

Heather Chronicles



Heather Secondary School



27 Heather Crescent, Northdale

heather.org.za

18 December 2025



HEATHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

Farewell to 2025...

Welcome to the fourth and final issue of the Heather Chronicles for the year! We've wrapped up Term 4, we're excited to share this closing edition with you. It's been a full and fulfilling year, rich with achievements, milestones, and memorable moments that continue to strengthen our Heather community. Whether you're revisiting highlights, celebrating recent successes, or simply taking a moment to enjoy the stories that make our school so special, this final issue has something meaningful for you.

Our Communications Committee has been hard at work expanding our outreach and keeping everyone connected. Our website – heather.org.za – continues to see growing daily readership as we share what's happening in and around our school. Engagement on our Facebook page and community group also remains active and encouraging.

Thank you for staying connected and supporting our journey – together, we make Heather shine! We appreciate your visits to our website and Facebook presence - they continue to be the focus of our digital media forays. If you haven't seen them as yet, please pay them a visit.

As usual, we welcome your constructive feedback on how we can improve our efforts to better serve our schooling community, past, present and future. With your help, we continue to improve the completeness and quality of our information. If you have some information that can help us enrich our records - an awards ceremony program, media clippings, or similar - we encourage you to send these to us by way of an email to **community@heather.org.za**

Enjoy the newsletter!

*Heather Chronicles
Crew X*



In this newsletter you can expect:

An update from the school's leadership

Welcoming Yunus Carrim

Voted second in Best of PMB & Midlands Readers' Choice Awards

Heather thanks our 2025 NSC markers

Aryik shines at SA Nationals

Inspirational insights from the Class of 2025

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Welcoming 2026 Grade 8s

Grade 12 Pledge Signing

Term Four Memories...



A word (or two) from our Principal

Dear Heather Family,

As we close the chapter on 2025, I am filled with pride and gratitude for all that we have achieved together. This year has reminded us—again and again—that Heather Secondary School is far more than a place of learning. It is a community built on shared purpose, resilient spirit, and a commitment to excellence that continues to shine brightly.

We celebrate the incredible achievements of our learners—from Aryik's national medal in table tennis, to Ashlen's top honours at the South African Mathematics Olympiad, and to the Model UN team's outstanding 1st place finish. These are not just accolades; they are reminders of what becomes possible when talent meets dedication and when learners are supported by a nurturing ecosystem – school, family and community working in unison.



We salute the quiet yet transformative work of our educators. This term, we celebrated the achievements of staff such as Dr Denosha Maniraj, who earned her PhD, and Ms Christine Adam, who completed her Master's. Special thanks also go to our Educator Assistants through the President's Youth Employment Initiative, whose presence brought fresh energy and care to our classrooms. We bid farewell to several long-serving staff members this year, including Ms Shakila Ramprasad, who retires after more than three decades of dedicated service in the Languages Department. Ms Ramprasad's presence at Heather has been marked by her quiet strength, unwavering professionalism, and deep commitment to learner success. Having taught generations of learners in Afrikaans, she has been a steady presence amid change—known for her wit, courage, and quiet ability to uplift others. As she steps into her well-earned retirement, we thank her for the role she played in shaping Heather's legacy, and we wish her joy, rest, and continued adventure in this next chapter.

To our Class of 2025: You now step into the world, equipped not just with knowledge but with memories, friendships, and the resilience nurtured within Heather's walls. May the pledge you made, and the values you lived, guide you wherever life leads next.

As we close this year, our attention shifts with optimism to 2026. A special word of welcome is reserved for our new Grade 8 learners, who will join us from more than 30 primary schools across the district. Whether you're coming from Ridge View, TPA, Allandale, Deccan, Regina, Newholmes, or one of many others—we are excited to welcome you. Even if you're the only learner from your primary school now carrying its banner into Heather, you belong here. You are now part of a rich legacy of excellence, and we are honoured to walk this journey with you. To our new Grade 12s: Your matric journey begins now. You walk into a year filled with opportunity, responsibility, and promise. The inspiring messages from last year's matriculants are more than just encouragement—they are a torch passed from one generation to the next. Make it count.

This year, we were also deeply moved by our community's response to moments of loss and remembrance. Thank you for standing together in strength and solidarity as we honoured the late Mr Padayachee and offered comfort to staff experiencing personal loss. At Heather, compassion is not an add-on—it is the bedrock that supports our pursuit of excellence.

