

CURRO

2020  MATRIC

Matric
2020

#Learners2Leaders

'Turn your magic on, to me she'd say.
Everything you want's a dream away.
We are legends, every day ...
– Coldplay, *Adventure of a Lifetime*

'Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don't know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is!'

– Anne Frank



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Please note that some of the photos

were taken prior to lockdown and the

COVID-19 pandemic.

MESSAGE FROM ANDRIES

December 2020/January 2021

DEAR MATRICS

Thank you to our learners and their parents/guardians for walking side by side with Curro through 2020. We have been humbled and overawed by your loyalty, impressive achievements and the way everyone came together to adapt to the changes, foisted upon us in March, in a spirit of patience and tolerance.

We now say goodbye to our matrics of 2020. You have made Curro incredibly proud in a difficult and challenging year; you embody the best of our offering in terms of academic, sporting and cultural achievements and you have justified your parents' and teachers' faith in you in every way. We are honoured to have had learners like you in our schools.

Great learners enrich the lives of all those around them – their peers, younger learners who look up to them, and others, as they teach us to appreciate life from a unique perspective.

We hope to meet again in a brighter and better future. We look forward to your contribution to society as you go into the next stage of your lives and we will be watching with interest.

Best wishes and happiness to you and your families.

Kind regards

Andries Greyling
CEO: Curro Holdings Ltd



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CURRO

#Learners2Leaders

Treasuring our past; building our future together.



AIDEN SCHUTTE

Head boy

Whenever I look back to reflect upon my years at school, my mind immediately flashes back to my Grade 7 year; my first year at Curro Aurora. The first few weeks truly felt like I had *The Notebook* playing on repeat in my brain, with every single morning beginning with a bowl of oats and coffee, but where the water used to make the beverage was not from the kettle, but rather from my eyes. I even remember that my mother was on the verge of moving me to another school in the March-April holidays, because I hated school so much. I couldn't stop crying, I had no friends and the Fizzer prices at the tuck shop had increased to R3!

But what happened then was what showed me that I belonged here: It was one icy winter's morning, and I was sitting on my own in the hallway trying to hide from the blistering cold to not have my tears turn into icicles, when a guy named Jamie Krishna promptly sat next to me. He asked me what my name was, and just started talking about the newly released Batman game. From that moment, my journey truly began to manifest itself into one for which I am forever thankful. That Jamie kid is now kind of like a brother to me; a romantic story to tell at his wedding, I'm sure.

Until the end of Grade 10, my focus had predominantly been on academics and I never really delved much into anything else. My whole reasoning was, 'Yeah, I'd try out for the tennis team, but seriously, I want the other kids to also have a chance, and can you imagine the trouble they'd have to go through to get the term changed from 'limelight' to 'Aiden-light'? So, being one who always let his humility take the reins, I initially sat out the whole extramural thing. However, it was through the opportunities that were presented at school outside of the classroom, that I was truly allowed to flourish. I discovered my passion and love for acting and was able to be part of brilliant pieces that told such important and beautiful stories while making friendships that will last a lifetime. Also, on the cricket field, where – although I could barely hit a ball – I got a scar from being hit by one in the eye (that will always make for a good story, I guess). I might not have been good with the bat, but I was good with the chat; if there was an award in cricket for the best chirper, I'd have to order some extra-large shelves before the start of a new season. Curro Aurora

taught me that there was so much more to high school than just books and tests, and that is something I will cherish forever.

In the words of the late Tupac Shakur, 'I'm not saying I'm gonna change the world, but I guarantee that I will spark the brain that will change the world.' I built my Grades 11 and 12 years on this philosophy. As matrics, you are the learners with the most power, the most influence and the most potential within the school; use it. Use it to inspire, to unite and to bring about change in a world that really needs it. Be that person who will change the world – and if you don't like living in the limelight, then be the person who inspires the mind that will go on to change the world. Be the pinnacle of hope, strive for what you believe, and have fun along the way.



CURRO AURORA



CANSAs Shavathon
Kieron van Wyk shaving the head of a primary school learner at a recent CANSAs Shavathon.



Liam Barends, Prashan Rajaratnam, Roux Botha and Ezra Pohl



Mikaela Jerg and Nina Luis

MINENHLE LUKHELE

Head girl

*Twelve years?
This is it. The end.*

I did not think I would get here, let alone make it through what has been a heavy, short-but-long year. This year has felt like one big contradiction from what was supposed to be the best year of this five-year journey. However, with a big smile on my face as I type this, Curro Aurora has truly made it one of my most memorable years.

Since my arrival in 2018, the group of teachers, ground staff and learners were nothing but welcoming and warm-hearted. I came to realise that this is the culture of Curro Aurora: to welcome and treat you like family. I changed high schools frequently in the first two years, to the point where I didn't want to make

any connections in case I might move again. Curro Aurora taught me that living in the moment is all you need, whether you move tomorrow or not. Make memories, laugh and smile, but don't forget to get that work done! I was always encouraged to be free and open; in that I expanded on my love and passion for the arts from acting to directing. I have had an incredible journey at Curro Aurora.

To the Class of 2021, I can't emphasise enough how much you need to believe in yourself and your ability to achieve what you might have missed in your Grades 10 and 11 years. It is never too late to get those distinctions, attain your full or half colours, or to be a part of the first hockey team. Grab all the opportunities placed in front of you with two hands, because only you can push yourself beyond your boundaries.



Cub-to-pride concert
Grade 8 and Grade 12 learners



Open day hockey training
Alison Simpson, Nothando Zwane and Cade van Wyk



Social distancing



Public speaking trophy team
Kelly du Plessis, Aiden Schutte and Mikyle Fourie



Blue pride leader
Alison Simpson



SJ MYNHARDT

Head boy



2020, my matriekjaar. Dit was veronderstel om die beste jaar van my skoolloopbaan te wees. Vroeg in Januarie het ek reeds besef dat dit 'n jaar vol kronkelpaaie, duwweltjies en steil opdraandes gaan wees, maar ek was 100% gereed om dit te trotseer.

The first ten weeks were wonderful. The Grade 8 concert, interschools, public speaking, my first two rugby matches, prospects of a rugby tour and gatherings with friends. Nothing could have prepared me for 26 March!

Eers was dit net vreemd en ek het gedink dis nie so erg nie, maar na vyf weke het die realiteit ingeskop. Als verander wat veronderstel was om normaal te wees. My rugbytoer is gekanselleer; ek is weggeskeur van my vriende; ek moes my 18de verjaarsdag met 'video calls' vier; my rybewys-uitpassing is uitgestel en my grootste vrees is bewaarheid: tuisskool.

I desperately needed motivation and came across this quote from Matthew McConaughey: 'Life's not fair; it never was, it isn't now, and it won't ever be. Do not fall into the trap, the entitlement trap of feeling like you're a victim. You are not!'

Ek het besef dat my matriekjaar nooit weer dieselfde gaan wees nie en het besluit dat ek steeds die beste van die situasie gaan maak.

For those of you who are also desperate for motivation during this tough time, I would like to share some motivational quotes that kept me going through this unique school year:

- 'Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning how to dance in the rain.' - Vivian Greene
- 'Great things never come from comfort zones.' - Unknown
- 'Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.' - Joshua J Marine

Tog kan ek as hoofseun met sekerheid sê dat 2020 en die COVID-19-pandemie my nie ondergekry het nie. Ek is vasberade om die jaar steeds die beste jaar van my skoolloopbaan te maak en elke bietjie daarvan ten volle te geniet. Die aanhaling van John Lennon motiveer my elke dag en ek hoop dat dit julle ook sal inspireer: 'Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, then it's not the end yet.'

CURRO BANKENVELD



THE BANKIES CLASS OF 2020



When I think back on my high school experience there are many things that come to mind. Some good memories, bad memories, mistakes, lessons and drama but mostly, I had fun! I cannot believe how fast these five years flew by. I still remember the first day of Grade 8 – the day that I became part of the Bankie family and now I am at the end of my school career.

This is not the way I imagined my matric year to be. I realised how much I took for granted. I miss playing hockey and all the fun social activities. We had so much planned for this year, but all we can do, is to make the best of the new normal. Being part of Curro Bankenveld has truly been an experience and I will always be a Bankie at heart.

My best memories include going to sports events and achieving what every other school thought we could not. Curro always strives to be the best and gave me countless opportunities to improve myself and my sport. I learnt so many valuable life lessons.

My advice to all the other learners is to focus on academics, but still have fun. It's all about balance. Laziness is your worst enemy and hard work is your best friend. Ask for help when you need it and remember, you are a work in progress don't expect to be perfect when you do or try something for the first time. Surround yourself with good people – those who celebrate and motivate you! I live by the words of Michele Ruiz and would like to leave you with it: 'If people are doubting how far you can go, go so far that you can't hear them anymore.'



NICOLE NEL

Head girl



Mckyle Fouche



Bianca Child



James Menendez



Nkateko Manganye



Monique Nel



Gian Esteruizen



Anthony Brits



Dyllan Lotter



Ingrid Nienaber



Melisha Rajah

CURRO BLOEMFONTEIN



NATASHA FREITAS



Being head girl must be one of the heaviest titles I have had to wear, but one of which I am extremely proud. It has been a life-changing experience.

It's taught me a lot and changed my views and perspectives on life greatly. The responsibility makes you selfless in a way, as you have to let go of the self and realise how things can impact your classmates, teachers and the school. We have learnt to trust our intuition, work as a team and take accountability.

I have really learnt a lot despite the COVID-19 pandemic shortening the experience. I am still grateful for the first few months of the year and the learning curve of fitting in my role under the new circumstances. The lockdown has made us all adapt and learn to be resilient.

To next year's matric class, my advice would be to never underestimate what you are capable of; you'll never know your highest potential until you reach for it. Try to view your academics and all other aspects of life as an experiment – you are a scientist who keeps working to see how far you can go, to see what your best really is, what your highest potential is and how far you can push yourself. Your hypothesis will be your goals; how far you think you can reach. You can even challenge yourself as though you are playing a video game, trying to beat your highest score. This is a fun way of viewing all things, especially your schoolwork.

Finally, and most importantly to everyone, remember to stay positive, smile and stay safe.

Head leader

VINCENT LEBITSA

**Deputy-head
leader**

This year has been very tough for all of us and it has stopped us from doing so many memorable things. In my time as the head boy, I have really enjoyed the experience and challenges that came with the role. I wish I could have done more, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, my time and opportunities were limited.

To the Class of 2021, I wish that you don't experience the same things we went through, and I ask you to continue building the school's success. Make the most of 2021 and strive for progress, not perfection. Good luck, guys!



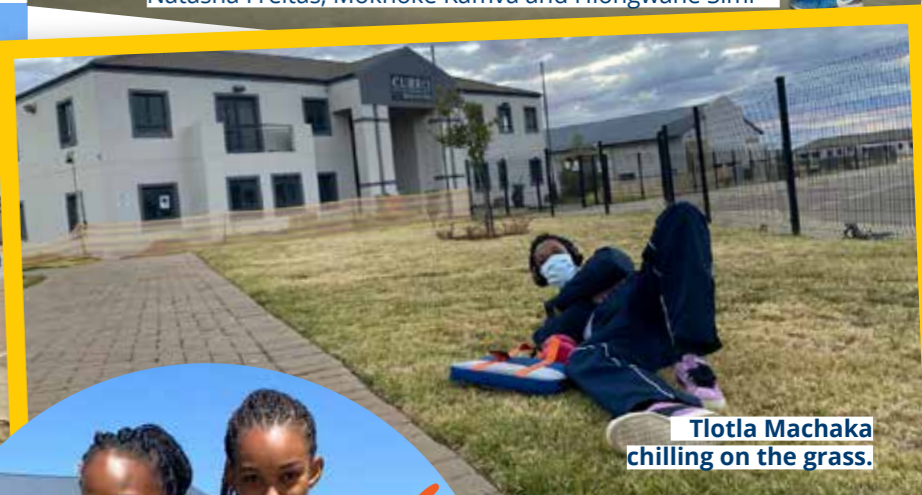
When school reopened after lockdown
From left (zig-zag): Marokane Vuyani, Mohale Mohale and Lebitsa Vincent



The new normal
From left: Senoko Kefuoe, Moleya Lesego, Nkashama Israel, Natasha Freitas, Mokhoke Kamva and Hlongwane Simi



Marokane Vuyani and Mohale Mohale enjoying break; masks and all.



Tlotla Machaka chilling on the grass.



Mokhoke Kamva, Lebitsa Vincent and Marokane Vuyani having a blast at the colour run.

Senoko Kefuoe and Natasha Freitas are looking spiffy in their uniforms.



Posing for a pic while saying goodbye to a coach.



Striking a pose in class
Back, from left: Nkashama Israel, Moroka Henry and Molaolwe Botho. Front: Marokane Vuyani

NCAMILE JUNIOR NOMTAYI



Head boy

Curro Century City – when I hear the name of my school, many memories come rushing through my head; like my first day in Grade 7, the beginning of an incredible journey. I remember feeling anxious, terrified and worried whether or not I would fit in at my new school. It turned out that I had nothing to worry about, as the staff and learners were very kind and accommodating. Everyone at the school accepted me for who I was; the school encouraged learners to be just who they are.

Since my first day, the school has shaped my life in a positive way by instilling impeccable values and teaching me (a young man) what it means to be a gentleman and also

to excel in all aspects of life, from the sports field to cultural events, as a leader and academically.

Curro Century City is not just a school, but a home; a home made up of many individuals with different cultural backgrounds – the CCC family.

As the end of my school adventure draws near, I realise how much joy the school has brought me. Although next year the Class of 2020 and I will be embarking on our separate journeys, Curro Century City will always be a part of us and will always be our home.

To my fellow learners, I wish you success in your studies. Vires, Artes, Mores!

MEINKA SINGH



Head girl

I have been at Curro Century City since the day that they opened their doors in 2013 and it has been nothing short of a rollercoaster ride!

It's crazy to think about how much I have grown with this school. As the school's first matrics, we have been challenged several times as we tried to manoeuvre our way through high school and build new traditions. Our matric year turned out to be as unique as our high school experience. Although 2020 did not cater for the expectations we had, it allowed for a great deal of growth and self-development.

I am grateful for the people whom I have met and who have taken this journey with me. They have supported me, taught me, and have made me laugh and smile despite facing struggles of their own. Behind the myriad of assignments, stresses, hardships, and (at times) tears, were people who have constantly been by my side, experiences I will never forget and memories I will forever cherish.

To the future matrics, I wish you all the best for your final school year. I think this year has taught me to not take my experiences for granted. Make the most of your final year and enjoy the memories that it brings. Matric is a long, draining and stressful year which requires hard work and dedication, but with the help of your teachers and self-motivation, you will be able to achieve what you set out to achieve.



THE CLASS OF 2020



CURRO CENTURY CITY

Interhouse athletics at Cape Town Stadium

From left: Isabella Nedouvhada, Simamkele Koyana, Ncamile Junior Nomtayi, Kitso Mokgabudi and Ondela Ngqakayi

First day of school – let 2020 begin!

From left: Zoë-Jordan Nel, Meinka Singh and Ncamile Junior Nomtayi



Our indoor hockey champions

Back, from left: Cassandra Wallace, Amy-Jane Bailey, Caleb Hartung and Gabriella Knee

Middle, from left: Zoë-Jordan Nel and Nicole Trimble

Front: Mitchel Remke



The boys are acting silly on gender-swap day.

The girls are looking very 'handsome' on gender-swap day.



Thyra Aberdein shows us her funky PJs on pyjama day.



Joshua Lopes, Spider-Man



Abigail Eddy, a marine biologist



Hellen Chirombe leaving a mark on 40 days



Some fun at inter-Curro in Stellenbosch

From left: Isabella Nedouvhada, Mitchel Remke and Kitso Mokgabudi



Interhouse athletics – Green Point Stadium
Junaid Ahmed Parker (photographer)



Jarred Hendricks showing off his relay skills at inter-Curro.



SIYABONGA NHLAPO

Our academic time. Our sports season. Our cultural events. Our matric dance. Our last opportunity to ask that specific high school crush out on a date. Our final year of memories ...

We lost all these fundamental high school lasts. The idea of our perfect matric year now only remains a fragment of our imagination. However, when we really take the time to reminisce on this unparalleled, catastrophic year, the positives balance out the negatives.

This is because in a series of just a few months we have all learnt life skills that often take society years to learn. We have learnt the true definition of what it means to grind. We have acquired an unrivalled type of perseverance that will unquestionably be the foundation of our respective successful futures.

Curro Durbanville will always be close to our hearts. It will always be a place where memories were crafted, and lessons were learnt. A place where our family was birthed. A place we can call home.

I urge you all to finish your race and to finish it strong. The pandemic and current world affairs unfortunately chose the wrong group of seniors to mess with. We are strong. We are fierce. We carry a bond tighter than a pack of wolves and hearts stronger than a pride of lions.

PS: To the Class of 2021, your greatest strength will always be in one another. Never forget why Curro Durbanville is called the #WolfPack.

Head boy

I am incredibly grateful for my time at Curro Durbanville. I can truly say that I enjoyed coming to school every day.

I formed close bonds with many of my teachers whom I will always hold close to my heart. Knowing that you can turn to them when you are having a bad day, made all the feelings of unease that come with the busy year, vanish. I will always cherish this.

Furthermore, Curro Durbanville has taught me to believe in myself. If you had told me in primary school that I would be the head girl in matric, I never would have believed you. The school taught me to express my opinions because they are important, to fight for what I believe in, and to chase my dreams. You get out of life that which you had the courage to ask for and throughout high school I was determined to create the grandest version of myself. Curro Durbanville was my family of supporters, pushing me forward and cheering me on.

Even through this crazy year, with all the confusion and chaos, the way my high school responded with innovation and determination is a true reflection of the Curro family. Remote learning enabled me to continue working through my matric year and the kindness and love felt when returning, made me realise how much I had missed my wolf pack.

To the Class of 2021, although the world seems unpredictable right now, remember there is always a greater plan and you will get through the upcoming year. You have not worked your entire way up from Grade 8 for nothing! Be stubborn about your goals and work for them. With that and a little bit of faith by your side, nothing can stop you.



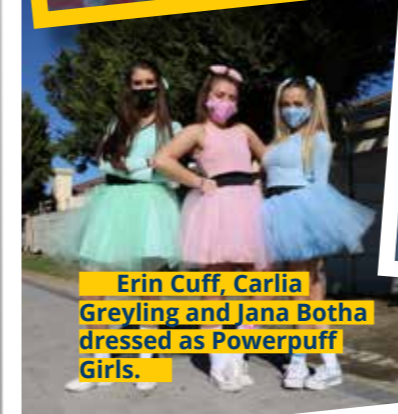
KIARA DE GOUVEIA

Head girl

CURRO DURBANVILLE



Marno Carstens and Irah Mynhardt



Erin Cuff, Carlia Greyling and Jana Botha dressed as Powerpuff Girls.



Kiara De Gouveia, Kelsey Gilbert and Tayla Jearey are all dressed up.



Writing prelim exams with masks on is extra challenging.



Carlia Greyling and Owen Jones having a ball.



Elona Fikani and Amy van Harte prepare for their last relay at the interschool athletics.



Tristan Jacobs, Ethan Samuels, Michael Woods, Liam Marnitz, Daniel Bowers and Ross Massyn dressed and ready to dance.



Jarred Hamer, Kiara de Gouveia and Tayla Jearey looking smart.



Shaina Hector and partner



KAYLEIGH BAM

When being asked to write something to fully describe my high school experience, it seemed like quite a feat and I had no idea where to start. Then I thought there would be no better place to start than describing the whole experience as a journey.

It seems like just yesterday that we were looking up at the matric group and thinking to ourselves that there is still so much growing that we have to do, which was a scary thought. Little did we know that we weren't on the journey alone. Instead, we had the most amazing Curro staff guiding us along the way and teaching us the values and life lessons that were essential in the next phase of our lives.

The lessons I learnt in these past five years are tokens that I will forever carry with me. The people I met and the memories we made have helped to create a high school experience I will never forget. I wish there was a way I could fully show my appreciation to all those who helped build the person I am today. I appreciate the friends with whom I surrounded myself and the teachers who helped me on my journey, and most of

MICHAEL KOTZE

Head boy

In graad 8 wou ek net katterkwaad aanvang om die hoërskoolervaring te geniet; dit is mos die beste tyd van ons lewens. Tog is dit nie wat hoërskool vir my so spesiaal gemaak het nie. Dit was opwindend om nuwe sportsoorte en uitdagings aan te pak. Uit alle uitdagings sal jy iets waardevol leer – of jy nou daarin presteer het of nie. Dan kom die dag wat matriek jou tref en alle grappies op 'n stokkie gesit word. Skoolwerk, buitemuurse aktiwiteite en verantwoordelikhede hoop op en jy moet jou tyd baie goed bestuur.

