

In the Circle of Excellence

Fifteen Western Cape schools have been included in a programme that honours high schools which consistently deliver

FIFTEEN of the Western Cape's high schools have made it into the Circle of Excellence, which has drawn up a list of the country's best 100 schools.

The Circle of Excellence is an independent programme that honours high schools that consistently deliver excellence. It is an initiative by the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation, and its criteria include general excellence and the schools' delivery of successful candidates in the Allan Gray Fellowship. Now in its fourth year, it has several long-term programmes focused on developing bright young minds, bolstering job creation and harnessing the power of pioneering young people.

But foundation head Anthony Farr said it was of concern that there were relatively small pockets of excellence in the general run of secondary schools in the country.

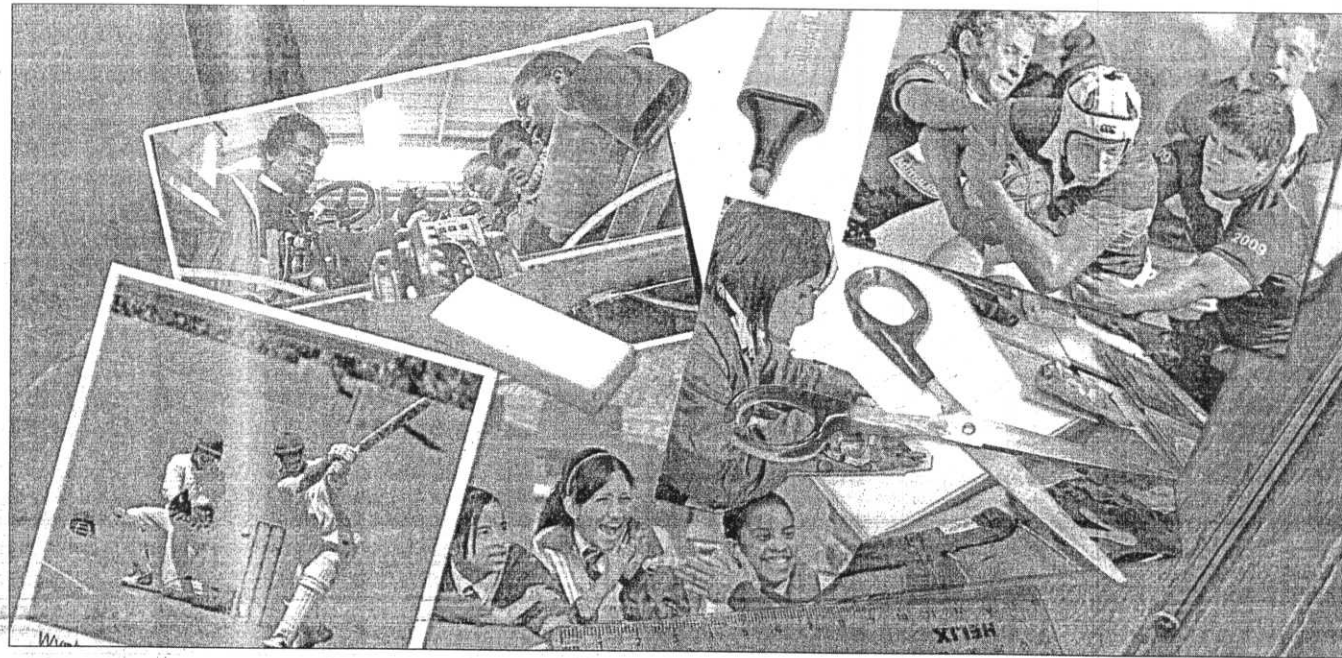
The Centre for Development and Enterprise, an independent research and advocacy organisation, says 70 percent of the pure maths matric passes are produced by 11 percent of secondary schools which are part of the circle.

The 15 Western Cape schools in the Circle of Excellence this year are Bergvliet High, Bishops Diocesan College, The Centre of Science and Technology (Cosat), Deutsche Internationale Schule Kapstadt, DF Malan High, Herschel Girls' School, Livingstone High, Paul Roos Gymnasium, Rondebosch Boys' High, Rustenburg High School for Girls, Sacs, St Cyprian's School, Settlers High, Tygerberg High and Westerford High.

Information was provided by the schools.

● **Diocesan College, or Bishops**, is an Anglican independent boys' school in Rondebosch, with a 100 percent matric pass rate. It ranked fifth on the province's highest achievers list. It has 754 pupils at the college. Fees range from R7 000 to R70 640 a year. Boarding fees are extra. "A boy who graduates from the Diocesan College will leave with an excellent all-round education, ready and prepared for the challenge of leadership. Bishops continues to affirm itself as a true learning organisation, focused on learning in every sense of the word." Sports include rugby, hockey, cricket, swimming, athletics, basketball, fencing, golf, rowing, climbing, squash, tennis and water polo.

● **Herschel** is an Anglican independent school for girls in Claremont, with a 100 percent matric pass rate. It ranked number one on the province's highest



achievers list. It has 972 pupils ranging from primary to high school. Fees are R55 000 a year. It prides itself on "being named by the province as one of the top schools in the province and being confident that, for our staff, it is all about each girl". Sports include swimming, water polo, tennis, squash, netball, indoor and field hockey and rowing.

