

## Matric Results 2014

Much is being said about Oakhill College and the quality of the education one receives at an independent school at the present time and, once again, I am delighted to announce that the 2014 Matric group ended their year particularly well! At a time when we focus on results it is incumbent of me to remind all of us that academic results are only one indication that a school is doing well. The most important indicator of a school's success must surely be how well students do after they leave school: are they prepared for the rigours of University? Are they mature and confident enough to face life after school independently? Have they developed the joy of life-long learning? Have they developed good habits in terms of self-discipline and problem solving? Have they developed the confidence to give an opinion and participate in a debate? Do they genuinely want to make a difference in the world they are entering? Have they developed a sense of purpose which helps them to understand that they are not the only star in the firmament and nor are they a tumbleweed being blown through life? And finally have they figured out what they really enjoy – have they found their element, and are they prepared to use it to help others?

In my opinion, Oakhill School and our parents continue to partner successfully to ensure that we help grow well-adjusted, independent thinking, innovative, happy young men and women who develop a love of life-long learning. Our students are fully aware that they are on a journey which is far from over when they complete their Matric year and I am confident that the Matrics of 2014 are no exception to this premise. If you are a Preparatory School parent I would encourage you to analyse these results with your own children and their future in mind. If you choose to continue into the College phase of our school you will be assured and encouraged that your son or daughter will be able to achieve anything they set their minds to in this energetic and forward-thinking environment. Once again, I am extremely proud of our teachers and ultimately of our Matrics who have excelled in all areas.

A total of 75 subject distinctions were achieved out of a class of 38 pupils. This ratio of 1.97 distinctions per candidate is our best ever. Our top achievers are listed below but special mention must be made of **Olivia Gardy** who achieved six distinctions and who received an average of 87%. She was closely followed by **Fern Wolf** with an average of 83%.

Our subject averages not only compare favourably with the IEB national averages but in the majority of cases they are better than the national averages. I would also like to make specific mention of the fact that our Mathematics and Science results continue to make significant headway. 71% of our candidates took Mathematics as a subject in 2014 (compared to 66% in IEB schools) and 44% of them achieved either an 'A' or a 'B' symbol. **Our average for Mathematics this year is on par with the IEB national average (63% vs 64%)**. Andrew Browne, our new Mathematics HOD continues to build a department which is open to growing and improving.

53% of our Matrics chose to take Physical Science (49% in IEB schools) and 60% of them achieved either an 'A' or 'B' symbol. This is a complete turn-around from the year before and I have no doubt that Ilse Schoeman is making a significant difference in this department. **Our average for Science this year is significantly higher than the IEB national average (67% vs 60%)**

There is much emphasis, nationally and internationally on Maths and Science and although I have no problem with this, it is the study of the humanities which is going to help us solve the many societal problems we are encountering in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The value of the arts and the humanities must not be underestimated in helping us shape society in the future. Although we only had 6 candidates taking Visual Art the results are, once again, exceptional and Amy Nuttal needs to be congratulated for that. (4 of her 6 candidates received an 'A' symbol and the subject average was 84%). Our Drama and Music results are also outstanding. Our Afrikaans results are also improving under Louise Fourie's guidance where 53% of our candidates received either an 'A, B or C' symbol and we received 6 'A' symbols. Our English department also achieved pleasing results with 82% of our candidates receiving either an 'A, B or C' symbol, which is outstanding.

Our IT (4 'A' symbols from 7 candidates) results continue to impress, congratulations to Diana Barnard for her efforts. Gerhard Claasen needs to be congratulated for the outstanding Mathematical Literacy results. (10 'A' symbols from 15 candidates). Our Geography, History and Life Sciences results also continue to gain traction and our Business Studies results have increased their overall average by 10% from last year. Liam Bell needs to be congratulated wholeheartedly for this turn around. Our Accounting results are also magnificent and I know our Deputy Headmaster, Dawie Botha likes to lead by example and he has certainly done just that this year.

Our academic department, under the leadership of Sharon Brown, prepared our pupils particularly well and our average and symbol breakdowns this year are outstanding when compared with the overall IEB statistics: We have made progress in practically every subject and the whole academic teaching team can take great heart from that. However, there is room for further improvement and we will be focusing on specific issues as we welcome Dawie Botha into his new role as Deputy Headmaster: Learning Enhancement and Innovation. Dawie will be focusing on innovative ways of improving our learning and thinking in all areas of the school. He will also be tracking and researching trends and areas of concern in the academic realm and ensuring that we put measures in place which will continue to allow us to improve year on year. We will also be tracking and measuring diligence and effort more next year. I have no doubt that his and all our staff members' energy will continue to move us forward positively as we enter 2015.

