

BERGVLIET HIGH SCHOOL

# THE BUZZ



APRIL 2026 EDITION



# THE PRINCIPAL'S PAGE

We welcomed back staff and learners on Wednesday, 8 April, after a much-needed break. Unlike other years when we returned on a Tuesday, we were grateful for one extra day.

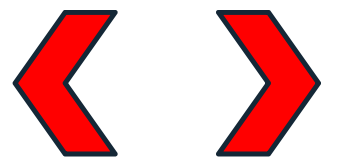
By week two, our Meet the Teachers evening took place, and my gratitude goes out to the parents who responded to the invitation to visit with their child's educator to address academic concerns. I am tremendously indebted to the staff, who, after a long academic day, ensured that all their appointments went ahead as planned. While the bookings were meant to end by 7 pm, some staff were committed to staying as late as 8 pm to meet with parents, a clear indication of the calibre of staff teaching your child.

Understandably, some parents could not meet on the scheduled day, and again, credit to the staff who were willing to meet with you at a more convenient time. I note the late hour at which these meetings are taking place, and I wish to also commend those parents for prioritising their child's academic progress. Thank you!

On this note too, I am grateful to the staff who avail themselves to either manage or coach a sporting code, club, or society. In doing so, they allow your child to explore and discover another aspect of school life in addition to academics. Thank you to you as parents and guardians who, despite your own long day, and sometimes a significant distance that you have to travel home, wait patiently (I hope) for your child. Thank you for being on the sidelines to cheer them on, come win or lose. Your presence makes a difference.



**Mrs P Demas**  
**PRINCIPAL**



# THE PRINCIPAL'S PAGE

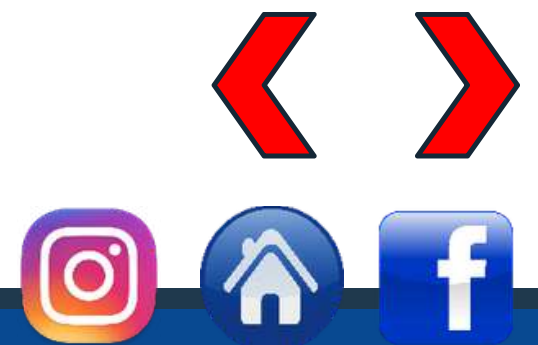
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During March, we celebrated Human Rights Day, and this month, Freedom Day, marked 32 years of democracy and freedom from oppression. Sadly, I have had to deal with events that hinder all the progress we should have made to date. A separate letter will be sent on this matter in due course.

On the Academic front, our core business at Bergvliet High School, the RISE programme initiated by Ms Jahura, Deputy Principal and Head of Academics, has already shown significant results for those learners who attended the classes in Term 1. For those unfamiliar, RISE (Rigorous Intervention for Subject Excellence) was introduced to the Grade 11 and 12 learners who take Mathematics and Physical Sciences. The success of the programme will determine whether to extend it to other subjects and other grades later this year.

Last year, we launched our official Top Achievers Board (the brainchild of the former Head of Academics, Mr Cohen), whereby the top achievers in each grade are acknowledged each term for all to see on a daily basis.

This year, Ms Jahura has gone one step further and awarded Tuckshop vouchers to learners in all grades who achieved an aggregate of 85% and more in Term 1. This will continue for the remainder of the year and the years ahead, funds permitting. More news on this incentive for learners can be found in an article by Ms Jahura in this edition of the Buzz.



# THE PRINCIPAL'S PAGE

While some parents who attended the Meet the Teachers evening might have seen the significant improvements to the interior of the school, not many will be aware of them. I am pleased to share with you that several corridors have had new flooring installed. We continue to replace the old steel windows (that often could not open/close) with aluminium. To add the finishing touches, new blinds were also installed in the same venues. All of this is possible when our parents/guardians diligently pay the school fees. Thank you!

By the time you read the May edition of the Buzz, the following would have taken place:

- Our first Derby Day against Camps Bay High School (away, Saturday, 9 May), except for the girls' hockey matches taking place at Bergvliet High School on Friday afternoon, 8 May. Please do come and support the various teams. More details will be shared on our website and social media pages

- The Astro renovation is now completed, and a re-opening ceremony will take place during the course of the week. Details will be sent by the Sports Coordinator

- The old astro will be offered for sale to those interested, a great idea to purchase a piece as a "remembrance of the journey with BHS". Please contact Mr Schultz at [Sport@bhs.org.za](mailto:Sport@bhs.org.za) should you be interested.