My raad is om jou werk te doen sodra jy dit ontvang. Jy sal later so dankbaar wees wanneer jou maats deurnag moet werk terwyl jy op iets anders kan konsentreer. Op die ou einde moet jy uit die skool kan stap met die vertroue dat jy 'n sterker mens is en dat jy 'n verskil gemaak het.

Head girl

all, I appreciate my fellow matric class who taught me more lessons than I ever thought I could learn. From every passing joke as we walked down the stairs on our way to our next class to the banter we shared, they are the people who really made my high school journey one that I will never forget and always cherish.

My advice for the next matric class is to be present and to enjoy every moment, because before you know it, you'll be the ones finishing your high school journey with a load of memories. Make the best of every opportunity presented to you to avoid looking back and wishing you had done it differently. This moment is yours and yours alone; enjoy it, share it with the people around you and allow it to help carry you into your next adventure.

I found a quote that, as cheesy as it seems, perfectly sums up the message I'm trying to convey; 'How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.' –Winnie the Pooh.

It really has been a pleasure to be Curro Hazeldean's head girl and I wish the best for all the matrics of 2021.



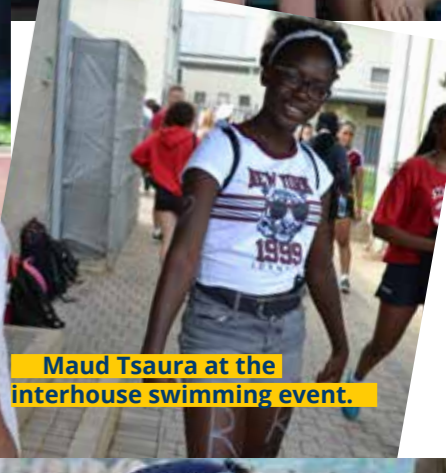
Showing support at the interhouse swimming event
Back, from left: Thato Makgabutlane, George-Malan van Zyl, Nicole van der Walt, Zander Lombard and Matthew Mount
Front, from left: Kristen Duvenhage and Shantel Mutenje



CURRO HAZELDEAN



Cheering at the Curro Cup athletics
From left: Kanya Shweni, Mathew Mount, Ruben Anandlal, Leo Pelser, Shaznay Maas, Lesedi Nkwanyana, Shantel Mutenje and Climo Appel



Maud Tsaura at the interhouse swimming event.



Danae Gous, Buhle Nhlengethwa and Kayleigh Bam enjoy a cricket match.



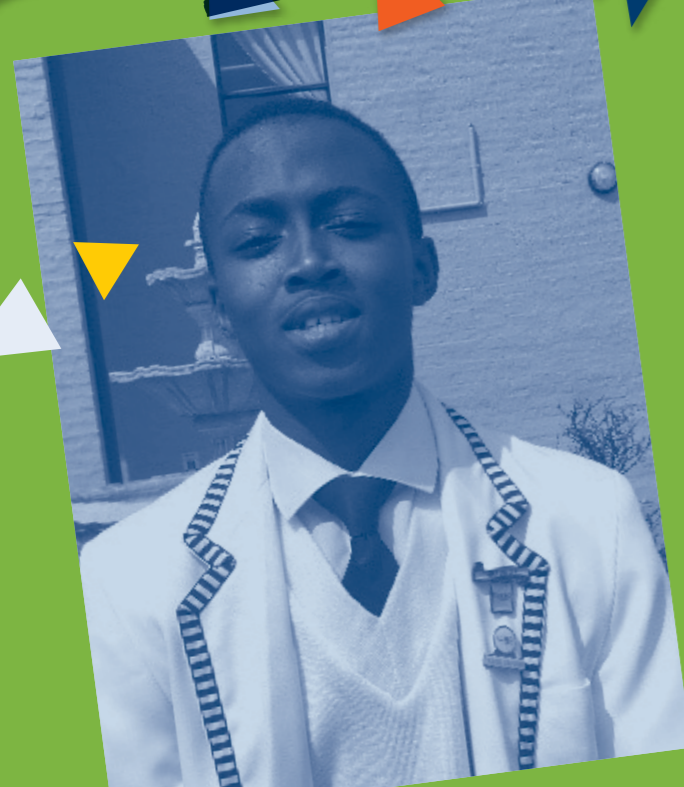
Chelaine van der Westhuizen at the interhigh swimming event.



Monique Pieterse and Tanlan Webber spreading the love at the interhouse athletics day.



Danae Gous preparing for the colour fest.



OFENTSE PITSO

Head boy

A year promising opportunities and breakthroughs of success is now seen as a year of pain and sorrow. With every challenge and obstacle this year has brought to the world and its people, I can say we as humanity have learnt to live and appreciate every moment we are blessed with. I can say that I am blessed and thankful for every opportunity I've been given to embrace my talent and skills.

I feel life has a purpose and opportunities are given, for it is your decision to fill yourself with fear and limitation or to live and embrace life to the fullest, as we have learnt that life can be full of surprises and twists or turns. I stand as a head leader, thankful and proud of this opportunity and time to serve and lead, as this has been one journey I will forever cherish and appreciate.

I sometimes feel like my time as head boy was robbed because of the change caused by COVID-19, but every opportunity presented to me at the beginning of 2020 was filled with laughter, exciting moments, opportunities of success and trial and error; this only built me as an individual and as a leader. Many thanks to Zinhle; what a phenomenal partner and leader you are! I hope you do well in your life adventure. I am because you are.

Your life has a purpose and the only thing you need is to challenge and embrace yourself, your talents, your skills and your purpose. We are the generation of change and innovation. It is up to us to live up to changing and bettering this world, a world that is full of opportunities or social economic issues.

Colosenses 4:5 reads: 'Walk in wisdom towards outsiders, making the best use of time'. With this I leave you; don't be scared of embracing yourself and committing yourself to opportunities of a lifetime, for mistakes only build a greater outcome and fear only destroys your vision and goals.



ZINHLE BUTHELEZI

Head girl

I strongly believe that the best lessons are learnt through adversity. Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.

Times come when we tend to question where we stand or if we are deserving; a moment of introspection of total doubt, what comes after. The statement, 'they saw a leader in me, not a boss' is significant since - just like the weather - to be great you first have to go through winter. I emphasise that we should reflect upon the new things that we have learnt, the relationships we have formed or strengthened, and how our own resilience and adaptability has benefited us. By acknowledging the places where we fell and stood back up again we grow to be stronger and the best versions of ourselves.



Leadership identification camp
Back: Busani Thela
Front, from left: Salmitta Mohlala, Teboho Machaha and Tirelo Petele



CURRO HELDERWYK



Dress-up day
From left: Nthabiseng Mbele, Noluthando Nhlapo, Tsholofelo Ramaifo and Constanca Nhampule



Onthatile Talane and Zinhle Khumalo strike a pose.



Showing off their uniforms
From left: Zinhle Buthelezi, Ottilia Saira, Sithembiso Ntsele, Ayanda Nhlapo, Mbali Fakude and Uyanda Nkosi



Thami Segogela and Vuyani Jolingana having a chat at Inter-Curro.



Friends forever
From left: Khensane Hlongoane, Tapiwa Tapiwa Chatikobo and Teboho Machaha

Acting silly and having fun
From left: Tsholofelo Ramaifo, Teboho Machaha, Constanca Nhampule, Angela Lesolang and Noluthando Nhlapo



CALWYN GOVENDER

Head boy

The dream of wanting to be head boy is one that began a decade ago when I saw the learners before me and how they led, uplifted, motivated and inspired a school into the best it can be. That is where it all began. Now, as my term as the head boy of Curro Heritage House ends, I hope that my successors feel the same way about my leadership.

Being the head boy has been everything I dreamt of, and a lot more. The role has brought out the best in me and it has shown me that we have no limits and that we can achieve anything if we set our minds to it. It has taught us, as a team, valuable life lessons that will be with me forever. The close bond between the prefect body is one that was put to the test during the course of the year and it has challenged us to become the best versions of ourselves, which has helped each one of us grow in our own ways.

This year has been one that nobody expected, the year that we all prepared our 20/20 vision. This year was supposed to be full of ambition and growth, and it still is, besides the challenge that the entire world faces in the global COVID-19 pandemic. When I was elected head boy in December last year, I was asked, 'What do you want to leave behind in this school?' To me, it was simple: leave a smile. My mission was to spread happiness, always be that bright light, that beacon of hope that people look for by spreading positivity with one another and creating this everlasting domino effect of happiness. Even though a few of the ideas I had planned for this year did not come to pass, my main mission has been achieved far beyond my expectation.



GRACIE SARGOOD

Head girl

Being head girl has been a true joy in my life. I remember looking at this position, and its title-holder with immense respect and awe from the perspective of a Grade 8 girl. The head prefect embodied so many roles, from friend and role model, to a representative of the school. Now that I am here, I can hardly believe that I had the opportunity to step into those big shoes for my school. I can only hope that I have done so with grace as it is this school, Curro Heritage House, which has allowed me to flourish, succeed and become who I am today. For this, I am forever indebted.

Of course, my year as head girl has not been one without difficulty, especially with the pressures of a world-wide pandemic. Fortunately, this further ensured my growth as both a learner and a leader, pushing me to think out of the box and to find new ways to connect with the learner body. As a teenager, I know how scary this can be. We had to become accustomed to immense change and uncertainty in the space of a few months. I cannot say I have even thought about where any of us might be a year from now, no plans seem concrete. What I do know is that even when you cannot see what is in front of you, you can keep moving forward. It can be difficult to do this alone; it can even seem impossible. Therefore, having my friends, loved ones, school, and teachers there to support me, has been my greatest strength. It is clear to me that the smallest acts of kindness, words of wisdom or gestures of good faith, can be the stepping stones needed to rise into the best version of yourself.

Always remember to be the spark to brighten another's day and to share your light with every word or message. I am delighted to have been close to the prefect body, because I have come to recognise a fire within each of you that has the power to illuminate even the darkest of days.

Our Curro Heritage House family is one with so many unique, diverse and incredible people, all of whom will only be strengthened and further developed by this hardship of the COVID-19 pandemic, along with the help of their fellow learners and teachers. Ultimately, it is up to us to make the most of the time we have together, the classes we share and the power we have within us.

There is nothing you cannot accomplish in a school that only wishes for you to succeed. I have found gratification in the time I have spent as head girl, with the help of our head boy. I trust that we have been notable leaders for this remarkable school.

CURRO HERITAGE HOUSE



The time spent interacting with the younger grades, who are the future leaders of the school, has been very meaningful and quite entertaining – giving us the sense that our school at which we have spent over a decade, is in great hands. Although an extended period of time was experienced in lockdown, our leadership of the school never folded. We remained connected with everyone and tried our best to lead from home.

That is what we leave behind: a legacy of showing our future leaders that a true leader will adapt to their situation, improvise when necessary and overcome any adversity that they are faced with. We leave behind a legacy of continual leadership that never collapses and one of being leaders as well as friends. Most importantly, we leave a legacy that will instill perpetual positivity in the future of our school.



Naasihah Sacoor, Gracie Sargood and Rachel Berry catch up on some chatting at the swimming gala.



Tyler Alicks and Dereck Fariala entertain their friends at the swimming gala.



THE CLASS OF 2020



Exploring the Drakensberg for Life Sciences.



Lifting the spirits with sporty dress-up Friday.



From left: Kiana Singh, Letoya Boon, Naasihah Sacoor, Kiera Clements and Bella Nwuwa



Nirav Doorgaparsad and Jihan Jugaroop take a kick out of the pandemic.



Is this Michael Jordan hiding behind a mask? No, it's Calwyn Govender!



LUKE GRINDLEY-FERRIS

Head boy

As the head boy of Curro Hermanus for 2020, I applaud and admire my classmates. A powerful Chinese proverb says: 'Failure is not falling down but refusing to get up.' This year played out under exceptional circumstances and the part that was supposed to be great, was short-lived.

Yet, despite the circumstances that we as a class were placed in, we persevered, making the most of the little that we had. I am proud to be a part of the diverse group of incredible individuals. Heading towards the end of my school career, I would like to leave next year's class with a few words from Forest Gump: 'My mama always said, life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get.'

So, cherish every moment, you never know when it might be taken away from you.

MIA WINTER

Head girl

Could this year get any worse? With no **O**ption to avoid the curveballs thrown at us, we **V**anquished all and ran with them!

In a time that felt hopeless, we **D**ecided to stand our ground because we knew - *this was our year.*

And no one can take that away from us.

1 step at a time,

9 times out of ten, you'll be fine!

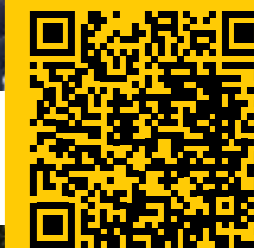
Nonetheless, a perfect year we would not change for the world. Thank you for all who supported us, and to the Class of 2021, make every moment count!



Cultural awards ceremony, COVID-19 style
From left: Mia Winter, Chevonne Botes, Karmyn van Noordwyk and Lara Arrison

Getting into the spirit of things at the athletics big brag.

CURRO HERMANUS



Inter-Curro athletics at Coetzenburg Stadium, Stellenbosch (January)



MATRICES GETTING THE SCHOOL ON THEIR FEET.



Head boy



**TYRON
SERRADINHO**

Well, that did not go as planned.

Of all the years I've been in high school, I can definitely say without a shadow of a doubt that 2020 has been the most ... interesting one of them all. It has been a roller coaster of some sort with the most unpredictable of turns.

This being said, it was also a time to really reflect on my personal experience with this wonderful family I've been a part of for five years.

My first few years I really spent trying to discover a lot about myself: what are my interests, what do I want to achieve and who would I want to surround myself with? This process was not an easy task, nor was it steady. Sometimes I had to break the previous levels down to build them stronger and more sturdy for the following phases. It was only once I had completed my build and took a step back that I could see where I was going in life. Things started falling into place and I was gifted opportunities to prove myself to others and show them what I am capable of.

Being head boy was one of those opportunities. Now if I am to be completely honest with you, I was not ready for this! No one is ready to have that type of responsibility overnight. Although I was not prepared for the journey ahead I took the path, enjoyed the view and grew into the role with each passing day.

With the closing of my journey I know that for others it is just the beginning. The beginning of self-discovery. The beginning of the path you must travel alone. The beginning of rising to the occasion. Your journey through high school will most definitely be a memorable one, but choose the right memories to fill it with. Search for ways to assert yourself, search for ways to gain exposure, make yourself vulnerable to opportunity and it will take you on a ride you will never forget.

The year 2020 has been a difficult one for us all but the strongest diamonds are made by the hottest temperature under the toughest pressure. Work tirelessly to make this your most successful year yet and you will be rewarded in ways you did not expect.

While 2020 could possibly still have some surprises for you, I urge you to keep your arms and legs inside the vehicle at all times and ensure your safety belt is correctly fastened. Do not forget to enjoy the ride and smile, there is a camera shot somewhere towards the end that people tend to miss.

Head girl



**LARA
PRENZLER**

I had the privilege of being the head girl of Curro Heuvelkruin for 2020 – and it has been one of the most extraordinary years!

Looking back on my high school career, it's scary to see how much I have changed. In none of my high school years did I feel like the same person; I discovered various aspects in myself and found new talents every year that I would never have guessed I had. Without my school – and unreplacable teachers and their motivation – I would not have been on the road I am now. I honestly don't think any matric learner is 100% sure about what they want to study and where they see themselves in the future, but what I do know is that this uncertainty has a special feeling of excitement that go along with it. It's my classmates' and my time to celebrate this feeling and what the future holds for us.

This year was without a doubt the one that changed me the most; I'm quite sure I'm not the only one feeling this way. This year changed everything. I've been ready for this goodbye for a while now, but I never thought this is what the ending would look like. Everything fast-forwarded until time suddenly stopped and I found myself crying in bed knowing that this is it; an entire phase of my life is over; a phase in which I feel people spent too little time on the important things. This is, after all, the year with the most exciting moments combined with the most goodbyes. The thought of this takes me back to all the memories and love I've experienced in this past five years. My apprehension for all the goodbyes so close by only proves that I, at least, did something right.

One thing that I will always keep telling any Grade 8 learner, knowing that they are only starting what I am about to finish, is that there is absolutely no reason to stress your way through high school. Things will work themselves out. When I said that I've changed a lot throughout high school, I meant that I went through the regular phases of being a workaholic, lazy pants, party animal, antisocial bug, stress ball and not caring about a single thing. I tested all of them and my conclusion is that none of these caused some terrible outcome that I absolutely can't live with. There is nothing more important than your mental health in high school. Things have a way of working themselves out, don't you worry.

Something that really stuck by me is that, in the same voice God told his people not to murder or to be jealous or be dishonest, He told us not to worry and to cast our burdens unto Him.



The Class of 2020 on Arbour Day 2019.



CURRO HEUWELKRUIN



Elani Engelbrecht, u.18 girls' shot put



ALL SMILES AND READY FOR SUCCESS



Juan Smith, u.18 boys' shot put



Lara Prenzler, u.18 relays



Tyron Serradinho, u.18 boys' shot put



Jessica Dos Ramos Abreu dances up a storm in the school production, Aladdin.



Yvonne Claassens sings her heart out in the school production, Aladdin.



Head boy

FORTUNE SMITH

SIPHOSETHU MAHLANGU

Head girl



Curro Hillcrest is a fantastic school; an environment that has given me the best education, great opportunities and has taught me many life lessons.

My years at Curro Hillcrest have flown by so quickly. However, my memory bank has been enriched with experiences that I will cherish forever. Experiences such as the blueprint camp where I was able to discover my identity and find my purpose in God, while developing my leadership skills. At the 'vasbyt' event I tackled obstacles with my friends and we exceeded what we thought we were capable of doing. I had many more life-changing revelations about myself and through that adventure the building blocks of my character were cemented in me.

I have learnt so much about myself at Curro Hillcrest. I learnt that I can become anything I want to be and should always dream big. I have always been passionate about rugby, but never dreamt that I would represent a South African invitational side through sport. Curro Hillcrest has also taught me that the first step to success is dreaming and believing that it can happen. Furthermore, I have learnt that mistakes are a learning opportunity. The greatest lessons in life result because of failures and it is the lessons learnt from those mistakes that help to form us.

This has been a year filled with many uncertainties. It taught me to stay positive and to surround myself with people who have a positive attitude. Joyce Meyer wrote: 'A positive attitude gives you power over your circumstances instead of your circumstances having power of you.' I received an immense amount of support from my teachers, the general staff, my peers, and family. Every word of encouragement and sign of belief in me has pushed me to always strive for the best version of myself.

To the learners remaining at Curro Hillcrest, I encourage you to have a positive attitude. Remember that the journey is made of individual steps, each firmly planted in uncharted territory. Therefore, make the most of your high school years and trust in God to determine the rest. 'Success is never owned; it is rented and the rent is due every day.' - Rory Vaden

This year has shown me how unpredictable life can be and has taught me the importance of family in times of uncertainty.

This year didn't turn out the way most of us expected it to be. Especially being in matric, there were many traditions and experiences that we had looked forward to in our last year of high school. Still, although this journey was filled with many curveballs, it made me truly appreciate having a place in Curro Hillcrest that has been a place filled with encouragement, unconditional support and love, and has become my home away from home (as well as a second family). It equipped me with tools that I will need in every aspect of my life.

Although matric is a challenging year filled with what feels like a never-ending number of exams and assignments, being in Curro Hillcrest has provided me with an environment where I know I'm not alone. The teachers' dedication and compassion made the challenges of matric more bearable. Curro Hillcrest has taught me the true definition of being a servant leader, to be an individual who leads not by control but through serving and encouraging others, displaying generosity, demonstrating honesty and integrity, and displaying a true heart for people. The school has shown me that I truly am 'designed' for greatness and has helped me to achieve that greatness with humility and grace.

It has been such a privilege to be part of a school where everyone belongs; part of a family that adapts and works through all obstacles and challenges together even when we have to be apart; an environment that encourages us all to embrace our individuality and to persevere so that we are able to overcome the challenges that life may throw at us, in order to find our passion and to be revolutionary individuals who create positive change in the lives of others.

My advice to future matric learners is to never give up and to make the most of every day. Work towards being the best possible version of yourself. Unite and support each other as a class; lift each other up and create a support system. Make the most of your final year in school, because it is an enjoyable year filled with unforgettable memories. Although you should work hard to achieve your desired outcome, don't forget to have fun and make the most of being part of the Curro family. Serve as an example of what it means to be a true Currovian.

I will forever be grateful to Curro Hillcrest for believing in me and helping me reach my potential. Thank you for the unforgettable memories and the strong foundation that will allow me to reach my designed greatness. Thank you for the impact that the school has had in my life, encouraging me to grow and to continue to impact the lives of others and flourish in this next chapter of my life.

CURRO HILLCREST



Happy faces enjoying a day in the sun. Time with friends is never time wasted.



