

VG News

Celebrating 127 years of excellence!

06 DECEMBER 2025, Volume 6

Message From The Principal



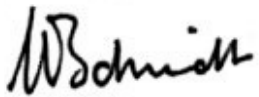
Dear VG Community,

As we conclude another busy and fulfilling year, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the remarkable VG staff – our teachers and support team – for their unwavering dedication and hard work. They are the heartbeat of our school, and every success we celebrate is a testament to their commitment and tireless effort.

A warm word of congratulations goes to all our learners who have shown tremendous perseverance throughout the year. Well done! Toil (hard work) is never easy, but we hope you feel proud of all you've achieved and enjoy the well-earned rewards of your dedication. The courage that I have seen so many of you show this year, in even the smallest ways, has also borne fruit.

With the festive season upon us, I wish you a safe, joyful, and restful break filled with meaningful time spent with those you cherish. May you return renewed and ready to embrace all the opportunities that 2026 will bring.

Sincerely



Mr Schmidt



HOUSE REPORTS

Dorset House Report



This year has been one of the most challenging, yet triumphant years for Dorset. Ranging from the interhouse singing up until the interhouse plays, Dorset has given thier absolute best and were never afraid to try out new things.

Despite our wins for this year being extremely limited, we still managed to participate in everything and we have encouraged others to do so as well. Dorset's dominance in interhouse singing and swimming is proof of us upholding a victorious legacy which I hope the house will continue to uphold.

This year has taught Dorset to keep on trying and to never give up. I hope this spirit lives on throughout the years.

All the girls in Dorset have impacted this house in ways they probably didn't see, but the constant participation, constant support (even in defeat) and the constant perseverance have helped uplift Dorset this year.

I am incredibly privileged to be the House Captain of Dorset for 2025, and even more privileged to have had the most supportive and patient Deputy Captain, Ngcali Mashika and Games Captain, Lesley-Ann Cobus by my side. However, the biggest thanks needs to go to every single Dorset girl as they made out leadership role a fun experience.

Every house has their good seasons and their bad seasons, but we all know that Dorset couldn't win everything yet again. If you think about it, Dorset should get credit for willingly handing down their good luck without hustle, but that's a conversation not every house is ready for.

Lastly, and most importantly, thank you to the Dorset staff members for all their support, time and energy they've put in this house. To every single Dorset girl, I hope that this year has taught you to push until the end, and that next year will be your comeback.

May Dorset's light shine as bright as the sun, always.

With much love and appreciation,

Dorset House Captain '25,
Kelly-Ann De Jongh.



HOUSE REPORTS

Graeme House Report



I feel so many emotions; pride, gratitude and a bit of disbelief that an eventful year has come to an end. It's truly been an incredible and unforgettable one. I've been part of Graeme House for years and I still remember not knowing why I was destined for this house.

I remember sitting in the audience at prize-giving ceremonies, watching other houses receive awards whilst Graeme didn't. Every time, I'd feel this heaviness in my heart, a guilt-like feeling that maybe I'm not doing enough for my house. I knew in order for me to relieve myself of this feeling I had to do more for my house, my family.

Then, last year something changed and Graeme House brought it back. That feeling of pride and unity returned and I knew that this year we were going to do it again.

What I didn't know then was that, I'd be saying these words as the House Captain. Seeing everything we've achieved, it's beyond what I ever imagined.

To my vice captain and game's captain, thank you. I was never leading alone, you carried this notorious house with me, every step of the way. This wasn't my journey alone - it was our journey. It was never about the trophies and titles, it's always been the people. 12G, our unity and the heart that made Graeme house notorious again. Every single member of 12G and Graeme House showed up and gave it their all, cheering until their voices were gone. They are the reason Graeme stands where it is today: every chant, every match and every effort mattered.

Thank you to the other house Captains - thank you for the competition, the friendship and the spirit. You pushed us to be Greater than ourselves and that's what made it all so special.

Once Graeme, Always Graeme

Graeme House Captain '25,
Osisipho Goba.

The logo for GEE net, featuring the word "GEE" in a large, bold, orange font, followed by "net" in a smaller, orange font. To the left of the text is a stylized orange graphic consisting of three curved lines radiating from a point, resembling a signal or a stylized 'G'.



HOUSE REPORTS

Ruthville House Report



As we come to the end of another incredible year, it's a moment to pause and reflect on what has truly made Ruthville the house it is — a family built on unity, effort, and heart. This year has been one of growth, determination, and shared love, and I could not be more grateful to have led such an inspiring group of individuals.

Firstly, I'd like to extend my sincere gratitude to every single member of Ruthville. Whether you participated in the interhouse competitions, showed up to cheer from the sidelines, or simply embodied the spirit of our house in your everyday school life — you've all contributed to making this year unforgettable. Your energy, commitment, and support have been the foundation of our success.

A special thank you must go to my deputy, Jayda Kohl, whose constant dedication, organization, and calm leadership helped keep Ruthville running smoothly through every event. I am also deeply appreciative of our Games Captain, Cayden Daniels, whose passion, sportsmanship, and encouragement motivated our teams to give their very best in every competition. You both have been incredible pillars of support, and Ruthville has been stronger because of your efforts.

There's no specific event I would deem as having been an outstanding performance throughout this year because all of our performances have been nothing but amazing, making us come so close to victory — and while we may not have taken the top spot, our achievements speak volumes about our perseverance and teamwork. We competed with grace, gave our all, and demonstrated what Ruthville stands for: "the red and the white make a monster". Our success is not measured solely by trophies, but by the spirit and unity we've built together.

