

# Riebeek College Girls' High School 2017



Acting Principal Mrs Cheryl Snyman and Acting Deputy Principal Mrs Kieran Stear

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Riebeek College Girls' High School

UPCOMING EVENT:

DATE:



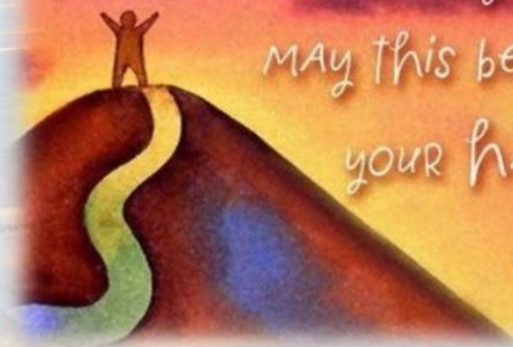
START

18 MAY

**BACK TO SCHOOL: 11 JANUARY**

And Suddenly  
YOU JUST  
Know... IT'S  
**TIME**  
To Start SOMETHING  
New & trust  
THE  
MAGIC OF  
BEGINNINGS

Life is full of new beginnings—  
MAY this be one of  
your happiest  
ever!



## Teaching Staff

SGB: 9

State: 20





## Matric Results

### 2015 Matric Results

Matric pass rate: 98,86%

University entrance pass rate: 80 Bachelor and 7 Diploma

### 2016 Matric Results

Matric pass rate: 100%

University entrance pass rate: 70 Bachelor and 7 Diploma and 1 Certificate Pass



## Riebeek College Girls' High School

### Class of 2016 results



107 subject distinctions from 78 learners, 100% pass rate, 90% Bachelor Pass Rate



Riebeek...  
A World of  
Awesome



## Riebeek College Girls' High School

### Class of 2016 results



5 distinctions each: Martez Meyer and Natheera Sirkhotte



## Riebeek College Girls' High School

### Class of 2016 results: A Aggregates



Martezy Meyer, Natheera Sirkhotte and Sanelisiwe Jobela



**Riebeek's  
Trio of  
Awesome**





# *Principals of Riebeek College*



**Miss G Hearson**  
1877- 1880



**Miss E.L.Y Brown**  
1881 - 1900



**Miss M Houliston**  
1900 - 1905



**Miss G.C Pollard**  
1905 - 1908



**Miss L.C Elton**  
1909 - 1915



**Mrs A.E Thomson**  
1916 - 1923



**Miss W Linnell**  
1923 - 1930



**Miss G Schmidt**  
1930 - 1944



**Miss J.A.D Miller**  
1944 - 1956



**Miss E.J Bartlett**  
1957 - 1972



**Mrs D.W Hutton**  
1972 - 1987



**Mrs N.J Stear**  
1988 - 2000



**Miss L.E Bekker**  
2001 - 2007



**Mrs M.A Woods**  
2008 - current

## History of the School

Founded in 1877 and first situated closer to the centre of town before occupying the present building since 1962 with an extension completed in 2014. The school was the first school to vote to open its doors to all races when schools were afforded this opportunity.

Educational ethos:

At Riebeek College, school life is exciting!

Tucked away in the Eastern Cape town of Uitenhage is the much acclaimed educational gem: Riebeek College Girls' High School. Here, steeped in tradition, the busy bees of Riebeek, for the bee is our emblem, create a hive of activity. Girls ranging in ages from the enthusiastic grade 4s to our elegant matrices find themselves involved and committed.

Riebeek is equal to the best. A fee-paying school, with a boarding facility for weekly boarders, and a day-boarding package, Riebeek provides parents with a safe, supervised environment for their treasured daughters.

Racial and religious tolerance, compassion and charity are entrenched. The carefully designed Pocket Code of Conduct is underwritten by principles which are rooted in morality and spiritual fruitfulness. Riebeek nurtures and cares.

Riebeek is famed for its award-winning choir. Competing in the advanced category, they win golds at national choir competitions. In 2014, a group of our girls featured with Johnny Clegg on Top Billing, having won a national song and dance competition. In 2015, Riebeek featured in the top 25 schools in South Africa in the Fairlady survey. Professor Jansen in the national press praised the school in June 2015, and followed this up later by identifying Riebeek as a top SA school in terms of combining character building and academic excellence.

