

Hi All! I will refrain from saying happy new year and a prosperous 2020 for you! Thank you Andy for pushing me to get this next newsletter out: "Garth, the guys want to hear from you! Just keep it short and simple, share the results from last year and some of your analysis of them!" Okay, here goes...

So, I was quite confident in my last newsletter that we would see significantly improved results in the 2019 NSC finals. We did see an improvement, and the department have been very complimentary of what they perceive to be a significant improvement. But we were disappointed! Our results were up from 2018, but down from September... Let me share these results with you, and some of what we read into them.

Who failed? 80,6% passed, 19,4% did not

So the short end of it is that we only an 80,6% pass rate... This means 20 of our 103 candidates were unsuccessful. In laymans terms, these kids are called "failures". Is that right? It isn't!! Do I sound like a politician, or euphemistic and too "soft" to say **no kid is a failure?** If you look at each one of these candidates, there is something that has led to their "failure."

- Is it their home circumstances that have not prepared them sufficiently? Then we as a school have possibly not stood in the gap strongly enough to compensate for parents who were ill-prepared to assist their children navigate this field of education. Or we haven't **supported** them strongly enough...
- Did they not have the self-disciplines to work hard enough? Maybe we didn't develop those disciplines well enough in the junior grades.
- Did they do the wrong subjects? Then maybe we didn't engage strongly enough in their subject choices – after all we are the experts and should engage the parents if we see them and their children making the wrong subject choices?
- Were they poorly disciplined (in terms of classroom behavior) and this detracted their ability to learn effectively? Then maybe we as a school failed to implement the correct discipline structures...

As a school, I believe that we should take responsibility for every single learner who has "failed". We need to wear their failure personally! It is no use crying over spilt milk, however, but we need to do our utmost to ensure that nobody else fails for the same reasons... (If only it was that easy!)

You see, I believe schools should be the great leveler. Whether a kid comes to school from an academically rich background and another comes with a poor early childhood development, access to quality education should provide both with the opportunity to flourish. Unfortunately, this ideal is not easy to achieve, and, at Dale College, we have a task on our hand to turn poor results into quality education.

What do the statistics say?

I shared a colorful table painting in green our improved results in the last newsletter... I have updated this to include our November results, alongside.

As I have said, many people congratulated us, especially when they

	Nov '18	June '19	Sept '19	Nov '19
Candidates	111	103	103	103
Pass rate	75%	82%	89%	80,6%
Bachelor Passes	32%	33%	48%	38,8%
A's (80% +)	19	25	53	24
B's (70 – 80%)	99	53	76	71
F's (30 – 39%)	111	109	92	91
G's (0 – 29%)	96	80	53	78
Gr 12 symbols & pass rates: Nov '18 - Nov '19				

compared Nov '18 to Nov '19. Comparing Sept '19 to Nov '19, however, we were disappointed! Before I discuss what we have learnt from this, let me share one more piece of analysis.

Unsuccessful Candidate	Failed terms (with average)			Terms Failed	NSC result	Comments
	T1	T2	T3			
Not Successful 1	37.71	30.6	32.0	3	29.9	Progressed learner – was meant to repeat Gr 11.
Not Successful 2	43.57	39.1	47.3	3	45.5	Subject choices – Mathematics
Not Successful 3	39.71	38.0	40.4	3	37.7	Subject choices – Mathematics
Not Successful 4	37.29	32.1	30.0	3	35.0	
Not Successful 5		44.6	48.3	2	47.3	Subject choices – Mathematics
Not Successful 6	42.71	46.0		2	42.2	Subject choices – Mathematics, Life Science
Not Successful 7	38.00	36.7		2	33.9	Subject choices – Mathematics
Not Successful 8		44.6	44.9	2	46.4	Subject choices – Mathematics
Not Successful 9	43.14		45.1	2	47.0	Subject choices – Mathematics
Not Successful 10	40.86		39.4	2	44.8	Subject choices – Mathematics
Not Successful 11		37.1		1	45.8	Subject choices – Mathematics
Not Successful 12		37.6		1	39.9	
Not Successful 13	46.86			1	48.2	Subject choices – Life Science
Not Successful 14		39.9		1	45.0	Subject choices – Life Science
Not Successful 15				0	39.1	
Not Successful 16				0	49.3	Subject choices – Mathematics
Not Successful 17				0	42.8	Subject choices – Mathematics
Not Successful 18				0	36.9	
Not Successful 19				0	44.3	
Not Successful 20				0	51.3	Subject choices – Life Science

What have we learnt from these results and this analysis?