I also want to thank my grade mates and Ruthville staff members who have supported and guided me throughout this journey. To Ms Banisi, our head staff member who shouted right beside us in every game, your energy never failed to pump us up. Your advice, encouragement, and willingness to lend a hand made this role both meaningful and rewarding.

To the Ruthville red and white monsters — I leave with complete confidence that you will continue to shine even brighter. Keep the flame of our house burning strong; uphold our values of teamwork, respect, and determination. Remember that being part of Ruthville is about more than just competition — it's about community, love, and the belief that together, we can achieve greatness.

Ruthville, it has been an honour to serve as your captain. Thank you for the laughter, the hard work, and the memories. Let's carry the Ruthville spirit forward — always proud, always united, always Ruthville.

Ruthville House Captain '25,
Uyathandwa Mqokeli.



Thursford House Report



This year, Thursford came in BLUE but definitely not feeling blue. From the very start, we made it clear that 2025 was going to be different. We started the year off with a bang, taking home the biggest title of them all: Games Day Champions, ending a 20-year drought and rewriting Thursford's history in the process.

We didn't stop there. We went on to win Inter-House Plays, one of the top three events of the VG calendar, proving that our talents stretch far beyond the field. A special shoutout to Kwakhanya Nongubo, our incredible play director, whose leadership and creativity guided us to victory. And just when everyone thought we couldn't possibly top that, we brought home the Academic Cup — because Thursford isn't just strong and creative, we're smart too (who knew world domination came in blue?).

What made this year even more special was our spirit. Even when we didn't come first, we were the loudest on the sidelines, cheering like our lives depended on it. That unmatched energy and unity carried us through every event and was ultimately recognised when we won the Spirit Cup. We were genuinely enthusiastic — even about coming last — because what we loved most was playing together, laughing together, and being a house that truly enjoyed the process.

For years, Thursford was the house people overlooked, underestimated, and forgot about. Well, not this year, not ever again. Thursford is back, and we're back with a bang. Fear the greatness that this house is about to become, because I've left it in very good hands.

A huge shoutout to my house execs, Chelsea Botha and Lunje Mtanda, the real MVPs. Without them, I would've been like a WiFi signal at the back of the hall — weak, unreliable, and constantly in need of support. Thank you for making house captaining not just a responsibility, but a joy.

To Ms Waka, our incredible Head of House, and all the Thursford staff — thank you for your endless support, encouragement, and belief in us throughout the year. And to Mr Jasson, who may have moved to Graeme but will always be a proud member of Thursford at heart (sorry, Graeme House), thank you for cheering us on every chance you got.

It's been an honour leading the comeback, and if this year proved anything, it's that Thursford doesn't just make noise — we make history.

Thursford House Captain '25,
Mila Mandongana.



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



We have had yet another action-packed year. Well done to everyone who tried something new this year or set a goal and achieved it or faced their fears. If you didn't then there is always next year! I would like to focus especially on all the learner and staff coaches and thank them very sincerely for their energy, enthusiasm and care for those they coach. Thank you too to everyone who served through a variety of avenues, including Interact, Library, First Aid and Computer Labs. We could not offer what we do without you all.

Thank you for being willing to give up your time for the good of others and, especially for the Grade 12s, please continue to serve others after you leave school as well. You all have talents you can share, and the country needs you!

Well done to those who achieved success by making provincial teams. There was VG representation in a wide range of activities, including Debating, Hockey, Robotics, Chess, Science Expo, Rhythmic Gymnastics and Moot Court.

To all learners, please keep up your fitness during the holiday. Run, walk, and dance! Enjoy nature. Read a book. Why not something new, like learning to play chess, composing a song or doing a crossword puzzle. Keep your bodies and minds active to improve your quality of life now and in the future.

With love,
Ms McCrindle

LEARNER AFFAIRS REPORT



WOW - it feels like it was just the other day when the year started and now, we are at the end! It has been such a busy year, filled with so many activities and we are so grateful that we have survived the year! It has been such an amazing year for VG.

Our learners keep on being actively involved, working hard and grabbing opportunities – that is really awesome and we love to see it! We trust that our learners have learnt many lessons this year – both inside and outside of the classroom.

All the Grade 8s and other new learners are now officially part of the VG family and we trust that they had a good year and settled in well.

We bid farewell to the Matric Class of 2025 and we wish them all the best as they start their new chapter of their lives. May you go out there and flourish in whatever that you do! All the best to the current Grade 11 class as they will step into leadership next year – may it be a great year for you! All the grades have had their outings and fundraisers this year.

We trust that they have enjoyed it, learnt to work together as a team and also learnt the culture of giving back to the community.

A big thank you to all the Grade Heads and Class Teachers for all their hard work and organising everything. A big thank you to all the learners for all their contributions to the school. May you continue to serve the school and do all the activities that you enjoy. It's also important to continue to work hard in terms of your academics so that you can achieve your goals. As you see your results, may they motivate you to continue to work harder so that you can be successful! Thank you so much to all the parents and guardians for all their support throughout the year – it is truly appreciated and may you continue to support our learners in everything they do. A big thank you to all the staff for all that they do for our learners – your hard work has not gone unnoticed. We hope that everyone will enjoy the holidays with loved ones and may you travel safely. Please rest well and be rejuvenated (especially after all the stress that came with exams)

With love,

Ms Boqwana

ACTIVITIES



Raising voices, holding hope and standing together against gender-based violence. Our girls, their strength, one clear message: enough is enough. As a school community, we stand side by side in solidarity against gender-based violence.



GEEnet



NETBALL



The 2025 netball season kicked off with U18, U16 and U14 team netball trials on the 5th and 10th of March 2025. Trials were competitive as all the girls that had signed up are extremely skilled.