Many of the staff are Old Girls, proving the faith they have in the unique education offered by our Alma Mater. Led, from 2007 to 2016, by the Riebeek girl who became a teacher at her school and then the much respected and dynamic principal, Mrs Marilyn (Dodd) Woods; the school continues to offer future generations what is truly best about the past while adapting to changing times. The Riebeek ladies walk in integrity with an attitude of gratitude while displaying a passion for tolerance, mental and physical energy and knowledge.

Our buzzing calendar exudes passion for play, compassion for charity, craze for cultural activities and a love of learning. Founded in 1877, this progressive school provides holistic education in a happy, safe and stimulating environment to ensure that every learner is equipped to face the challenges of a changing world. The school has convenient, caring boarding and aftercare facilities. As the first public school in South Africa to vote to open its doors to all races, the school appreciates the diversity of the Riebeek family. Matriculants are perfectly prepared to enter tertiary institutions with the skills and work ethic to succeed.

As an all-girls school with Grade 4 to 12 occupying the same building, we have the opportunity to mould, over a school career, ladies who can contribute positively to society: "To seek the

good in others and always do our best", as our school song indicates. The Riebeek staff encourages each young lady to live by the fruit of the spirit to reach her full potential.

At Riebeek College, 724 girls are nurtured and loved as they embrace life and learning. From Grade 4 to 12, girls are groomed to spread their wings. For the Riebeek staff it is a privilege to be part of this nine year process in which the girls take to heart the caring ethos of the school and the annual themes. 2016's theme was #TEK and embodied the characteristics of a virtuous mind: tolerance, energy and knowledge.

When Professor Jansen, Vice Chancellor of the University of the Orange Free State, listed Riebeek as one of his top ten South African schools in combining character building and academic excellence, it was due recognition of a nurturing school.

Riebeek College is celebrated for its resilience and compassion, the loyalty and success of Old Girls, its consistently strong academic results, its modest school fees and for its extraordinary programme and heart. Nelson Mandela said, "A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination." Riebeek College is a formidable school with strong leadership and a lot of heart.

"The journey is the teacher," said Bernadette Maguire (Old Girl and a Carte Blanche producer) at Riebeek's Founder's Day celebrating the distinguished dame's 138<sup>th</sup> year of teaching young ladies. A packed hall of "girls" agreed wholeheartedly that Riebeek's teachings take you far. The journey begins with bright and timid Grade 4s and runs its winding course to the farewell tunnel at the nostalgic Valedictory Service. Along the way, every girl is taught that she is valued, that she belongs and that she is receiving a quality education on a journey where purpose drives the school's programme. Bravery, resilience, compassion, involvement are what the Riebeek journey teaches. It is the "road less travelled" that teaches best at Riebeek.



# Riebeek College's Mission Statement Explained

To prepare our learners to meet the challenges of a changing world by providing relevant education of a high standard and instilling sound values in a stimulating and happy environment.

This school has traditions handed down and developed over more than a century. These have helped to provide a positive ethos, which those who have studied here value highly.

Nevertheless, we accept that if education is dynamic then change is inevitable.

**The School's mission** is to preserve much of the old yet : not be resistant to change, prepare pupils to meet the challenges of change, encourage them to act with courage in times of change

**Regarding the Community** : to prepare pupils to participate meaningfully in society, to instil in them a sense of responsibility to their fellow man, to inculcate in them a pride in their country and concern for the aspirations and needs of the community at large, to encourage them to pursue culturally enriching activities

**Regarding personality development and character training** : to teach pupils to judge objectively, to encourage them to discern with wisdom and compassion, to help them to exercise self-discipline within an atmosphere of discipline, to promote high moral values and standards

**Regarding the pursuit of excellence** : to develop the pupil according to her own abilities, to encourage self-esteem, to work purposefully according to the requirements of the curriculum, to learn to apportion time to physical exercise and leisure in addition to planned studies, to strive towards academic excellence, to develop communicative competence

Finally, this School wishes to promote the worth and dignity of all who come within its sphere. Courtesy and friendliness, together with concern, are key characteristics.