As we prepare for our 45th anniversary in 2026, we do so having laid solid groundwork. Renovations—from the reconfigured assembly area to upgraded Consumer Studies spaces—signal our resolve to prepare Heather for the dynamic, future-facing education landscape. Being voted 2nd Best Public High School in the PMB & Midlands region is a humbling recognition, made possible by every parent, educator, learner, and partner who contributes to our journey. To our School Governing Body, thank you for your guidance and partnership. To our parents and guardians, thank you for your trust and active involvement. And to every learner—whether you led a debate, scored a goal, aced a test, or simply gave your best—I see you, and I am proud of you.

Let us now rest, reflect, and recharge. May the holiday season bring peace, joy, and quality time with your loved ones. When we return in 2026, may we do so with hearts full of purpose, minds focused, and eyes set on the horizon.

Yours by concord and harmony,

Mr S Reddy

Principal
Heather Secondary School



Mr M. Naidoo

Closing address from the SGB Chairperson

It gives me great pleasure to address The Heather Secondary School community, our principal, Mr Reddy, the management and staff, learners, and parents.

As the school governing body, we are proud to see the growth of our learners in both their academic pursuits and sporting fields. To our educators, thank you for your dedication and commitment shown in uplifting our learners. Remember, you are the backbone of Heather Secondary School in guiding our learners through their schooling career from grade 8 to 12. Thank you for your patience shown towards our learners.

To Mr Reddy, thank you for your wisdom and guidance, and continued support towards the SGB and the school. Mr R Singh, our secretary of the SGB, thank you for your work ethic. It was much appreciated. To our learners, we want to congratulate you on finishing another year of your academic studies. Matric class of 2025, we want wish you all the best as you complete your schooling career at Heather Secondary School. And now, as you enter a world outside school, we as the SGB wish you all the best in your future endeavours and accomplishments.

Thank you, parents, for your support and partnership with the school and all those who sponsored the school. As the school governing body, we remain committed to ensuring that our school continues to provide quality education in an environment where our learners feel valued and empowered. It must be noted that Heather Secondary School was voted 2nd best high school in the Midlands region after Girls High.

I would like to thank the school governing body members for their support and commitment towards me and the school during my term as SGB Chairperson.

In closing, I would like to thank Mr Reddy, management and staff, learners, and parents for your support during my nine year service on the governing body at Heather Secondary School. As Chairperson, this is my final year at Heather Secondary School, I wish the incoming Chairperson and committee all the best for 2026.

Yours by concord and harmony

Mark Naidoo

SGB Chairperson
Heather Secondary School



Young minds, Big impact: Honouring our Educator Assistants

Heather Secondary School extends its sincere gratitude to eight remarkable South African youths who served our school as Educator Assistants through the President's Youth Employment Initiative.

For six months, these young individuals committed their time, energy and skills to supporting teaching and learning, assisting educators, and contributing positively to the daily life of our school. Their presence made a meaningful difference in our classrooms and beyond, and their willingness to serve reflected dedication, growth and a strong sense of responsibility. We would like to thank and acknowledge each of them for their invaluable contribution: Sthokozile Ngcobo, Ashryeya Singh, Nokwethemba Mbatha, Shavalin Maeschundra, Adriana Antony, Kimera Govender, Vumani Dlamini and Minenhle Shezi.

Your service has left a lasting impact on our learners, educators and the wider school community. As you move forward into the next chapter of your journeys, we trust that the skills, experience and confidence gained during your time at Heather Secondary School will continue to guide you toward success.

Thank you for your commitment, your passion, and the positive spirit that you brought to our school. We wish you every success on the road ahead.



At a glance...



Heather Secondary School had the honour of **welcoming Yunus Carrim**, one of South Africa's most experienced and respected political figures into our hallways. His visit provided staff with a meaningful opportunity to engage with a leader whose career spans the country's journey from struggle to democracy.

Carrim's longstanding dedication to public service began in his youth through anti-apartheid activism, followed by advanced studies in sociology in the United Kingdom. Since 1994, he has served in Parliament in various influential roles, including Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and Minister of Communications.

During his visit, Carrim met with the principal, Mr S. Reddy, and history teacher, Ms K. Z. Biyela. He praised the school, noting, "I'm very struck by how efficiently run your school is. It's like a model for public schools." The school extends its sincere appreciation to Mr Carrim for his time, insights, and the inspiration he brought to the Heather community.