On the 14th and 15th of March, the U14 Netball squad: Zaydiah Adler, Elethu Cakata, Maya Christian, Amhara Dayimani, Ndalwentle Duda, Qhayiya Fosi, Iminathi Ndilele, Uthando Zali, and Indiphile Zondani participated in the Alex Road Festival, where they won 2 games and drew one game.

Well done to the team! Makana Trials began at VG with the U14/U15s on the 19th of March and the U16/17s on the 24th of March at DSG for selected individuals.

Makana Trial results were released and the following learners made it to the Sarah Baartman Trials that took place on the 25th of April 2025 at Nico Malan High School: U14 - Zaydiah Adler and Indiphile Zondani U16 - Luchulumanco Veliti, U18 - Azosule Kanana, Sisonke Magopeni, Ngcali Mashiqa, and Liyakhanya Moyake.

Congratulations to our players for making it to the Sarah Baartman Trials! Congratulations to Azosule Kanana and Sisonke Magopeni for making it through to the Eastern Cape Trials that took place at Hangklip High School, Queenstown. We are extremely proud of them for making it that far! On the 26th of April, Netball teams travelled to Cambridge High School to participate at their Derby Day. The scores were as follows: U14A lost 14-20, U16A won 15-12 and the 1st and 2nd teams lost 25-5 and 11-10 to Cambridge. Well done to all the girls for the effort and passion they played with. On the 7th of May, VG hosted the U14 Round Robin, Kingswood College, Andrew Moyake and PJ Olivier participated. VG ranked 3rd overall.

On the 17th of May, The VG 1st team was invited to participate at the Ntsika Secondary School Sports Festival. VG played against Khutliso Daniels and lost 8-11, they lost 11-10 to Nombulelo and celebrated a massive 12-3 win against Ntsika. The team had a lot of fun, cheering others on. The day was a success!

On the 21st of May, VG netball teams played against PJ Olivier at PJ. VG won all their games! U14 won 16-8, U16 won 8-7 and the 1st team won 35-15. On the 28th of May, we ended off the term with VG hosting the U16/17/18 Round Robin against local schools. VG ranked 1st in the U16 Round Robin and 2nd in the U18 category. Well done to all the teams! The last term of the season started with a bang as VG participated in the Port Alfred High School Founders' Weekend on the 2nd of August 2025. The weather was sunny and superb, and so were the scores. The U14s drew 6-6, U16A won 15-9, U16B won 13-9, U18 won 18-5. Well done to all the teams that played!

On the 13th of August, the U14A, U16A and U16B teams played matches against Andrew Moyake School of Excellence. It was a fun afternoon at VG filled with spirit and passion. The scores were as follows: U14A won 21-4, U16A won 16-3, U16B lost 6-12.

NETBALL

On Friday the 15th of August 2025, our U16B team travelled to Riebeeck College Girls' High School to play a match against their U15A team. The team did not come back victorious, but they toiled and came back with their heads held high. Interhouse Netball took place on Monday the 18th of August. It was a fun afternoon indeed! In the Senior category, Dorset claimed the victory, followed by Graeme, Ruthville and Thursford! Well done! In the Junior category, Graeme claimed the victory, followed by Thursford, Ruthville and Dorset. Well done to all the houses for their participation and passion! The much-anticipated Staff vs Matrics netball game took place shortly after, and of course, Matrics were victorious!

For the last match of the season, VG played against Rugby School (UK touring school). This was an extremely anticipated and exciting match, as VG got the opportunity to play with an international school, all the way from the United Kingdom! Both our 2nd and 1st teams lost their matches, but they gained experience and showed true sportswomanship on and off the field! Message for Grade 12s: It was an emotional day for our 1st team Matric players as it was their last High School match, and I do hope that the memories that were made, remain in their hearts forever, and may they always remember to put their best foot forward and let the passion and love for Netball take centre stage, regardless of the negative events that took place throughout the season. To the rest of the teams: You played your hearts out, I am proud of you!

As I reflect on the netball season, I am in awe of the incredible work ethic, determination and sportswomanship of our learners. The season came with its challenges, but as a squad, we were able to resolve and focus on the work at hand. I would like to thank our external coaches: Linique Denston and Elsie Skade, for always showing up for the teams and more especially, for me. They have carried me throughout this season, I am eternally grateful to them for keeping my head above water. This year's theme was 'survive and thrive,' indeed, we have survived!

Until next year, adios!

Yours in Progressive Netball
Head of Netball
N. Fundani



HOCKEY



The Hockey Season is always highly anticipated, with a number of learners looking to put in maximum effort and create long lasting memories. The year 2025 proved to be no different, with another increase in number of girls participating and an increase in competitive matches and festivals.

Victoria Girls' High enjoyed another memorable hockey season, with a fair bit of milestones being celebrated. Our coaching staff is also proudly VG, with three old girls forming the coaching team. Thandile Deyi, a former VGHS 1 st XI player, joined Simoné and Tishan Jegels, as coaches. All amassing well over 50 Caps for the 1 st XI in their respective years.

As a school, we celebrated representation across all the provincial age groups for the second year straight. With two of our representations, Dimpho Ramusi and Tatum Jacobs, representing in the u18 age group. In addition to representation in provincial teams, we celebrated a number of colours and half colours awards. For the first time in a number of years, Tatum Jacobs received full colours for Hockey. Her dedication and hard work being rewarded.