Chloe Gericke welcoming the Grade 8s with the planting ceremony.



Just another day on campus for Mihla Mjwara, Nelisa Mabaso and Kuhle Saunders.



The PR team at Curro Hillcrest's golf day.



Teah Veronesi working on her final Art project.



Check out the cool matric jackets.



Leading the war cry at the Durban and district swimming gala.



MATRICES ENJOYING SCHOOL!

FRANSJOHAN THEART

Head boy

What a privilege to be part of the Curro family. Character was built; relationships with friends and teachers were formed; good sportsmanship was practised on the sports field. Curro shaped me into the person I am today and gave me great memories for the rest of my life – for which I am forever grateful.

The year 2020 was a different one – in some cases a difficult one – but as big a challenge COVID-19 is and will be for some time, I will not let go of my dreams. Steve Jobs once said, 'Let's go invent tomorrow rather than worrying about what happened yesterday'.

My message to future matriculants, never ever give up; be proud of what you achieve, because there is more strength in you than you will ever know.



CURRO KATHU



The Class of 2020 receiving their matric blazers.



Proudly Curro Kathu!



We are warriors at the interhouse athletics day.



Leon Bezuidenhout, Donovan Adlam and Izelle Kasselmann sharing a story in class.



Tholofelo Bosiambe enjoying being back at school after the lockdown.



Izelle Kasselmann and Kaylee Stonestreet as waiters at last year's matric dance.

KALINKE BOTMA

Head girl



Curro Kathu. What an amazing journey.

I am honoured, grateful and proud for being a learner of Curro Kathu, where we are one big family.

Curro gave me opportunities and supported me to develop my potential. It taught me to believe in myself, to grab each opportunity with both hands and to never give up. I am humbled for the opportunities I was given and the nurture and care I received at Curro Kathu.

The relationships between teachers and learners definitely contributes to the success of the school. It has been an honour to cross paths with each and every learner and teacher. My years at Curro Kathu will forever remain etched into my heart – all the people who prepared me for the new adventures ahead.

To the future matrics, always remember the words of Isaiah 40:31 and you will, with no doubt, make it to the end. 'But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not grow faint.'

Cherish every moment of your journey, have fun and make wonderful, lifelong memories.

Thank you, Curro Kathu for believing in me and for shaping me into the person I am today.

Cherish every moment of your journey, have fun and make wonderful, lifelong memories.



Action netball at the summer sizzler.



Hockey smiles at the summer sizzler.



The Class of 2020 celebrating the school's fifth birthday.



Leon Bezuidenhout and Izelle Kasselmann showing off their outfits for interhouse athletics.



MARCO KEBONTE

Head boy

In my inaugural speech as head boy, I said that this year would be one to remember; well, this was not exactly what I had in mind ... 2020 was our year to show everyone just how special and impactful we really are – and this held true!

On 15 March our country was presented with circumstances that were far from favourable. We were all forced to stay home, wait out the storm, and adopt a new method of living and learning. This caused panic and discomfort for most of us – our resolve was tested – but we came out victorious and stronger than before.

The growth and maturity we showed during these challenges were remarkable and placed in all of us a resilience and perseverance that will carry us until the end of our days. The support we gave to one another is something of which all of us should be immensely proud.

To the Class of 2021, matric is not a walk in the park; you should lean on each other for support in times of need. Never underestimate your ability to achieve your goals and the importance of hard work. Work hard and enjoy your senior year!

Deus caritas est – God is love.

MASEEHA AHMED

Head girl

The year we have dreamed of since the first day of Grade 1, the year that marks the final chapter of our schooling career, the year that represented the end of the beginning of our lives, the year filled with new experiences and perks of being the oldest – for us, it was the year 2020.

In March this year our long-awaited dreams came crashing down. A year that was supposed to be filled with our final moments on the sports field, dancing on stage and experimenting in the lab, turned into a year behind a camera with a mask and bottle of hand sanitiser. However, although the memories were not what we expected, this year was still memorable. The Class of 2020 will go down in history as the class who, against all odds, made it.

It has been an honour to watch your resilience and determination shine through. Despite the difficult circumstances, we were able to lean on one another and conquer this challenge together. We are now all specialists when it comes to using Microsoft Teams and Zoom. We may not have been able to accomplish all that we had hoped for, but we have emerged stronger than ever. The bond that we share as a Curro family has been engraved in our hearts.

This year that was full of uncertainty and fear taught us to appreciate every moment, every laugh in class, every cold winter morning on the quad, every hot afternoon on the soccer field and every tireless rehearsal on stage. I am so grateful for every teacher who went out of their way to ensure that we are fully equipped to blossom. Their green fingers have planted seeds of knowledge, logic, hope and passion. We are so blessed to be in a school where every precaution has been taken to ensure our safety so that we can bloom and grow in optimum conditions.

As we continue our journey of life, cling to hope and rely on one another. No matter what you are faced with, remember that you are part of the class who made what seemed to be impossible, possible. Have the courage to face every challenge, chase your wildest dreams and conquer your biggest fears.

Deus caritas est – God is love.



Elena de Abreu greets a classmate on her first day back at school.



Matric mentors Mohammed Gabru and Rogerio Ferreira welcome their Grade 8 mentees.



Leading Titan House at the interhouse sports day.



Enjoying having the pool all to themselves after the swimming gala.



Naledi Matunda showing her strength at the interschool athletics.



Gift Dlamini getting focused for his final race at the interschool athletics.



Sports day fun
From left: Themba Sibutsi and Wetsho Morobane



SIMPHIWE MAKAPELA

Head boy

My name is Simphiwe Makapela Jr, and I have been fortunate enough to be one of the first matriculants at Curro Krugersdorp. I have also been given the opportunity and the privilege of being the first-ever head boy of Curro Krugersdorp.

I started attending the school in Grade 8 when they first opened their high school gates in 2016. I had been told by a man whom I knew as Mr Ross that high school would be one of the best years of my life. It would be here where I learn a lot about myself and that I should enjoy the moments, as they come because they go by quickly. Mr Ross's words resonate deeply with me today as I write this letter, looking back at my early years of high school and reminiscing as to how quickly my experiences moulded into memories.

Over the years, we have set our own traditions and I feel privileged to have been a part of that process. I have managed to build close relationships in the school, not only with fellow classmates and school peers, but with teachers in the school, my sports coaches, the friendly receptionist lady, and the ground staff.

Curro Krugersdorp had provided me with the best environment to be the person whom I am supposed to be. They have prepared me for the real world, and I will forever be grateful for my teachers and their immense support, love and drive for what they do as well as their ability to notice when learners are not themselves.

NOMVULA CHASAKARA

I may fall short of words to express my emotions and gratitude for the opportunity to be the first-ever head girl of Curro Krugersdorp.

I have been a learner here since shortly after the school opened and today, I am humbled by the opportunities that I have been given and the nurture and care that I have received from my school. Curro Krugersdorp relies on what I refer to as the seven pillars of achievement, namely academics, sport, culture, technology, leadership, outreach, and service. All seven pillars have functioned as catalysts in the process of creating young leaders like myself and have taught me that my perception of reality is a projection of my own mind.

For the same reason, it is only fair that I share my favourite moment on campus with you. Most Saturdays we had SACEE debating and our teacher often yelled at us for arriving in the nick of time for the bus. One 'lucky' Saturday morning, the tables flipped when my phone call to the teacher acted as her alarm. We promised to never say a word to the head of school, but I guess not all promises have to

be kept (I apologise in advance, ma'am)!

Furthermore, we have connected, found joy, and built friendships that form the root of our institution, the foundation on which many other pillars can be built upon. From each person knowing each other by name, the celebration of different cultures, personalities, and perspectives. It is the teachers who do not hesitate to give you a hug (elbow) when you need one. It is being met with a warm smile (underneath your mask) on a chilly morning from a Grade 8 learner to a Grade 12 learner in the corridors. This is how our second home, Curro Krugersdorp feels, and it is what I refer to as 'our personal touch'.

In the words of former president Nelson Mandela: 'Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person



Head girl

from another.'

Moreover, no matter where you start, always remember that the possibilities of your future are limited by the depths of your imagination. Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said: 'You are fantastic; do you know that? Reach for the stars, because now you can be anything and everything you want.' Let us empower ourselves with the weapon of knowledge and let us shield ourselves with unity and togetherness.

Always be passionate, pertinent, and insightful members of society. Good luck, Class of 2021!

I have had the honour of serving my school as head boy. With this title, came great responsibility and it had been something I had been yearning for. Serving my school has been a great honour and privilege. It certainly hasn't been the easiest of positions due to the COVID-19 pandemic that the entire country is facing and lockdown which encouraged us to learn online, as well as the restricting personal interactions.

I hope that the next group of matriculants and leaders can add more traditions for those to come. I also hope that they take advantage of each and every day they are given to create opportunities for themselves.

As we reach the end of our academic year, I would like to thank those around me who have made my journey possible. I encourage the next group to take this message forward as they embark on the same journey as I did. Be the change you want to see in the world, motivate those in need and lead to succeed. With that being said, I leave you with the words of the late Nelson Mandela: 'It always seems impossible, until it's done.'

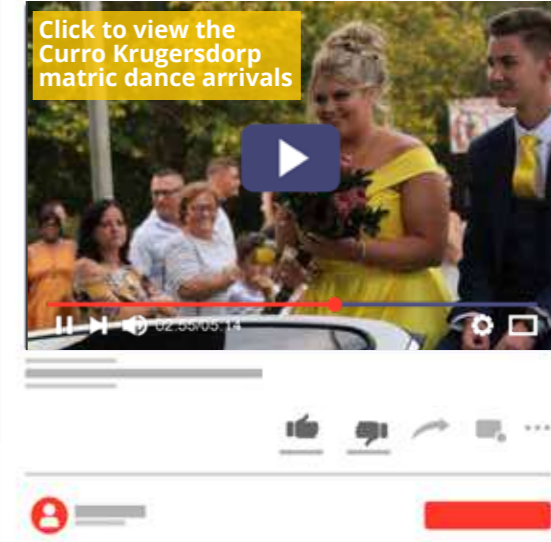


Inauguration of our leaders
Front, from left: Keedan Dullisear, Simphiwe Jr Makapela, Nomvula Chasakara and Ayanda Sewela
Back, from left: Mr Russell Hardy (Head of High School) and Ms Annemarie Lombard (Executive Head)

CURRO KRUGERSDORP



Lifting the spirits by taking up the Jersusalem dance challenge!



Click to view the Curro Krugersdorp matric dance arrivals

Teliza Korff and Janus Schoeman arrive at the matric dance.



The Class of 2020 receive their matric jackets during a special assembly.

JONATHAN POLS

Head boy

Daar is baie dinge wat ons op skool leer en vaardighede wat ons ontwikkel: van gedigte, meetkunde en stroombane in die klaskamer, tot die regte tegniek vir skrum of kolf op die sportveld. Ek het ook die voorreg gehad om my leierskapvaardighede as hoofseun van 2020, asook as kaptein van verskeie sportspanne, te ontwikkel. Dit is egter nie die eerste herinneringe waaraan ek dink as ek my ervaring by Curro Langebaan moet beskryf nie ...

Dit is lekker om soggens verby onderwysers te stap wat my altyd vriendelik groet, en pouses saam met vriende deur te bring waar ons die volgende vakansie se visvang beplan of praat oor die vorige naweek se rugby. Dit laat die spanning van al die take, toetse en eksamens van matriek aansienlik ligter voel. Dit is wat Curro Langebaan so uniek maak! Die belangrikste ding wat ek op skool geleer het is dat ons almal verskillend is, maar omdat ons mekaar met respek en vriendelikheid hanteer – en almal kan saamwerk met een doel – maak ons 'n sukses van elke uitdaging wat ons aanpak, beide op die sportveld en in die klaskamer.

Aan die Klas van 2021, baie sterkte met julle groot jaar. Ja, dit is 'n jaar vol spanning en jy sal hard moet werk om 'n sukses daarvan te maak, maar onthou om dit ook te geniet. Wees gerus dat julle op jul onderwysers, skoolhoof en skool kan staatmaak, want hulle sal hul beste vir julle gee.

Ek wil net dankie sê aan al die onderwysers wat vir ons klas gegee het. Ek glo nie daar is 'n ander skool waar onderwysers so baie moeite doen vir hul leerders nie. Dit help regtig as jy weet dat jou onderwysers uit hul pad sal gaan om jou te help in tye van nood – selfs die aand voor 'n eksamen! Baie van die onderwysers is ook afrigters op die sportveld; ons is dankbaar vir die passie waarmee julle ons afgerig het en jul opofferinge elke naweek om soms ure te ry vir 'n wedstryd. Dit is te danke aan julle dat ons voorbereid is om die toekoms na skool aan te pak.

"One School. One Team. One Family". Dankie, Curro Langebaan.



40 days

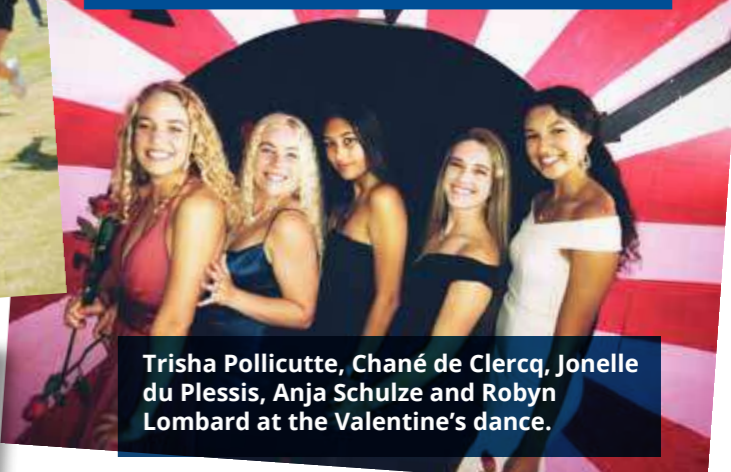
Schalk van Niekerk and Jonathan Pols on braai duty before their rugby match.



CURRO LANGEBAAN



We're going to catch you! Interhouse athletics race in January.



Trisha Pollicutte, Chané de Clercq, Jonelle du Plessis, Anja Schulze and Robyn Lombard at the Valentine's dance.

KATINKA VAN HEERDEN

In my eerste toespraak van 2020 het ek gesê dat 2019'n "rollercoaster ride" was; min het ek geweet dat die ergste draaie nog voorlê ...

Soos enige ordentlike wipwaentjie (roller coaster) het 2020 sy hoogte- en laagtepunte gehad. Die jaar het weggespring en ons is vinnig toegegooi onder take, toetse en heeltemal te veel slapelose aande van deurnag werk. In die goeie ou dae voor inperking, kon ons sonder maskers ons lange uitskree by interskole, mekaar styf omarm vir die kreet en saam die beker huis toe dra. Toe eindig die lewe soos ons dit ken, saam met die eerste kwartaal.

Ondanks alles wat ons verloor het weens die pandemie en inperking, was daar tog 'n paar voordele. Geen matriekgroep het al ooit so baie tyd in hul slaapklere deurgebring soos die Klas van 2020 nie, en vir die eerste keer in ons hele skoolloopbaan mag ons in die "klas" eet. Praat van 'n ekstra kinkel in die wipwaentjie! Met tye moes ons vasklou vir ons lewe en ander kere het ons amper ontspoor. Die gedeeltelike isolasie en persoonlike afstandhouding was maar moeilik vir die ekstroverte tussen ons en soms moes ons diep delf vir selfmotivering.

As ek nou terugkyk na die vreemde jaar, is ek dankbaar vir 'n skool wat die wipwaentjie op die spoor kon hou en vir elke Langie wat hierdie rit saam met my voltooi het.

Aan die Klas van 2021, sterkte, hou styf vas en geniet die reis!



Head girl



Rozaan Marais, Lushé Petzer, Jonelle du Plessis, Amy van Neel and Kirsten Arends at their Valentine's dance.

Shaun Snyman, Nic van Straaten, John Basson and Rozaan Marais enjoying a ride on the 'school bus'.



SKOOLBUS

CFP 2596



Kayla Nysschens, Jonathan Pols, Robyn Lombard and Trisha Pollicutte cheering on the Braave team during interhouse athletics in January 2020.



John Basson sipping on a 'chocolate milkshake' during an Afrikaans lesson



MANDISI KGOADI Head boy

My school journey here started in 2008 at the (then) Sagewood Pre-primary School. This year will conclude my 13th year at this campus. I have had the privilege of observing the many changes the school has gone through. Most notably is how joining Curro has changed the school for the better, while keeping the key values by which Sagewood stand.

The school's teachers have left a lasting impression on my life. I thank my primary school teachers, Dr V Govindasamy, Mrs J Kgapane, Mr L Moyo and Ms F Bones for instilling the values of leadership and responsibility in me during my foundation years at the school.

Thanks to the mentorship received by teachers, I was named deputy head boy in the primary school. Those early lessons helped me to strive to serve as the head boy in high school. I will personally never forget the joy I experienced last year when Mr Du Toit uttered the words, 'Our head boy for 2019/2020 is ... Mandisi Kgoadi.'

The task of juggling your academics, sports and leadership duties is not easy; it requires an extraordinary amount of time management. Under the mentorship and guidance of my teachers, I was able to accomplish this feat. I have learnt a great deal of interpersonal communication skills and developed all facets of my

ANUSHKA SINGH Head girl



My final year has been nothing short of unique. Lockdown, masks and remote learning – we faced it all together.

It's amazing to think I grew from a child to an adult within these walls. It is my second home, my family, and a school that has truly educated the whole child.

Curro Midrand Sagewood is a place that gives a warm welcome with open arms to anyone. It is a place that raised me and made me the person I am today. It is more than a school; it is a family where you can reach for the stars and find a sense of belonging. I found myself here; I found who I truly am. The school allowed me to find my voice as an actress, my skills as a soccer player and it has helped me become the leader that stood proudly before my class. The school has transformed me completely from a child wearing pigtails and carrying a Barbie bag, to a mature adult who stands proudly with her achievements. This school is like a family to me; I have teachers who constantly see the potential in me, always pushing me to be the best I can be and most importantly, they have never given up on me.

But now the time has come for me to bid farewell and reminisce about the memories created over the beautiful 12 years spent at Curro Midrand Sagewood. I have enjoyed every moment; all the laughter and tears in classrooms; the jokes and pranks; our school spirit on the stands during interhouse sports events; the tensely packed halls during examinations; long lines at the tuck shop; and who could forget the mind-blowing school plays and events?

Being the head girl is not easy; from the minute the selection is announced, your responsibility and duty begins. I got a glimpse of the real world where I must juggle all sides of my life; it has taught me a sense of responsibility, duty and direction. Curro Midrand Sagewood has made me strong and confident, and most importantly, it has given me the experience with a prefect body that I will forever cherish.

My final year has been nothing short of unique. Lockdown, masks and remote learning – we faced it all together. Many months of my senior year was lost but together, as a family, we are pushing through. As the head girl of 2020 – the year of COVID-19 – I want to be remembered as being part of the class that conquered a pandemic.

My advice to the future matrics is to cherish your time with each other because circumstances can change so quickly. Use your time effectively and work hard because at the end, it will all be worth it. Make the best memories in your senior year because it will only come around once. Most importantly, carry on the values and morals we represent and make your school proud. Hold on to the family bond and unity we share as a diverse school. When it is your time, give it your very best and make us all proud.

Lastly, to my Class of 2020, good luck to you all, cheers to the years we have had together and remember to just keep going and enjoying this ride we call life.

CURRO MIDRAND SAGEWOOD

intelligence – most notably my emotional intelligence. The lessons learnt are invaluable and I look forward to applying them in my future endeavours whilst being able to proudly say, 'I was part of the Class of 2020 at Curro Midrand Sagewood.'

The leadership experience at Curro Midrand Sagewood has too, without a doubt, been an interesting one. Fundraising for our matric dance, hosting school-spirit rallies, participating in various interhouse activities and mentoring the Grade 8s were just a few of the many things we as the prefect body and Class of 2020 were able to enjoy. Unfortunately, the chances of these activities resuming grew slimmer and slimmer as the COVID-19 pandemic progressed. Despite all of this, I am extremely grateful for the privileges from which we as learners in the Curro group have been able to benefit. We continued covering the learning material needed for us to advance to the next stage of our lives. It is in our best collective interest not to let up on our studies despite these difficult circumstances. It will pay off in the end and then when all is said and done, the Class of 2020 will go down as the most resilient matric class that Curro has produced to date.



Anushka Singh planting a tree at the high school.



Players and their proud coach at the netball tournament.



Our leaders – the prefects of 2020.



Ajay Krishnamurti working hard during an Engineering Graphics and Design lesson.