**"To seek the good in others And always do our best."**

## Pocket Code Of Conduct

### ACADEMICS

We try our best, despite difficulties

We do our school work diligently, conscientiously and with dedication

We strive to be the best we can be

We respect our personal academic efforts and respect those helping us

*"The more I see, the less I know for sure." John Lennon*

### SCHOLARSHIP

We strive to lay a solid foundation on which learning in a safe and loved environment is conducive to the development of the individual in totality

We are involved and concentrate on work in the classroom

We are always prompt in attending lessons

*"Knowledge talks, wisdom listens." Jimi Hendrix*

### ENCOURAGEMENT

We uphold our motto, "*Ora et Labora*" (Pray and Work)

We "*seek the good in others*" and "*always do our best*"

We lay emphasis on good sportsmanship on and off the sports fields

We see how you play the game as of paramount importance, rather than just celebrating a win.

This means we can accept a loss gracefully

We encourage each other to be generous with smiles to spread happiness in the world

*"If you meet someone who does not have a smile, you should give him or her one of yours."*

*"Nine tenths of education is encouragement." Anatole France*

### UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

The official school uniform (clearly marked) is worn appropriately according to the occasion and season

Correct deportment and register should apply at all times, even when wearing civvies

Good grooming (including clean manicured nails and shiny hair that is appropriately coiffeured) is considered a mark of self-respect

Learners may submit a written application to the School Governing Body for total or partial exemption from one or more of the items contained in the code of conduct based on cultural, religious or medical grounds

Only a plain wrist watch is allowed. No jewellery accessories of any kind are permissible.

Learners will wear their own name badge at all times and under no circumstances try to be deceptive by assuming another's identity.

*"Your appearance, attitude and confidence define you as a person." Lori Myers*

### RESPONSIBILITY

We endorse the Code of Conduct in its entirety

We are good ambassadors for the school in the courtesy and respect for others that we show

Our strength comes through our responsibility to collaborate and unite

We learn to interact with a broad spectrum of people of different ages, cultures and stages of development and to treat them accordingly, developing a mutual respect

We accept responsibility for ourselves, our conduct and our actions

We expect our learners to follow procedures and instruction

*"The final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands." Anne Frank*

### ACHIEVEMENT

We compete with our own best efforts

We always aim high

We never take our abilities for granted. We try to live balanced lives spiritually, physically and intellectually

We give due thanks to those who have helped us achieve: our families, teachers and peers

*"No bees, no honey; no work, no money." Leila*

#### VALUES

We acknowledge the value of:

Goodness

Kindness

Joy

Patience

Self-control

Peace

Faithfulness

Gentleness

Love

We honour the earth and Mother Nature with our efforts to support the environment by picking up litter and contributing towards a cleaner planet and survival of the species.

*"The best things in life aren't things." Art Buchwald*

#### COMMUNICATION

We shall communicate in English as the school is the practice ground for improving the standard of the language in which we have chosen to study (The exception being in the Afrikaans and isiXhosa classes)

We voice our opinions with dignity and consideration for diversity

We respect the opinions and thoughts of others whose opinions may enhance our own

*Proverbs Chp 15 vs 1: "A gentle answer quietens anger, but a harsh one stirs it up."*

#### GRATITUDE AND BELONGING

We are grateful for the progress made towards personal goals

We are grateful for the opportunities to exercise and show off sporting, cultural and academic skills

We are grateful because we belong, feel safe, cared for and loved

We are grateful for the enthusiasm and applause of others

We encourage ourselves and others to practice an attitude of gratitude and to foster feelings of belonging and success

*"Victory is gained by resolution and determination." Prophet Mohammed*

#### RUDE & ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR

We do not tolerate bullying or any threat to the sense of safety and sense of belonging of others, by providing the means for every girl to be able to protect herself by using the correct channels (peers, prefects, teacher, grade heads, heads of department, deputy principal and principal)

We do not tolerate disrespectful or offensive behaviour, nor do we tolerate verbal abuse aimed at teachers, non-teaching staff and fellow learners

*"Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events. Small minds discuss people."*

#### PUNCTUALITY AND ATTENDANCE



We consider the attendance registers for both class and extra-mural activities central to good conduct

We insist on always being on time

We expect projects, homework and tasks with deadlines to be handed in on time

*"Time is free but it's priceless." Harvey MacKay*

#### NEGATIVITY

We never put anyone down (make anyone feel less valued)