We also celebrated a number of half colours awards. The most post covid to be awarded to a single hockey side. The half colours recipients are as follows: Amy Arends, Cayden Daniels, Sydney Edwards, Jayda Kohl, Michaela Kretzman, Kendra May, Catherine Roberts, Sue-Ann Swanepoel, Dimpho Ramusi and Mbali Maxhaulana. A number of girls celebrated personal milestones by crossing the 50 caps mark as well. With Amy Arends, Cayden Daniels, Sydney Edwards, Jayda Kohl, Michaela Kretzman, Kendra May, Catherine Roberts, Sue-Ann Swanepoel all amassing over 50 caps for the 1 st XI. The hockey season was up and down. Form and momentum were inconsistent. Teams never quite got going.

The U14s built momentum heading into the last term, suffering one defeat from their last 5 games. Their form improved throughout the season and they proved to be a side to be reckoned with. Our u16s showed glimpses of promise. They could not convert their chances after creating opportunities to score. They ended their season with a resounding 5-0 victory, eventually breaking the shackles of not using their opportunities.

The first team showed their promise in a couple of games. Their inconsistent nature however, accumulated a number of unlikely and unwanted draws. The brand and style of hockey was evident of a team that has been working hard. They have continued to stay dedicated and performed to their best. Overall, the hockey season was one to remember.

Not the best in terms of results, but one to remember for the growth of the potential and ability that each team has. The coaches have worked tirelessly to create an environment where athletes continue to develop and grow, and the athletes have done that.

LIBRARY NEWS

A Year of Growth, Creativity, and Community

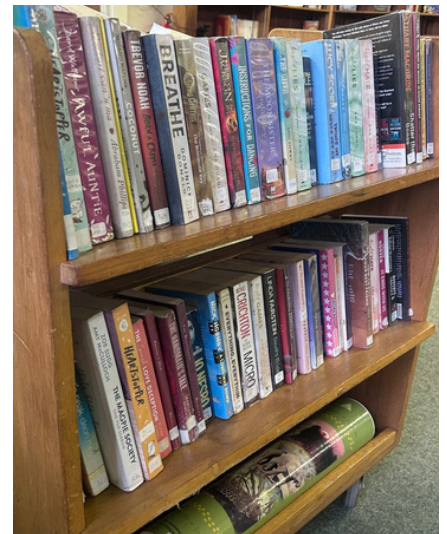
The library was filled with excitement this year with the arrival of new books, fresh ideas, and renewed energy. A dedicated committee of 25 learners worked tirelessly to make the space warm, welcoming, and easy to navigate. They spent hours re-shelving and reorganising the collection so that everyone could locate books with ease, while also adding newly catalogued titles to the system.

To create an even more inviting atmosphere, the library hung fairy lights, adding a soft, magical glow that students have loved. New inflatable chairs were also purchased, offering comfortable spots for relaxation after school and during English reading lessons.

This year, the library hosted its very first Open Mic Night—a lively event that showcased the incredible talent within VG. Many of the library committee members themselves participated, helping to make the evening even more memorable through their performances and enthusiastic support.

The WEP Club contributed further by decorating the space, enhancing the library's vibrant and welcoming feel. During exam periods, the library became a hub for group study sessions, quiet revision, and focused learning.

Overall, it has been an incredibly busy and rewarding year as more and more students flocked to the library to enjoy reading, studying, and simply taking a moment to unwind.



ACADEMICS



As we reach the close of the school year, we welcome the mental and physical breathing space that comes with it. This is also a valuable time to look back on the months that have passed and to consider our goals for the year ahead.

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of our learners who have excelled academically. This year, from Grades 10 to 12, sixty-two learners have earned Half Colours, Colours, or Honours.

In Grades 8 and 9, twenty learners have been recognised for academic excellence, while seven learners have been acknowledged for significant academic improvement.

In total, one hundred and sixty-two subject excellence awards were presented across the school. These learners can be proud of their hard work and dedication. We hope their achievements inspire them to maintain — or even elevate — their academic performance in 2026, and perhaps to push themselves further by taking on new challenges such as the Science Expo, Olympiads, or developing new skills.

Of course, not everyone may feel satisfied with their results. While there is little value in dwelling on disappointment, thoughtful reflection can be powerful. Learners should consider the choices they made this year, the habits they formed, and what they can adjust moving forward. Depending on their grade, the questions they ask themselves may differ.

Did I do my best?
Did I improve over the course of the year?
What can I do differently in 2026?

For those entering Grade 9, next year is the time to make meaningful improvements, especially with the aim of qualifying for their preferred Grade 10 subjects. Learners moving into Grade 10 will need to prepare for the increased academic demands and should begin the year with a clear plan. Those entering Grade 11 should reflect on whether a subject change in Term 1 might help strengthen their overall performance. Our future Matrics, meanwhile, should begin strategising now for the best possible results in their final school year.

As learners reflect, so too do teachers. The end of the year is a time for us to review, refine, and plan. Classrooms are cleaned and reorganised. New timetables and term plans are set in motion. Subject outlines are updated, preliminary notes prepared, and fresh ideas shared and developed. When learners return on 13 January, we will be ready to welcome them into vibrant, well-prepared learning spaces.

As we wrap up 2025, we hope that every member of our school community finds time to rest, recharge, and enjoy moments of celebration with family and friends. May the holiday season restore energy and balance, so that we can all begin the 2026 school year with positivity, purpose, and a calm, confident plan for success.

