



# Collegiate Girls' High School

Tel: +27413737705  
Fax: +27413742817  
collegia@cghs.co.za  
www.collegiatehigh.co.za

P O Box 27870  
Greenacres  
Gqeberha  
6057

## TERM THREE ACADEMIC REPORT – 30 SEPTEMBER 2022



Dear Collegiate Community

### ACADEMIC REVIEW

There have been learners who have struggled this term. As the end of the year approaches, some face the prospect of having no hope in situations they find themselves in. Within this context, there are specific requirements for the School Based Assessment set out by the Department of Basic Education that add to the anxiety of the learners. Effective time management, starting a project when you receive it rather than delaying, planning ahead and being proactive are all essential tools.

We were very impressed with the many projects undertaken by, particularly, our Grade Eights and Nines. The school was colourful as posters and models were carried to school and proudly submitted.

Our Grade Twelves faced a gruelling Trial Examinations Timetable with fortitude. We hope that they will learn from the mistakes made in Trials in order to achieve in the Final Examinations.

Dean Becker, the president and CEO of Adaptiv Learning Systems, wrote: “More than education, more than experience, more than training, a person’s level of resilience will determine who succeeds and who fails. That’s true in the cancer ward, the Olympics and in the boardroom. Resilience is the skill and capacity to be robust under conditions of enormous stress and change.”

## BEST PERFORMING SCHOOLS

Business Tech in an article entitled, “These are the best-performing public schools in South Africa” on 31 July indicated that The Department of Basic Education was asked to identify the top-performing schools in every province in South Africa, and identified over 320 and public and private schools that attained a 100% pass rate in the 2021 National Senior Certificate exams. Collegiate was identified as one of only 91 schools in the country with 100% matric pass rates for the last five years.

<https://businesstech.co.za/news/lifestyle/612018/these-are-the-best-performing-public-schools-in-south-africa/>

## ELEVATE EDUCATION

Collegiate has a proud association with Elevate Education and our learners have access to the Elevate platform. The Elevate Education website has a wealth of resources for our learners. It can be accessed on the study skills student platform: <https://zastudent.elevateeducation.com/> The password is springbok. There are also many resources for parents and webinars that parents can sign up for that are free. The site for parents is: <https://za.elevateeducation.com/parent-info>

## AWARDS

The Speech Night and Prizegiving Ceremony on 13 October 2022 at 19:00 is a premier event on our calendar and further details on this event will follow. We are immensely proud of the achievements of the learners who will be recognised on this evening, but we pay tribute to every learner who has worked hard and achieved personal goals. In celebrating others, we show our sense of pride in our community without resenting what we have not attained.

## OLYMPIADS

Congratulations to the following girls who wrote the English Olympiad. The girls did exceptionally well considering that the lowest certificate achieved was a Bronze which, in itself, is an excellent achievement.

**Bronze:** Sarah Ferg, Lindokuhle Matiwana

**Silver:** Paige-Anne Bezuidenhout, Hayley Libbrecht, Sienna Govind, Zuzokuhle Ndumndum, Catherine Roberts, Rayne Malan

**Gold:** Josephine Jacobs, Abigail Lacey

We celebrate Hannah Sieberhagen who achieved Diamond and was placed 17th in The Home Language examination of the 2022 English Olympiad. This is an outstanding achievement, as there were more than 5600 entrants this year. As part of her prize, she has been offered a free tuition scholarship for her first year of any programme of study at Rhodes University. Congratulations to Hannah for applying herself with hard work as a thinker and writer!

The AKTV Junior Afrikaanse Olimpiade was written and Mieke Wessels, Chloë Strydom, Cailin Louw and Amy Heukelman obtained pleasing results. Six learners entered the ATKV Senior Afrikaanse Olimpiade and four were placed in the Top 20 of the Eastern Cape: Jessica Knight, Nicole Lister, Jodi de Lange and Caitlin Brand. Impressive results were also attained by Sanjana Frank-Meek and Chloë Coetsee.



## **MATHEMATICS AND ADVANCED PROGRAMME MATHEMATICS**

“The following girls took part in the UCT Maths Competition in the PE (Gqeberha) area, held at Alexander Road High, on 18 May.

