDUCT



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Please ensure that your child is dressed according to the rules that prescribe the acceptable dress code. We are a Private School and as such we cannot compromise on the appearance of the uniform. Hair length, hair styles and shaving are all issues that are addressed in the school rules that have been published in the school diary as well as on the communicator. We appreciate your commitment to ensuring your child's compliance on this matter.

6. AFTER SCHOOL:

We request that firm after-school transport arrangements be made for your children so that they are able to go home to complete their homework as soon as lessons are over. Learners may not remain on school property after 14h30, unless they are involved in sports, cultural activities or extra lessons. 'Homework classes' have become more of a social meeting place for many and this cannot be indulged. Learners who loiter on the property are also at risk and, in the interests of health and safety, the College needs to take a firm stand. The area outside the front of the hall is out of bounds for learners who are waiting for their transport.

7. DRUG TESTING

Learner safety is one of our chief concerns and, due to the prevalence of drugs in society, random testing will continue to take place at school. Parents will be informed whether the tests have yielded a positive or a negative result.

8. LATE COMERS

Late-comers are not allowed to disrupt assemblies or classes and therefore will have to wait at reception until the next period begins.

9. ITALIAN

In 2014, Mrs Pullinger opted to introduce Italian classes for Grades 8 and 9 in 2015, in an attempt to better utilise the time set aside for the tutor period. She also hoped to provide something extra for our learners whose parents are paying high school fees, and to expose the learners to as many experiences as possible. Mrs Martinuzzi will run the programme while continuing to teach the same number of English lessons as she has done in the past. The success of the programme will be monitored this year and a decision taken about the extent of its implementation in 2016.

10. ACADEMIC STREAMING



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Classes are not streamed according to academic performance and therefore the 'V', 'C' and 'S' labels denote nothing more significant than being the initials of the school's name. While in some grades, mathematics classes are streamed, learners are randomly assigned to classes. Please note that it is difficult to move learners from one class to another because it results in an imbalance of numbers.

We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure that our children can achieve their highest potential. We know that a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education and as partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success. We want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We trust that you will guide and support your child's learning too. In light of this statement, William Temple's comment rings true: *"The most influential of all educational factors is the conversation in a child's home"*.

We also appeal to parents to become as involved in school activities as possible. We welcome all offers of assistance with school events and we urge parents to become involved in the PTSA.

We wish you all a productive and happy year ahead.

MRS T A HOLLAND
HEAD: SENIOR SCHOOL