ACADEMICS

TOP TEN GRADE 11

1. Rachel Wilhelmi
2. Kwakhanya Nongubo
3. Lusanele Kesa
4. Yakhanani Yapi
5. Iyonke Nogqala
6. Olwethu Nojoko
7. Thando Samson
7. Asiyolise Tshete
9. Manya - Thina Rwanqa
10. Malihle Tima



TOP TEN GRADE 10

1. Okusha Dingani
2. Joylyn Chikiwa
3. Zazi Giyose
4. Taylor Arries
5. Megan Peinke
6. Aqhama Mamani
7. Liyabona Mbutye
7. Iphendulwe Nxakala
9. Michelle Boadu
10. Zizibele Mcophele



TOP TEN GRADE 09

1. Sally Kadye
1. Miyuyo Ntlabathi
3. Sarah Moller
4. Endinako Ndamane
5. Iminathi Ludwane
6. Luvelo Jezi
7. Tyroneya Francis
8. Iphendule Pikoli
9. Vela Goqwana
10. Zehra Rizvi



TOP TEN GRADE 8

1. Daniella Mclean
2. Darissa Mushid
3. Ifeoma Nnadozie
4. Cassandra Radovic
5. Asakhanya Dyani
5. Maya Christian
7. Stella Mullin
8. Leigh Plaatjies
9. Lunathi Mkosana
10. Luminathi Landu



Congratulations!



ACADEMICS

Academic Achievement is given for a total of 675 marks or more out of 900 possible marks at the end of the year (This is equivalent to an aggregate percentage of 75%) **Academic Achievement Grade 9 Awards**

Name	Surname
Mia	Barry
Rachel	De la Mare
Tyroneva	Francis
Vela	Goqwana
Luvelo	Jezi
Sally	Kadye
Iminathi	Ludwane
Sarah	Moller
Endinako	Ndamane
Sambese	Njilo
Mivuyo	Ntlabathi
Iphendule	Pikoli
Zehra	Rizvi

Academic Achievement Grade 8 Awards

Name	Surname
Maya	Christian
Asakhanya	Dyani
Daniella	Mclean
Stella	Mullin
Darissa	Mushid
Ifeoma	Nnadozie
Leigh	Plaatjies
Cassandra	Radovic

Academic Improvement Certificates for Grade 8 and 9. Academic Improvement is given for a significant improvement in the aggregate percentage mark from the June exams to the Novemeber exams

Name	Surname
Gugulethu	Busakwe
Layla	Crous
Mbalentle	Jadi
Tshegofatso	Thabana
Lathisa	Ngabaza
Amhara	Dayimani
Liso	Mamase
Emihle	Siwa

ACADEMICS

Academic Half-Colours are given for at total of 490 marks out of a possible 700 for each of 2 exam terms.

Name	Surname	Award
Taylor	Arries	Half Colours
Michelle	Boadu	Half Colours
Okusha	Dingani	Half Colours
Zazi	Giyose	Half Colours
Aqhama	Mamani	Half Colours
Mbali	Maxhaulana	Half Colours
Zizibele	Mcophele	Half Colours
Iphendulwe	Nxakala	Half Colours
Megan	Peinke	Half Colours
Lathitha	Waka	Half Colours
Brynique	Ward	Half Colours

Grade 10 Academic Awards Academic Colours are given for at total of 490 marks out of a possible 700 for each of 3 exam terms.

Name	Surname	Award
Joylyn	Chikiwa	Colours

Academic Half-Colours are given for at total of 490 marks out of a possible 700 for each of 2 exam terms.

Name	Surname	Award
Okuhle	Gqamane	Half Colours
Tatum	Jacobs	Half Colours
Unakho	Kate	Half Colours
Avelanathi	Liwani	Half Colours
Hannah	Stoltz	Half Colours

Grade 11 Academic Awards Academic Colours are given for at total of 490 marks out of a possible 700 for each of 3 exam terms.

Name	Surname	Award
Gabi - Li	Doyle	Half Colours
Amanda	Nnadozie	Half Colours
Philasande	Sandi	Half Colours
Malihle	Tima	Half Colours
Olivia	Weyl	Half Colours

Grade 11 Academic Awards Academic Honours are given for at total of 560 marks out of a possible 700 for each of 3 exam terms.

Name	Surname	Award
Kwakhanya	Nongubo	Honours
Rachel	Wilhelmi	Honours

DEBATING

It has been an amazing year for the Victoria Girls' High School debating teams. Throughout the year, from the start to the end of the debating season, all the girls participated in various debates, ranging from friendly to national competitions. Everyone did their best and displayed phenomenal teamwork, confidence, and engagement with topics that were quite complex.

Our debaters took part in the Rhini Debating league where many other local schools competed namely Graeme College, Kingswood, St Andrews College and Diocesan School for Girls. We were also hosted by Graeme College for a friendly debating competition which was great fun. The last major event for our debating society was the moot court competition which is an amazing opportunity for our girls and they managed to take it and make the most of it this year. A huge thank you to Ms Vlandir, Mr Fuller and Ms Kristen for their support that kept the girls going during long and hard competitions and helped them reach their full potential.

Lastly congratulations to all the debaters. Your time and effort were what made the year so fruitful. You were an integral part of the team, truly displaying VG's core values: Passion, Integrity and Excellence.



DRAMA

The Dramatic Arts Department has shown remarkable growth in its performance standards, reflecting dedication, creativity, and a strong commitment to excellence. Over time, students have become more confident on stage, demonstrating improved acting techniques, vocal projection, and character development.

The department's practical exams now display higher levels of professionalism, with well-coordinated staging, thoughtful direction, and effective use of lighting and sound. Collaborative efforts among learners have strengthened, resulting in polished ensemble work and dynamic storytelling.

As a result, the department continues to build its reputation for delivering powerful, engaging performances that captivate those who watch and showcase the evolving talent within the school.



TOASTMASTERS



When one hears the word 'toastmasters,' they may think that the word is a noun for people whom are experts at making toast! Alas, that is not the case. In laymen's terms, in the context of Toastmasters International, a toastmaster is an ardent speaker and a leader, a person who speaks with impact, an individual who oozes confidence and is an effective communicator!

