Matric Results 2016

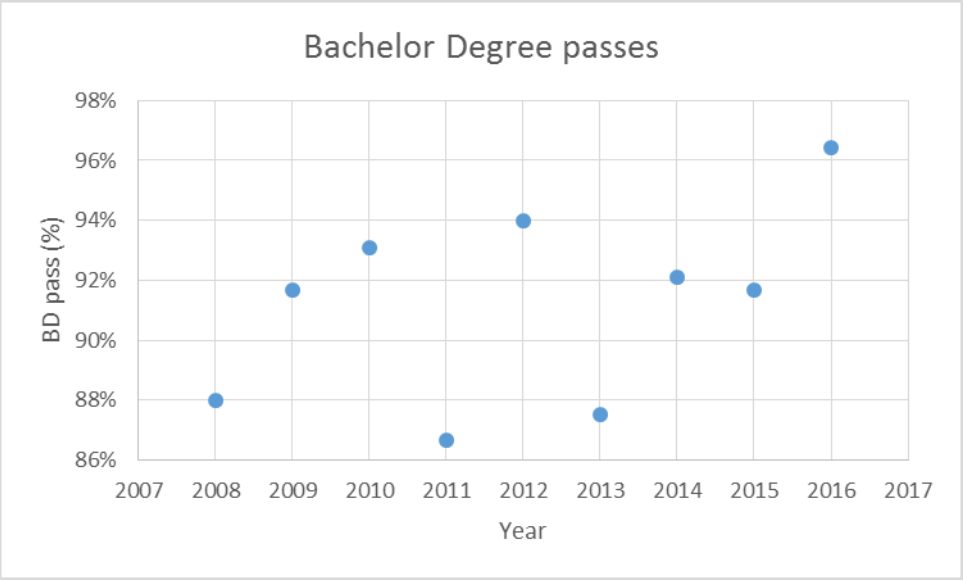
In 2014, the Alberta Schools Board Association voted unanimously in supporting a motion calling on the government to drop the weight of diploma exams from 50% to 30%. As is the case in the South African context, where the NSC exam weighting is 75%, there are always opponents and proponents to this discussion. There are many points to ponder like:

Do exams on a full year of work cause students to review ALL the course content, which reinforces learning?
OR
Does stress induced by such high stakes negatively affect performance on those exams?

There are many other, perhaps even more important points to ponder, but Oakhill is currently a pawn in the system that requires a 75/25 split between exam and school based assessment marks. Fortunately, in the Canadian context, in March 2015, the Canadian government decided to make this change as requested by ASBA. A change that perhaps is required in South Africa. More importantly, our students continue to adapt to the demands of the lopsided weighting and must be commended for their efforts.

We are delighted to announce that the 2016 Matric group have produced their best set of results in the FET phase of school. At a time when we focus on results it is important to remember that it is more about the quality of the results than the results themselves. As evidence to this claim, the Class of 2016 has the highest percentage of Bachelor Degree passes (27 out of the 28 candidates) when compared to Oakhill's recent history (since 2008, if not before) and the IEB statistics (87.6%). This is a dazzling 96.4% of our students (Graph 1). Not to be outdone, the other student achieved a Diploma pass and improved drastically from the Prelim to Final results (a noteworthy achievement in itself). This means that the entire Class of 2016 can go on to complete tertiary study in 2017 and beyond. Each year, each Matric class have their own narrative and this is perhaps the start of the 2016 narrative.

Graph 1: Bachelor Degree passes



If you are not a Parent of a Matric student we would encourage you to analyse these results and discuss them with your children. At a time of turbulence in the local education market it is important to remember that schools are about people and Oakhill strives to employ the best possible teachers and these results are a testament to them and their passion for the young men and women in their care. Oakhill is developing a

reputation for academic rigour, excellence and a growth mind-set embodied by self-discipline and diligent hard work. Our students continue on to University with the confidence and skills to succeed. We are fortunate to be welcoming 41 new Grade 8's for 2017 and if you choose to continue into the College phase of our school you will be assured and encouraged that your son or daughter will be able to achieve anything they set their minds to in this energetic and forward-thinking environment.

A total of 49 subject distinctions were achieved out of a class of 28 pupils. This ratio of 1.75 distinctions per candidate in-line with what the Class of 2016 has been achieving over the course of the last 3 years. There is no doubting that some of our students will be disappointed after having narrowly missed out on a Level 7 result in one or two subjects, the group as a whole can be proud of this return. As can be seen in Table 1 below, although the number of Level 7s (previously an A result) has been constant, the return on the Level 6s and 5s has increased dramatically over the 3 year period. In our opinion, this is the "hidden gem" in the 2016 results. It speaks to the growth and development of the students in the 3-year period, but also the dedication of the teachers and quality of education on offer. It goes without saying that we would like to increase the conversion rate from 6s to 7s and this is an ongoing pursuit.

