

100% pass rate for Southdowns

The 80 matric candidates at Southdowns College in Centurion did their school proud by achieving a 100% pass rate in the IEB national senior certificate exams.

They also got a total of 113 distinctions – an average of 1.4 As per candidate. The class also achieved

a 82.5% bachelor degree pass rate and a 17.5% diploma pass rate.

Karsten Seeger got the highest number of distinctions with nine As, in English, German, French, maths, advanced maths, life orientation, physical science, accounting and business studies.

Seeger, who is fascinated with economics, markets and politics, plans to study finance in the US. Two other pupils, Tamaryn-Rose Robinson and Jamie-Anne Geary, got eight distinctions each and three pupils got six As.

– *Citizen reporter*



KARSTEN SEEGER. 9 As.



TAMARYN-ROSE ROBINSON. 8 As.



JAMIE-ANNE GEARY. 8 As.

City's brainboxes celebrate success

Top IEB candidates all aim to reach the top

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PRETORIA'S top academic achievers in this year's IEB matric class will be gifting the capital with future doctors, engineers and actuaries.

Woodhill College, Hatfield Christian School, Southdowns College and St Mary's Diocesan School for Girls (DSG) are among the schools in Pretoria with the top academic pupils in the country.

Hatfield Christian College scored a trio of top achievers with Tayla Baron, Christine Francis and Louisa Pelsler who obtained a total of 22 distinctions.

Reinhard Pelsler from Woodhill College, along with the three girls, were named in an outstanding list of pupils who achieved within the top 5% of pupils with six or more subjects in the country.

Tayla, who will study medicine next year in the University of Pretoria (UP), said she had to sacrifice time spent out with her friends and watching TV in order to make sure she studied enough for her exams.

"I used to take my schoolbag with

me during school hikes so during the bonfire I could sit and study," Tayla said.

Christine said working hard throughout the year prepared her for the final exams.

"After preparing quite well for preliminaries, studying for finals was easy because I already had my notes. It really is a continual thing. If you work hard throughout the year, then it makes things easier," she said.

Louisa, who is on holiday in Plettenberg Bay with her family, said it was a difficult year and she had to work very hard to achieve the marks that she wanted.

She, Tayla and Christine are all best friends and throughout their high school careers, took turns being the top student in their class. "There is some friendly competition, but it was good because it helped us do better and get better marks."

Tayla and Christine each obtained seven distinctions, while Louisa got eight.

Louisa and Tayla will be studying medicine at UP while Christine will study actuarial science at the same university.

Reinhard Pelsler (no relation to

Louisa) is a devoted tennis player and was able to juggle both the sport and his school work and excel at both. "I plan on studying actuarial science at UP and when I finish I would like to take a year off and see if I can play tennis professionally," he said. The Roger Federer fan said after consulting with his parents and his coach, he decided to put school first to make sure he had something to fall back on should his tennis career fail or unexpectedly end.

Reuben Nebbe and Hannah Dredge, from Woodhill College, Karsten Seeger and Jamie-Anne Geary, from Southdowns College, and Mignon Kriel and Elizabeth du Preez, from St Mary's DSG, were commended as being in the top 5% of pupils in five subjects in the country and scored 80% or more for life orientation.

Reuben said his secrets to success were humility, faith, hard work and many prayers. His career plans were to study actuarial science or accounting at UP and either become a chartered accountant, or an investment specialist within the actuarial field. "Being head girl was a role that challenged me and pushed me out of my comfort zone but left me with



Karsten Seeger



Louisa Pelsler



Reuben Nebbe



Hannah Dredge

beautiful memories," Hannah said.

She said she would study electronic engineering at UP. "I want to become a biomedical engineer and I may later branch into biological patents," she said. Jamie-Anne and Karsten together achieved 17 distinctions. Karsten was described as a dedicated student who set high

standards for himself and worked very hard. He is planning on studying finance in the US after spending a gap year in Germany.

Jamie-Anne will study accounting at Stellenbosch University.

Mignon, from St Mary's DSG, has her career path well planned out. "I will study for a Bachelor of