Toastmasters International is a non-profit organisation with a primary goal to develop individuals' public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. Members develop by presenting prepared and impromptu speeches and they receive and give constructive feedback on ways to develop the above-mentioned skills.

Rhodes University has a Toastmasters club for the students, and within the club, there is a Community Engagement component, where the club and the RU School of African Languages and Literature tag-team to give back to the community of Makhanda!

Through community engagement, VG is one of the public schools in Makhanda that participates in this program. Rhodes University students coach and develop our learners, so they may have excellent public speaking skills, confidence and help them deliver impactful speeches! The learners work towards a competition that seeks to recognise and award learners for their hard work and conquering their public speaking skills.

This program benefits learners at VG because, besides oral presentations in the classroom, they also present various reports in front of the whole school, which can be terrifying! Toastmasters is exactly for this cause, to aid in presenting, communication and confidence!

This year, we had a number of learners participating in the program. It was an incredible journey seeing our learners develop their skills and conquering their skills. Congratulations to Onelitha Gadu, Zozibini Gamlashe, Liqalo Gora, Azaluve Jodwana, Sanelisiwe Mbete and Iminathi Nkatsha for making it to the final competition which was held at the School of Languages and Literature on the 26 th of September 2025.

The learners presented their best, amongst learners from Andrew Moyake School of Excellence, Khutliso Daniels, Nombulelo Secondary School and Ntsika Secondary School. The awards ceremony took place on the 4th of October, and the following learners received awards: Sanelisiwe Mbete: 3rd place in the English Catergory, Zozibini Gamlashe: 2nd place in the English Category, Iminathi Nkatsha: Judges Special award for outstanding performance (which stood out for its exceptional qualities and left a lasting impression on the judging panel).

Congratulations ladies!! Let's raise a toast to the girls that will do the most next year! Ensure to be a part of this incredible initiative by Rhodes University in 2026. You will not regret it!



TOASTMASTERS



ARTS AT VG

Victoria Girls' High School prides itself on its commitment to the arts: Drama, Art and Music are offered as subject choices to take through to Grade 12.

The study of Drama can help develop many qualities and life-skills: enthusiasm, confidence, self-esteem, conversational competence and social skills. Furthermore, drama lessons stimulate learners to be motivated and involved.

Visual Arts is an enormously rewarding and enjoyable subject which develops learners' ability to manage their time and to manage processes from the start through to the final product.

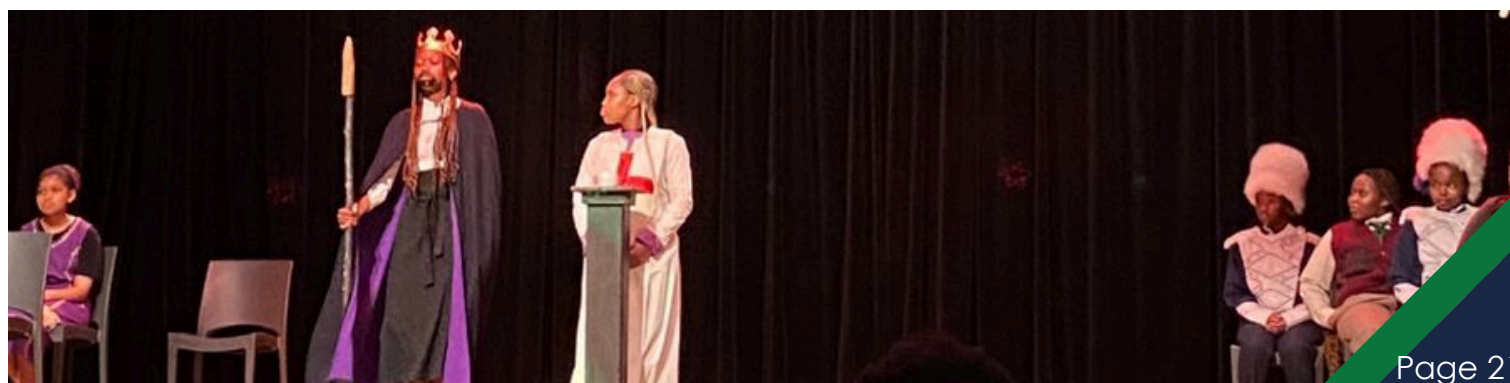
To do Music in Grade 10, learners should have demonstrated consistent work and progress in Grades 8 and 9, in both the theoretical and practical components of Music. Learners have to practise their instruments daily.

Trained educators have been appointed in each of the subjects with specialist musicians in the Music Department.

While these subjects are offered in the school curriculum, aspects of them can be pursued on a more social level through co-curricular activities: learners can join the Drama, Dance or Art Societies, and the musical learners can be members of the School Choir, marimba Band, Orchestra or the Brass Band.



ARTS AT VG



VALEDICTORY SERVICE

The Valedictory Service of 2025 was a heartfelt celebration of reflection, accomplishment, and hope. Our Head Girl delivered a moving address that beautifully captured the spirit of the Class of 2025. She spoke fondly of the memories that shaped their journey—early mornings filled with anticipation, the laughter shared in corridors, the friendships built through teamwork, and the lessons learned both inside and outside the classroom.

Her speech reminded everyone that school is more than academics; it is the collection of moments, relationships, and experiences that leave a lasting imprint on who we become. Her words echoed with gratitude, pride, and a deep appreciation for the support and encouragement that guided the class throughout their years together. In her message, the Grade Head encouraged learners to embrace the future with courage and resilience. She reminded them that life's path is not always smooth; there will be potholes—moments of uncertainty, challenge, or disappointment.