## Seven Year Matric result comparison

	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Candidates	25		24		29		30		50		40		38	
Passes	25	100	24	100	29	100	30	100	50	100	40	100	38	100
Bachelor Degree	22	88	22	91.6	27	93	26	87	47	94	35	88	35	92
Diploma	2	8	1	4	2	7	4	13	3	6	5	12	2	5
HC	1	4	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
NSC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Distinctions</b>	<b>33</b>		<b>40</b>		<b>55</b>		<b>59</b>		<b>79</b>		<b>70</b>		<b>75</b>	
<b>Distinctions per candidate</b>	<b>1.13</b>		<b>1.66</b>		<b>1.89</b>		<b>1.96</b>		<b>1.58</b>		<b>1.75</b>		<b>1.97</b>	

As can be seen from the table above we continue to improve our distinctions per candidate year on year. We have also improved our conversion rate of 'B' symbols to 'A' symbols but need to focus on converting even more. What is encouraging is that **74% of our candidates received at least one 'A' symbol**. 50% received two or more, 29% received three or more and 24% of students received 4 or more distinctions. This certainly gives future matriculants and their parents the assurance that, should their children put in the effort they are capable of achieving the results they deserve at Oakhill.

	Level 7 (A)	Level 6 (B)	Level 5 (C)	Level 4 (D)	Level 3 (E)
2008	33	39	51	34	17
2009	40	52	38	26	9
2010	55	55	58	27	11
2011	59	64	39	27	23
2012	79	92	101	58	28
2013	70	84	63	49	25
2014	75	79	57	35	18

## Top Achievers in 2014

### Six Distinctions

#### Olivia Gardy

(English, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Physical Science, Dramatic Art)

#### Fern Wolf

(English, Geography, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Life Orientation, Physical Science)

### Five Distinctions

#### Rhys van den Handel

(Accounting, Information Technology, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Physical Science)

#### Hannah Laughton

(Afrikaans, English, Life Sciences, Visual Art, Life Orientation)

#### Joshua Kilian

(Geography, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Life Orientation, Physical Science)

### Four Distinctions

#### Nicole Bayes

(Dramatic Art, English, History, Visual Arts)

#### Matthew Young

(Information Technology, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Physical Science)

#### Tristan McKechnie

(Afrikaans, Life Orientation, Geography, Mathematics)

#### Carmen Micic

(English, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Music)

## Top 1% of candidates per subject

For the second year running we have two students in the top 1% of candidates per subject nationally and we congratulate these students wholeheartedly:

**Visual Arts:**

**Hannah Laughton**

**English:**

**Olivia Gardy**

## Subject averages and proportions of A/B/C Symbols (overall IEB Statistics in Brackets)

Subject	Symbol Breakdown in Percentages			Average %
	Level 7 (A)	Level 6 (B)	Level 5 (C)	
English	13 (13.8)	26 (31.4)	42 (33.8)	68 (68)
Afrikaans	15.7 (13.4)	17.7 (21)	18 (23.4)	59 (62)
Mathematics	29.6 (26.2)	14.8 (18.5)	14 (17)	63 (64)
Maths Literacy	66.6 (43)	26.6 (28)	6.6 (17)	81 (75.8)
Physical Science	25 (12.9)	35 (18.4)	15 (21.3)	67 (60)
Life Sciences	20 (19.6)	32 (30)	28 (26.4)	68.9 (68)
History	18 (18.8)	36 (27)	9 (26.9)	68 (66.9)
Geography	26.6 (19.9)	40 (26)	13.3 (25)	72 (66.9)
Accounting	33.3 (19.1)	33.3 (19.8)	33.3 (19.7)	76.9 (62.8)
Business Studs	11 (13.9)	22 (20.8)	44 (24.5)	64.8 (62.3)
Information Tech	44 (30.7)	22 (22)	22 (16.9)	75.5 (67.9)
Music	100 (37)	0 (32.9)	0 (21.8)	87 (75)
Dramatic Art	22.2 (37.4)	77.7 (33.6)	0 (20.7)	75.8 (74.9)
Visual Art	66.6 (24.8)	33.3 (25.5)	0 (22.6)	84 (68)

Congratulations to these Oakhill students on their excellent achievements!

Yours sincerely



Shane Kidwell  
HEADMASTER