PIETER PRETORIUS

Head boy

Here we are at a finish line as well as a starting line. As a Grade 12 learner, I am aware of the impact these two lines will have on my future as well as that of my classmates. It has certainly been a rollercoaster ride of ups and downs to this finish line. Some days felt like a sprint, others more like a triathlon.

I'm sure we can agree that none of us were prepared for how this school year turned out. I was so excited about this year of (supposed) lasts. Making unforgettable memories during this (again, supposed) best year of my life, and leaving a legacy as head boy of Curro Mossel Bay. In all honesty, I feel a little cheated; cheated out of all those great moments I will never get to experience, those moments former matrics took for granted.

Even though 2020 has brought about great adversity and taken many great moments away from us, it may have given us something even better: our defining moments. Moments that took courage, moments where we pushed through when we didn't think we could make it, moments on which we can look back and think 'Wow, I did that.' We have embraced the challenges we faced even when it felt like everything around us was falling apart.

To my classmates, I am extremely proud of each one of us. Thank you to our families and our parents who supported us in so many ways during this pandemic, as well as to our teachers who pushed us the extra mile and who went out of their way to help us. As young adults, we can't yet understand the sacrifices and hardships they likely endured this year.

The words of Psalm 94:19 carried me through challenging days this year: 'When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy.' I am so grateful to God for sustaining and strengthening me through the toughest year of my life.

My message for the matrics of 2021, if 2020 taught us anything, it is that the only certainty in life is uncertainty. We thought that we had certainties; certainties that you're likely to enjoy next year. Treasure what COVID-19 had taken away from us: connection with people, celebrating the special moments in life, high fives, and hugs.

Every end has a new beginning. And so, the end of our high school career brings new beginnings for all. As we set sail on our new journey, we pass the baton to the Grade 11s of 2020, confident that they will steer Curro Mossel Bay through 2021 on an incredible adventure.



ZANELLE BENSCH

Head girl

This year has been a very unexpected journey for all learners, teachers, and parents across the world. But they say the best things happen unexpectedly ...

This year has been challenging. Not only because we had to study for examinations and complete tasks before then, but because all our plans for what was supposed to be the best year of our lives, didn't work out due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We lost precious time with our friends before we all go our separate ways; we lost the chance of carrying on traditions such as the matric dance; we lost our chance to make memories that will last a lifetime.

However, not visiting friends didn't stop us from staying in touch. Not having classes didn't stop me from learning. And not having the year I imagined, taught me to make the best with what I have in this moment. Through this experience, I learnt to better use technology to my advantage, to be incredibly aware of my surroundings and that life is gorgeous. I have also learnt that the unexpected things in life will always bring something unbelievable with it.

I am now better prepared for the future and I will forever remember this year as the one that taught me how to be grateful for what I have, how to think outside the box and how to learn from yesterday, live for today and have hope for tomorrow.



Valentine's Day

CURRO MOSSEL BAY



Back to school after lockdown
From left: Pieter Pretorius, Bianca van Zyl, Elné Spies and Adriaan Fourie

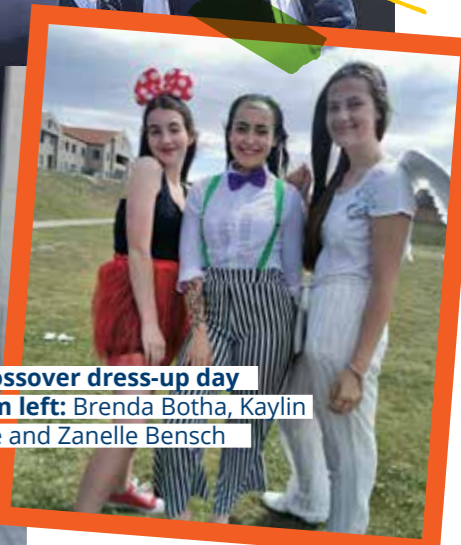


It was a momentous occasion when the Class of 2020 received their matric jackets.

MATRIC JACKETS



Learners having fun during crossover dress-up day.



Crossover dress-up day
From left: Brenda Botha, Kaylin Pace and Zanelle Bensch

SIMON RICHARDS

Head boy

Starting this year as the head boy has been as unconventional as the year itself. Schooling experience for us was turned on its head when we were about to start our final sprint, making this year difficult in unexpected ways. Change doesn't come easy and neither does adapting to it, however, facing new challenges forces you to grow to survive and ultimately sets you up for a better future. You never know what's coming your way – teach yourself to benefit from change.

Take each week as it comes. For those of you who tackle life head on, learn to slow down and step back. For those of you who feel like no one understands, find the person who does. At its core, matric isn't any different from the previous years of high school. You've been writing a story – these will only be the final pages to chapter 1.

Curro Mount Richmore has taught me about a greater aspect of life. Through the teachers and leaders of the school, I've seen myself grow in their likeness. That having the right people around you, is more constructive than any grades or any achievements. Therefore, start expanding yourself, look beyond the pond, and continue to inquire about tomorrow. I was once told that you can't tell the difference between a wise man and a foolish man until one of them starts to speak – your name is your biggest asset, don't destroy it.



ZURÉ VILJOEN

Head girl

School taught me a lot, such as unconditional love and kindness, honesty, hard work, respect for others, cooperation, compassion, forgiveness, and many more values that I will be taking with me for the rest of my life. I enjoyed going to school every day with my friends. The teachers at Curro Mount Richmore are real people upon whom you can rely.

Curro Mount Richmore is a school that helps you to become the person whom you were meant to be. If there is one thing that I would say to future matrics it is that your time at school does fly. I would say make the most of your time and the opportunities that are offered to you because it's unlikely you will have the chance again to try such a broad variety of things whenever you want. So, just enjoy every moment of it and always try your best in everything you do.

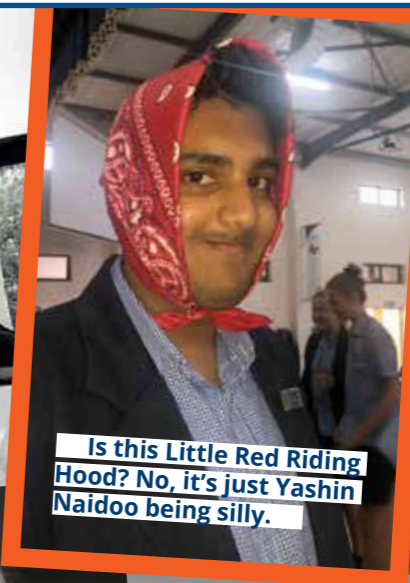


School taught me a lot, such as unconditional love and kindness, honesty, hard work, respect for others, cooperation, compassion, forgiveness, and many more values that I will be taking with me for the rest of my life.

CURRO MOUNT RICHMORE



James Benningfield could be the next Mr South Africa!



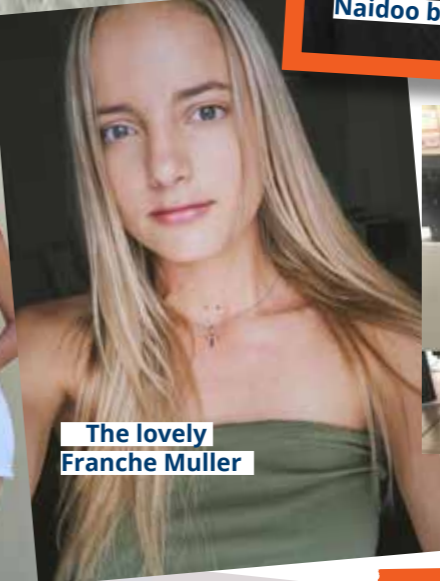
Is this Little Red Riding Hood? No, it's just Yashin Naidoo being silly.



Johan Venter having fun at the interhouse gala.



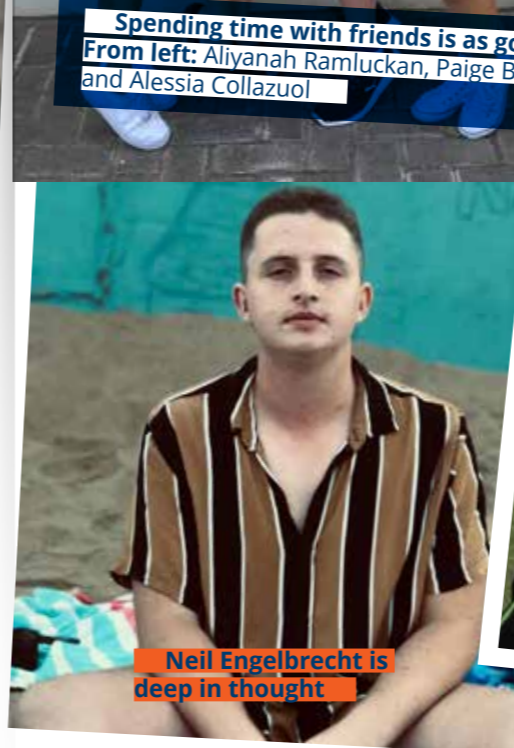
Spending time with friends is as good as a holiday
From left: Aliyanah Ramluckan, Paige Brent, Kayla Dold and Alessia Collazuol



The lovely Franche Muller



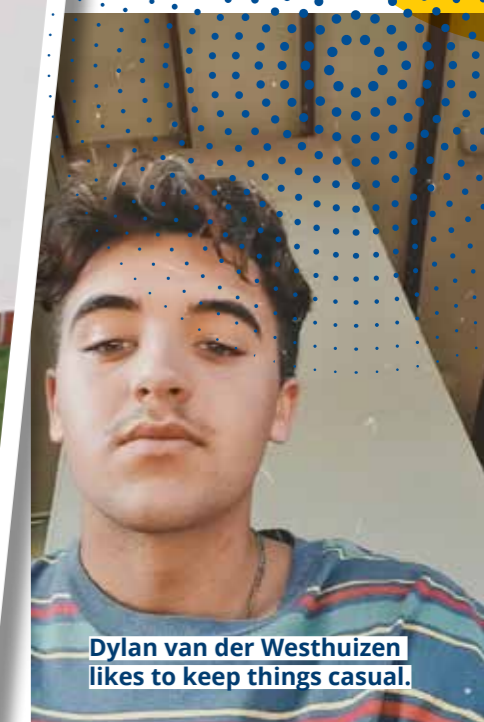
Best of friends
From left: Didi Jones and Grace Mogapi



Neil Engelbrecht is deep in thought



Kayla Dold has some serious hockey skills.



Dylan van der Westhuizen likes to keep things casual.



**GIFT
MHLONGO**
Head boy

Being the head boy of Curro Nelspruit was amazing. I was privileged enough to work with wonderful people, all the way from the ground staff and learners to the teachers and other heads of the school. Even though our year did not go as planned, we still managed to get the most from the year – from making videos, taking up challenges and even taking part in social distance rap battles.

My family at Curro Nelspruit is a unique one. The variety and talent that our school is blessed with, as well as the energy and personalities make me love the school even more, and it is something I will take with me in my journey forward. Life does not always go as planned as we experience this year with the ongoing virus, but despite this, we were still able to make the most of it. 'Tough times never last' or 'it is what it is' are two sayings that kept us going this year. These sayings helped us realise firstly that things in life may not always go as planned and one may face difficulty, but it is important to know that there will be a light at the end of the tunnel, no matter how long it takes.

'It is what it is' helped us to accept the situation and then decide on how we would move forward from this. In life difficulty will arrive, it is inevitable.

I encourage the leaders of 2021 to respect and serve not only the school and its members, but also our community. If you want to be respected, you should respect others first. The last piece of advice is to ensure that you use your leadership not to shine a spotlight on yourself, but to uplift others. Leadership is not wearing a badge, it is working for the people, and being a good role model. The incoming grade is a very strong group of individuals, you have a long year ahead of yourselves, there will be good times, bad times, sad times, and tough times. I want to thank my peers for allowing me to lead them, and I will forever be grateful.

We move on to a new time in our lives, and even though leaving is sad, an exciting prospect is on the horizon. I will forever be proud of being a Curro Nelspruit learner. Thank you for grooming me into the person I am now.



**MARNI
SWART**
Head girl

Vanjaar was 'n jaar van leergeleentehede. As mens en hoofleier het 2020 my meer geleer oor aanpasbaarheid, konflikthantering, balans, menseverhoudings en leierskap as wat enige knuppeldik handboek ooit sou kon. Ek is ongelooflik dankbaar vir die geleentheid wat aan my gegee is om hierdie verrykende pad te stap. Dit was 'n ervaring wat jou ten volle op elke gebied van jou menswees uitgedaag het, en dit was baie positief om tyd buite my gemaksonne te bestee.

Ek sal alle toekomstige leiers aanraai om altyd verantwoordelikheid te aanvaar, en elke ervaring as 'n leergeleentheid te sien.

'n Mislukking is net 'n mislukking as 'n mens nie die ervaring gebruik om jou huidige en toekomstige self te verbeter nie.

CURRO NELSPRUIT



Hockey practice
Brownyn Williams and Zoë Maluka



Heritage Day celebrations!



Lea Stander, Gift Mhlongo and Nihandri Lubbe receive their matric dance invites.



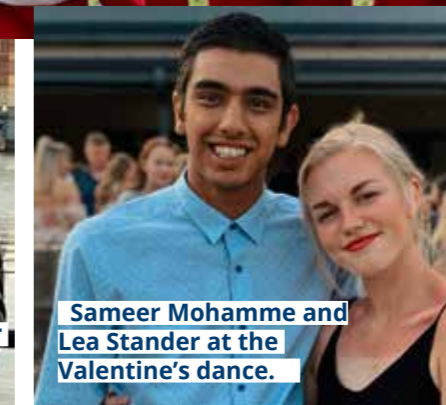
Having fun and taking pics in the Science lab.



All dressed up in red and white for interhouse athletics 2020.



Gift Mhlongo, Jacomie van den Berg and Erin Pelser on the tour to Sweden in 2019.



Sameer Mohamme and Lea Stander at the Valentine's dance.



Just another day at school for Luca Firfilis and Sthembiso Chauke.



ATKV-Tienertoneel winners of 2019.



School spirit at interhigh 2020

From left: Megan Pretorius, Ozias Ntimane, Mohau Nchabeleng, Gift Mhlongo, Bronwyn Williams and Gerald Skhosana



**REITUMETSE
MANYIKE**

Head boy

My journey has been like that of a bee; 'the king bee' for lack of a better term. I have experienced some of the greatest moments as head boy, but also, some of the worst.

Someone once said that the main purpose of a queen (or king!) bee is to make honey for her fellow bees. However, she can turn into a dangerous creature, stinging other insects when threatened. With that in mind, the stripes on my back represented the judgement and expectations of others that I could never see myself fulfilling. That stress can change a person into a ruthless stinging bee instead of one who produces abundant sweet honey for those around him. However, I realised that the only way I could really produce that honey was by keeping to my own terms, values, and what I truly believe in.

I would like to urge every one of you to not let other people's expectations define your life or let it constantly be on your mind. You do you; be you; and unapologetically uphold your values and beliefs. Curro Roodeplaat provides such a great platform of self-discovery and I encourage everyone to embrace it.

That is the beauty of our school, no matter who you are, no matter how different you might be, everyone can really be their true self. I genuinely believe that the greatest act in life is to inspire. Therefore, aspire to make sweet honey for those around you. In the words of Dr Seuss: 'Kid, you'll move mountains! Today is your day, your mountain is waiting, so get on your way!'

**JOANNE
JACOB**

Head girl



When I first joined the school nine years ago, I was shy and nervous about joining a completely new family. When the bell rang and my mother had to leave me, I grew even more anxious. But then I met the wonderful, kind teachers and learners; I forgot that I was anxious. I believe it was my destiny to be in Curro Roodeplaat. It has been a privilege to part of this long and wonderful journey. I have seen the school grow from one small building to having two campuses.

The school has taught me a lot throughout the years, most importantly that anything can be achieved through unity and love. I have met amazing teachers who made a huge impact in my life and made me the person I am today. The Curro family has motivated me to work harder and pushed me beyond my comfort zone.

During these years, I realised that friendships and obstacles in life come and go, but the Curro family is always there for you. Curro has allowed me to develop skills that I thought I could never have.

I definitely had one of the most unique high school experiences. I mean, the Class 2020 attended matric during COVID-19! Our school may be small, but we have relationships with everyone ranging from the executive head to the teachers, the maintenance staff, and the bus drivers.

Our matric year was not what we all expected, but we still made some good memories. We may not have a matric dance or a 40-days celebration, but we celebrated our matric year.

I would like to thank Mr Niemand, Mr Van Wyk, the teachers and the Curro Roodeplaat family for making this the most memorable high school journey for us all. I will miss the cheering at athletics events, choir practices, drama practice, public speaking events, dances, camps, Grade 8 orientation, and wearing my matric jersey.

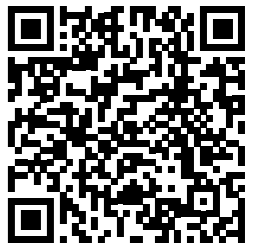
To the future generation of Curro Roodeplaat, you only get the Roodie high school experience once, so make it count and make the most of your memories. Remember, you are studying for yourself, so you must work hard and achieve your goals. The future of our country lies in our hands, so make a change wherever you can.

The future is not something we should fear; rather, it is a challenge that we should all gladly embrace. I am sure the values of our school has filled us with so much confidence, that we can readily take on any challenge. So, walk into your new chapter courageously with your head raised high.

'Graduation is not the conclusion of an achievement, but simply the ending of one chapter and the beginning of another chapter.'
-Thomas S Monson



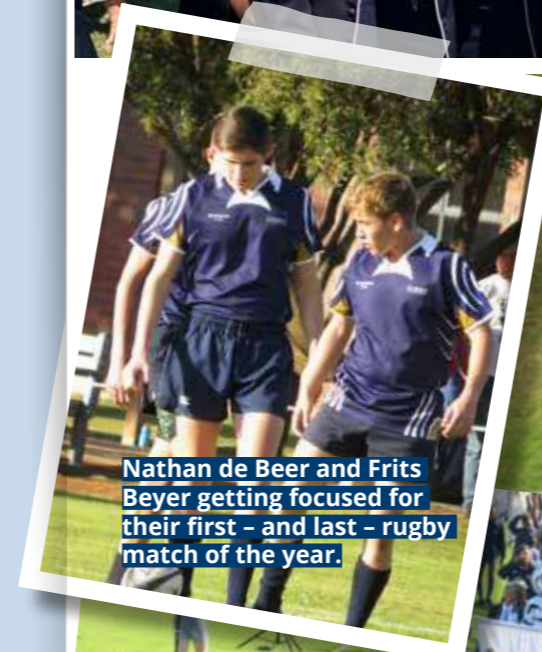
**ROODIES CELEBRATE THE
SCHOOL'S 10TH BIRTHDAY!**



**CURRO
ROODEPLAAT**



**Reitumetse Manyike
takes a great leap.**



**Nathan de Beer and Frits
Beyer getting focused for
their first - and last - rugby
match of the year.**



**Nkateko
Maswanganyi
running onto the
field for his first -
and last - soccer
match of the year.**



**Our athletics team at the Inter-Curro
event at Curro Nelspruit**



**Hope Khotso embracing the new
normal at prelim exams.**



**Wessels Fourie and
Mrs Dalene Deetlefs at
the merit evening.**

SIBUSISO FAKUDE

On behalf of the Class of 2020 we would like to say thank you. Thank you to the Curro Secunda teachers for the wisdom you shared with us, the prayers you made and the vision you laid out for our school. Thank you to the management team, for the devotional oversight you brought to the school and for making the tough calls when needed. To the phase heads and teachers who gave their all each day, plying us with a high standard of education and pushing us to do our best – and helping us to stay on track with our academic year during this pandemic. To the Curro Secunda maintenance team who is keeping our campus running efficiently and who create a beautiful place for us to come and learn every day, we say thank you.

It is my honour to be Curro Secunda's first head leader.

I leave you with Matthew 22:35: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' This verse is lived in Curro Secunda, as we respect and love each other as family. Curro Secunda will be dearly missed; thank you for moulding us into young adults ready to take on a new venture and leave our mark in the world.



Head leader

LUNGA MKHIZE

Head leader



The forever-ongoing year of 2020 is slowly coming to an end, which would make me happy if it weren't the year in which we finished high school. Without a matric dance or a farewell ceremony, we will enter the real world in only a few months' time. Even though our way of living has changed, and it might feel like everything is falling apart, I would like to remind you that light always does its best work in the dark.

To my fellow matrics, I hope you all find your purpose and not just a job. I hope you find something that is worth late nights and early mornings. Find the thing that will keep you burning. Don't find any comfort in being second best at what you do. Always be willing to accept change, never settle with yourself, for there will always be room to improve. No man is perfect; we all can grow and learn for as long as our lives continue.

I also want to thank the staff of Curro Secunda – the teachers who have believed in us on days when it was hard to believe in ourselves, the teachers who ensure the school is fully functional and the staff who works so hard to keep our classrooms clean.

