



# English Olympiad

**Media Release – July 2016**

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## **WINNERS OF THE 2016 DE BEERS ENGLISH OLYMPIAD ANNOUNCED**

The Grahamstown Foundation and the South African Council for English Education (SACEE) announced the rank order of the Top 20 English Olympiad winners at an official prize giving ceremony held during National Schools Festival in Grahamstown on Thursday 14 July 2016. The rank order of the Top 100 was announced in a media release and made available on the English Olympiad website, directly after the ceremony.

The English Olympiad is an annual English competition that drew 8000 candidates from 380 national and international schools in 2016. These included schools from throughout South Africa in addition to schools in Lesotho, Namibia and Botswana. This prestigious competition has run since 1976 and is organised jointly by the Grahamstown Foundation and SACEE. It has been generously sponsored by De Beers since 1985.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of March this year, entrants from Grades 10 to 12, wrote the three-hour examination.

The theme was, “A journey into darkness: Excerpts from stories exploring the darker side of human nature”. The anthology, entitled *The Darkness in Man’s Heart*, was expertly compiled by SACEE. It consisted of excerpts and stories from narrative prose of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries, such as *Frankenstein* - Mary Shelley, *Hop-Frog* - Edgar Allen Poe, *The Turn of the Screw* - Henry James, *Heart of Darkness* - Joseph Conrad and *This Book Betrays my Brother* by Kagiso Lesego Molope.

Redhill High School’s candidates, Jonathan Hart and Nicholas Makins, both achieved Top 15 positions, as did two candidates from Rustenburg High School for Girls, Hannah Clayton and Alexandra Wittenburg-Scott. Congratulations are due to Rynhardt de Bruyn, from Helpmekaar Kollege in Gauteng, who was a Top 15 winner last year and has made it into the Top 15 once again in 2016. Molly Jackson from Deutsche Internationale Schule, Johannesburg, is carrying on a family tradition of Top 15 winners, as her proud mother, Julia Le Roux, had been in the Top 15 in 1991.

Chief Examiner, Anne Peltason, believes that one of her markers put her findings quite precisely: “The 2016 Olympiad anthology, *The Darkness in Man’s Heart*, was generally very well received, although the texts were, with the exception of *This Book Betrays My Brother*,

not easy. The study guide, however, as well as the introductory and linking notes between the excerpts were clear and certainly did the job of providing the background necessary for the learners. It is commendable that the study guide was available to ALL learners this year.”

**Speaking at the prize-giving event, De Beers Consolidated Mines (DBCM) business development unit manager Tsepo Monaedi shared his working insights, “The new business development work I do with De Beers Zimele is in the rural areas of the provinces where we operate. Here it is more difficult to get a business start-up off the ground than in urban areas. There are challenges in communicating business plans and even in effectively selling great products or services one may offer so as to realise commercial value. “**

**“I think as English speakers we can all have a positive impact by sharing our own abilities with friends and fellow learners. Tactfully offering to edit together with a colleague their proposal or by respectfully correcting poor English can do something to improve language skills. We are Africans and we are also in a huge global village and to be relevant we need to nurture our mother tongue and an international language as a ‘tool’ to speak beyond our fence. So might I suggest we each become language activists? See what you can do, you may start an African movement, call it say: “Empowerment English for all!”**

Dr Diana Ayliff, the Academic Co-ordinator, commented that: “The English Olympiad is about celebrating the English language with the emphasis on encouraging reading, discussion and thought. It is not about elitism but about participation. There are wonderful prizes to be won, and our aim is to get people reading, in an age where the language of SMS’s and TV soapies dominates.”

**Phillip Barton, CEO of DBCM, the long- term supporter of the English Olympiad stated: “This year a record total of 430 candidates were entered as English Development Initiative (EDI) candidates from nine schools in De Beers operational areas.” The EDI programme is a De Beers partnership with the Free State University Schools Change Project and the Kimberley based Maths and Science Leadership Academy providing tutoring programmes for learners.**

**He added, “the EDI is an expansive and inclusive component of the Olympiad, practically helping learners in schools in the mining communities associated with De Beers enjoy the benefits of the Olympiad and increasing confidence in the use of English in these communities. Importantly this support is also adding some fun by providing an opportunity for learners to compete at a national level.”**

Prizes awarded are as follows:

a. The Top 3 candidates received R32 000, R29 500 and R27 000 respectively.

b. The Top 15 candidates are invited to attend the National Schools Festival in Grahamstown sponsored by De Beers. The English Olympiad prize-giving ceremony is held during this Festival where the rank order of the Top 20 winners is announced.

c. Learners who are ranked between the 4th and 20th positions will receive cash prizes, books and/or book vouchers.

d. The Top 50 candidates receive free tuition scholarships for their first year of study at Rhodes University, immediately upon successful completion of the matriculation examinations, and subject to meeting the university's entry requirements.

e. All candidates who complete the paper with sufficient comment receive certificates indicating a classified evaluation ranging from Participation to Gold.

### **2016 De Beers English Olympiad Top 20 in Rank Order**

<b>No</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>School</b>
1	Ms	Hannah	Clayton	Rustenburg High School for Girls
2	Mr	Adam	Butler	Carter High School
3	Ms	Helen	Dugmore	Westerford High School
4	Ms	Nokulunga	Dlamini	St. John's DSG
5	Ms	Caroline	Robertson	Herschel Girls' School
6	Ms	Alexandra	Wittenburg-Scott	Rustenburg High School for Girls
7	Ms	Joseanne	Capelo	Durban Girls' High School
8	Mr	Rynhard	de Bruyn	Helpmekaar Kollege
9	Mr	Jonathan	Hart	Redhill High School
10	Ms	Sarah	Herrington	Maris Stella High School
11	Ms	Molly	Jackson	Deutsche Internationale Schule, Jhb
12	Ms	Sasha-Lee	Morare	Jeppe High School for Girls
13	Ms	Cayley	Jones	Fairmont High School
14	Ms	Rashmika	Singh	Westville Girls' High School
15	Mr	Nicholas	Makins	Redhill High School
16	Mr	Aasif	Bulbulia	St John's College
17	Ms	Emma	Brunner	Pearson High School
18	Ms	Calista	Reddy	Reddam House, Bedfordview
19	Ms	Larissa	Tredoux	Rhenish Girls' High School
20	Ms	Lily	van der Merwe	Eunice Girls' High School

*Ends*

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*A complete list of the Top 100 in rank order is available on the following website:*

*[www.SAenglisholympiad.org.za](http://www.SAenglisholympiad.org.za) immediately following the announcement at 11h00 on Thursday 14 July 2016.*