**Individual participation:** Jordyn Marriott

**Pairs participation:**

Grade Eight pairs participation: Sharon Pappoe and Hannah Doe

Grade Ten pairs participation: Chelsea Duri and Shahira Mahomed, Lihle Mthi and Anovuyo Mabutha, Okuhle Mkuhlu and Helen Adebisi, Beth Burley and Gabriela Yiannaros, Tyra Naidoo and Servaana Naidoo

Grade Eleven pairs participation: Inga Madlingozi and Zipho Debeshe

Grade Twelve pairs participation: Sarah Szuhanyi and Yumna Allie

**Placings:**

Grade Twelve pairs 1<sup>st</sup>: Caitlyn Burton and Anna Pramod

Grade Twelve pairs 6<sup>th</sup>: Alexandra Naidoo and Tanika Moodaley

Grade Eleven pairs 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hayley Libbrecht and Thandwayo Njezula

Grade Nine pairs 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jennifer Friskin and Isabelle Newman

2) We had a number of girls taking part in The Old Mutual SA Mathematics Olympiad. The following pupils took part in the second round:

Seniors: Jordyn Marriott, Gemma Wiehahn, Yumna Allie, Jodi de Lange, Sarah Szuhanyi, Jessica Knight

Juniors: Nazmira Soomar

3) The following two learners achieved 90%+ based on an average of the previous year November mark and this year's June mark: Maria Freercks, Zoe van der Walt

## **ADVANCED PROGRAMME ENGLISH**

On 22 August, the Grade Twelve and Eleven Further English Studies classes were privileged to meet award-winning playwright, Mike Van Graan, whose play, *Green Man Flashing* was studied this year by the Grade Twelve class.

The literary excitement kicked off with a workshop presented by Mr Van Graan that proved incredibly informative on how artists are encouraged to navigate the creative process and how to build on concepts to turn an idea into a multi-faceted character or scene. Later on, a literary evening was held in the Drama room, where books were displayed by Fogarty's Bookshop. Mr Van Graan delivered a speech on the role of the playwright in society. The informative talk on the complexities surrounding freedom of expression and the accessibility of art in society was not only entertaining, but also thought-provoking. Towards the end of the evening, the learners participated in a question and answer session, where learners were able to go straight to the source for all of their questions. Our sincerest gratitude goes to Fogarty's Bookshop, Rother Swain Drama Studio and Nelson Mandela University for their kind support and generosity in hosting Mr Van Graan.



## **EXAMINATION TIMETABLE**

We await further instructions from the Eastern Cape Department of Education on the examination procedures and dates for Term Four. Some subjects will have provincially set common papers. However, we are aware that it will be a busy term and the learning calendar will be short with the examinations commencing soon after the start of Term Four. Learners should not wait for a timetable to begin revision, but should be revising regardless of on what date each subject will be written. We expect examinations for Grade Eight to Eleven to end on 25 November 2022 with a Final Assembly on that day.

## **ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE**

Unless you have been exposed to the nature of education in under-privileged communities, it may be hard to fully appreciate the facilities and experience that attending a school like Collegiate offers. We are in awe of colleagues in the teaching community who have spent hours with matriculants at their respective schools providing a safe environment conducive to learning in these difficult circumstances. We also remain grateful for the many opportunities that the learners of Collegiate have. It is easy to slip into a negative mindset and to forget to count our blessings. There are days when one hears the laughter from the classroom, sees girls practising a drama piece, hears about an explosive chemistry experiment and hears the sound of a trumpet from the upper corridors. It is at these moments we recognise how much there is to be grateful for. Do try to encourage a positive attitude of gratitude.

## **A POSITIVE WORK ETHIC**

*The Guardian* summarises the purpose of homework as: Homework has no single purpose. The following themes predominate in the homework policies posted by South African schools on their websites and printed in their brochures:

- To increase learners' knowledge and improve their abilities and skills;
- To reinforce what learners have already learned;
- To prepare them for future lessons;
- To extend what they know by having them apply what they have learned to new situations, or to integrate their abilities by applying many different skills to a single task; and
- To provide ongoing opportunities for parents to participate in their children's education.

<https://mg.co.za/article/2010-10-13-hassling-about-homework-heres-the-answer/>

It is recommended that a Grade Eight should do 80 minutes of homework a day; a Grade Nine should do 90 minutes a day; a Grade Ten should do 100 minutes a day; a Grade Eleven should do 150 minutes a day and a



Grade Twelve should spend 3 hours a day. We know that sometimes there is more than this and some days less, and we know sometimes life gets in the way and these time frames are not attainable.

