

MATRICES: HEAD FOR LAST LAP

# Exam crunch time

MONIQUE DUVAL  
@monique\_duval

There are only four days left before matriculants across the country write the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations.

Across the Cape Peninsula, Grade 12 pupils are readying themselves for the exam which many believe to be "the most important exam of their lives".

And the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) is confident it will increase the number of passes this year. "The WCED have had in place a targeted and sustained strategy to support our schools through our Grade 12 programme, particularly at our under-performing or struggling schools," spokesperson Bronagh Casey says.

The Cape Academy for Maths, Science and Technology in Tokai buzzed with excitement this week as Grade 12 pupils geared up for their valedictory.

Principal Gregory van Schalkwyk says the school has enjoyed a pass rate of 98% over the past six years and is hoping for a 100% for the class of 2013.

"I am hopeful we can achieve 100%, but I am mindful that some of our pupils are faced with extreme social problems which affect their education," says Van Schalkwyk.

He explains as 90% of the pupils stay in the boarding facilities, strikes and other transport-related issues do not affect the school. "Many of our pupils come from disadvantaged areas and with poverty comes a lack of self-confidence and motivation. Our teachers try their best to be a positive powerful influence in their lives," he says.

Casey says, compared to last year, 4613 more candidates will be writing this year's exam at 432 centres across the province. "The WCED has finalised candidate lists

with 48 768 full-time candidates registered for these examinations," she says. "There are a further 10 826 part-time candidates registered for the 2013 exam. Overall, 58 594 candidates will be writing this year."

John Iradukunda, who will be rewriting the examinations at Wittebome High School, believes he is better prepared.

He is enrolled in a bridging programme run by education NGO Living Through Learning in Wynberg. "I am excited and anxious at the same time. The programme has helped me go back to basics and better understand concepts I was taught in school."

Iradukunda explains he has learnt how to "study smart" and says he is ready.

This year the department has ensured that all matrics have textbooks for at least six core subjects and provided pupils with a study guideline on how and what to study for each subject, the structure of exam papers and how to manage their study time.

The examinations kick off on Monday 28 October and runs until Friday 29 November.

The WCED also launched a Matric Support page on the department's website ("Matrics get connected in study aid", *People's Post*, 24 September). The website contains matric support via YouTube videos.

It will also provide support to matrics throughout the exams.

"Our school psychologists (and) social workers in every district and circuit are on standby to provide counselling support, as required. Parents and candidates can speak to their school principal if the candidates concerned need special support."

► Candidates can also phone the WCED's Safe Schools Call Centre on 0800 454 647 should they need to talk about their anxiety.

► People's Post spoke to pupils at the Cape Academy for Maths, Science and Technology ahead of their valedictory.



SHANE JOSIAS believes in preparing all year around. He has joined study groups and spends 50 minutes a day practising Maths. He has been accepted to the University of Stellenbosch to study Applied Mathematics in 2014.



TONI ALMACIN has joined a study group and spend three hours each day revising with her group. She uses past exam papers to prepare for the finals and has applied to study Business Management Science at the University of the Western Cape.



CHAD ADAMS believes doing homework consistently helps him to prepare for exams. He says closer to exams he uses past papers to assist him. He has been accepted to the University of Stellenbosch and will be pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce degree.



JULIA VAN NIEKERK has also joined a study group at her school and says she uses her study notes of previous exams to study for the finals. She has been accepted to two universities and has yet to decide which she will go to.

PHOTOS: MONIQUE DUVAL

**YAY!**  
**IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY!**

**OUR GIFT TO YOU!**  
Spend R100 or more and stand the chance to win one of these great prizes:

**FIRST PRIZE** – worth **R13 000** – 5 day accommodation voucher for one of three Dream Vacations destinations, R1500 petrol voucher and R1500 groceries voucher!  
**SECOND PRIZE** – 1 MotoMia Milano, 150cc scooter  
Value: **R11 000**  
**THIRD PRIZE** – 1 MotoMia Espresso, 110cc scooter  
Value: **R8 000**

0861 668 664  
**MotoMia**  
www.motomia.com

Grand Draw:  
Sat 2 Nov @ 11am  
in the Food Court

**FREE PARKING**  
www.kenilworthcentre.co.za

Vacation Proudly Sponsored by:  
**DREAM VACATIONS**

**Kenilworth Centre**  
WELL WORTH IT!

For further information please call 021 671 5054

Nike  
**NikeFactoryStore**

**SALE**

Mens and Womens  
Running Footwear  
from R499 to R1 199

Mens, Womens and Kids  
Winter Apparel  
from R199 to R499

**KUILS RIVER**  
B23, ACCESS PARK, LA BELLE RD,  
KUILS RIVER  
TEL: 021 903 5450 / 7

**CAPE TOWN**  
C7, ACCESS PARK, CHICHESTER RD,  
KENILWORTH, CAPE TOWN  
TEL: 021 683 8191 / 2