We avoid negative attitudes because negative thinking leads to negative actions

*"The critic is one who knows who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing." Oscar Wilde*

#### HARMFUL & ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES OR WEAPONS

It is illegal to possess, threaten or use dangerous weapons

It is illegal to possess, use or trade any narcotic or unauthorized drugs, alcohol and intoxicating substances of any nature

*"Drugs are a waste of time. They destroy your memory and self-respect."*

*Kurt Cobain*

#### PHYSICAL CONTACT

Physical fighting, assault or abuse is prohibited. It is not only breaking the Code of Conduct, it is breaking the law of the land

Indecent behaviour, swearing or verbal abuse is seen in the same light as the above

Victimisation and intimidation of other learners are not tolerated

Girls are strongly advised not to retaliate, but to report cases immediately

*"He who angers you, controls you."*

*Anonymous*

#### THEFT

Theft, or the possession of stolen goods, including the theft or possession of test or examination papers before such test or examination has been conducted, is illegal and will be dealt with accordingly

Borrowing without the owner's permission or knowledge is considered as theft

*"Be grateful for what you have and have the grace to ask for permission to use anyone else's belongings"*

*"Take what someone gives you, but leave what is not yours." Anonymous*

#### PLAGIARISM

We are expected to produce work which is our own

We do not copy homework or projects

We do not allow others to copy our homework

We do not provide false information or forged documents

We do not sign on behalf of anybody else

We accept that there are serious consequences for all of the above

*"There is no substitute for hard work." Thomas A. Edison*

#### VANDALISM

We abhor unlawful and destructive conduct

We bring action against perpetrators of any graffiti, vandalism or destruction of school property

We encourage the reporting of incidents of vandalism as the parents of the culprits have to be notified

We believe that there are consequences for every action

*"Behaviour is a mirror in which everyone displays his own image." Goethe*

## General Information



Annual fees: R13 500 per annum

Boarding costs: R31 000 per annum

Teacher/pupil ratio: 35 per class in the Primary Section and 30 per class in the Senior Section of the school.

Admissions procedure and when to apply: Biological parent to collect and sign for an application form from the office. Applications open between 7 April and 27 May of each year.

Subjects offered in Senior School: English HL, Afrikaans FAL, isiXhosa HL, Mathematics, Mathematical Literacy, Life Sciences, Accounting, Business Studies, Consumer Studies, CAT, History, Geography, Life Orientation, Science  
Junior School subjects: English, Afrikaans, Maths, Natural Sciences/Technology, Social Sciences, Life Skills. Life Orientation, Economical & Management Sciences, Creative Arts

Religious affiliations: Although the religious policy of Riebeek College is based on a single faith, namely Christianity; Riebeek College acknowledges other religions and ensures that the observance of other religions is respected and accommodated.