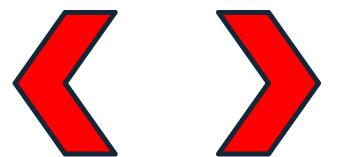
- The mid-year exams will start in the last week of May, with several practical exams taking place. By now, you should have received the exam timetable. Please ensure that your child balances their personal health, co-curricular, social, and academic commitments to ensure holistic success by attending school daily

- On Saturday, 30 May, our Music Department will be performing at the Baxter Theatre. As always, an event not to be missed. Tickets are selling fast (available directly from the Baxter Theatre, not the school). I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Stay safe on the roads, warm and dry on rainy days.



Mrs P Demas  
PRINCIPAL



# 2026 Matric Dance

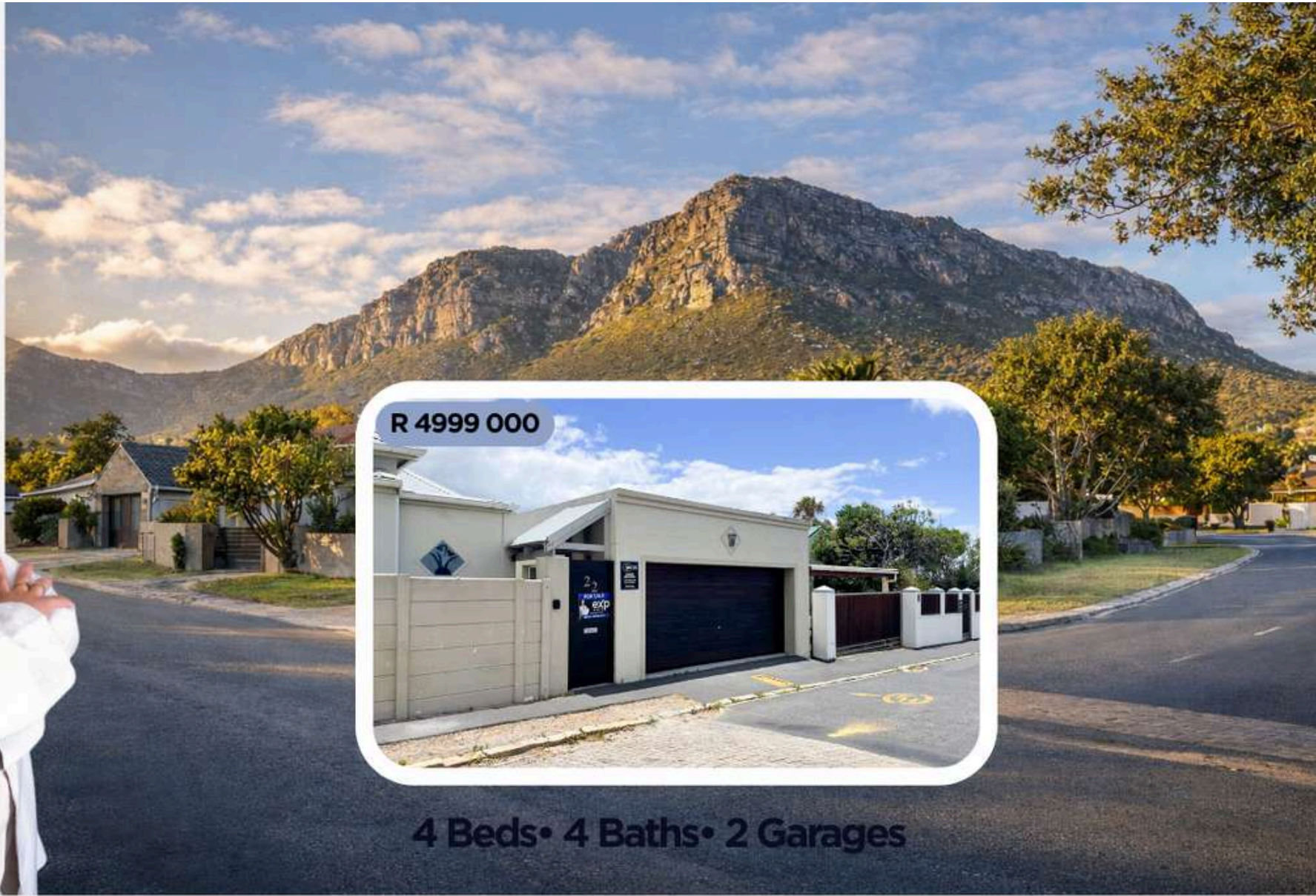


# 2026 Matric Dance



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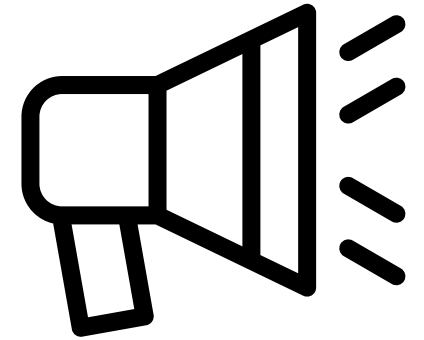
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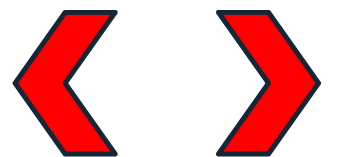
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# Athletics Spotlight on Jesse

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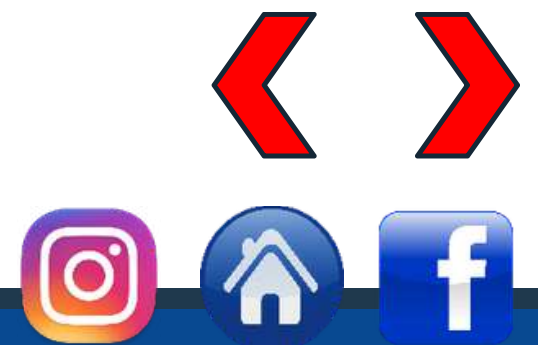
Grade 11 pupil Jesse Brooks has had an extraordinary athletics season, and BHS couldn't be prouder.

The 16-year-old, who turns 17 in late October, competed in the 2025/2026 athletics season as a U/17 athlete for school and U/18 for her club, UWC. This distinction meant she raced under different age categories depending on the event – U/17 for school competitions such as Interhouse, Interschool, and Zonals, and U/18 for club events and Championships.

For school athletics, athletes earn their spot at the next level by finishing on the podium – top three – at Champs. Jesse did one better, winning gold in the 400m at Champs, which earned her a place at Western Province (WP) Championships, held at Coetzenburg in Stellenbosch.

For club athletics, athletes must run a qualifying time at any Western Province Athletics (WPA) event to advance to the Junior South African Championships for Clubs (ASA), held in Germiston. The qualifying standard for U/18 women's 400m is 58 seconds. Jesse cleared that bar comfortably, clocking a 57-second run to book her place.