But just as they have navigated difficulties in their school journey, they have the strength and determination to overcome obstacles ahead. She urged them to meet each bump with perseverance, to learn from every setback, and to continue moving forward with confidence. As the Class of 2025 steps into the next chapter strengthened by experience and grounded in Courage and Toil, the school community celebrates their achievements and wishes them a future filled with purpose, growth, and opportunity.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

SPORT AND CULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Covers half school fees for the year:



Sport Scholarship
Tatum Jacobs



Cultural Scholarship.
Zukhanye Ntlabati

VHGS Scholarship 2026

Covers full school fees for the year:



Grade 9
Daniella McLean



Grade 10
Sally Kadye



Grade 11
Joylyn Chikiwa



Grade 12
Olwethu Nojoko



GOING NOWHERE SLOWLY 2026

At the start of 2025, a long camping trip had been planned (known as "Going Nowhere Slowly"). Unfortunately, it was shelved due to a number of constraints. This will hopefully now go ahead in 2026 (September/October holidays). The first long trip happened 20 years ago after Mrs Schoeman, the VGHS headmistress, asked if any staff wished to take 'the girls' to Namaqualand to see flowers. Three weeks later, Mr Stoloff and Mr Still began a journey to the great unknown along with a handful of intrepid VG girls. Since then, Mr Stoloff and the VGHS camping club have organised six more of these trips (now known as the Going Nowhere Slowly Trips) into the hinterland, armed with a bus, trailer, camping tents, braai grids and potjie pots, not to mention sleeping bags and other paraphernalia which can ease your camping experience. 2008, 2013 and 2016 saw a return to different parts of the Karoo and Garden Route, while in 2011 we enjoyed the lofty heights of the Drakensberg and Natal Midlands. Our last trip before Covid (2019) saw us exploring the Eastern Free State.

GNS trips have no other purpose than to enjoy our incredibly beautiful country by seeing, listening, smelling, touching and tasting. There are no worksheets (in fact, any school work is banned) or hotels, and very often there is no electricity or cell phone reception. We travel and live the affordable way, which is thankfully the best way to experience the outdoors. Girls set up their own tents, and cook their own food.

The good news is that a bus and trailer have been booked for GNS 7, in the holidays of October 2026. Mr Stoloff and Dr Hanton are spending some quality time with google maps and e-mail planning a new Itinerary of the Karoo. The plan is to stay in various campsites and rustic farmhouses over 6/7 nights near Oudtshoorn, Sutherland and Fort Beaufort before returning to Grahamstown.

Unfortunately, due to space constraints, only 8 to 10 pupils can enjoy this trip. Every attempt will be made to keep the budget below R3000.

Payment must NOT be made until the itinerary is finalised at the start of term 2.



FOUNDERS' WEEKEND



VICTORIA GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL
*warmly invites you to join us for our 129th
Founders' Weekend Celebrations*

Weekend Programme

FRIDAY 27 February 2026:

Morning:

- 10:30 Founders' Assembly
- 11:30 Tea for guests

Evening:

- 16:00 Sundowners at Vicky's
- 17:00 Concert in the Park

SATURDAY 28 February 2026:

- 10:15 Flag-raising
- 10:30 Memorial Service
- 11:00 Special Tea for Old Girls in the quad
- 12:30 Guided Tour of the Campus and Hostels



"No alcohol served as per government regulations"



FOUNDERS' WEEKEND



VICTORIA GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

*warmly invites you to join us for our
129th Founders' Weekend Celebrations*

CONCERT IN THE PARK

Date: 27 February 2026

Venue: VG Main Sport Field

Time: 17:00 - 18:45



Don't forget to bring your blankets and picnic baskets

Please contact Sibu Mkhize at smkhize@vghs.co.za for any queries.



Gates Close
at
17:00

PORTFOLIO HEADS 2026



Lusanele Kesa, Yakhanani Yapi, Tatum Jacobs
Lilitha Mbolekwa, Kwakhanya Nongubo

GEEnet



Frogfoot

HEAD GIRLS



Lilitha Mbolekwa (Head Girl) Lusanele Kesa (Deputy Head Girl)

GRADE HEADS



Ms Van Staden
Grade 8 Head



Ms Rodgers
Grade 9 Head



Mr Jason
Grade 10 Head



Ms Vlandir
Grade 11 Head



Ms Jegels
Grade 12 Head

The past school year has been one of growth, resilience, and discovery. Our learners embraced new challenges with determination, took bold steps in their academic and personal development, and demonstrated a spirit of curiosity that enriched the classroom environment. We are incredibly proud of the progress they have made and the maturity they have shown throughout the year.

We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to our parents and guardians; whose support and partnership played a vital role in every success. Your encouragement, involvement, and trust helped create a strong foundation for meaningful learning. As we reflect on this memorable year, we celebrate not only the achievements but also the shared journey that brought us here. We look forward to building on this year's successes as we move ahead to 2026.

We thank Ms Jegels for her effort and the contribution she has made this year and we welcome Ms Waka to the Grade Head Team!

Have a wonderful and restful holiday!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

SGB - are you willing to become involved? The school will need 5 parents to step into the SGB by January 2026. If you are interested, willing and able to avail yourself, please email Ms Retief at deputy@vghs.co.za

Uniform

At VG we take pride in our school uniform. It is a family responsibility to ensure that your child(ren) have all the necessary uniform items, which fit properly and are clean.

- Ensure that skirt hems hang no shorter than 4 fingers above the knees when standing.
- All zips and buttons should be functional and close properly to ensure a good fit.
- Torn stockings can no longer be worn and should be replaced.
- If a learner prefers to wear pants, it must be the VG pants and they can only be worn with the navy blue VG socks.
- Beanies and scarves can only be worn in winter.
- Sleeper rings or plain studs can be worn as jewellery, but no shiny, diamanté studs are allowed. Note that no nose studs or rings may be worn.
- Hair accessories must be black or the navy of the blazer.
- Children are to wear uniform whilst on campus, even in the afternoons.

