



DE BEERS
GROUP OF COMPANIES

English Olympiad

Dear Principal,

We are currently calling for entries from schools for the 2018 English Olympiad, which will be written next year on **Tuesday 6 March 2018**.

We warmly encourage your school to enter learners who will be in Grades 10-12 next year. The theme for 2018 is **“War and Peace”** and the prescribed anthology is entitled ***We will remember them***.

The English Olympiad is a joint initiative of the South African Council for English Education (SACEE) and the Grahamstown Foundation. The themes and examinations are designed to encourage learners to develop and express valuable opinions, as part of the conversation needed to build a nation of critical thinkers.

The English Olympiad encourages self-study, providing learners with an opportunity to engage in an exercise outside the school curriculum. In order to achieve excellence, candidates are encouraged to produce essays of a high standard, drawing on all their creative and scholastic skills to prepare and fully engage in the exam.

It would be most helpful if schools accommodate the English Olympiad examination date. This involves:

- a) including the examination date, Tuesday 8 March 2018, in the school calendar;
- b) setting aside after-school study time for learners to engage with the Anthology in groups;
- c) encouraging learners to adhere to their commitment to write the exam, and facilitating this activity;
- d) ensuring that other activities are not prioritised over the English Olympiad once a commitment to enter has been made.

The English Olympiad is recognised as being an excellent indicator of success at tertiary level. A former Vice-chancellor, Dr Derek Henderson, commented from the stage at our prize-giving in Grahamstown, that a good mark for English in Grade 12 was the best indicator of success in all fields of study at Rhodes University. Rhodes University continues to support this opinion by offering the Top 50 winning Candidates first-year tuition scholarships, subject to their meeting the University's entrance criteria.

Candidates who enter the English Olympiad receive the prescribed anthology in November if they have entered timeously. They are encouraged to read the text during December in order to participate in any seminars and discussion groups their teachers initiate over a 6-8 week preparation time during the first term.

We humbly request your support in encouraging your learners to take this opportunity to enter the English Olympiad, and to **guide teachers in supervising this process**.

We look forward to your enthusiastic support, which will be greatly valued.

With kind regards,

Ms Prarochna Rama

English Olympiad Officer

Tel: 046 603 1145 / 046 603 1107

Email: olympiad@foundation.org.za

Website: www.saenglisholympiad.org.za