However, learners must become able to study independently with a determined approach of doing homework for their own advancement. Too often learners only do homework to stay out of trouble, or for the teacher. There needs to be a focus on wanting to do homework. If your children tell you that there is no homework, do remember that you may have used that line as a youngster and you know the truth that there is always homework or revision.

## SUBJECT CHANGES

Any change is subject to approval and is a process of consultation with the parents, teacher whose subject is being left and the teacher of the new subject. We also need to look at the timetable and class sizes to determine the viability of the move. Please do not leave requesting a subject change to the deadline date as the process needs a few days to run its course. You also need to bear in mind that with any change comes the need to catch up on work missed in the new subject. This is not always easy. Changes in Grade Ten, with a maximum of TWO permitted, are allowed at the end of the first term and at the end of the second term. Subjects should not be changed lightly or at the first difficulty or when the first low marks are received. Working at difficulties leads to understanding. It also teaches you not to give up which is an essential skill to cope with life. At the end of Grade Ten and by the end of the first term of Grade Eleven, learners again have an opportunity to change subjects, with the maximum of TWO. However, by the end of Grade Eleven, learners may make only ONE subject change. Monitor closely the subjects where marks are declining. If there are TWO troublesome subjects, only one can be dropped at the end of Grade Eleven. Practically, this can be a challenge. A learner struggling in Mathematics and Physical Sciences would need to drop Physical Sciences by the end of Term One in Grade Eleven and then Mathematics at the end of Grade Eleven. If you wait too long to make this decision, you can only drop Physical Sciences and have to persevere with Mathematics.

## GRADE NINE SUBJECT CHOICES

The Grade Nines attended a Subject Choice Evening on 20 September. We thank Kathy Balshaw for her thought-provoking presentation.



In August, the Grade Eleven Academic Committee made history by hosting the first ever Subject Fair. This wonderful initiative was to aid Grade Nine learners in making one of the most daunting decisions of their Academic career, choosing their Grade Ten subjects. Both the Grade Eleven and Grade Nine learners, embraced the wonderful opportunity to engage, sharing laughs, valuable information and a helping hand. The hall was full of energy and positivity with light music and a PowerPoint playing in the background. The best way to gain experiences and information about a subject is to speak to the learners who take the subject. The experience was also more personal as questions learners may not want to ask teachers could be asked with no judgement. The Grade Elevens impressed all with their bright and beautiful subject stands and enthusiasm to share their personal experiences in their subjects and enlighten younger learners with warm sisterly advice. The Prefect Candidates did an excellent job in guiding the Grade Nines in their future academic careers. We are looking forward to seeing this wonderful fair continue over the years.



## **ABSENTEEISM AND LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY**

During Covid times, the school needed to be accommodating about non-attendance. We no longer need to be, yet we have too many learners departing school early or missing school. The Department of Basic Education red flags our attendance records when the system picks up habitual absenteeism. It is vital that parents do not rush to school to collect a daughter with a slight cold or mild headache. Learners need to learn to function within the confines of school rules and to build up the stamina to cope with slight ailments. Parents collecting learners must report to reception to collect their daughter. Appointments must be made outside of school hours. Learners may not drive their own vehicles home if that is their normal transportation when they are ill. We only release a learner into the care of the guardian or parent.

The NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY ACT 27 OF 1996 states:

9. Enrolment of learners and their regular and punctual attendance at school are pre-requisites for an educated nation. Moreover, enrolment and punctual, regular attendance at school are (is) important because ...
  - (a) Each school has a duty to protect every learner's fundamental right to education;
  - (b) Enrolment at a school places a learner under an obligation to attend school punctually and regularly unless there is a valid reason for absence;
14. Many public schools have a culture of punctual and regular learner attendance. The government's goal is that all South African public schools will establish and maintain such a culture, which is a mark of pride in our schools and a prerequisite for quality teaching and learning. This will be achieved if...
  - (a) Principals, teachers and district officials show zero tolerance for absence from school without valid reason;

Of great concern to us is the culture of non-attendance in the last week of each term. Contrary to what learners may tell parents, important work is covered and it is a huge disadvantage to learners when they miss the last week of term. Furthermore, we are encouraging a lack of respect for the teacher's due diligence in preparing lessons when learners do not attend these lessons.