With this I will close by wishing you all the best. You all played a vast role in moulding me into who I am today. Goodbye, Curro Secunda. Thank you for being my family away from home, may you be blessed beyond measure and may you leave big footprints in all your learners' lives.

CURRO SECUNDA



From left: Raythian Nel, Yusuf Saber, Jaythian Padayachee, Lunga Mkhize, and Qhawe Stengana

First day of school as matrics



Qhawe Stengana and Sibusiso Fakude at the Grade 8 orientation concert.



Grade 12 valediction ceremony
From left: Yusuf Saber and Mawande Masango



Ringing bell
Lunga Mkhize

Matrics ringing the bell at school during the first assembly of the year.



Mpumele Tinta



Raythian Nel



Jaythian Padayachee



Mawande Masango



Head boy

LONWABO MGUZULWA

This is the year of clear vision. To be given the opportunity to be a leader in such a year has been the greatest blessing I could have asked for. This isn't because I enjoyed wearing a nice blazer or having an impressive title, but because my experiences have shaped me and taught me lessons about myself that no amount of reading ever could.

I started my journey with excitement and joy, knowing that the head girl would make a perfect ally. However, I found myself dealing with the jealous undertones of those closest to me as they constantly implied that they would fill my shoes better than I ever could. I was also dealing with extremely high expectations of myself to perform in all facets of my life. Despite this, I followed in the footsteps of Maya Angelou and I still rose. To every challenge that was thrown my way, no matter how far it pushed me, I rose. I made it my mission to be a source of motivation and guidance to those around me, to be a rock and pillar of strength, no matter how weak I felt. I tried to make Curro Serengeti a place where learners enjoy coming to every day. I must admit that I could not have done it alone. I had the support of many teachers and some friends, but without the two most important supporters in my journey as head boy I would not have been able to do it.

My relationship with God, whom I have always been able to trust and rely on day by day for peace, strength, love, and wisdom, helped me prioritise leading through love rather than the opportunity to make selfish gains. Last, but certainly not least, my relationship with the head girl, Paballo Jam Jam, whom I have been able to count on in my times of self-doubt and who always pushed me to the best version of myself. Without these two relationships the towel would have been thrown in a while ago.

Being head boy was about a lot more than being the only boy in school with a blazer that looked like mine. It was about self-discovery and strength building and as my term comes to an end, I can truly say that 2020 did make my vision a lot clearer. I now know that I am much stronger than I could ever imagine and, in all challenges that come my way, I know that with the right people around me I can succeed.

PABALLO JAM JAM

Head girl

2020: I see clearly.

The power held within that phrase is unrivalled and I could not be more grateful for the opportunity I was given to fulfil and uphold its meaning throughout my time at Curro Serengeti; especially during the highlight of my journey: being the head girl of 2020.

I joined the Curro Serengeti family in 2018 which was not my strongest year, as it was a great adjustment from where I attended before. Although, the environment was exceedingly welcoming which automatically made me feel like a permanent member of the family rather than 'the new girl'. If

someone had asked me then if I saw myself as the head girl of my final year, I would have laughed without hesitation and said 'no'. But little did I know that my laughter would turn into a cheerful sound created by the teachers and learners who saw something and believed in me when I didn't even fully believe in myself.

As honoured as I felt, the feelings of doubt and anxiety revolted and refused to surrender, resulting in me questioning my leadership skills and style and whether I was good enough for this position. That's where the power of prayer, the support of my family, friends and teachers and the solid partnership

I had with my partner in crime, our head boy, intervened. The power of prayer preserved the fire of my spirit to keep me going, my family motivated me to stay humble and to never alter myself, my friends and teachers constantly reminded me why I was chosen to be their head girl. My partner in crime, Lonwabo Mguzulwa, made me believe that a 'we' is ten times more effective and innovative than a 'me' - and tasks handed to us are also much simpler and more fun! The intervention of all mentioned members resulted in the enjoyment of my experience of being the head girl and it also contributed to my confidence, mental strength, and my striving to constantly be a better version of myself.



Showing some love for Geti the mascot.



The interhigh cheerleaders making the school proud.



Teacher Tiaan Jacobs takes on the head boy at this year's interhouse athletics.



Saving lives at the blood drive
From left: Chantal Makobela, Charles Makunike, Simphiwe Ramagoma, Londi Zama and Paballo Jam Jam



Mufaro Mhlanga celebrates his acceptance to the US Space Camp with Rachel van der Westhuizen (Head of High School).



Wayde Koen was recognised as the best male cheerleader at the Curro interhigh.



Lisa Zhou busy in Art class.



Matrics in the Accounting class.

Most people would argue that 2020 has been an unfortunate year to be a leader as the opportunity to lead had been taken away from us due to the unforeseen circumstances. However, I completely disagree, because this year has taught me that leadership is not measured by time, but by the impact. Some leaders can be given a full year and make zero difference, yet others can be given three months and make a huge difference.

To our future leaders, always remember that your past does not dictate your future and it doesn't take away what is meant to be yours. You're human, therefore you're bound to make mistakes, acknowledge them by rectifying them. Most importantly, be yourself, not who you think people want you to be. Your experience will be a journey filled with blessings and lessons and uncapped fun!



Theatre visit 2020
From left: Lesego Phama, Phoko Mokoena, Aminata Maloka, Safiyah Mphanga, Itumeleng Sediane (back) and Paballo Jam Jam

TASLIMA AHMED

This year has been phenomenal. Who would have thought that we would live through a pandemic and not be able to leave our homes? Although we at Curro Sitari are privileged and fortunate, many learners at other schools could not experience a tech-savvy remote learning option like we have. A huge shout-out to all the matriculants of 2020; you are strong and awesome. We have pulled through this difficult time and are almost at the finishing line. People may forget a pretty dress and a fancy suit, but nobody will ever forget the Class of 2020. We will be remembered throughout history as the matrics who had their last school year during COVID-19 pandemic.

The lockdown really had a strong impact on me and on every other learner in the world. It was difficult to not be in class with our teachers, but they have been with us every virtual step of the way. It was hard to cope on your own and not have endless conversations with your classmates. I am immensely grateful to our school for everything we have been able to do despite COVID-19, because there were thousands of learners worldwide who did not receive any education for months.

As the chair of Curro Sitari's RCL for 2020, I would like to say thank you to all the teachers who have supported us. Thank you for being true mentors. Words are not enough to say thank you for everything that you have done for us in this time of hardship. Thank you for inspiring us and pushing us to give our all and making us the individuals that we are today.

Life as we know it will never be the same and we are part of this history. One day those who come after us will learn from us, keep practising what we have learnt and inspire others to take the lead. Do not let your fear overcome you. Do not fear difficult moments, because good is normally the product of these moments.

I would like to wish every learner good luck for the future. To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe.



Chairperson



Taslima Ahmed, Calvin Haas, Jeniel Naude and Brandon Lennox enjoying the new gaming room.



Back to school
From left: JD Janse van Rensburg, Taslima Ahmed and Jeniel Naude



Tall, taller ... Calvin Calvin Haas standing tall next to Mrs Stephne van Niekerk.



Jeniel Naudé joins the matric braai club.



Business Studies and Accounting Bonango



Always fun at the colour run
From left: Jeniel Naude, Brandon Lennox and Calvin Haas



Matric jacket day!



Taslima Ahmed, Calvin Haas and Brandon Lennox celebrate their eighteenth birthdays.



JD Janse van Rensburg busy with his CAT practical.



Mixing things up ... matrics mark the teachers' tests!

MENZI KHANYILE



Head leader

When reflecting on this year, many adjectives come to mind, namely unusual, challenging, inspiring, uncertain, and enjoyable. The year has been a roller coaster of ups and downs, each one moulding and changing my perception of the world I live in.

Successes for the year include:

- Orientation of a new Grade 8 group – I clearly remember their faces upon arrival at the school; some excited, others afraid, but most hopeful. When seeing them today, I marvel at the way they have grown, and I feel blessed to have been part of that journey.
- Assisting with the interhouse and interschool sports events.
- Just being able to work closely with our teachers proved to be a growth experience for me and the Student Representative Council (SRC). We were given a first-hand introduction to what is involved in hosting a successful event for over six hundred learners who relied on our guidance and support.
- Introducing the tutor programme – it allowed us (the SRC) to speak of both our life experiences and school encounters to the benefit of all the learners at our school. In addition,

it has been a wonderful way of cementing the relationship between us and our teachers.

- Growing as part of the leadership of our school.

I would trade this experience for nothing. It has allowed me to see our school through different eyes and to understand the daily happenings at the school from different angles.

My greatest challenge for the year was learning under the occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic. It changed both my physical learning environment and my emotional take on life. We were thrown into a world that compelled us to a broader sense of hygiene and that changed the face of learning in our classrooms. On the brighter side, we as learners had the marvellous opportunity of being introduced to online learning to prepare us for our final examination. We will forever be indebted to our teachers for making learning possible under trying conditions.

I look forward to my final examination with great anticipation and I feel truly advantaged and empowered by my stay at Curro Thatchfield. To those to come: fill your horizons with laughter and love.

Deputy head leaders

It has been remarkable serving Curro Thatchfield for the past year. We have been given the chance to be part of creating an environment where learning has been an adventure for us and the rest of the school. Furthermore, we have worked closely with our teachers, the management of the school and our fellow Student Representative Council (SRC) to ensure normality during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are most indebted to the family of Curro Thatchfield for the confidence they have instilled in us. We are now empowered to embrace the challenges of the future unmoved and unafraid. We have had the luxury of spending our time in the company of a variety of characters which have changed how we see the world and our place therein.

We have enjoyed our time thus far and we leave you with one message, create the world you wish to live in.



Moba Seshoka



Niel van Schalkwyk

CURRO THATCHFIELD



A friendly reception from Onalenna Mothupi and Uluthando Stefane.

MATRIC BREAKFAST



A buffet of joy. You have arrived!



Fine dining with Rorisang Mathiba and Unathi Mahlangu.



Uphile Ade (left) and Unathi Dladla (right): 'We gained skills to address the uncertainties of the present and future.'



From left: Ndumiso Mahlangu, Anesu Samatando, Shavaan Pillay, Alwande Cebekhulu, Grant Hlatswayo and Gundo Sikhwivhilu

Lameez Gopie:
'My stay at Curro Thatchfield can only be described as splendid, moments that I carry with me wherever I go. A shining light glowing over my successes.'



Fezeka Ncwane:
'The school offered me a kaleidoscope of opportunities that brought colour and depth to my present and future.'



BRADEN STEYN

Head boy

The words that spring to mind when I consider our matric year of 2020, are difficult, tough, exacting, taxing and yes, the all-time favourite, challenging. If we really look at the meaning of challenging though, it is in fact a test of one's ability and endurance and is also associated with words such as stimulating and thought-provoking.

This year will certainly go down in the history books as one filled with anxiety, ordeal and suffering. I do not think there is one person who has not been affected adversely through this pandemic. I must admit that I felt cheated that this happened to us in our matric year and we missed out on what could have been an epic year for us.

I had such high expectations for this year, especially after the Rotary camp I attended. This year has, therefore, been humbling and it has also been one of learning, not just academically, but personal learning. I personally, was so happy when our school reopened and we could see our friends and teachers and be back in a place that made my life seem more 'normal'.

Slowly this is becoming the new 'normal' and it certainly makes it easier when you are learning to cope and adapt to be with your friends at school, where you are distracted and focused on something other than the pandemic. There are those of you who cannot be here personally, but stay in contact, stay motivated and stay grounded. It is the ordinary, day-to-day experiences that are going to count and keep us sane.

I have always been an optimistic person, even before I knew the meaning of the word. I was excited and optimistic for this year. It was going to be the best year by far; even the name '2020' sounds grand. That is exactly what I wanted it to be: grand, full of events, busier than ever, having my weekends taken up by hockey matches because it's my last season (and after 12 years of playing hockey for Creston College, I wanted it to end on a high).

I'm sure many would agree that it was difficult to maintain an optimistic mindset during these strange times. It took me a few months to understand what was going on. I still don't grasp the full extent of this situation, but I am aware of the extent to which a classmate and teacher is willing to go in order to help you get through times like these.

At the beginning of the year I had goals for myself and the school I planned to help lead, and only after going into lockdown did I realise that my classmates came into this year with the same optimistic mindset I had. But suddenly, instead of wondering 'What will I achieve this year?' turned into 'What can I do to help feed my neighbour who isn't receiving an income?' and 'Maybe I should make a video to help explain the work.' I think that many people have been humbled in this experience. I have never been more grateful for a warm bed, a safe home, a loving family, and supportive teachers doing all they can to help every learner get through the year.

I am so proud to be part of a school where everyone works for each other; a community that looks out for others even if they may be struggling themselves. I am proud to be the head girl of 2020 because this year will not be forgotten. This year will be remembered as the year when people supported others; when old friends checked up on each other; when parents had more time to spend with their children; when society as a whole could take a step back from their fast-living lives and find serenity in watching the sunrise, find reconnection through a family dinner without the kids having to do homework ... and how much time you wasted before not appreciating what you had.

This year not only humbled me, but it made me extremely grateful for the people I have met.



TANNAH CALDWELL

Head girl

CRESTON COLLEGE

COVID-19 is not going to disappear anytime soon; we need to learn to cope and adapt in a positive and responsible way, without losing sight of our futures. We are the future, every single one of us here, and we need to make a difference. We can do that by making this year count for something. We need to be there for each other and keep motivating and looking out for each other. To our future school leaders, don't sweat the small stuff, look out for each other and keep your eye on the ball. Stay strong and stay safe!



Current Grade 12s at the leadership camp in 2019.



The Class of 2020 celebrating Heritage Day (in 2019).



Matrics showing off their 'crazy socks'.



Proudly Creston College
From left: Teagan Danney, Teagan Bremner, Joanelle Herman and Raine van Tichelen



Mila Mbopha in action during the 1st-team match against Scottburgh.



Excited netball trophy winners!



The Class of 2020 bonding at the interhouse swimming gala.

DIRK KOTZE

Making a difference has always been my goal and leadership is one of the most effective ways to do that. I always dreamt of being head boy of my school – not for the white blazer, but for the responsibility that is placed on your shoulders, ranging from being an ambassador for the school to having meetings with the school’s executive head and supporting the learners.

I am a hands-on leader and believe that personal interactions with my peers is the best way to connect with them. Once the pandemic hit, however, I found myself stuck at home with the challenge of finding another way to engage with my peers.

There were no examples to follow as no one at my school had led during a pandemic. Then it struck me: I was the first ‘remote head boy’ of my school. Once I got past my initial fear of failure, I gained the confidence to move forward without feeling judged. Armed with Google Drive, Microsoft Teams and Instagram, I set off making short motivational videos for my school.

When I mustered the courage to post one of my motivational videos, it quickly gained traction among learners. I spoke to our high school’s head of sport and we began an Instagram challenge where learners would do a fun type of exercise and nominate others to participate. To show appreciation for our teachers during this time of remote learning, I asked learners to submit short videos of them thanking a teacher. I compiled the videos into one and shared it with all the high school teachers. The leadership team and I set the path to follow and it felt good.

We will finish our Grade 12 year with losses and gains. We lost the fun of school sport and matric dances, we lost the glory of running onto the field for our school’s first team, we lost the camaraderie of a matric group that started off as such a spirited team. However, we gained strong academics, gratitude for the privilege of remote learning and good health, a deep understanding of human rights and a pause in our routine.

I was given time to do what my Grade 5 teacher always said: ‘stop, look, listen.’ I’ve been following the same routine for the past 13 odd years and became so caught up in going to school, playing sport, coming home late, studying, and sleeping that when that all stopped, it gave me time to rejuvenate. The world went from moving at the speed of light to moving at a snail’s pace. I realised that I don’t have to keep running to stay ahead in life. With all the noise out of the way I adapted to an alternative way of life – even if it was for a brief period. I found that I was in a better space of mind and working more efficiently. This pause gave me the motivation and eagerness to want to get back into school and give it my all.

We gained being able to spend more time with our family as this will be the last year at home for many of us. I realised the importance of family. The pandemic showed me that when tragedy strikes, it’s not always going to be your friends who will be by your side. It is definitely your family.

Before the lockdown, human rights to me meant not to be racist, sexist and to treat everybody equal. The lockdown suddenly made me aware of my freedom of movement, association and my parents’ freedom of trade and profession.

After making it through this wild adventure, I no longer stress about change. I’ve realised that any situation is dependent on 90% your own attitude and 10% circumstances. Once I managed to push past what I found daunting, I found myself experiencing a whole new world. I’ve tweaked my attitude towards life slightly and now I feel even more ready for university. I want to be pushed to try new things and come up with ways to defy the odds – like this lockdown forced me to defy the old and define the new.



Head boy



Head girl



NOMBUYISELO MSWELI

I think we can all agree that this year has had its fair share of disappointments. Some of us missed out on our matric dance, some of us have missed out on our sports seasons or awards ceremonies and others have lost loved ones. The year has challenged us in ways we didn't know possible. It has forced us to endure uncertain circumstances. Why am I telling you something you already know and are probably over hearing? I want you to reflect on all the hardships you have pulled yourself through this year and pat yourself on the back because dang it, (I can't swear here) you deserve it!

It has not been easy but look at you, you are still standing. It is true, 2020 was not what we expected it to be, but with all the uncertainty and heartache there were precious moments where I felt connected, moments in which I had a good belly laugh and moments where I felt loved. It was in these moments that I experienced the value of life and all the relationships that make it worth living.

The year 2020 has taught me incredibly valuable lessons that I would like to share with you. Firstly, it taught me to stop being afraid of living my truth in fear of being judged. It taught me to start being honest with myself and engage in the things that make my heart truly happy – being sure to ignore my insecurity – because we don't know when the next time will come where we won't get the chance to do them for a while, so don't take things for granted. Secondly, a friend of mine shared this with me, ‘there will always be someone who is better than you or different from you, but that does not take away any value from you or them,’ and I thought those were the wisest words any 18-year-old has ever shared.

As head girl this year, I learnt the essence of being a servant leader which means leading by being of service to people, like Jesus was, and realising that my efficiency as a leader lies in the impact of my service to those I am leading. I learnt to stop placing my value in being told that I am doing a good job, I needed to learn to be my personal hype-man to ensure that I am confident in my leadership in order to put those who are following me at ease. I battled with my insecurity and lost many times, but eventually learnt to live with it in a way that didn't harm my mental health. We all have insecurities, but don't view them as all bad. Insecurities are the very things that allow us to connect and relate to one another. Realising this helped me to learn not to hate my insecurity but to use it as a tool of development.

High school has been a roller coaster, but I am grateful for all the memories and lessons that will live with me forever. My advice to the next group is this: trust yourself, find people with good hearts and become friends, have some good belly laughs, live your truth and most importantly have fun! High school won't last forever so make the most of where you are right now in your personal journey. I know the feeling of impatience that come with wanting to get high school over and done already but don't rush it, your time will come, enjoy the ride. To my fellow matrics, it's our time, baby! Don't just exist, make sure you live. Make your presence known and change some lives. Always remember, life is only as good as your mindset.

GRANTLEIGH



Andiswa Mazibuko, Thando Silinda and Simphiwe Zondi entertaining everyone at the assembly.



The head boy and head girl addressing the school for the last time.



Let's go back to primary school!



Karl Naidoo made the top 5 in his category at the #Straight2Camera Monologue Festival.

Dirk Kotze going back to Mrs Van der Walt's class after 13 years.

MIHIR LALBEHARIE



Head boy

This year has not gone as anyone expected. Many fellow matriculants have missed their matric dances, all learners have lost valuable academic time and – to top it all off – you cannot even give someone a comforting hug. Everything seems like your worst nightmare come true, right?

As leaders, people will look to you for guidance and strength. Yes, you may feel overwhelmed and anxious about the future, but never forget we still have each other: to support one another and be

there for each other. No man is an island. No great leader throughout history has ever accomplished anything of value without the help of his team and fellow leaders. There is an old African proverb: 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.'

During this time, you may feel many times like giving up. Just remember that the ones who will be the most successful in the wake of this pandemic will be those who best adapted to this drastic change in our lives. By throwing in the towel, you

MINETTE

JANSE VAN VUUREN

This year has been far from normal in several ways. I never thought that I would complete my final school year during a pandemic; that wearing a mask and practising social distancing would become the new normal. I can honestly say that it hasn't been all fun and games, but it has been so worth it.

This year taught me a lot about myself, and the value of time. I learnt just how unpredictable life is and the importance of being able to adapt and to make the best of what you have. Truth be told, this year gave me a sense of reality. Only when we are under pressure and when time is running out to complete tasks and to make memories, we realise the value of time.