## Exciting developments at the school

- Marilyn Ann (Dodd) Woods Wing – The new extension to the Administration Block was completed at the end of 2014. It houses a board room, offices, workrooms and storage rooms. It is named after the Principal who has been teaching at the school for 44 years (and is a Riebeek Old Girl having been schooled from Sub A to Standard 10 at the school) and who retired at the end of 2016.
- Professor Jonathan Jansen visited us on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Although it was exam time, we were absolutely thrilled when we were contacted about Professor Jansen wanting to pay us a visit. We felt honoured that he had heard of our bravery and of our achievements. We are thankful to Professor Jansen for sharing himself so fully with us in an amazing, inspirational and uplifting speech. In an article published in a national newspaper on 19<sup>th</sup> June, Professor Jansen wrote of his visit at “this modest but outstanding girls’ high school”. Here are some extracts: “Since its founding in 1877, Riebeek College had never experienced such a devastating tragedy. Woods, I would soon find, was the rock on which so many relied in the days after the disappearance...The front office secretaries of a school are typically cold and business-like; not at Riebeek. The warm reception calmed me as the two women laughed while I tried to complete dressing for the day...This is a rare school. It is well-integrated, offering a model of racial inclusion to the country. The fees are modest and yet Riebeek was listed among the top academic high schools in one magazine survey. I saw their mission in action: *Sound values in a happy environment*. You come to bless and find yourself blessed by the incredible spirit of a school coming out of mourning.”
- In December 2015, Prof Jansen posted on social media a list of ten top schools in terms of combining excellence and character building, and he selected Riebeek as one of his top ten.
- One of our Old Girls from the Class of 2010 is competing on The Voice on Channel 101 and we are all rooting for her to do well.
- At the end of 2014 Riebeek won the Woolworths Sing Dance Competition and appeared on Top Billing having performed with Johnny Clegg.
- Mthunzikazi Scott entered a competition and wrote about a teacher who made an impact on her life, Mr Anton Calitz, and she came first in the Eastern Cape.
- Ziva Isaacs travelled to Bloemfontein in the September break to take part in the Matric of the Year Competition sponsored by the Kovsi Alumni Trust. She was one of a top 14 finalist and was treated to a weekend in Bloemfontein. She won a microwave, an iron and a digital photo frame. Ziva intends to study at the University of the Orange Free State.
- Another exceptional achievement for Riebeek College was when we were selected as one of Fairlady’s Top 25 government high schools in South Africa. What a well deserved recognition for all at the school who continue to give of our best to ensure that Riebeek *offers a sound, all-round education. This is no mean feat, as Fairlady’s criteria is stringent and they receive data from the Department of Basic Education as well.*
- *Once again, Riebeek College was invited to be a part of the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation’s Annual Circle of Excellence Principals’ Conference held in Johannesburg on 11<sup>th</sup> August.* The Foundation identifies the top secondary schools based on the school’s excellence in education and their consistent delivery of successful candidates to the Fellowship. The theme this year was, “*Shape the future. Start here*”. The programme allowed significant time for input and discussion relating to the development of an entrepreneurial mind-set. Certainly a great honour to be, once again, considered as one of the top achieving schools in the country.
- Our principal travelled to Finland for an International Principals’ Conference in 2015.



- On 8 February 2015 Lisakhanya Duruwe took part in the State Of The Province Address which was organised by the Department of Education. She competed against other learners from Solomon Mahlangu, Phaphani High School, Molly Blackburn and Thanduxolo High School. Lisakhanya was awarded best overall speaker in the Uitenhage district.
- Miss Junior Teen South Africa finalist Benathi Douse in Grade 11.
- We are proud of Riebeek Old Girl Zikhona Bali who starred in IS'THUNZI. Zikhona also featured on the front page of a national newspaper with a feature on her success story within the edition.

**Outreach projects:** Riebeek College nurtures a cultural of compassion for others and runs a number of outreach programmes via our service clubs and House Day initiatives. Riebeek is known for its generous donations to the Uitenhage SPCA and fundraisers for our furry friends are well supported. The three houses of the school each have a turn to fundraise and this money is donated to a local charity at a special assembly where a guest speaker addresses the school on the charity's activities. Riebeek's service clubs include the Interact Club, Alpha Leo Club and the Student Christian Association who all reach out the community to help with time volunteering and with collections of items and money.

**Tech/innovation:** Two computer centres, one for seniors and one for juniors. The school has a mobile Ipad Lab available for teachers. Classrooms are fitted with data projectors and wifi is available throughout the school. One Computer department and one computer educator who teaches CAT, 1 English class and also manages all the computers in the school. Riebeek has an active facebook page, youtube channel and website. The learners are taught how to use the website and how to create videos and how to create a magazine (with the page setting of this magazine done by the learners). Social Media education takes place regularly. The school makes use of the d6 school communicator programme to provide our parents and learners with a digital means of obtaining information.

**Art & Culture:** We offer drama at the school, not as a subject, but as an extra mural activity. The learners present an annual drama production and an annual inter-house one act play festival takes place. We have an excellent award-winning choir, that has consistently won awards at the annual ATKV National Choir Competition, since 2009. They are well-renowned for their wonderful renditions of their Xhosa songs, in particular. We have also recently started a band, making use of electric guitars, drums, a keyboard and a few acoustic guitars that were donated to the school. Riebeek College does not offer music as a subject. Other cultural activities at the school are hosted by the various cultural clubs: Evolutio (a poetry and culture appreciation club), Arts and Crafts, Debating, Quiz, Cultural Board.

**Feeder schools:** Our main feeder school is College Hill Preparatory School. Our school starts from Grade 4 and goes up to Grade 12. We are quite unique in that we are housed in the same building, sharing all the same facilities.