Heather Secondary School is proud to announce that we have been voted **SECOND** in the 2025 **Best of PMB & Midlands Readers' Choice Awards**—a recognition that reflects our strong reputation and the unity of our entire Heather community. This achievement belongs to every learner, educator, parent, guardian, alumnus, and friend who has supported our journey and carried the Heather spirit with pride. As we prepare for our 45th anniversary in 2026, this honour feels especially meaningful. For nearly half a century, Heather Secondary School has been a place of learning, opportunity, growth, and lifelong memories. From academic excellence to sporting and cultural achievements, our legacy is rich and enduring.

We invite all past and present members of our school community to join us in celebrating this milestone year as we honour our history, embrace the present, and look ahead to a bright future together.



Best public high school:

2nd Place



Our current Grade 12 learners took an important step during their matric journey by signing the Grade 12 Pledge as they prepared for their final examinations and the completion of their time at Heather Secondary School. Although the academic year had not yet concluded, this meaningful ceremony encouraged learners to reflect on the dedication, discipline, and integrity required as they approached the end of their schooling career.

The pledge was read aloud by Abigail Padayachee, our RCL Chairperson, who delivered it with pride and purpose, setting a strong tone of unity and responsibility. By signing the pledge, the Grade 12 learners committed themselves to upholding honesty, ethical conduct, and an irregularity-free examination process. This moment served as a powerful affirmation of their readiness to leave the school with dignity, accountability, and respect for the values of Heather Secondary School.



At a glance...



This year, Heather Secondary School is proud to celebrate the outstanding achievement of our learner, **Aryik Bhundoo (12A)**, who represented the **UMG District at the SA Nationals Table Tennis Championships**. Competing in the highly competitive Boys Under 19 division, Aryik showcased remarkable skill, discipline, and determination on the national stage. His team delivered an exceptional performance, securing 3rd place overall, earning a well-deserved bronze medal for the district. Aryik's achievement reflects his dedication, resilience, and passion for the sport. His milestone brings immense pride to our school community and stands as a powerful motivation for other learners to strive for excellence in every area of their development. We are incredibly proud of his accomplishment and look forward to witnessing his continued progress and success in table tennis.

Heather Secondary School proudly participated in the **2025 Model United Nations Conference** on 28 September, hosted by former Heather learners and international MUN achievers, Hayden Gounden and Leyton Chetty. Delegates debated the motion: "This House believes that protecting children is a global priority," under the UNICEF committee, alongside 16 teams from schools across the Midlands and Durban regions.

The fully learner-run event included structured debates, moderated caucuses, informal sessions for collaboration, and strategic note passing. Both Heather teams showcased strong diplomacy and argumentation. Team Ukraine—Arabella Mohammed (12A), Arlaiyah Naidu (11A), and Kaivalya Sewraj (9A) excelled, securing **1st Place: Best Delegation**. Their joint resolution with Nigeria and Save the Children won the majority vote, ranking first overall and highlighting Heather's growing excellence in leadership, critical thinking, and global awareness.



Heather Secondary School proudly hosted this year's **Spelling Bee**, where learners stepped forward with courage, confidence, and a willingness to challenge themselves. Whether they nailed every word or stumbled on a tricky one, every participant demonstrated remarkable determination and heart. Taking part in a competition like this is more than just spelling words correctly—it's about growth, resilience, and embracing new challenges. Each learner who participated took an important step toward becoming more confident, more skilled, and more prepared for future opportunities. We are incredibly proud of every learner who embraced the challenge. Your effort, bravery, and enthusiasm made this event a memorable experience, highlighting the dedication and spirit of Heather Secondary School.



At a glance...



Heather Secondary School is proud to celebrate an outstanding academic achievement at the **2025 South African Mathematics Olympiad**. **Ashlen Naidoo** of **Grade 9** secured 1st place among the Quintile 4 schools in KZN, scoring a R150 voucher in recognition of his exceptional mathematical skill and dedication. Ashlen's remarkable performance has also placed Heather Secondary School first among all participating Quintile 4 schools in KwaZulu-Natal, a testament to the school's strong culture of academic excellence. In addition, Heather Secondary School has been honoured with the Best Performing Mathematics School award, reflecting the collective success both learners and educators in attaining high standards in mathematics. The entire school community celebrates this milestone with immense pride and congratulates Ashlen on raising the Heather flag high through perseverance, talent, and academic excellence.

