

## Media Release – 10 July 2008

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Following this FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### WINNERS OF THE 2008 DE BEERS ENGLISH OLYMPIAD ANNOUNCED

The Grahamstown Foundation has announced the top 100 De Beers English Olympiad winners at an official prize giving ceremony held in Grahamstown on 10 July.

The De Beers English Olympiad is a national English competition that attracts more than 5000 entries each year. The competition is organised jointly by the Grahamstown Foundation and the South African Council for English Education (SACEE).

The 2008 candidates between grades 10 and 12 from South Africa and neighbouring states sat a three-hour long examination in March. The theme this year was '*The Law on stage*', using an anthology made up of extracts from three plays and one television script, the focus being on drama. The anthology, entitled "***Court in the Act***", was compiled by SACEE.

In 1976 Eastern Cape branch of SACEE implemented the first English Olympiad. The competition was open only to candidates in the Eastern Cape and drew 119 entrants, with a first prize of R50. In 1977 the English Olympiad was opened to the whole of the Cape Province and by 1978 it went national. De Beers came on board as the main sponsor in 1985.

"De Beers is proud of its long association with the English Olympiad," says Tracey Peterson, De Beers' Corporate Social Responsibility Specialist in South Africa. "There is no better investment than in young people because they shine a light showing us to a brighter future."

The aim of the Olympiad is to enrich learners through the study of English and to encourage critical thinking and creative writing.

"One of the aims of the Olympiad is to create a learning experience which will enhance the candidates' ability to work alone and with their peers. We want candidates to think for themselves and push boundaries to produce something both relevant and unexpected. If we are achieving this, then the project remains worthwhile." – Andrew Renard, Chief Examiner of the De Beers English Olympiad.

Prizes awarded in rank order are as follows:

- a. The top three candidates are treated to a literary tour of the United Kingdom in December 2008
- b. The top 15 candidates are invited to attend the National Schools Festival in Grahamstown free of charge. The De Beers English Olympiad prize-giving ceremony is held during this Festival, and the top 100 winners is announced in order
- c. Learners who are ranked between the fourth and 20th positions will receive cash prizes 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 the university's entry requirements, and
- e. All candidates who complete the paper will receive certificates indicating a classified evaluation.

## 2008 De Beers Top 20 Rank Order

Name	School
1. Alexia Reedy	Crawford College, Pretoria
2. Kelly Robbins	Alexander Road High School
3. Cameron Cordell	Grey High School, Port Elizabeth
4. Daniella Da Camara	St Cyprian's School
5. Tansy Bensusan	St Andrew's School for Girls
6. Andrew Tudhope	St Peter's College
7. Daniel Kaliski	Herzlia High School
8. Siddharthiya Pillay	Westville Girls High School
9. Bronwyn White	Brescia House
10. Emily Vermeulen	Bergvliet High School
11. Simone Pearce	Potchefstroom High School for Girls
12. Chantalle Deere	Clarendon Girls High School
13. Ashmitha Ramgathi	New West Secondary School
14. Chloé Hirschman	Brescia House
15. Pratishta Haridass	Epworth High School
16. Ian Caister	Maritzburg College
17. Mariechen Puchert	Clarendon Girls High School
18. Alexandra Pearce	St Mary's DSG, Pretoria
19. Kieran van Bosch	Woodlands International College
20. Marché Arends	Bergvliet High School

-ENDS-

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*A Complete list of the top 100 in alphabetical order is available on the following website:*  
<http://schoolfest.foundation.org.za>