What is encouraging is that **82% of our candidates received at least one 'A' symbol**. 46% received two or more, 18% received three or more, **11% achieved 5 or more distinction**s. This certainly gives future matriculants and their parents the assurance that, should their children put in the effort they are capable of achieving the results they deserve at Oakhill.

Table 1: Levels achieved in all subjects

	2014 (30 Gr 10s)			2015 (30 Gr 11s)			2016 (28 Gr 12s)		
	7s	6s	5s	7s	6s	5s	7s	6s	5s
Distinctions per candidate	1.77	1.27	1.57	1.80	1.50	1.67	1.75	1.96	2.07
Number of Level 7s	53			54			49		
Number of Level 7s & 6s	91			99			104		
Number of Level 7s, 6s & 5s	138			149			162		

In a similar vein, when taking a closer look at the number of Aggregates in Table 2, a similar trend can be seen (expected). Level 7 aggregates (or 'A' aggregates) stay constant, but there is a marked improvement in the Level 6 aggregates and an associated slight decrease in Level 5 aggregates. It is pleasing to note that 89% of the Class of 2016 have achieved either a Level 7 or 6 or 5 aggregate.

Table 2: Aggregate results

	AGGREGATES		
	2014	2015	2016
Number of Level 7s	10%	10%	11%
Number of Level 6s	13%	13%	39%
Number of Level 5s	37%	50%	39%
Number of Level 7s	10%	10%	11%
Number of Level 7s & 6s	23%	23%	50%
Number of Level 7s, 6s & 5s	60%	73%	89%

Our top achievers are listed below, but special mention must be made of Louis Maarsingh (our Dux) and Jess Gebhard, who both achieved six distinctions and aggregates over 80%. They are followed closely by Nic Reid with five distinctions, also achieving an aggregate in excess of 80%.

All three students epitomise the model Oakhillian. They are sensitive; polite; courageous; considerate; resilient and involved in a myriad of activities at the school. Most of all they are humble and modest.

Our subject averages for 2016 not only compare favourably with the IEB national averages but in the majority of cases they are on a par with the national averages. More impressively, although this is just the start of this process, when one analyses Oakhill's 3-year average, the majority of our subject averages are better than the IEB average. This is indicative of the quality education on offer at Oakhill.

Table 3: 3-year average (Oakhill vs IEB)

	Accounting	Afrikaans	Business Studies	CAT	Dramatic Arts	English	Geography	History	IT	Life Orientation	Life Sciences	Maths Literacy	Mathematics	Music	Physical Science	Visual Arts
OAKHILL	65.8	58.2	63.0	60.2	72.9	68.6	67.2	66.6	81.0	76.4	71.1	80.1	65.3	79.1	72.3	86.9
IEB	62.6	63.3	63.3	59.6	75.1	68.8	65.3	67.9	69.3	73.3	68.1	75.4	64.0	72.7	63.2	69.3

As is always the case, a few special mentions are in order with regard to the 2016 results:

The Information Technology average of 87% is well-above that of the IEB average. These results have once again been the product of the excellent guidance that students receive from Diana Barnard.

Our Visual Art results were outstanding with 87.5% of our candidates achieving a Level 7. The Visual Art subject average for 2016 is 86.8% and congratulations must go to Amy Nuttall for these superb results.

The Physical Sciences average of 77.8% is 14% higher than that of the IEB. Ilze Schoeman must be applauded for her exacting-methods and detailed approach which have garnered these superb results.

Last, and certainly not least, a final special mention must go to Hannalie Viljoen. With a return of thirteen Level 7s and an average of 80.7% for Maths Literacy is merely the tip of the proverbial iceberg (the most for any subject). Put into context, this class only achieved three Level 7s with an average of 70.9% at the end of their Grade 11 year. This turn-around is astounding and the students, as well as Hannalie, can be proud of their achievements.

Our academic departments, under the astute leadership of the Heads of Department, have developed a consistent and trusted work-ethic and prepared our pupils well. As always, we do not want to rest on our laurels and our academic departments have identified room for further improvement and we will be focusing on specific issues in 2017.

Top Achievers in 2016

Six Distinctions

Louis Maarsingh (Afrikaans, IT, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Visual Arts)

Jessica Gebhard (Afrikaans, Dramatic Arts, Life Sciences, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Physical Sciences)

Five Distinctions

Nicolas Reid (IT, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Visual Arts)

Three Distinctions

Caira Bayman (Afrikaans, IT, Physical Sciences)

Amy Lupton (History, Life Orientation, Mathematical Literacy)

Top 1% of candidates per subject TBC

We have a student in the top 1% of candidates per subject nationally and we congratulate him wholeheartedly:

Visual Arts: Louis Maarsingh

Congratulations to these Oakhill students on their excellent achievements!

Yours in academics (and on behalf of the Academic staff)
Andrew Browne