Duran Pillay is a shining example of dedication, discipline, and quiet determination at Heather Secondary School. A committed **Kyokushin Karate practitioner**, Duran trains with Sensei Moses Gopalan, a Karate World Champion, as well as his personal mentor, Kyoshi Elvis Soobramoney. What sets Duran apart is an extraordinary achievement for someone of his age: earning his 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Dan Black Belts in Kyokushin Karate. This rare milestone reflects years of perseverance, intense training, and unwavering focus. Duran is both nationally and internationally certified, recognised by the national karate body and the World Sabaki Federation. Now officially recognised as a Sensei, Duran embodies leadership, respect, and excellence. Heather Secondary School proudly celebrates him as an inspiration on and off the mat.



On 8 December 2025, Heather Hall came alive with excitement as approximately 200 prospective Grade 8 learners for 2026, accompanied by their parents, attended the **annual Grade 8 Orientation programme**. The event opened with a warm welcome and addresses by Mr S. Reddy, Mr R. J. Pillay and Mr L. Govender, who shared the school's values, expectations and proud traditions. Their messages reassured parents and inspired learners as they prepare for this important new chapter. Learners were then orientated by current educators, many of whom are former Heather learners, further strengthening the sense of continuity and belonging. The educators' personal insights created a tangible link between the school's rich history and its present-day community. The programme concluded with a guided tour of the school, giving families an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the facilities. The orientation set a welcoming and positive tone for the Grade 8 Class of 2026!



A heartfelt 'Thank You!' to Mr Balkissoon



Our school would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our incredible benefactor, Mr Balkissoon, for his unwavering support and generosity. Your contributions have truly made a lasting difference in the lives of our learners and the growth of our school.

Thanks to your kindness, our library now boasts beautifully tiled floors, creating a welcoming and professional environment for examinations, meetings, staff development and more. Your sponsorship of meals during our last two Games/Cultural Days ensured that our participants were well-nourished, energised, and able to fully enjoy those special events.

In addition, your generous financial donations has provided our school with much-needed resources to continue improving our facilities and programs. Your belief in our vision and your commitment to education are deeply appreciated. On behalf of our learners, staff, and the broader school community, thank you for being a true partner in our mission to provide quality education and meaningful experiences. Your generosity continues to inspire us all!



Heather thanks our 2025 NSC Markers

We are honoured to extend our heartfelt congratulations and sincere appreciation to the following educators for their outstanding dedication and service as 2025 NSC markers:

- Mrs Z Hussain – English Home Language, Paper 3 Internal Moderator
 - Mr AD Stoffels – Geography, Deputy Chief Marker
 - Mrs N Devcharran – Afrikaans FAL, Senior Marker
 - Mr RR Naicker – Life Sciences, Senior Marker
 - Mr N Ramalingam – Life Sciences, Senior Marker
- Ms C Adam – Mathematical Literacy, Senior Marker
 - Ms KZ Biyela – History, Marker
 - Mrs LG Mseleku – IsiZulu FAL, Marker
 - Ms PP Ngcobo – Life Sciences, Marker
 - Mr R Singh – Mathematics, Marker
 - Mr V Sahdar – Physical Sciences, Marker

We deeply value the commitment each of you has shown in taking on this critical national responsibility. The NSC marking process demands long hours, exceptional concentration, unwavering patience, and a steadfast sense of fairness. Your professionalism and dedication ensure that every learner's work is assessed with the integrity, accuracy, and the care it deserves.

Your involvement strengthens the credibility of the examination system and elevates the reputation of Heather Secondary School. By stepping forward to serve, you contribute meaningfully to the broader educational landscape of our country, helping shape the future of thousands of learners whose achievements depend on the quality of your work.

We are truly grateful for your service, your expertise, and the pride you bring to our school community.

As you continue in your professional journeys, we wish you ongoing success, good health, fulfilment, and the inspiration to keep making a positive difference. May your dedication continue to uplift education and leave a lasting impact on the learners you empower.



Educator in focus



Ms S Ramprasad
Department : Languages
Years at Heather 1994-2025

Ms Shakila Ramprasad, affectionately known simply as “Shakila” among colleagues, began her teaching career in 1988 at Windsor Secondary in Ladysmith before joining Heather Secondary School in 1994. Over the next 31 years, she would become a constant and dependable presence in the Languages department, known for her deep commitment to teaching Afrikaans from Grades 8 through 12.

