

FORGING A FUTURE

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW PRINCIPAL



We are delighted to announce that Mr Graham Sayer has been officially appointed by the Western Cape Education Department as the new principal of Pinelands High School from 1 July 2024.

Graham is an Alumnus of the school and, since graduating from UCT, has been in the field of education for 23 years, in both private and

public schools. This included a few formative years spent teaching English at Pinelands High at the start of his career.

He brings with him a wealth of experience in academic and senior leadership, having served as the principal of Somerset College (senior) and as the Executive Head of the whole organisation (pre-school, primary school and high school) from 2017 to 2023. Graham has been very effective in providing leadership within the changing landscape of Education, driving transformation and ensuring the strategic alignment of an educational institution with its goals. We are certain that he will be able to build upon the gains of the past and lead the school into this next season, ensuring the sustainability and advancement of Pinelands High School.

Graham is married to Roxanne, whom he describes as the best partner for him and mother to their children that he could ever have imagined. They have two children, Madeline (7) and Miles (10) and his favourite ways to unwind are going on outings with his family, relaxing at home together or reading a book. He also lets off steam by practicing Brazilian jiu-jitsu.

We look forward to welcoming Graham back to Pinelands High.

PHS CELEBRATION DAY

It was wonderful to see so many Alumni attend the Celebration Day tea and assembly on the 1st of March, 2024. Lots of friendships were rekindled and memories revived. (You can read more about these events and the reunions in the Alumni Newsletter which should reach your inboxes sometime next month).



ALUMNI HONOUR AWARD 2024

During the Celebration Day Assembly on March 1st, the school presented Mr Carl Wastie with the 'Pinelands High School Alumni Honour Award'. Previous awardees have been Dr Vic McKinney (advocate for the disabled), Dr Heather Tuffin (improvement scientist), Ms Nandipha Mntambo (artist), Mr Austin Smith (sportsman).

The citation for the award reads: *The Pinelands High School Honour Award springs from the desire to recognise alumni from our school who have made a significant contribution to society since leaving school. The award is about the recognition of excellence, innovation, entrepreneurship or service. Our vision is to use the award to continue to build an aspirational environment in our school, where our young people can see what is possible through creative thought, hard work, sound values and courage.*

The school recognised Mr Wastie for his exceptional work as a broadcaster who makes an impact on countless individuals and organisations through his values and positive role-modelling. (We also love the fact that Carl is so passionate about his Alma Mater!)



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SOCIAL MEDIA



2023 National Senior Certificate Results

- Positioned **19th** in the top 20 schools in the province (schools with an NSC enrolment of 80 or more candidates, including independent/private schools).
- Positioned **6th** in the province of all co-ed schools.
- EGD (Engineering Graphics & Design) placed **1st** in the Metro Central District and **5th** in the province.
- History placed **8th** in the province.
- In the top overall candidates in the Metro Central District – **9th place Sarah Parker**
- Top Physical Sciences student in the Metro Central District – **Samuel Tucker 98%**
- Top EGD candidate Metro Central District and 5th EGD candidate in the province – **Sarah Parker 99%**

Special mention is made of our **top three students** who all achieved aggregates **above 90%**:



Joseph Gibbon
9 A's including 98% for Maths



Samuel Tucker
8 A's including 98% for Physical Sciences



Sarah Parker
7 A's including 99% for EGD

- Another **17** students achieved aggregates of **80% or more**.
- Bachelor's pass rate of **85.2%** and a pass rate of **99%**.



SCIENCE FAIR SUCCESS

2024 Grade 12 student, Matthew Collier-Reed, has received an invitation to represent South Africa at the International Science and Engineering Fair in California this month. His project, "Community Support", is entered in the Systems Software, Human/Machine Interface category at ISEF and is a platform that assists in identifying and locating support services in a particular area. The aim of the free service is to bridge the gap between support providers and the people who need it most. It is currently available throughout the Western Cape and will soon be rolled out to the rest of the country. Well done Matthew; we are so proud of you!



SPORTS ROUNDUP

CRICKET:

Pinelands High School's 1st cricket team won the Westerford 100-baller in February. In the first round they played Fish Hoek, beating them by 19 runs. Adan Eksteen scoring 52. In an exciting final, PHS beat Fairmont by 21 runs to win the trophy, with Adam Cupido taking a fabulous five-wicket haul.



ROBOTICS:

Pinelands High School competed at its first FTC South African National Championship and our inaugural robotics team, the PHS Stingers, placed 17th in the country. Well done Stingers! (Incidentally, the Pinelands-based team, Texpend, who won the SA tournament went on to be part of the winning alliance at the International robotics championships in Houston in April).



SWIMMING:

Having resumed swimming as a competitive sport in the past few years, PHS was delighted to win the gala against Camps Bay High during the first term and to maintain its B league status this season. We finished 4th out of 8 schools which is an outstanding accomplishment for a swim team as young as ours. Four of our swimmers were selected to represent Western Province at the National Championships. Congratulations and well done!



CAPE CO-ED SOCCER TOURNAMENT:

The under 16 team started their season very strongly at the Cape Co-Ed Tournament and great things are expected of them this year. They were unbeaten in 4 games, scoring a total of ten goals without conceding any. Their strongest showing was against Wynberg Boys' High School, whom they beat 6-0. This bodes well for the future of soccer at PHS. Well done to Cee-Jay Swarts for being voted the player of the tournament.



HOCKEY: Following a gruelling series of trials with strong competition, 12 of our students have been selected to represent Western Province in various interprovincial events. We wish them all the best for the tournaments.



HELP US to help deserving students by donating to the PHS Bursary Fund. Donations can be made to: Pinelands High School, Current Account 073023671, Standard Bank, Pinelands, 036309; with the reference: SURNAME + BursaryFund.

We can do more together than we could ever do apart.



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TOGETHER we make a difference!