## **ACADEMIC RESEARCH**

When learners undertake projects, it is important that the correct format be used in the bibliography. This can be accessed on our website: <https://www.collegiatehigh.co.za/academic/research-and-academic-writing/>

## **GUEST SPEAKER AT SEMINAR**

The National Coding and Robotics Symposium's theme was Making Coding and Robotics Accessible. Mr Keith Gibson presented on 28 September on the topic: Problem Solving – Learning to Walk Before the Robot Runs Out.

## **TUTORING**

The English Mentorship Programme has been a positive experience for both Mentors and for those who seek assistance in any area of English. The Grade Twelve Mentors of 2022 are to be commended, in particular, for their commitment to helping others. Siphokazi Tom, Ashley Dryburgh and Abigail Lacey have all contributed towards creating a safe, stimulating space, where learners' sense of confidence regarding English Home Language has grown. We hope that the programme goes from strength to strength in the years to come.



The following Grade 12 learners need a special mention for doing Mathematics Tutoring for the last few years, including 2022. This commitment aided many a learner who needed help on a Monday or Wednesday afternoon. Our grateful thanks goes to Arasi Pillay, Sarah Schulze, Joseline Maas, Jessica Knight and Yumna Allie.

The Studying Sisterhood tutoring initiative has been running since its launch date of 22 February, under the care of Robyn Hechter. These services included but were not limited to – academic help with specific subjects, homework assistance, and the teaching of time management, organizational skills, and stress coping mechanisms. During the weeks leading up to the Term Two exams, permanent studying venues were created where learners could attend tutoring or could simply study without disturbances and distractions. Robyn received much positive feedback regarding this as girls found it much easier to be productive in these quiet sanctuaries of learning.

After their triumph, there was no question about continuing the permanent access to a study venue after school and so in Term Three, they were opened again – ready to provide Matrics with a place to study for Trials, Grade Nines with an opportunity to discuss subject choices and Grade Eights with a chance to learn the tips and tricks of high school assessments.

Subject content was not the only thing being discussed within these walls, as Robyn had great fun drawing up study timetables with Grade Eights and Nines. The tutors who have made the Studying Sisterhood so effective have also shared similar experiences. As far as numbers go, there are currently twenty tutors who are part of this initiative. Even the busiest of matrics were able to help about eleven learners each! Robyn wrote, “I have so enjoyed watching this initiative grow and I really hope that it will continue to provide assistance in the years to come.”

## **STUDY METHODS**

Renee Wolfsohn who is a psychologist and has worked with students for about twenty years has written a short note on preparing for exams:

Some things never change. Like the tides, going in and out. There is a curious security in watching the waves break and recede, break and recede. High tide followed by low tide, on repeat. And so with life. At this time of the year, many high schools are again about to start exams – some even already in the middle of their exam season and so the topic of studying, study methods and exam techniques come back under the spotlight.

While the subject of Studying is as vast as the ocean, it is a fact that it doesn't suddenly start with the advent of exams as learning is a process (which begins in class through each and every lesson). However, it is never too late to start studying so let's outline some useful tips for last minute emergency measures for Studying Smart!

Start with working out what sort of person you are. This can give valuable insight into how to study effectively.

If you are tidy and organised and have a decent attention span, the following will work for you:

- Choose a permanent space in a quiet place where you can study.
- Make summaries in written form, use different coloured pens and be as structured as possible.
- Make to-do lists and a written plan of realistic dates and times when you are going to study.
- Keep your work space neat.
- Tick off blocks of work completed. Constantly monitor your own progress.
- Stick to the same schedule every day.

If you are chaotic, disorganised and know your focus time is limited, work with it as follows:



- Don't cut yourself off from your household when studying – choose a spot in the hub of your home where you can vaguely hear the TV, see the front door opening and closing and smell the cooking coming from the kitchen.
- Use music as a background (white) noise AS LONG AS you are not singing along or listening to the words!
- Study more than one subject per day to mix it up. Three shorter blocks of study on 3 different subjects will keep you focused.
- Take frequent short breaks
- Voice note summaries and play them back through headphones while you are doing other mundane, non-cognitive tasks.

