



# St Mary's

DIOCESAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

3 January 2018

Dear St Mary's DSG Community

## 2017 National Senior Certificate Results

I greet you at the start of this New Year, trusting that you have had a blessed Christmas and will have a peaceful and prosperous 2018.

I am sure that you will join me in congratulating the Class of 2017 on their matric results.

All 86 candidates obtained the necessary result to make application for degree studies at tertiary institutions, (what is now called a BD pass.) The national average for IEB candidates for this result was 88%.

The top achievers in terms of distinctions were the 2017 Dux Scholar, Hannah Venter, with 8 distinctions, which included Advanced Programme Mathematics. Shannon Strydom, Agoritsa Spirakis and Hannah Newman all achieved a full house of 7 distinctions. The 2017 Head Girl, Dineo Maleho, and Paige Ligeti achieved 5. (This list may change after applications for re-marks have taken place.)

It was significant that the results from July to November were much improved. 63 candidates did at least a symbol better than in their mock exam with most doing even better than this. The manner in which they tackled their final term was one of calm and determination for which they are commended.

St Mary's DSG celebrates all those who have reached their personal goals, and acknowledges that there are girls who have achieved results just as significant for them, as for the luminaries of the class. This has been achieved through the traditional hard work at St Mary's DSG and the support of their teachers and families.

A comparison between the IEB national averages and the St Mary's DSG average is in the table below:

Subject	IEB Average	St Mary's DSG average
Accounting	64.77%	65.66%
Afrikaans	64.19%	66.53%
Business Studies	66.21%	73.99%
Consumer Studies	65.80%	69.20%
Dramatic Art	75.52%	74.74%
English	68.33%	69.33%
French	70.79%	73.66%
Geography	68.11%	66.24%
History	70.05%	74.95%

Information Technology	71.35%	82.03%
Life Orientation	73.47%	71.99%
Life Science	66.49%	70.50%
Maths Literacy	75.08%	76.04%
Mathematics	65.03%	62.80%
Music	73.43%	73.52%
Physical Science	61.30%	63.13%
Sepedi	66.26%	67.48%
Visual Art	69.61%	64.74%

These averages must be treated with caution. They do not speak to the size of the class or the relative academic strength of each class. It is rather the consistency year upon year which testifies to the quality of the academic offering of the school.

I must point out that nationally 40% of candidates take Maths Literacy, while at St Mary's DSG this year only 16% of the candidates exercised this option.

Two quotes from the IEB press release need mention:

*"There is a clear realisation among IEB learners, their parents and teachers that having the knowledge and understanding that lies behind results on the certificate is far more important and meaningful for success after one's schooling."*

and

*"A new lens is needed on tertiary education and lifelong learning. Our world offers many new fields of study to explore and fields of work that were not available 20 years ago. Gone are the days when a successful development path meant good high school grades followed by a university degree followed by post-graduate study and then employment with a salaried income in a protected permanent post with guaranteed benefits of pension, housing allowance and medical aid. The modern world is far less certain. More and more we are seeing the traditional paths not necessarily resulting in the expectations our parents had."*

I often state that though St Mary's DSG is a school of academic rigour, it fosters a holistic education, and is not just for girls who may be described as "academics". It is the whole offering of the school which moulds "young ladies of integrity and character to serve our nation and the world". St Mary's DSG is about true education. There is no straight forward relationship between success in these exams and success at university or after school. Research is showing very clearly that tenacity, perseverance, adaptability and creativity must combine with hard work to create success.

It is because of these attributes that our school leavers make their mark wherever they find themselves.

The Revd Canon A W Paterson  
Head of School