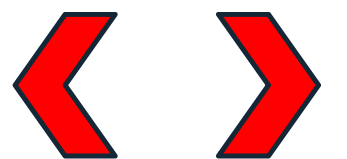
Jesse's performances this season placed her at the very top, not only in Cape Town, where she outran every athlete in her age group across all city schools and clubs, but also across the Western Cape Province, competing against athletes from Boland, Eden, and Central Karoo at WP level.



When Jesse travelled to Germiston for Junior ASA, she was carrying an injury. Despite this, she finished in the top 5 in the country, a result determined by her fastest time of the season – an impressive 55.89 seconds in the 400m.

Perhaps the most remarkable part of Jesse's season came after she returned from Germiston. She learned that she had also qualified for Senior ASA – making her the only athlete at BHS to have qualified for all three South African Championships in a single season: SASA, Junior ASA, and Senior ASA.

To put that into perspective, Senior ASA is the competition where South Africa's elite athletes compete – names like Bayanda Walaza, Naeem Jack, Abdurhagmaan Karriem, Leendert Koekemoer, Rume Burger, and Viwe Jingqi, athletes who represent South Africa at international events including the Diamond League and the Olympic Games. The fact that Jesse, still in Grade 11, has qualified to compete on that stage is a truly remarkable achievement.



# Celebrating Academic Excellence

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It is with immense pride and deep satisfaction that I write to celebrate our Term 1 Top 10 Academic Achievers for 2026. This year, BHS has reaffirmed its commitment to academic excellence as our core focus, and already, in the very first term, our learners are rising to meet that challenge with outstanding results.

Our school boasts a team of dedicated, passionate educators who go far beyond the call of duty every single day. They invest their time, their expertise, and their hearts into ensuring that every learner has access to the support and guidance they need to succeed. Equally, our learners are provided with excellent resources and a focused, nurturing environment, the ideal conditions for academic excellence to flourish.