She earned her academic qualifications in Afrikaans and Nederlands at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and has dedicated her professional life to bringing the Afrikaans language alive in classrooms filled with learners from diverse linguistic backgrounds. Her love for language and her belief in each learner’s potential have made her a trusted and valued figure in the school community.

Ms Ramprasad credits her strength and professional growth to the mentorship and camaraderie of her principal and colleagues. She describes them as her “pillar of strength,” shaping her resilience and courage as an educator and individual.

One of her guiding philosophies is: “Life is a journey, enjoy the ride—even if it’s sometimes a roller coaster.” It’s a perspective that shaped her approach to teaching and life—embracing the ups and downs with grace, courage, and an open heart.

She also believed in the healing power of humour, often reminding others that “Laughter is the best medicine.” It was this lightness of spirit that made her classrooms feel welcoming and her presence uplifting to both learners and staff.

As she enters retirement in 2026, Heather Secondary bids farewell to an educator whose career has been defined by consistency, compassion, and quiet impact. Ms Ramprasad’s legacy will endure not only in exam results and lesson plans, but in the life lessons she modelled daily: to be brave, to stay grounded, and to find joy even amidst the challenges.



Honouring the journey, Celebrating the impact

These images reflect a remarkable journey of commitment, passion, and unwavering service to Heather Secondary School. As she retires, we honour the years of hard work, the lives touched, and the lasting legacy she leaves behind. Each moment captured is a tribute to her dedication to education and to the school community, as we wish her a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement.





Inspirational insights from the Class of 2025

As our new Grade 12s embark on their final and most important year of schooling, we're honoured to share heartfelt messages from last year's Grade 12 class. Having faced the challenges, triumphs, and unforgettable moments of matric, they offer encouragement, insight, and motivation to guide you through the journey ahead. Their words remind us that you are capable, resilient, and supported every step of the way. May their experiences inspire you to always give your best, stay focused, and believe in the incredible potential within you!

Esther Sadhai 12A

To the future Grade 12 matric ball representatives, this year marks the closing of our chapter and the opening of yours.

May you lead with kindness, creativity, and a heart for everyone you represent.

Remember that every small effort you make adds magic to someone else's matric year. Especially on your matric ball night, create a night that let's confidence shine as bright as the dreams you chase. And have fun with the people you share this opportunity with.

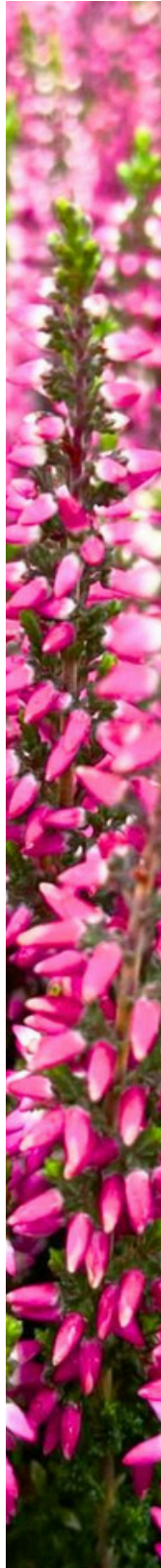
Celebrate each moment, even the challenging ones—they shape your story in unimaginable ways.

And above all, believe in yourselves—you're about to create something unforgettable.

Abbegail Govender 12E

Dear grade 11s, next year will be your last push! You've made it this far, and you can't give up now. It's going to be tough, with a lot of work and pressure, but you can do it! You're going to feel overwhelmed, but don't let that stop you. Remember why you started and what you're working towards. This year might be tough but you're tougher. Show up, put in the hard work and celebrate your wins no matter how small they may be.

You've sacrificed 12 years for this moment. You've got this! It's a fun year, but it requires hard work and sacrifice. Assignments, exams and control tests will seem challenging and a lot to handle but you can handle the workload, and it's all worth it in the end. Time management, enough sleep and a study timetable during exams is very important and should be your top priority. Stay focused, stay determined, and you will be celebrating your success in no time. Believe in yourself, you've got one last push to go!



Aryik Bhundoo 12A

To the Grade 11s of 2025! You're about to step into the biggest chapter yet—Grade 12. Keep the grind, stay curious, and trust the effort you put in now. It's not about being perfect, it's about staying consistent and believing in yourself. The next year flies, so manage your time effectively, support each other, and smash every goal you set. You've got this!

Nihal Gungapersad 12A

After almost 13 years of schooling you have finally reached the point where it all matters.