We hope 2026 is a good year for us all and that VG learners continue to present themselves positively and confidently.

Textbooks

By now all textbooks and notes should have been returned or paid for. Should learners have outstanding items, they will not receive the 2026 textbooks and notes until they have resolved the 2025 problems. This should be resolved by the end of the first week of the new school year. If textbooks they receive need recovering, learners may come to the Book Room to ask for plastic. Textbooks are expensive and must be taken care of at all times.

ID cards/Study permits and Passports

Non-South African children must ensure to have a copy of an up to date Study permit and Passport in their office file. South African children 16 years of age need to apply for an ID card at their nearest Home Affairs office. This application is free of charge. The parent should accompany the child. The birth certificate and the ID of the parent(s) should be made available to the staff at the Home Affairs office.

Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to Tatum Jacobs on being awarded the Sport Scholarship for 2026, and to Zukhanye Ntlabati on being awarded the Cultural Scholarship. We commend them, and all the other girls who applied, on their hard work and commitment and thank them for their contribution to the school.

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL CAPTAIN



Dear VG Community

As this year comes to a close, my heart is filled with gratitude for the incredible journey we have shared as a school. Victoria Girls' High School continues to be a place where strength, compassion and determination shine in everything we do. Looking back on the months behind us, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to belong to a community that supports, inspires and uplifts one another every single day.

From the excitement of inter-house events and spirited sports fixtures, to the commitment and resilience shown during academic moments, we have proven once again what it means to be VGHS girls. Whether in the classroom, on the field or through our acts of service, we have stood together and celebrated the unique talents and voices that make our school so special.

To the Matrics of this 2025, we are incredibly proud of you. You have led with courage, compassion and have truly been a great example to all of us. As you step into the next chapter of your lives, may you carry strength, confidence and memories of VGHS with you.

To our dedicated staff, thank you for your unwavering support. Your commitment, patience and care make our school a place where every learner can thrive.

As I look forward to the year ahead, I am both humbled and excited. It is a privilege to lead such an extraordinary group of young women and I am committed to serving with kindness and integrity. I cannot wait to grow alongside you and make next year one of unity, achievement and joy.

With the holidays approaching, I want to wish every member of the VGHS family a season filled with rest, laughter and moments that warm your heart. Take this time to recharge and reflect. May the festive season bring light, peace and happiness to you and your loved ones

Thank you for a remarkable year. Here's to the year that awaits us all!

With love and kindness,
Lilitha

The logo for GEE net, featuring the word "GEE" in a large, bold, orange font, followed by "net" in a smaller, orange font. To the left of the text are three curved orange lines suggesting a signal or network.



MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY CAPTAIN



Dear VG Community

What a long year it's been and you made it to the end, well done! I really hope you were all able to achieve at least some of your goals this year, we try again next year.

A big congratulations to everyone who was able to have faith that you will use this year as not only another school year that you barely survived, but as a learning curve and you do some reflection when you can on not only these exams but the whole year.

The valedictory ceremony for the class of 2025 took place, where we bid them farewell and wished them prosperity as they take on this new chapter in their lives.

Wishing the Matrics the best of luck their new chapter of life. Take these results and make the most out of them. Even if they aren't what you had hoped for for your future, that doesn't necessarily mean that your future isn't just as bright, it might just be a different kind of bright.

Enjoy the holidays, stay safe and rest. To end off, I leave you with a quote by Elbert Hubbard "Don't take life too seriously you will never get out of it alive".

With love,
Lusa



Siphesihle Khumalo, Lusanele Kesa (Deputy Head Girl) Liliitha Mbolekwa, Rutendo Chakona (Head Girl)

NEWS FROM OUR BOARDING HOUSES

Eleanor Brown and Renfrew House

This term we celebrated and enjoyed our year-end function. Our MC did an excellent job during the evening. Our entertainment committee decorated and set up our photo booth which helped create memorable moments. The girls prepared songs, poems and dances. It was an evening where we appreciated the friendships which were built during the year and could recognize personal achievements. Thank you to our kitchen staff for preparing the most delicious meal!

The girls also enjoyed watching movies and the finals of Miss South Africa. Thank you to everyone who joined us and for being part of our hostel this year. This year was not without its ups and downs but we all grew stronger and became united. We asked some girls what they learnt this year at hostel. Learner 1 "independence". Learner 2 "Do not get into trouble. Learnt people are different and accept them for who they are". Learner 3 "Friendships and sisterhood. Also learnt responsibility". Learner 4 "How to live with other people. Learnt how different people can be and experience people differently". Learner 5 "Learnt to be grateful for and value the things I have. I also learnt the consequences of my actions. I learnt to build friendships with people I never thought I would be friends with. I cherish all my friendships with my favourite people". Learner 6 "I learnt that it is fine to be judged and to be yourself in front of people you don't know".

Thank you for sharing! Wishing everyone a restful time with family and loved ones. May your holiday renew and rejuvenate you!

Barnard House

On the 18th of October we had our annual Christmas dinner at Hostel. The girls enjoyed the evening and the spoils that came with it. Girls were treated to exam snacks every weekend which they truly enjoyed. On the very hot days they enjoyed apple munchies which helped them cool off. The girls all worked very hard for their final exams.

We as the BH Staff would like to take the opportunity to wish our Matrics of 2025 every thing of the best for their future. May they never stop reaching for the stars. To the rest of the boarders, enjoy the well deserved break and enjoy the time with your families.

May you all come back refreshed in the new year.

Happy holidays, enjoy every moment.