● **South African College Schools (Sacs)** is a state school in Newlands, with a 99 percent matric pass. There are 740 pupils in the high school. Fees are R24 160 a year. "We develop well-balanced individuals." Sports include cricket, rugby, water polo, hockey, rowing, basketball, tennis, swimming, cross-country, golf and shooting.

● **Paul Roos Gymnasium** is a state school in Stellenbosch, with a 100 percent matric pass rate. It has 1 180 pupils. Fees are R16 100 a year. "The school prides itself on its academic, sporting and cultural excellence. We are a value-driven school that puts emphasis on pride, respect and

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gentlemanliness." Sports/activities include chess, cycling, duathlon, golf, hockey, pentathlon, rugby, soccer, squash, tennis and water polo.

● **Deutsche Internationale Schule Kapstadt** is an independent German school with a 100 percent matric pass rate. There are 720 pupils. Fees are R25 600. Enrolment is throughout the year and it follows the IEB curriculum. It aims to "promote the German language and high academic standards. Gisela Lange Music Centre has encouraged young musicians." Sports include dragon boating, basketball, soccer, golf, cricket, karate, athletics, swimming, sailing, table tennis, tennis and volleyball, yoga and dance club.

● **Bergvliet High** is a state school in Bergvliet with a 100 percent matric pass

rate. There are 1 120 pupils. Fees are R13 900 a year. "We are one of the top schools in the country." Sports include rugby, hockey, netball, cricket, swimming and tennis.

● **Centre of Science and Technology (Cosat)** is a state school in Khayelitsha, with a 99 percent matric pass rate. There are 180 pupils. There is a R200 registration fee and fees range from R6 500 to R7 500. But most of the pupils received bursaries. "We pride ourselves on our small class sizes, and specialise in maths and science. The majority of students do information technology as a subject." Sports include soccer, netball, chess and Scrabble.

● **Rondebosch Boys' High** is a state school in Rondebosch with a 100 percent matric pass rate. It ranked eighth on the province's highest achievers list. There are 795 boys. Boarding facilities are available. Fees are R23 000, with boarding an additional R24 200. "Education at Rondebosch is an exciting process - a rigorous academic diet which encourages independent thought, interest and self-

disciplined study. The school is renowned for its sporting prowess." Sports include athletics, basketball, cricket, swimming, tennis, water polo, rowing, chess, golf, cross-country, hockey, rugby, squash.

● **Rustenburg High School for Girls** is a state school in Rondebosch with a 100 percent matric pass rate. There are 770 pupils. Boarding facilities are available. Fees are R21 000 a year. "Our vision is a school of excellence where girls are leading fearlessly, exploring their unique potential confidently and serving the world compassionately. We focus on maintaining academic excellence and leadership development." Sports include cricket, cross-country, hockey, indoor hockey, netball, running, soccer, squash, swimming, tennis, touch rugby, water polo.

● **Livingstone High School** is a state school in Lansdowne, with a 98.8 percent matric pass rate. There are 937 pupils. Fees are R4 000 a year. "We pride ourselves on our standard of education guided by our vision to prepare our pupils to be

responsible and respectful citizens so as to play their part in the development of a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic society." Sports include soccer, rugby, netball, squash, chess, cricket and table tennis.

● **Westerford High** is a state school in Rondebosch with a 100 percent matric pass rate. There are 884 pupils. Fees are R19 215 a year. It was rated the top school in the country by an independent study and ranked third on the province's highest achievers list. "It's a co-educational school offering all-round education with strong emphasis on academic, sport, culture and music." Sports include rugby and cricket for boys, netball and indoor hockey for girls, and water polo, hockey, squash, tennis, table tennis, cross-country, road running and power walking for both.

● **DF Malan High School** is an Afrikaans-medium state school in Bellville. It has 1 050 pupils and a 100 percent matric pass rate. The school fees are R12 650. "It strives to offer its pupils an education based on international standards, and strives to equip its pupils with the necessary skills to face the world outside." Academics is a top priority. Sports include hockey and rugby.

● **Settlers High School** is a state school in Bellville. It has a 100 percent matric pass rate. There are 1 188 pupils and fees are R11 000 a year. "It offers a wide range of subjects, from a basic core such as mathematics and physical science, to studies, drama and art. The pupils are not the only ones who are motivated and prepared to take on any challenge, so are the teachers." Sports include rugby, tennis, swimming, athletics and hockey.

● **Tygerberg High School** is a Afrikaans-medium school in Parow. It has 1 030 pupils. It has 100 percent pass rate and school fees are R8 850 a year. "This public school prides itself on being one of the top schools in the province. It has a strong academic focus and cultural activities." Sports include rugby, cricket, tennis, golf and netball.

● **St Cyprian's School** is an Independent, Anglican, all-girls school in Oranjezicht with 794 pupils. It has a 100 percent matric pass rate. It ranked fourth in the provincial department's highest achievers list. Fees range from R30 000 to R58 000. Sports include hockey, indoor hockey, tennis, netball, swimming, squash, soccer and surfing. "The school prides itself on excellence in all spheres, a strong music department, and membership of the Independent Schools' Association of South Africa and the Round Square Association."

- Weekend Argus Reporter