It's such a great honour to be in a school like St Dominics Newcastle, where everyone has your best interest at heart and will walk the extra mile for you. My life changed the day that I decided to make the move to attend this school. I became a part of a family. I made friendships that will last a lifetime and learnt valuable life lessons. Memories made will be the topic of conversation for many years to come. The school acted as a compass and guided me so that I could achieve all my goals, whether it be academic or personal. Teachers and peers have shaped me as well as my thinking process, allowing me to become the best possible version of myself. I grew academically, physically, and emotionally in the time I attended the school. The Christian ethos has played a significant role in my life, and I always looked forward to our chapel services. It was truly a remarkable way to start the day.

Being a head leader of the school has been such an honour for me. I must admit that it was not always easy to complete the tasks at hand, but I had an incredible support system that was always ready to lend a helping hand and give advice. Throughout the year I learnt a lot about leadership and grew as an individual. For me personally, servant leadership is important. Being a leader is not only about giving instructions, but rather rolling up your sleeves and getting actively involved. For a leader to be successful, they need to have followers, and to have followers, one must give them something to follow. A leader must be an open-minded person, willing to listen and to work hard. It is someone who will always place the needs of others above their own, and prove themselves through their actions, rather than their words. It really gave me an immense amount of joy to see the growth in some

Head girl



of the learners and to know that I might have contributed to it. Everyone who knows me, will know that I am a firm believer in kindness. I strongly feel that we need to treat everyone with love, respect, and kindness. One kind word has the power to change someone's life.

I want to end with a piece of advice for the other learners. As this year has proved to us, we never know what the future holds. We must live for the now and make the best of every situation. When life throws rocks your way, don't see them as obstacles, but rather as building material to reach your dreams. When you are faced with difficult situations, instead of getting negative and discouraged, look for the positive in everything and choose to focus on that. Something that took me a while to understand, was the power of my thoughts. One negative thought can consume you and throw your day off course. Every day when you wake up, you can choose love, joy, and peace for the day.

Life is full of hardships and there will be days where you feel sad and discouraged, but I want to encourage you to always be kinder than you feel. Your emotions are temporary, but the way you act when you experience them, and the things you say, has the power to leave permanent scars.

I want to leave you with the words of Psalm 121. 'May He guide you in all your ways!'

I strongly feel that we need to treat everyone with love, respect, and kindness.

destroy all your dreams and aspirations. I believe that each person in the world has the potential to be someone spectacular, someone who contributes to the world and all its inhabitants in a way no one could have imagined. The only thing that separates the world changers from everyone else, is that they did not give up. That is the only difference that separates you from the person you always dreamed of becoming.

What truly defines us is what we repeatedly do. Your identity comes from your habits. Every action taken is a vote for the kind of person you want to become. Therefore, the secret to your success lies in your daily habits. To become the best version of yourself you must

continuously edit your beliefs, and upgrade and expand your identity.

I have a little challenge for all of you reading this. Track what you do and how long you do it for a few days. Afterwards, look at that list and ask yourself if these actions and habits coincide with your beliefs and with the kind of person you want to become. If your answer is 'no', which for most of you it will be, CHANGE THEM.

I wish you all the best, and I cannot wait to hear the inspiring stories from all of you in the months and years to come. If you have any genuine questions that you believe I can answer or if you would just like to share something, you can contact me.

ST DOMINICS NEWCASTLE



DAYAN GOVENDER

Head boy

1 Peter 2:9: 'But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the Excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.'

This was the chosen scripture for the Class of 2020. It was not only written across our hearts, but it defined our uniqueness, our strength, our unity, and our love. It meant so much more than what it actually is and played a very supportive role in reminding us that we are not alone in this year and that He will lead us to His light, especially in this a difficult year.

Being head boy was always going to be a role that is hard to live up to because people are always looking to you. But having such supportive, amazing teachers and fellow leaders made leading from the front much easier. This year has been very interesting. Khanyisile (our head girl) and I had so many plans that we wanted to implement this year to emphasise the speciality of our school; that unity; that homely feeling.

Yes, our school is small, but dynamite does come in small packages. Our exceptional talent spreads anywhere we participate, and we leave a memorable impression; from the sports field, to the classrooms, to the stage. An initiative that Khanyi and I tried to start and hopefully be carried on after we left, was a programme called AG+. We made a video to spread the word of God in a more interactive, fun way.

Leading a leadership team came with its challenges, but John Quincy Adams said: 'If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.' The Class of 2020 are all born leaders and the world is waiting on us to change it magnificently. We are the chosen ones!

For the next group of chosen leaders, I have no doubt in my mind that you will lead with exceptionality. The most important thing is communication. Talk to each other, look at different ways and opinions and always look at better ways of doing something. If something is important to you, fight for it, but do so with respect and humility. Don't look at positions of power, but rather work as a whole unit in harmony to lead from the front. As Alexander Den Heijer once said: 'Great leaders believe they work for their team, average leaders believe their team works for them.' Always put others before your own ambitions.

This year has had a large impact on us all; it has challenged us in all areas of our lives, but for those reading this right now I want you to know you are exceptional, you are unique and you shall pass through the dark tunnel. God is with you every step of the way. If you have a goal go get it, if you have a dream, chase it, if you are confronted, face it, if you are challenged, solve it, if you are walking, I want you to fly. I want you to change the world. There will be no mountain as high as to stop you from doing what you love. We cannot live in doubt, we just have to open up and let God take the wheel.



KHANYISILE RADEBE

Head girl

My year of unforgettable memories is coming to an end. I look back and thank God for how far He has gotten me. Through all the trials and tribulations, I am grateful to say that I did not miss out on the opportunity to be head girl. It has not been an easy journey considering the difficulty of trying to regulate the behaviour of my peers, trying to balance my work and personal life, thinking of initiatives and dealing with the effects that COVID-19 brought upon the Class of 2020.

Being head girl and a friend to my classmates and schoolmates has been the most difficult part of my experience in regard to making decisions about whether to be harsh or lenient when it came to uniform and behavioral infringements. This is a personal challenge of mine that I've learnt to deal with through the guidance of my fellow leaders (Viresh Jiwa, Siphesihle Gosani, Burnharde Chikosha, Samuel Chetty, Tumelo Moloto, Nicola Bester, Aaron Naidu, Tshifiwa Mariba and Chad Warner) and my partner in crime, Dayan Govender. I mean, who am I without my family? Apart from the challenges, I've learnt the true value of leadership and having a strong team. Leadership isn't defined by a gold badge; it is defined by the qualities that you possess as a person, how you handle situations authoritatively and fairly and how you treat people.

I've learnt and enjoyed a great deal ever since my arrival in Grade 7. I came here as a quiet, self-doubting young girl and I'm leaving as a mature, self-confident, outspoken young woman who is ready to take on the world and make a name for herself. I don't think I would've been able to achieve the things I have now, had it not been for the encouragements and support that my teachers and classmates never fail to give.



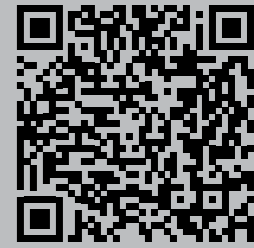
The King's School

I've had my happy days, sad days and lazy days, but one thing that is the biggest highlight of all experiences, is the hype and energy we put into sports days, birthday songs and the school song. I love how my classmates can make the best of the smallest things. We are far from perfect as we do have our own differences, but one thing I can assure you of is that our sense of unity is what makes us such a strong group. I thank my brothers and sisters and teachers for making my time at The King's School Linbro Park worthwhile.

Being in a position of leadership isn't easy because people are going to talk behind your back and make claims that 'power' has changed you. Unfortunately, we have no control over what people say or think, but what we have control over is how we act. My advice to the next group is for them to always stay true to themselves and to always communicate. Communication and respect for one another are of importance, especially in a team. Teamwork requires dedication, honesty, integrity, understanding and the ability to make sacrifices.

Passion without determination means nothing. This is a motto that I live by and I hope this will serve as an encouragement to every single one of you. Never put a limit on what you can do. Life is a journey of exploration, learning and finding your identity. Don't you ever put a cap on what you can do!

I want to leave you with a scripture. Luke 10:19 says: 'Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and all over the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.' Trust the process. God has spoken and declared that He's given us the power to overcome all, especially the evil one himself. Use your authority to pave a way to success!



JOSHUA SWANEPOEL

Head boy



I would first and foremost like to thank the Lord for His hand of protection over us. God is good, He has been good to us, and He will always be good to us. I thank Him for His provision, as none of us go hungry or are without roofs over our heads despite these trying times. We truly are blessed, Waterstone College!

The year 2020 has been an unconventional one indeed. The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has turned the academic year on its head at a national scale. Waterstone College has been far from unaffected. Months of school closure, remote classes and exam postponement have all taken a toll on the regular running of our school. It is obvious now that we will not see campus life return to normal in 2020. Extramural activities, assemblies and school events remain closed and our focus must be narrowed in on preserving the academic year.

There is, however, much to be learned from this year. It is more apparent now than ever that the Waterstone College family display true FIRE (our values). Despite the

countless setbacks and disappointments, we as a school continued to thrive. Through academic acrobatics we have been able to stay well ahead of the curriculum, all the while prioritising the safety and well-being of our learners. COVID-19 protocols have been established within the school's walls and learning has been swiftly adapted throughout the year to meet the ever-changing regulations. I am extremely proud of the effort this year from teachers, learners, and parents alike. We have all united to work towards a terrific result at the end of this academic year.

I believe that this year is an opportunity to take a step back from a fatally busy, modern world and live life day by day for a short while. Take it slow, keep it simple, and use this time for self-development beyond academics. I urge you to take this opportunity to spend quality time with your families.

Be responsible, keep yourself and others safe. God bless Waterstone college, God bless South Africa.



Matrics getting amped for the Grade 8 orientation day.



Waterstone College



The Class of 2020 at the interhouse athletics.

When we entered this year, Waterstone College matric learners were confident that 2020 was going to be our year. We had been looking forward to this year since we started high school; one in which memories would be made and our legacy left behind for future classes to remember us by. The amount of enthusiasm that each learner embodied was incomprehensible, and that's the reason why (I am proud to say), within the initial few months of the year, we made a positive impact in the school.

The spirit of the school reached new heights this year under the influence of Mrs Van Straaten. Our matric group took it upon ourselves to realise that we would be role models whom our peers will look up to, making us understand that pride within a school is shown through the practice and effort put into the spirit that the school stands for. I'm proud to be part of a class who managed to show that we truly live the school's core values.

Our first term comprised of memorable events, such as our last interhouse athletics and last interhouse swimming gala. Who can ever forget our very own war cry that not only sounded like one of battle and courage, but of victory and strength that we have gotten this far. We also started planning our matric dance ... but then the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown struck.

This resulted in us being away from school for weeks and having to adapt to remote learning. It was difficult, initially, as well as frustrating that this had to happen in our final year of school! Being back at school, surrounded by the people with whom you started this journey is a source of great comfort; it's a familiar 'normal' on which we could depend, especially since our 'normal' lives have changed forever.

I'm sure many of my peers can agree that this was a tiring time, but through the support of our friends, families, and teachers, we have dealt with it to the best of our abilities. We are still pursuing our future and striving for excellence – and that's what matters: looking forward.

I hope that no other matric class would have to cope with the conditions of this year ever again. However, although it was disheartening at the beginning, we picked ourselves up and fought to get our focus back, determined that this year would not go to waste! We fought to show that, even in difficult times, we can come out victorious. We are an unforgettable group. We came, we survived (and will keep on surviving), and we will conquer!



TIASHA PADAYACHEE

Head girl



Matrics taking on the Sudoku challenge.

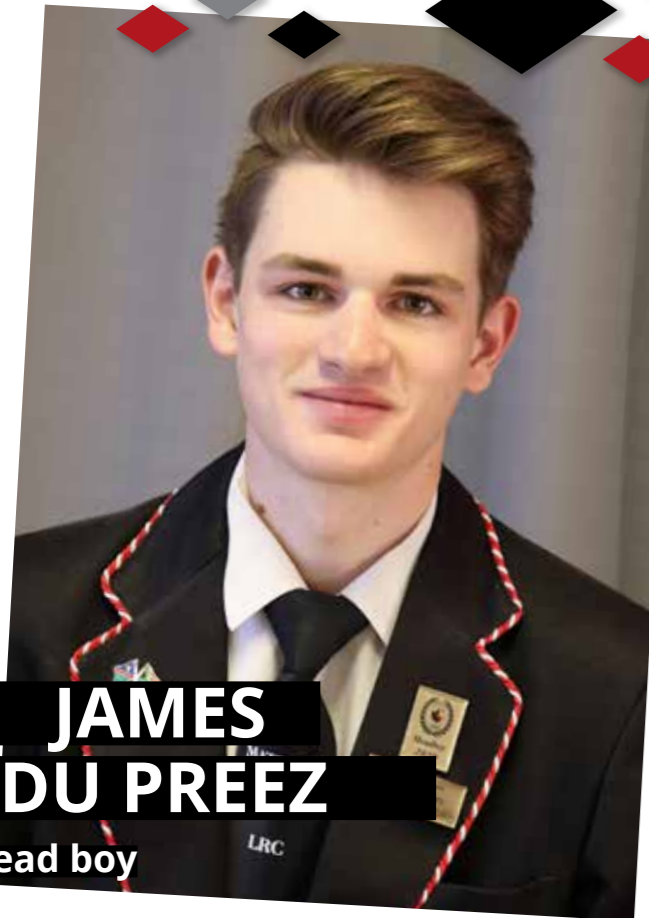


Relaxing outside, masks and all
From left: Nosipho Mshengu, Urisha Moodley, Kyara de Gouveia and Tiasha Padayachee



Kyara de Gouveia and Koenéa Perumal doing the safe shake.

Practising social distancing and adjusting to the new normal.



JAMES DU PREEZ

Head boy

My experience as head boy has been a strange one. It began with a bang and ended with a lockdown; it was punctuated with many stressful times along with unforgettable moments. What truly made the year unique, however, was not COVID-19, but the amazing people with whom I worked, and the things we managed to accomplish.

We were asked to share some of our experiences and the more I thought about it, the harder it was to single one out. While being the head boy was a privilege, it was also very busy. The countless events have become somewhat of a blur of fun moments, but the best one is still very clear, the welcoming of the Grade 8s.

When we welcomed the Grade 8 learners to school on their very first day, their nervousness was clear and their excitement infectious! I could not wait to work with them and see them begin to thrive. We spent many hours with the 'Gommies' and, true to form, they managed to provide us with endless frustration and entertainment. I would not trade the experience of working with them for anything in the world.

It is easy to focus on the negative, difficult situation that we find ourselves in now, but it's infinitely more important to look back and remember the great times we had and the times that are still to come. My advice for the next group of prefects would be this: do not start your year discouraged, but start planning spectacular events now; do what you can with the capacity that you have.

Your legacy will be one of how you managed to perform when nothing was as it used to be, so use this opportunity to distinguish yourselves. I have no doubt that you will manage to make a success of your year.



Head girl

LORENE BRAND

What a year it has been! 2020 is a year we will never forget.

As head girl of Windhoek Gymnasium, I had many dreams and visions for our school. If this year has taught me anything, it is that we are not in control. It was a year where I had to learn to adjust, refocus and to lead in a new and innovative way. COVID-19 pushed all of us out of our comfort zones and forced us to adapt to a new normal. It definitely was not the matric year the Class of 2020 dreamt about since we were young, but it sure was one for the history books.

It brought us closer together as a class group and made us realise how much we need each other. It taught us to appreciate the small things in life which we so often take for granted. We were forced to come to a standstill and regather, rediscover and redefine life.

To the Class of 2021: remember, life comes with unexpected twists and turns. Keep the faith – God is the same; yesterday, today and forever. Invest in your relationships and don't take life too seriously. Smile behind your mask, attend the late-night sports game, cheer at the drama finale and grasp every opportunity with both hands. I am so thankful for the support from family and friends, the commitment of my fellow LRC and for my wonderful school – especially Tannie Colette for keeping our spirits high and keeping us close during this rollercoaster ride of matric 2020.

As I look back on my year, I can honestly say we are stronger together. As LR Knost once said: 'Life is amazing. And then it's awful. And then it's amazing again. And in between the amazing and the awful it's ordinary and mundane and routine. Breathe in the amazing, hold on through the awful, and relax and exhale during the ordinary. That's just living heartbreaking, soul-healing, amazing, awful, ordinary life. And it's breathtakingly beautiful'.



First day of school 2020
From left: Tabitha von Ludwiger, Georgia Steenkamp, Robyn Norval and Alexandra Maartens



Zoë Rittmann receiving her matric tie.

WINDHOEK GYMNASIUM



Lelan Beukes and Henru Jessen posing for a pic at the interhouse athletics.



First day of school 2020
From left: Alexandra Maartens, Gideon Agenbag, Vihan Scholtz and Delvin Losper



40 days

From left: Caitlin Solomon, Erin-reese Saunderson, CJ Amiss, Tommy Swemmer and Lelan Beukes



THE CLASS OF 2020 EMBRACED REMOTE LEARNING DURING LOCKDOWN.

WIEHAN VORSTER

Head boy

Although my time as head boy at Woodhill College really felt relevant only for the end of last year and term one of this year, I loved every moment. Personally, I have featured on the athletics track, in the swimming pool and on the rugby field from time to time and I will carry the memories of the interhouse and interhigh with me forever. Events such as those make us feel like part of a family; the Woodhill family. Woodhill College may be a small school but recognising everyone's faces and knowing that nobody is a stranger, creates a sense of family.

Being head boy is very special. You have your hands full and must be willing to be available, this job has the iceberg effect in that sense. However, knowing that you contribute to school functions and events, has been what kept me going. I would not have been able to do it, if it were not for my exceptional teachers and supportive peers.

For the future leaders of Woodhill College, I say this: participate in everything you possibly can, just because you are not immediately good at something, does not necessarily mean that it cannot be enjoyable. Your time in high school is limited, and you only really comprehend this when your last school events have come to pass.

The thought of what could have been this year is heartbreaking, but I truly wish that the circumstances of lockdown improve for the next generation of leaders and learners.



INGCHEN BEZUIDENHOUT

Head girl

It's hard to believe my term as head girl has come to an end. It was a privilege and an honour to work and serve the people of the school. Despite the many hardships we experienced, we have finally reached the light at the end of the tunnel for this year.

We were fortunate enough to have experienced an unforgettable athletics meet, interhouse swimming gala, bake sales, and many other activities in the beginning of the year. I would like to give a special thanks to the SLC and everyone else involved, who poured their hearts and energy in the planning and organising of the events. I could not have done anything without them.

To my fellow matrics, I want to thank you for creating a sense of community among us. The matric camp was a highlight of the year, and I look forward to spending our last few events together.

We should all be proud of our perseverance throughout the year. We were able to make do with our circumstances and we should not underestimate our resilience. To the matrics of 2021, welcome to the roaring twenties; it truly started off with a bang. My advice to you would be to take your time to get to know everyone around you, it will make the year much easier and enjoyable. As a wise Troy Bolton once said: 'We are all in this together.'



WOODHILL COLLEGE



THE CLASS OF 2020



Grade 12 camp at Sun City.



Let's take a selfie - all these smiling faces fit in the frame!



Matric learners enjoying their last interhouse swimming gala at the start of 2020.

TEBELLO FOSO

Head boy

One of my favourite quotes is by Walter D Winter: 'If you think you are beaten, you are. If you think you dare not, you don't. If you like to win but you think you cannot then, it is almost certain that you won't.'

This quote reminds me of a piece by Robin Sharma called *The Hero*, which says: 'the hero does not become great during periods of comfort. It is in the moment that you face your deepest weakness that you receive opportunity to forge your greatest strength. Real power then comes not from a life of ease but one of intense effort, devoted discipline and demanding action in the direction that your supreme self knows to be right.'

Opportunity often has a sly habit of slipping in the back door and often it comes disguised in the form of misfortune or temporary defeat. This is the primary reason why so many fail to recognise it. Only when an immense amount of pressure is exerted on a piece of worthless coal does it transform into a diamond. Personally, I will always be thankful to Curro Academy Mahikeng for gifting me an opportunity to transform myself into such a precious diamond.

As Muhammad Ali said: 'Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.' To my fellow matrices, strive to fulfil your purpose so that we may leave the world a better place than we found it. Until we meet again.



LEBOGANG SERONGOANE



It is often said that the essence of great leadership is not authority, but the ability to influence others.

Leadership is a challenge we love to embrace with utmost enthusiasm and ambition. It has been such an honour to be afforded the opportunity to be the head girl of Curro Academy Mahikeng for 2020. Such an opportunity has significantly decorated the story of my life in illustrious colours. There are three lessons and experiences that I wish to share with anyone who cares about humanity in general, and Curro Academy Mahikeng in particular.

For the world, 2020 has been a year we would like to quickly discard into the dustbins of memory loss. COVID-19 presented a challenge of insurmountable realities that provoked us to probe the human conscience and reflect on the direction the world is heading to. For every dark cloud, there is always a silver lining and I am glad to say I remain standing in resilient belief that the human race will ultimately conquer.