1. If a kid is in danger of failing but is doing Mathematics or Life Science, he needs to be VERY STRONGLY engaged regarding his subject choice and our (expert) advise to drop these very challenging subjects... Many parents argue against this irrationally. The media and society place an unhealthy pressure on doing Maths. A 30% (or even 40%) for Maths is **NOT** more valuable than a 70% for Maths Literacy!
2. If a kid fails two of the terms in the lead up to his Finals, this is a MAJOR RED FLAG!!! We need to implement very strong intervention.
3. Most of our candidates dipped in their performance at finals. This is significant, especially considering that both the September Mocks, and the November NSC Finals are external exams these days. It isn't that our September exams were too easy... We read this as the fact that they **took their foot off the petrol** after their September exams, or after Valedictory. Do they not have the discipline to study at home, when not needing to attend classes anymore? Do we need to engage their parents on a study routine and send them from Valedictory with a study timetable? Should we keep going with classes longer? Did we spoon-feed them too much? The big question is: Will they succeed at University??? We need to do something differently!!! Spare a special thought please for the 6 candidates who failed their finals, having not failed a single term in the lead up...

There is much more to be said, but let me leave it at that. Some snippets of general news:

- We have advertised a number of posts recently and are likely to advertise more as our numbers grow. Please be on the lookout for people who would be a good fit for Dale College, and would be passionate to teach in this context. They are encouraged to submit their CV's to me please!
- Our sport program is alive and well! We have expanded opportunities in a number of codes, and are gearing up for the winter season. Our 1st XV have an exciting set of fixtures ahead of them, and we look forward to taking on Glenwood, Bishops, Waterkloof and KES amongst others at various tournaments in the next two months, in addition to our regular fixtures.
- Funding needs as ever – we need a good number of fence panel pledges before we can go ahead with the project. 100's Club is a lifeline, but still a long way off our target of 1000 x R100 per month. Many exciting projects are being funded by various year groups and individuals:
 - I have commented previously on the 1977 year group who still lead the charge for fence panels.
 - The 1978 year group got involved and have sponsored the renovation to two disused facilities on our B-cricket Field, and a good number of fence panels.
 - Major Joubert House renovation committed to by the 2000 year group.
 - Buster Farrer renovation owned by the 1998 year group (R65 000 already raised!)
 - Makana Bricks (CEO and many shareholders being Old Dalians) have sponsored ALL bricks for any current building projects planned!
 - The Cape Town ODU and Eurolux are owning the project to pay for new (energy saving) light fittings in all our classrooms.

Thank you to these Old Boys and all others who have donated. Every contribution is valuable. One of my most cherished emails I received in the last year included the following: *"I recently joined the 100s club when I got back for our 10th reunion and it's probably one of the most meaningful things I've done so far and as I get financially stronger I will add a lot more."*

- Lastly, we must thank Bryn Ressel and KEPU for their sustained period of sponsorship of Dale College rugby, which has now come to an end. We are pleased that another Eastern Cape brand in the form of TWIZZA was able to, at very late notice, step up to the plate to fill the financial gap of sponsoring our 1st Hockey and Rugby teams. Please get in touch with us if you have a brand that would like to be associated with our key sport teams!

I leave you with the social media posting we shared in early January regarding our Matric results... While many schools use social media as a platform to boast, we thought it appropriate to bring transparency and make a public statement regarding our strategy for improvement.

Per ardua, ad astra



Garth Shaw

Dale College is pleased to report both an improved Matric Pass rate (74,8% to 80,6%), and an improved Bachelor Pass rate (32,4% to 38,8%) from 2018 to 2019 (52,4% of passes)

We are, however, still disappointed at what we regard as below average marks and will be continuing our hard work to get back to the standard we should hold. Some of what we have implemented includes the following:

- Implementation of structures for stronger pastoral support relationships.
- Academic support as part of the extra mural program.
- Stricter discipline and intervention for disruptive behavior.
- Strategic engagement regarding learner subject choices.
- Improved academic structures in all subject departments.
- Intervention and accountability in underperforming subjects.

Please celebrate our top achievers with us!

1. Jonathan Espanol (81,0%, 4 x A, 3 x B)
2. Kwazokuhle Paraffin (75,7%, 3 x A, 1 x B)
3. Bavuyise Sindi (74,3%, 3 x A, 1 x B)
4. Kamvelihle Matheniwa (74,2%, 1 x A, 2 x B)
5. Sivolise Mabodla (73,7%, 3 x A, 2 x B)