Yes, it's scary and you may not know what life has planned for you after this. Your worth isn't defined by the results you obtain at the end of this year, your results are only a passport to study further.

That disappointment, anxiety, depression will not fade easily and it's only you who will be able to pick yourself up.

And your time and commitment doesn't start when finals does.

It starts today. It starts when you realise that this is the last and final time where you can make a difference.

The first term is just as important as last. There is no such thing as I'll give it my all in the final term, it's what carries the most marks.

It's going to be a tough year, but the best and final year of your life in school. So make it count.

Where you are in 2027 depends on where your head is now in the present.



Renewing our spaces, strengthening our future

Heather Secondary School is excited to share a glimpse into the positive changes taking place on our campus. These photos capture the ongoing renovation work aimed at improving our facilities and creating a more welcoming, functional environment for our learners and staff. Each image reflects our commitment to growth, progress, and investing in spaces that support teaching, learning, and school pride as we continue building a stronger future for the Heather community.

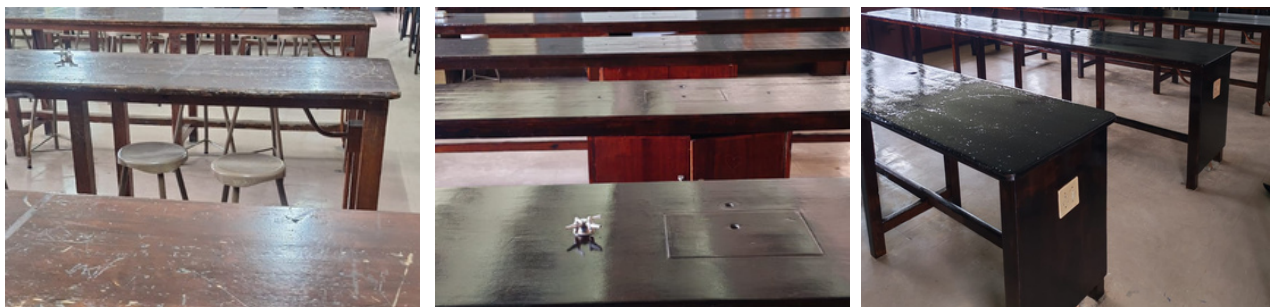
Assembly area reconfiguration



Consumer Studies area upgrade



Workspace refurbishments



Weary office benches get a refresh





Our High Flyers

We are proud to recognise our Top Academic Performers for Term 3, who have displayed dedication, discipline, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. These learners continue to embody the Heather Secondary spirit—striving for success, setting high standards, and inspiring their peers to reach greater heights.



Grade 8

1. Kyra Tamicia Reddy
2. Isabella Lutchman
3. Mohamed Afraz Ally
4. Tiara Pragdheen
5. Ariya Singh
6. Kaitlyn Leah Govender and Nikhil Reyes Miranda
8. Phiwokuhle Ndlovu
9. Adlai Lakisha Pirbanandan and Kairav Singh



Grade 9

1. Ashlen Naidoo
2. Joshua Emmanuel Brigmohun
3. Shania Antoinette Naidu
4. Shayden Chetty
5. Rejoice Beya Binsanga
6. Saharsh Maistry and Damian Naidoo
8. Emelia Stanley
9. Camdon Reddy
10. Kaivalya Sewraj



Grade 10

1. Fathima Zahraa Mohamed
2. Mohammed Ibrahim Ansari
3. Aditi Baijnath and Nicole Nomawethu Chagwedera
5. Sohan Kalika
6. Saandhiya Kisunlal
7. Gabriella Cassidy Paul
8. Camryn Kissonduth
9. Preeti Baijnath
10. Taskania Alicia Nel



Grade 11

1. Deran Mudaly
2. Arlaihah Naidu
3. Neepa Sevenundan
4. Hlengiwe Sefefo
5. Simphiwe Phakamani Nzama
6. Tarikha Singh
7. Cian Ryan Jacobs
8. Nayanna Govender
9. Kimera Akhira Mohanlal
10. Mohamed Affaan Ally and Delani Philokuhle Ngema



Grade 12

1. Neevashnie Naicker
2. Leya Pillay
3. Reesha Singh
4. Shumaisa Sookhai
5. Lamees Bux
6. Amelia Marilyn Francis
6. Rahel Yuvaan Roopen
8. Abigail Reante Padayachee and Esther Hope Sadhai
10. Pavisha Moodley and Akinchana-Krsna Das Singh



Heather Life in Stills