The road to success is full of challenges. At times, you will feel like throwing in the towel in disappointed resignation, you will listen to the personal narrative of your life and probably find it unpalatable. During such moments, always remember that we are all unique flowers destined to bloom at different seasons.

Curro Academy Mahikeng has taught me the story of human self-discovery and perpetual growth. Over

the years, I have come to the realisation that we are a constant work in progress, that we will make mistakes from time to time and that's okay. Day by day I have taken out something from this mighty institution. It has nurtured my nature into the leader I currently am and for that, I will forever be indebted to it. When one masters gratitude, one sees God in everything. Life is an abundance of opportunities for self-growth and personal enhancement. Always strive to be a better asset of communal inspiration. Be useful to the people around you at all stages of life and only then, can one say they have lived a life worth some retelling.

As the world continues to turn around, we all need to embrace its challenges and play a significant part in the search for solutions, Curro Academy Mahikeng has surely prepared us for this. We came, we saw and, as the matriculants of 2020, allow me to tempt fate and vouch that we are surely about to conquer. Against all odds, we shall prevail.

School is a socialising agent and I am proud to declare that we have all been well socialised and given wings to fly into dizzy heights of what society has to offer. Thanks to the great teachers who relentlessly nurtured and guided us into the appropriate ways of life. The world shall surely remember you.

Head girl



HOT CHOCOLATE AND MILO ON A COLD WINTER MORNING

CURRO ACADEMY MAHIKENG



Tumisang Ramakatsa and Matshediso Raborife enjoying sports day.



Social distance is key in class!



Ofentse Moshaoa, Lesedi Motaung and Tatolo Montshioa hanging around after school.



Breakfast at boarding school before heading off to class.



Tlotlego Matlala is relaxing in the sun at break.

MAKOLA MAKOLA

I have great appreciation for how the Curro Academy Pretoria family has impacted our lives with its commitment to imparting warmth and compassion into the lives of every learner.

A compassionate heart is everything in a teacher and cannot be esteemed highly enough. I can only look back with appreciation to our great teachers, and with gratitude to those who continue to touch the hearts of learners. There is much to deter a learner from developing into a true leader, but warmth, compassion, and commitment have proven to be a vital element for our growth at Curro Academy Pretoria.

The school has gifted me the opportunity to realise that Helen Keller's words are true: 'The most beautiful things cannot be seen, or even touched, they must be felt with the heart.' And truly, as Carl Jung says 'your vision becomes clear as you learn to look into your own heart. He who looks outside, dreams; he who looks inside, awakens.'

My deepest regards and appreciation go to our teachers and all Curro Academy Pretoria staff who continue to turn adversity into advantage – the tremendous amount of support, effort and unwavering guidance from the school has enriched us with the ability to grow and leap beyond circumstance and to think beyond ourselves.

Head boy



The Curro Academy Pretoria Representative Council of Learners (RCL) for 2020.

**CURRO
ACADEMY
PRETORIA**



KELSEY HOODS

Head girl

I would like to thank the learners and teachers who nominated me to be Curro Academy Pretoria's head girl for 2020. I am blessed, honoured and forever grateful for the confidence you have had in me to assume this leadership position.

The first few months saw us settling into the privilege of being matric learners; the Representative Council of Learners (RCL) was elected and we were so excited for what the year had to offer. Fast-forward to August 2020 and we had to face more than just the normal pressures of being a matric learner. The pandemic accelerated our level of perseverance and adaptation to change.

I would like to commend the management and teachers on their attempts to ensure that safe learning continues during lockdown. It was quite a unique experience to see our teachers in meetings via Zoom, Microsoft Teams and WhatsApp from the safety of our home environment.

Although I could not return when school officially opened again, the school made sure that those like me who were unable to return could continue to receive quality education; for this I am grateful.

To the Class of 2020, you are truly one of a kind and a true reflection of the brave human spirit. To the Class of 2021, go into the world and do well; but more importantly, go into the world and do good. Stay humble, work hard and be kind. I wish you all the best for the year ahead. God bless you.



Our leaders
From left: Kelsey Hoods (head girl), Given Mahlangu (deputy head boy), Phuti Thema (deputy head girl) and Makola Makola (head boy)



Grade 12s keeping our school clean.



Always wear your mask
Back, from left: Nadeen Cassim, Thabiso Skosana and Nkululeko Mdluli
Front, from left: Tinyiko Mokhari, Nicole Kotze and Zeeyaad Mohideen



Fun in the sun
From left: Tinyiko Mokhari, Thabiso Skosana and Nicole Kotze



MASILU MODIBA

Head boy

My high school experience at Curro Academy Soshanguve has been a rather interesting journey of growth and lessons for which I am really grateful. It has shaped many aspects of my character and has also exposed my weaknesses. The most important values I learnt are respect, accountability and responsibility. Through these values I have navigated many of my experiences, with everyone I met. I had the opportunity to meet individuals who are diverse in thought and action. I learnt about communication and the importance of being able to properly articulate yourself when you are in need of help, or need to bring across a message.

I was able to improve my thought processes and broaden my reasoning capacity. I had teachers who not only equipped me with knowledge in the classroom, but also provided me with advice on how to navigate life in my personal space. These lessons were invaluable to me and I will forever carry them in my heart. I also learnt how to recognise problems and developed the ability to devise constructive and effective decisions. Through the opportunity of being elected as the head boy I have learnt how to lead through servant leadership and how to embrace criticism.

It is essential to be consistent when approaching your studies and it is imperative that you focus on the positive aspects of your failures. Surround yourself with people who are able to feed you with motivation and a hunger for success. Never give up on yourself or your dreams. Take it upon yourself to laugh more and take more pictures. Cultivate a culture of being focused on your studies and invest in yourself, improving your skills.

Overall, I believe that my experiences at Curro have helped me in preparation for all my future endeavours. I would like to believe that I had an enriching high school experience and I am ready to navigate adulthood.

DAVINA MABENA

I had the privilege of being part of the first generation at a new school, as I started my high school career at Curro Academy Soshanguve when it opened in 2015. It's been six years; six years of grooming, laughter, academic achievements and finding myself, and I will forever treasure the memories I made here.

My second-most-memorable moment at this school is the 15 minutes I cried in frustration in Teacher Thathane's (Head of High School) office. I was utterly failing Afrikaans and wanted to change the subject so badly that I begged her to let me to substitute up to three other subjects in a desperate plea to drop Afrikaans. I'll never forget her response: 'How can something that doesn't have a mouth make you cry like this? Afrikaans is nothing you can't handle. Be patient with yourself and learn the subject. You're not dropping it; you need to show it who you are.'

The most memorable moment that I'll forever cherish would be the time after my car accident. It was emotionally challenging for me to be at school and most of the time, I was a walking ghost. My Life Orientation teacher, Ms Mohlake advised me to go to my quiet place and cry out to God for strength and revival - it made all the difference!

All I'm trying to say is that Curro Academy Soshanguve has always brought out the best in me, taught me to be assertive and to be true to who I am. I've always loved how the school acknowledged and rewarded hard workers each and every term.

My advice to future matrics is to study like it's your last year of high school because it is. Ensure that the results you get are always a reflection of who you are. I believe that none of you are failures. Lastly, I urge you to have fun without losing focus.



Head girl

ACADEMY SOSHANGUVE



Mokasepe Tshegofatso, Machava Tshegofatso and Modiba Masilo receive trophies for outstanding academic performance



Pre-prelim exams



Ready for extra lessons!



Theatre day - watching Othello on the big screens.



VUYO MBANJWA

Head boy

I joined Curro Academy Wilgeheuwel in 2017 as a young boy from Durban trying to adjust to a new setting. The transition to living in Johannesburg and attending a new school has been tremendous. Learning new places, languages, lifestyles – and the extremely cold winters – pushed me far from my comfort zone. The first school to accept me was Curro Academy Wilgeheuwel. Though I had heard of Curro before, I had never experienced their campus and great spirit.

In 2017 when the school first opened its doors to a small group of learners (the high school had only two classes, Grades 8 and 9 – I was in Grade 9), we were repeatedly told we would be the first matriculants. A new school building, our own CurrageCall and a war cry that would shake many other schools at every event – these were part of the exciting steps in our journey. The CurrageCall instilled a sense of unity in us. I will never forget the outpouring of that spirit at our Inter-Curro athletics event in Potchefstroom. We also took part in the Discovery Soccer League and the Independent School Soccer League. These events evoked a sense of fulfilment. After all, our school motto is 'leaving a mark and pioneering a legacy'.

Here we are now, the Class of 2020; the class which defied all odds through the toughest year in memory. High motivation was essential throughout the whole year. The cancellation of sport, culture events and even the matric dance was very difficult. This year marks the end of our high school career where we would have celebrated our 'lasts', but little did we know that our lasts had already come and gone.

Now we celebrate mental strength and perseverance. We will be known as the group who got tough as times got tougher. This year has definitely been a long road to travel with all its curves, bumps and the massive pothole that is COVID-19 which derailed our route. However, the destination stayed the same, the goal was always to get to the finish line! We are almost there, and I am proud of my group, the Class of 2020!



SISANDA GABELA Head girl

My journey at the school started in 2017. I was an average learner who arrived in full school uniform (on a hot summer day) with a bag full of books that I did not even need on the first day. Curro Academy Wilgeheuwel has grown so much and with any growth comes growing pains. Adjusting to different teaching styles and a new learning environment was a challenge that we learnt to overcome. Our ability to adapt is what sets us apart. I cherish all the qualities and relationships I have made through the schools' extramural activities.

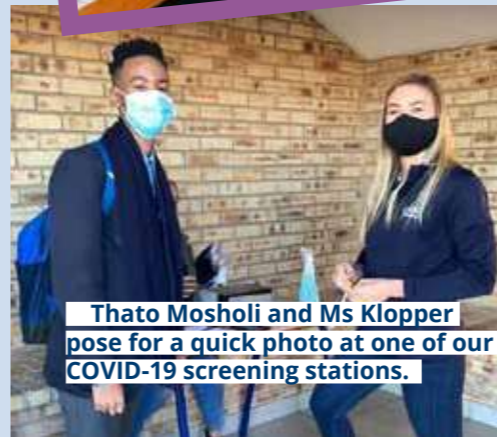
Sport such as netball taught me trust, determination, strength and patience and humility which was noted every time we faced our rivals and had to shake hands, like the sportsmen and -women we were. Culture taught me how to perform and show up as the show must go on. It taught me how to rely on the relationships made with fellow cast members.

The hardest person to convince is yourself. This four-year journey has shown me that nothing can change unless I change. The prospect of becoming a better person and learner is what I strive for. It might sound contradictory, but failure is my biggest motivation. It is a method I try to avoid, and yet learn the most from. I have grown to accept the inevitable circumstances of failure. How we react towards adversity is what determines our next victory. Most of my previous failures have allowed me to learn the real meaning of victory.

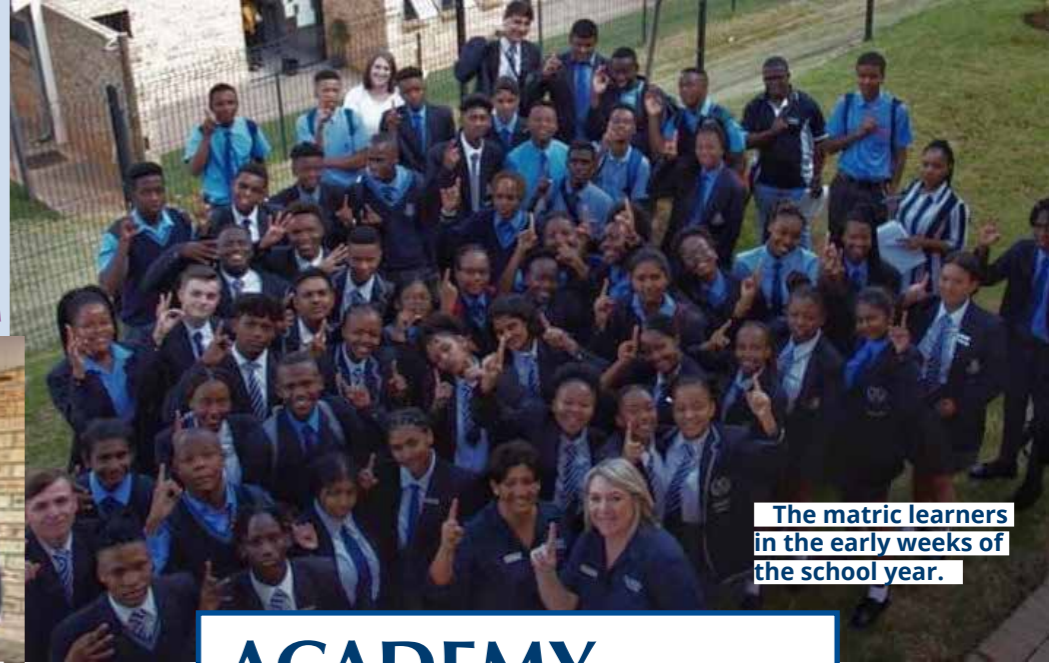
My advice for the next group is, don't fall behind academically. You will end up needing to do twice the work in half the time. Regret is a stronger emotion than love, find ways to live each day without regret. Put Vaseline on. Always be moisturised (dry land bares no fruit) and ready. Ready to work smart, and to rest as well. Ready to be incorrect, but ready to learn from the mistakes you will make. Ready to finish what you started and start things that will benefit you.



Alisha Royappen takes a moment while doing some 'lockdown' learning.



Thato Mosholi and Ms Klopper pose for a quick photo at one of our COVID-19 screening stations.



The matric learners in the early weeks of the school year.

ACADEMY WILGEHEUWEL

Ready to be hydrated because like the earth, dry land bares nothing, an arid mind will bear no fruits. Recognise when you are being distracted or being a distraction and rather lose 10 minutes of fun than 10 hours of studying.

Where to from here? Success? Success is relative. For me, I believe that only God knows what success entails for me. He helps those who help themselves. Not everybody is spiritually inclined, however everyone can agree that it is very easy to fall into the mindset that success is a destination or material value, but success is not a 'what', success is a 'how', 'with whom' and a 'where'.

Success starts within, by setting little achievable goals. This generation is changing the way 'success' is viewed, whether it is through attaining a degree or not. My goal is to be a person who used educational and 'unteachable' qualities to become the best version of myself. The goals I have set for myself have enabled me to choose a future that will enable me to pay it forward.

You will never know the value of a moment until it is gone, and every moment is a teachable moment. I came here as a learner; I am leaving as a leader who is ready to learn again.



Cheering on our athletes at the Inter-Curro athletics in Potchefstroom.



Nicole Diedericks and Sibalwe Ndzabela taking shelter from the blistering sun during the interhouse athletics day.

Phundi Madzhie and Dini Ndllovu take a short break between Saturday catch-up sessions.





CALEB DE CARVALHO

Head boy

My first year in Curro Uitzicht coming from a public school was difficult, I won't lie. The number of learners in the school, the small classes and individual attention we received was all too much and overwhelming. But soon, I started to see the positives. For example, the individual attention a learner receives was quite beneficial considering the time the teachers spent of their own time; they really sacrifice a lot, especially for a learner like me who wasn't used to this environment at all. In this school with its small class sizes, I found that I could be myself; when you're in an environment where there's a lot of people, you start to conform to the people you surround yourself with, just to fit in. That's not the case here at Curro Uitzicht.

I've found out that becoming like everybody else is a crime to your identity. I say that because there are teenagers my age in this world who let society define who they are as a person and most of them don't even know it. They follow trends to be amongst the common; walk paths that weren't theirs to follow ...

Therefore, my advice to you is to be yourself, no matter what people think about you. See it this way, they don't respect you at the bottom, they ignore you in the middle, and then they hate you when you get to the top. You'll never have everyone's approval, so it's best to focus on your own. Never let people's opinions define you as a person; only you have the power to do that, so don't give your power away.

I am a proud Grade 12 Curro Uitzicht learner and here is a quote I stand by:

'Fall in love with taking care of yourself. Fall in love with the path of deep healing. Fall in love with becoming the best version of yourself, but with patience, with compassion and respect to your own journey.' – Sylvester McNutt



SKYE WOOD

Head girl

I began my journey at Curro Uitzicht just last year and to say I was petrified is an understatement. I didn't know what to expect, I did not know anyone and was afraid I wouldn't fit in. Little did I know it would be the best two years yet. On my first day I was welcomed with open arms and Curro Uitzicht quickly became my second home where I felt safe and loved. We've had moments filled with laughter and joy, memories I will certainly keep forever, and friends I would cherish for a lifetime.

Curro Uitzicht has provided such rich opportunities with a faculty who support and encourage us to do our utmost best. They've made me believe I can overcome any obstacle. Countless times, they've helped and went out of their way for us as learners. In addition to helping us challenge ourselves academically, every teacher brought something unique to the table that has helped mould us into well-rounded young people; for that I will be forever grateful.

Being at an incredible school like this has not only taught me resilience, empathy, compassion and a strong work ethic, but – most importantly – it's made me happy.

Dr Seuss once said: 'You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.' This quote has always resonated with me and – especially during this crazy and terrifying year – it's made me realise that we can do anything we set our minds to. The only thing stopping you is yourself.

CURRO UITZICHT



THE PEARSON INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION CAME TO VISIT OUR AWESOME LEARNERS.



Reece van Rensburg and Johnathan Dimitrov catching up on some work.



Study methods morning - equipping our learners with skills for exam time!





PARDINGTON MADZUNA

Head boy

My journey at Meridian Cosmo City started several years ago, but it feels like it was just yesterday when I walked through the gates of the school. I joined shortly after they opened, and (anxious as I was back then) I managed to make it through with the school growing bigger each year and gained confidence from the school community.

However, during these years, the school was not the only thing that showed growth; I did too. I have grown and matured into a responsible person.

This year, I was granted an opportunity to serve the school and my fellow learners as head boy. The journey hasn't been easy, and COVID-19 didn't make it any easier. The pandemic took away what could have been a learning and growing experience for me, but still I am glad that I managed to experience the peak of my schooling career with both challenges and achievements in my bag.

My time at Meridian Cosmo City wasn't all gloomy. The years building to my matric year were beautiful. I would like to thank all the staff members for ensuring that we receive the best education while having fun through sports events, school camps and other activities.

I have been playing rugby and participating in athletics programmes since Grade 9, and made rugby captain when I was in Grade 11. In Grade 10, I was selected to form part of the under 18 rugby team and participated at the Curro Nationals. Early this year, I was able to compete in athletics at the Curro Nationals and then the local district athletics cluster. I would like to extend my gratitude to Curro and my school for giving me opportunities to discover my talents; this has immensely contributed to my self-esteem and allowed me to grow confident in my abilities.

In the next phase of my life, I am planning to study civil engineering and Wits University has accepted me for the programme - which is very exciting, because this is a good, life-changing opportunity for me. To the current and next group of Meridian Cosmo city matric learners, I would like to affirm what our teachers always share with us. We have been fully prepared to face the next phase of our lives and we will only succeed if we dedicate ourselves to our goals and all our future plans. We have been given the privilege of coming from a good reputable school with dedicated, supportive and hard-working teachers. Therefore, we need to use that privilege to our advantage by working just as hard as they do to turn out the best in life.

Lastly, to all the teachers, thank you for carrying me through this journey and for pushing me to be the best I can be. May you be blessed for your great hearts and patience - please continue to do the same with others. I take my last bow as a proud Meridian Cosmo City learner.



BONO LEPING

Head girl

I remember the first day I set foot in Meridian Cosmo City. I was nervous because I did not know what to expect. Five years down the line, I am completing my final high school year here. Speaking of my journey, I would love to express my gratitude towards the school's 'acamagicians' - from the executive head to the head of school, along with the rest of the staff for bestowing upon me the honour to serve as the head girl for the year. As soon as I was awarded this title, my objective was to always tread prudently in my actions so that I could be an exemplary figure - seeing and knowing how impressionable young people are, I believe that I have fulfilled this task.

Just as Business Studies taught me, a great leader is someone who acknowledges that there is always room for improvement; had it not been for the current pandemic, I know I could have gotten the opportunity to refine my leadership skills by fulfilling certain tasks I had planned for the school.