#### Strategies for all students

- Remember that 'reading through' as a study method is only part of the whole. Your brain needs to process words you read by any or all of the following: summarising into your own words/physically writing short notes/talking out loud.
- Imagine you are teaching one of your peers a section they missed out on. How would you put the information across to them? Alternatively, pressgang a family member into listening to your explanation of what you have learnt.
- Write your own test on a section. Swop with a chosen study buddy. Each mark the other's test.

#### TIPS

If you fall off the horse, get back onto it!

- If you fall behind on your own study programme, don't abandon it, just get on with the next block of work.
- Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater!
- Anything you have studied or have time to study is better than nothing. You may need to see an exam as a challenge – a test of your survival skills showing your resilience. Fill in an answer for each and every question, even if you need to hazard an informed guess. Empty spaces don't earn you any marks.
- You can't stop the waves but you can learn to surf!
- If you are an anxious person, leave an exam immediately and don't get involved in post-mortems
- Similarly, arrive at an exam at the last moment so that you don't have to hear your peers discussing the work you perhaps haven't done or don't remember doing.

*Acknowledgement: Renee Wolfsohn*



# Ubuntu

**The message of Africa**

Ubuntu is a saying that came from the Nguni language in Africa in the 19th century. The meaning of ubuntu is "i am because you are," which means humanity towards others, however the meaning of ubuntu is described differently by different people. Some people think it is a behaviour, others describe it as a connection and to others it is a concept of forgiveness. This is important to Africa because throughout our past humanity has not always been used and many people were treated unfairly and without kindness. Ubuntu is to treat the people around you with kindness, love and equality. This saying created a connection between the people in South Africa after apartheid.

**WHAT IS THE MEANING OF UBUNTU?**  
A quality that includes the essential human virtues: compassion and humanity.

**WHY IS UBUNTU IMPORTANT IN SOUTH AFRICA?**  
Ubuntu is a capacity in South African culture that expresses compassion, reciprocity, dignity, harmony and humanity in the interests of building and maintaining a community with justice and mutual caring.

**THE SOUTH AFRICAN UBUNTU FOUNDATION**

**"I AM BECAUSE YOU ARE" Ubuntu**

**Ubuntu**  
"Umuntu Ngumuntu Ngabantu"  
"I am because you are"

- The believe that we are all defined by our compassion and kindness towards others.

Ubuntu is a capacity in South African culture that expresses reciprocity, dignity, harmony and humanity in the interests of building and maintaining a community with justice and mutual caring.

**KINDNESS CHANGES EVERYTHING**

**I AM WHAT I AM BECAUSE OF WHO WE ARE**

Ubuntu is a Nguni Bantu term meaning "humanity". It is sometimes translated as "I am because we are", or "humanity towards others" (Zulu umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu). It is an eternal African philosophy of "Oneness". This oneness is an understanding of the interconnectedness of all life. It is important because Ubuntu is the essence of a human being, the divine spark of goodness inherent within each being. From the beginning of time the divine principles of Ubuntu have guided African societies. How one interacts with other human beings, nature, or The Creator, Ubuntu was and still is the guiding principle.

# UBUNTU

**WHAT IS UBUNTU?**  
Ubuntu is a quality that includes the essential human virtues which are compassion as well as humanity. Ubuntu is a Nguni Bantu term meaning "I am because we are" or "humanity towards others".

**WHY IS UBUNTU SO IMPORTANT IN SOUTH AFRICAN?**  
It is important because we need a common guiding principle of humanity values. Without this we would be greedy, selfish and pitiful. Ubuntu brings us together despite the different race, religion or gender it creates a sense of belonging to the people of South Africa.

Umuntu Ngumuntu Ngabantu

# The spirit of Ubuntu

**Why is Ubuntu important to South Africa**  
Ubuntu is important to South Africa because it brings us together a family and it gives us a guiding value for our human principles.

**What is Ubuntu**  
Ubuntu is celebrated in South Africa and is part of our culture. Ubuntu expresses compassion, reciprocity, dignity, harmony and humanity in the interests of building and maintaining a community with justice and mutual caring.

**"I AM BECAUSE WE ARE?"**

# Ubuntu!

**WHAT IS ?**  
What is it?  
Ubuntu is a quality that includes the essential human virtues, compassion and humanity.

**The Spirit of Ubuntu**  
The spirit of Ubuntu is essentially to be humane and ensure that human dignity is always at the core of your actions, thoughts, and deeds when interacting with others.

**Who started Ubuntu and when?**  
Mark Shuttleworth started Ubuntu in 1994.