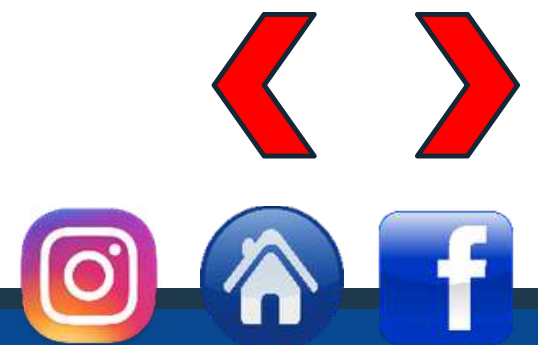
At BHS, we firmly believe in the importance of a balanced school life. We encourage our learners to participate in sport, the arts, and our vibrant range of clubs and activities, because a well-rounded individual is a confident, resilient individual. However, we must always remember that academics is our core business. The opportunities we invest in today, through quality teaching, resources, and a culture of excellence, will shape the leaders, professionals, and change-makers of tomorrow.

To our Top 10 achievers across Grades 8 to 12: you have set a remarkable standard. Your hard work, discipline, and dedication have not gone unnoticed. We are extraordinarily proud of each and every one of you, and we celebrate your achievements wholeheartedly.

To those who did not make the Top 10 this term: do not be discouraged. Every single mark you earn, every lesson you engage with, and every extra effort you put in counts. Term 2 is a fresh start; a new opportunity to dig deeper, work smarter, and show us what you are truly capable of. We believe in you, and your teachers are here to walk that journey with you. Keep going!

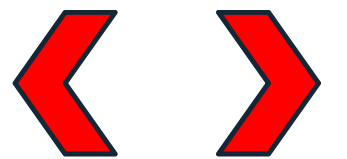
Let us continue to Strive for Excellence – together.

**A Message from the Academic Head (B. Jahura)**



# Term 1, 2026 – Top 10 Achievers Per Grade

Position	Learner Name	Surname
<b>Grade 8 Top 10 Achievers</b>		
222 learners in Grade 8, with the top 10 achieving Aggregates between 80–84.5%		
1	Zara	Dreyer
2	Safiya	Enos
3	Kaylin	Moses
4	Daniel	Lamb
5	Nailah	Jacobs
6	Hailey	Minords
7	Ciana	Hill
8	Rhys	Morris
9	Thameen	Abrahams
10	Jawaad	Nordien



Position	Learner Name	Surname
<b>Grade 9 Top 10 Achievers</b>		
215 learners in Grade 9, with the top 10 achieving Aggregates between 82% – 91%		
1	<b>Matthew (Burnham)</b>	<b>Graham</b>
2	<b>Melissa</b>	<b>Barnes</b>
3	<b>Adam</b>	<b>Barter</b>
4	Muhammad Khidr	Waja
5	Dean	Van Niekerk
6	Tyler	Gurling
7	Rania	Salie
8	Ilyas	Ismail
9	Hannah	Adams
10	Zac	Lendor



Position	Learner Name	Surname
<b>Grade 10 Top 10 Achievers</b>		
215 learners in Grade 9, with the top 10 achieving Aggregates between 82 – 91%		
1	<b>Alex</b>	<b>Van Niekerk</b>
2	<b>Amaan</b>	<b>Abrahams</b>
3	<b>Luke</b>	<b>Lamb</b>
4	Peyton	Fortuin
5	Emma	Adams
6	Caleb	January
7	Cassidy	Carolus
8	Sky	Arendse
9	Thokozile	Phiri
10	Emily	Engel



Position	Learner Name	Surname
<b>Grade 11 Top 10 Achievers</b>		
238 learners in Grade 11, with the top 10 achieving Aggregates between 81 – 89%		
1	<b>Samuel</b>	<b>Graham</b>
2	<b>Imaan</b>	<b>Van Der Schyff</b>
3	<b>Daniel</b>	<b>Van Schalkwyk</b>
4	Lisakhanya	Pasiwe
5	Kulsum	Dauids
6	Jemma	Swartz
7	Caitlin	Schouw
8	Alyssa	Olivier
9	Levi	Fortuin
10	Tiana	Merrington



Position	Learner Name	Surname
<b>Grade 12 Top 10 Achievers</b> 208 learners in Grade 12, with the top 10 achieving Aggregates between 86 - 91%		
1	Lorelei	Helsby
2	Dana	Jones
3	Sarah	Lurie
4	Leah	Skriker
5	Alhena	Udemans
6	Amina	Gangrakar
7	Anel	Snyman
8	Xavene	Johnson
9	Tatiana	Tinarwo
10	Camilla	Sanson



**Keep Striving. Keep Shining.**  
**Go BHS! 🌟**