One of my biggest highlights since becoming a learner at Meridian Cosmo City was when I was given an opportunity to host a school event led by Nikki Bush, a human potential and parenting expert, who uttered words that will forever be entrenched in my heart. She said, 'I think I might just hire you' complimenting me on my emceeing skills. From there onwards



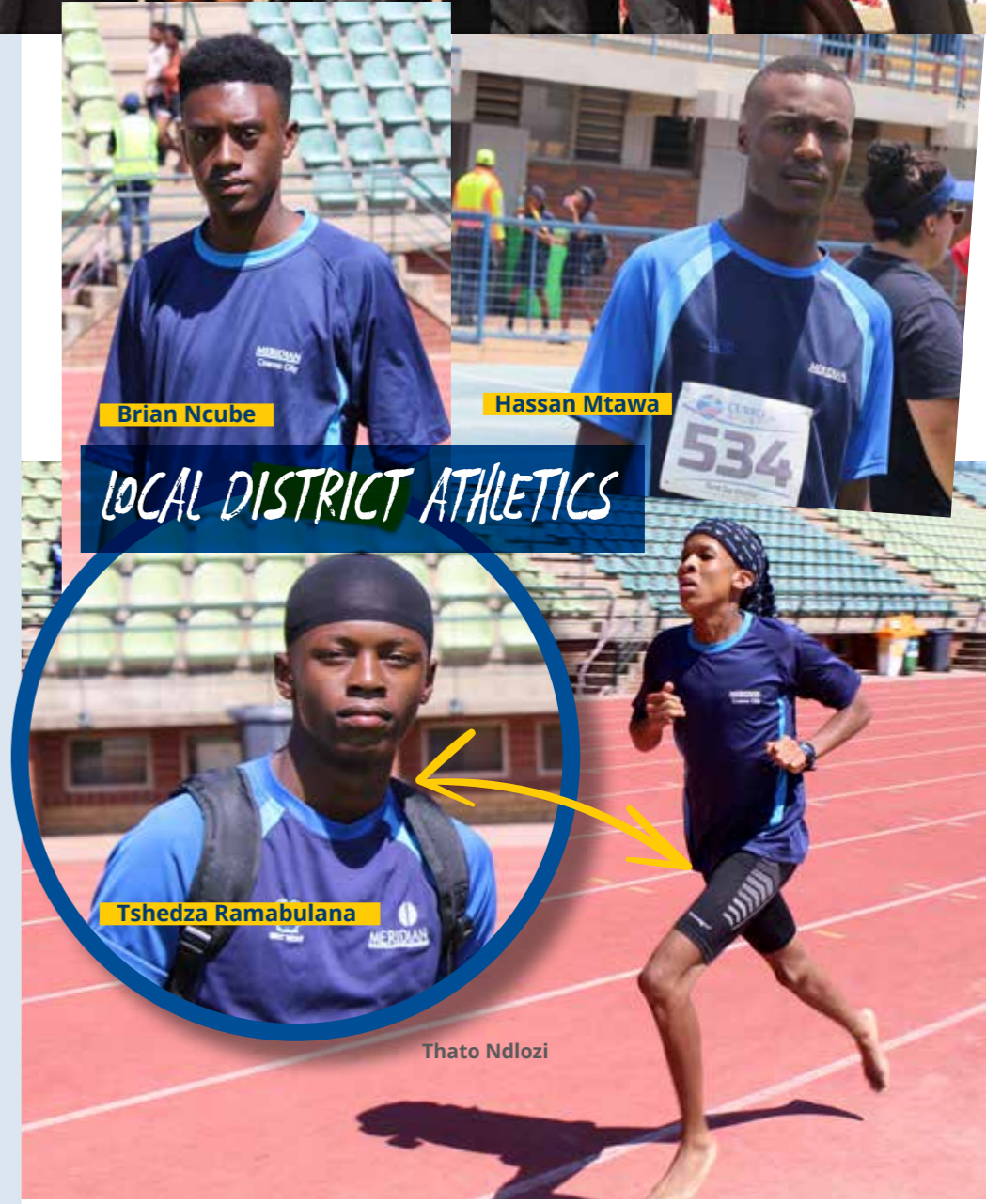
THE LRC FOR 2020

my love for speaking grew exponentially.

I would like to thank God for guiding me through what was a challenging journey. My fabulous parents, thank you for the constant support. To Mrs Mukonda, thank you for urging me to reach exceptional grades before I could even begin my matric year. To Mrs Mashishi, thank you for always rooting for me and reminding me to never be apologetic for who I am and to stay true to myself.

It's uncanny how everything about the school seems to pass by in our last days. To all the current matric learners, this is the beginning of the new phase of our lives. Remember, it does not matter what you start; what counts is the destination and your willingness to get there. Once we leave the school, we only have higher to soar, for the sky is not the limit.

To the next matriculants, continue to strive for the best. You have some of the best teachers any learner can ask for - use all the opportunities they give to you to be the best.



Brian Ncube

Hassan Mtawa

LOCAL DISTRICT ATHLETICS

Tshedza Ramabulana

Thato Ndlozi

MERIDIAN COSMO CITY





ZOLLY GININDA

Head boy

Meridian Karino has played a huge role in shaping the person I am. I've been here since Grade 6. I was part of the school's first group of learners. I was here when the school co-hosted its first Curro tournament, when the whole school climbed the Karino Mountain and planted our flag, when Mr Van Rensburg first addressed the school, and for so many more memories.

I've grown to love this school; an unconditional love stemming from the amazing times I've had here and the lessons I've learnt during my time here. Our teachers willingly go the extra mile. They are always sharp from 15:00 – 17:00, present

intermediary classes as well as self-development and academic growth camps and they organised the Shakespeare play at our school. These are just some of the small but impactful things they did to make sure that we live up to our academic potential. I will forever be grateful to my teachers.

To my peers, a friend of mine once told me that time lost can never be restored and that's a motto I live by. Cherish the time you have here with your teachers and friends and just try to be the best version of yourself.

I will forever be a Meridian Karino boy!



TSHEGOFATSO KHUMALO

Head girl

It is such a privilege to be able to share what Meridian Karino has contributed towards shaping our lives and moulding us into independent individuals. I've been a learner here from the day the school opened its doors back in 2014. Little did I know how greatly I'd be exposed to nurturing and loving teachers. I believe I'm speaking on behalf of every matric learner when I say Meridian Karino is truly a stepping stone towards success.

It would be silly of me to let this opportunity go by without reflecting on a few highlights that we as a class have experienced over years. Who will ever forget our first week here, when we were too shy to talk to each other; or when we felt too short to be in high

school? And how funny we looked in our oversized uniforms that our parents promised 'we would grow into'? Let me rewind back to the Grade 9 EMS competition, how Mr Mahluka kept telling us to win or risk walking back to school. The experience has contributed towards choosing what I want to be in the next few years.

As much as I have looked forward to the last day of my school career, I am not fond of endings. Yet, all things end. Let us not mourn the loss of the Meridian family, but rather celebrate what we've experienced.

There are people here who have become such a part of me that no matter how far I venture from this place, they will always remain with me.



These boys stick together
From left: Michael Chimanzi, Prince Shabangu, Hopewell Gumede, Sifiso Mazibuko, Hopewell Maseko and Sandile Ngomane



Team spirit!
Back, from left: Reneiloe Sibanyoni, Sihlengiwe Maake, Hope Maela, Nosipho Manzini, Pamela Dlamini and Sifiso Mazibuko
Front: Senzo Ndlovu

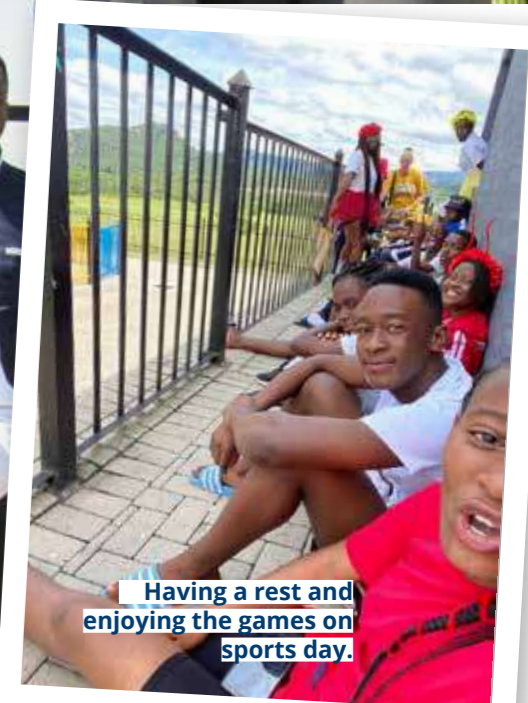
MERIDIAN KARINO



Socialising is just as important as learning.



Chatting with friends during break.



Having a rest and enjoying the games on sports day.



FANELESIBONGE KHUMALO

Head boy

I remember the first day I set foot in Meridian Newcastle. The amount of love, support and respect I received from Meridian Newcastle has built and groomed me to the learner I am today.

I was excited when my parents enrolled me at Meridian Newcastle. The teachers are always willing to support, motivate, mentor and build our characters as learners, allowing us to strive in our academics and activities. Meridian Newcastle lives upon their slogan, game changers. I've attended several schools, but none of them could compare to Meridian Newcastle. My school is indeed the real game changer.

I owe everything I am today to my teachers. I am what I am because of the dedication that my teachers showed me; they always ensured that we excelled (no matter how troublesome we may be sometimes) and I acknowledge each and every effort that they put in to make sure that we are physically and mentally able to achieve our full potential.

I sincerely hope Meridian Newcastle will continue to soar even higher together with its learners.



LUSANDA CUMMING

Head girl

I never thought I would get the privilege of wearing the head girl badge, but through consistent hard work and the grace of God I get to introduce myself today as Lusanda Cumming, the head girl of Meridian Newcastle's Class of 2020.

This has been a very tough year considering the pandemic we are currently facing. At some point I thought of giving up, but every time I thought of all the other learners who look at me and aspire to the position I now hold. That alone keeps me going. Being in Meridian Newcastle has grown me in so many ways. It has exposed me to so many opportunities and widened my capabilities. My teachers have not only trained me academically, but they have groomed me to take on the real world. I have made friendships, acquaintances and partnerships that have helped me achieve all my dreams.

Meridian Newcastle has made my high school experience a memorable

and eye-opening one. I have realised that you only live once, and you only have one opportunity to take up space; you only have one chance to let the world know your name; you only have one shot at claiming what is destined for you. With that said you need to do your absolute best, because you never know what doors you could be opening.

To the Class of 2021, it is never too early to start preparing yourself for the year ahead, because it is a very strenuous one. You shouldn't prepare yourself only academically, but you have to prepare yourself mentally and physically as well. You will receive pressure from all angles and you will just have to deal with it and keep moving. Set goals for yourself and have a game plan on how to achieve your goals. Above all, enjoy the year, make the best of it and make memories as you will treasure them for the rest of your life. All the best to each and every one of you.

I have realised that you only live once, and you only have one opportunity to take up space; you only have one chance to let the world know your name; you only have one shot at claiming what is destined for you.



THE CLASS OF 2020



MERIDIAN NEWCASTLE



Grades 12 learners enjoying snacks at the matric tea earlier this year.



Head boy Fanelesibonge Khumalo addressing his classmates at the matric tea.



Head girl Lusanda Cumming addressing classmates and guests at the matric board unveiling ceremony.



The head boy and head girl excitedly counting down the days until the matric exams start.

2020



MATTHEW JOSHUA GEORGE
Head leader

As the end of our school career fast approaches and we prepare for our final examinations, I am reminded of the memorable journey for which Meridian Pinehurst has been my home for the past five years.

For many matriculants, who we have become can be attributed to our time at our respective schools. Our evolution from wide-eyed 14-year-olds to determined young adults is testament to our growth and the challenges we've overcome. Beyond any doubt, we are matriculating into a world facing serious difficulties. As we prepare to leave the comfort of our schools and enter an overwhelming and foreign world, we must understand that every ambition can be attained through our struggles and hunger for success.

As we embark upon our next journey, let us take the lessons and experiences learnt throughout the years and commit ourselves to embodying a generation seeking success and the desire to change the game. Let us take full ownership of our life's direction.

To the Class of 2021, brace yourselves for a year filled with hard work, but rest assured that through the support of your peers and the school, it all becomes manageable. The year ahead will be accompanied by memorable experiences and I plead that you make the very best of your year.

I end by extending my gratitude to all those who embraced my vision and in granting me the opportunity to define myself within leadership. I thank you.

TRAVON THIERRY OLYN

Deputy head leader

2020



MERIDIAN Pinehurst

I joined this family as an unsure, overeager, and immature teenager who had no clue what life had in store for him, but Meridian Pinehurst has completely transformed me into the leader that I am today.

The most beautiful thing about my school is its diversity and ever-expanding platform for growth. There are no limitations where being a Meridian Pinehurst learner is concerned. Along with exponential academic growth, the grooming of learners from clueless young children to matured young adults is of utmost importance to the school.

Being a part of this school is by far one of the most important things I take pride in as it gave me a platform to find myself and more so, to express who I really am. I had never seen myself as a leader or as someone of influence, but my school gave me the environment to discover talents I never knew I had. I am more than 100% sure that I am not the only one to experience this kind of evolution at Meridian Pinehurst. We are more than just a school; we are a culture of ever-lasting unity: a family. From the kindness of the learners to the determined teachers, Pinnies are with each other, for each other.

Life as a head leader is challenging, but fun. I get to help groom learners and guide them into being the best they could possibly be.

To the Class of 2021, next year is going to be a challenging year. It is going to require a lot of commitment and sacrifice on your part, but I want to challenge you to embrace the journey that you are about to embark on. When going through the tough times, you need to focus on the end result, which is to proudly say that you have reached your goal of obtaining your matric certificate. I want to encourage you to take on all challenges. Develop a growth mindset, in which you strive to always achieve your personal best. In other words, hold yourself accountable for your outcomes, because whether good or bad, there is a lesson in each victory and failure.

MERIDIAN PINEHURST



Xabiso Tapuko, Tershan Heldsinger and Lesli Miller as interhouse athletics cheerleaders.



Scientists of the future - Tershan Heldsinger, Jordan Rossouw, Mihle Gcobo and Ryan Griffiths study the structure of a flower.



The Class of 2020 at the interhouse athletics day.



Mihle Gcobo conducts an experiment in the science lab.



THE CLASS OF 2020



TSHEGOFATSO PHELE

Head boy

I would like to start by saying that I'm thankful to God for bringing me to Meridian Rustenburg back in July 2017. This school has helped me to unlock traits I never knew I had. I have had the privilege of being around warm people – from the maintenance staff to the executive head of the school.

This year has really been a difficult year for us, the worst part being that we will not be having a proper matric dance. However, we are grateful for the two events we were able to have this year before the national lockdown began.

Being a leader requires you to be a servant of the people, which means I had to lead my fellow schoolmates, despite the current circumstances. We are all destined for greatness, but in different ways so, to the next class of matrics, I encourage all of you to find your real purpose in life regardless of what your parents, teachers and friends say.

At the end of the day, you are the one responsible for the choices you make for your own life.

'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.' – Psalms 119:105. This is the scripture I leave for the next leaders. May the Meridian Rustenburg family always recognise God's presence at all times.



OFENTSE TSHAZI

Head girl

It has been only a year and nine months since I joined Meridian Rustenburg, but it feels like I have been with the Meridian family for much longer. I have never felt so welcome and appreciated in a school before. Meridian Rustenburg has not only made me a leader, but has also made me realise how much someone can achieve even by just working at the edges of their capabilities.

I feel honoured to have met each learner and teacher at this school. As I enter the next chapter in my life, I will fondly remember (and miss) the faces I got used to seeing each day. To the classes coming after me, school might seem to last forever but before you realise it you're busy with your final examination, wondering how time went by so fast. Just hang on to Isaiah 40:31: 'But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not grow faint. 'I urge you to cherish this particular period of your life, to have fun and make wonderful lifelong memories.'

As the great John Legend once said: 'The future started yesterday, and we are already late.'



Let's take a selfie before school starts.



MERIDIAN RUSTENBURG



Start-of-the-year matric welcome



Chilling by the fountain
Back, from left: Keabetswe Letlape and Rethabile Bereng
Front: Thapelo Lethea



Omphile Thembo back at school after lockdown.



Kealeboga Moaise's random 'say cheese' moment



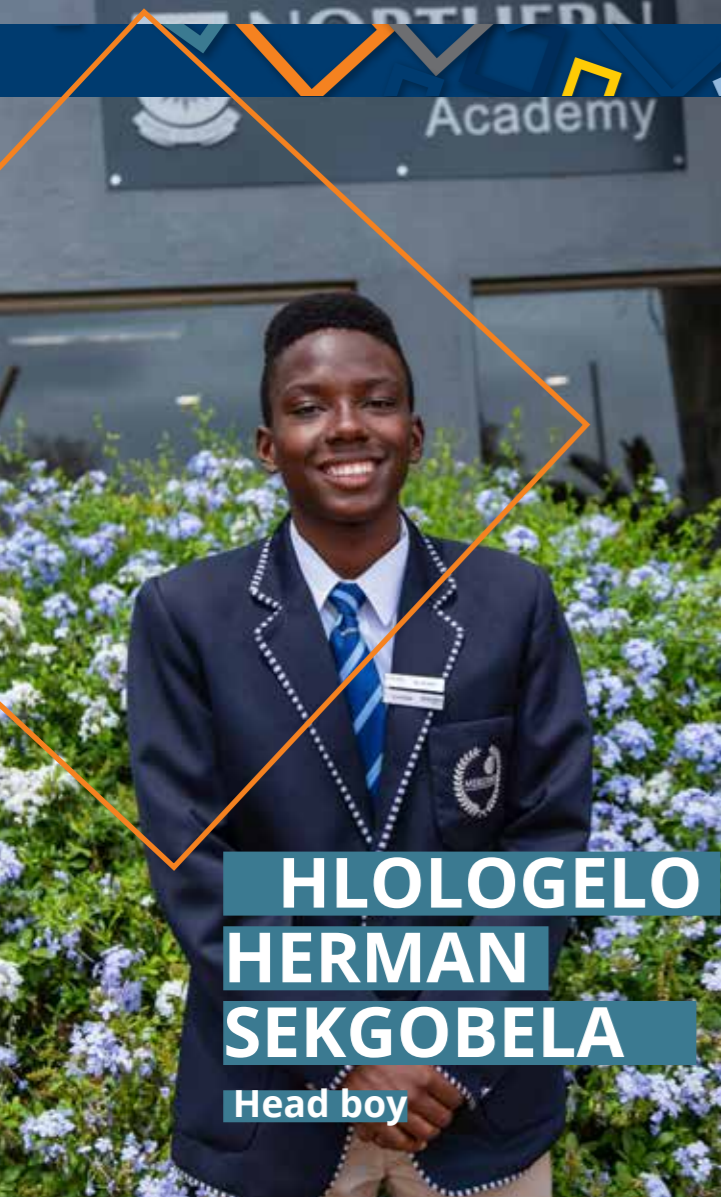
Recess, the new normal way



Mr Muranga (left) enjoying the interhigh athletics in Potchefstroom with Awethu Ndlovu (right) and Luhle Skwasha (front).



Candlelight ceremony for the 2020 leaders.



**HLOOGELO
HERMAN
SEKGOBELA**
Head boy

Coming to Northern Academy was a huge step for me. I love the school because it has helped me grow. I also love the fact that the school works with you based on what you know. The school itself is always open for new ideas (limitations of improvements don't exist at Northern Academy).

The best part must be when I was elected as head boy. Trust me this title was the biggest challenge of my life because all of a sudden I'm not thinking of only myself but of the whole school. I'm glad to have experienced this because leadership has taught me to move with love and passion and that leadership is all about servanthood.

Leaving the school will be hard because of the transformation that will take place next year. I'm moving into the big world; it's a new season in life. When seasons change, it's time for creativity and I'm so ready for that, as leadership has also taught me to have a future-focused mentality. I can't wait to come back in a few years and share my success with the teachers who have made my high school life easier - because I'm a product of all their efforts.

'You can live a very perfect life 99% of the time, but people will still look for the 1% that's not perfect and ridicule.'

To the future leaders of Northern Academy, never change yourself for others. There will be difficult times where people will ridicule you, but don't let that change you. Stick to the vision. When on duty, your friends are equal to the rest of the learners. Just be grateful, even when you're in pain, because leadership is all about one life influencing the other. Good luck to the team of 2021.



**TRYPHINA
RELEBOGILE
MAHASHA**

Being head girl at Northern Academy has truly been an amazing and informative experience. I was exposed to all kinds of changes we were able to make and was able to experience the fun and confidence that came with this position. I've learnt a lot from my time as head girl and I think all I've learnt will definitely be of great use in my journey after matric.

To the next group of leaders, as we pass on the baton to you guys, make sure you run as fast as we did - or even faster! Remember these words from John C Maxwell, 'A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.' Don't forget to enjoy the journey.

Head girl

NORTHERN ACADEMY



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR TOP
ACHIEVERS!**

Our very own
Curro Create
R50 000 bursary
winner, Temogo
Bendlela.



A message of encouragement before prelims.



Temogo Bendlela, Curro Create bursary recipient, struts her stuff.



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2020 **MATRIC**
