



Magazine EDUCATION

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The Business of Education for School Decision Makers



Celebrating teachers



Online schooling



Young Math whiz



e-Sports in education



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Editor's Column

A new look to usher in the New Year

There is an adage in media that warns against changing the design and layout of a newspaper or magazine. Especially one that is well-established and was distinctly recognisable for some years.

And so we did it – changed the look of *The Mighty Pen EDUCATION magazine*.

Okay not that radically, actually it is more of an 'adjustment' to the viewing medium. The magazine still retains its distinct and professional look, along with the regular sections and topics. And the page layout is still very much what our readers are used to.

But it's precisely because our readers have for some time now been wanting a more 'reader-friendly' view of the magazine on their laptops, tablets, phones and PC screens.

So we switched from our two page spread print-look layout to a web page view layout.

This is easier to navigate and read on screen, with single pages, easy scroll and no inside covers. We will still continue to produce our high-quality glossy print version of the magazine for display and handout at the various education exhibitions, shows and conferences.

So we listened to our readers and adapted accordingly. The school principals and managers, education officials and teachers who read the magazine receive it directly imbedded in their email inbox.

There are no attachments, no soliciting of clicks on to our website (our website is really just an archive 'bookshelf' for the magazines) and no need for our readers to follow links and landing pages.

The magazine is "delivered" for free onto their screens. We hope this new easy-read layout makes the content more accessible and enjoyable.

And yes, this is the first one. So it is a pilot project – a prototype. To our more meticulous, eagle-eyed and pedantic readers – please do find anything we have overlooked, missed, or if you feel something is not up to standard, please do let me know.

Blessings for the New in education

Janos Bozsik
Editor

eSports a winner in SA schools

While South Africa has been lagging behind the rest of the world in terms of tech advancement and trends, a leading private school group has been making strides in the development of tech curricula and, specifically, in the exponentially growing field of eSports.



Nadia Nell, Academic Advisor: ADvTECH Schools, says Minecraft has been a key element in the group's EdTech offering for some time now.

"eSports provides the opportunity to use Minecraft in a competitive environment in which teams collaborate strategically, utilising shared knowledge and combined talents to overcome obstacles, solve puzzles and riddles, and complete challenges," says Nell.

"This extends the academic offering beyond the classroom, giving students a space to apply the skills they have learnt in class in a fast-paced and exciting arena," she says.

ADvTECH's Crawford Schools recently dominated the field at the RGB Gaming Minecraft stage at ComicCon 2022, with Crawford Lonehill winning the event, and Crawford Sandton placing third. Sixteen schools and 64 competitors battled it out in front of hundreds of spectators over two days before ADvTECH's schools took 2 out of 3 top spots.

"While we have made progress in introducing eSports in our schools, more schools will in coming years start introducing this exciting activity, in line with international trends and the growth of the industry," says Nell.

"This is because despite the exciting and exhilarating nature of eSports, it is the perfect vehicle for developing and nurturing the kinds of skills that will be required from future innovators. It is therefore not merely a nice-to-have activity for students interested in tech and gaming, but instead a key component of a serious EdTech offering."

Nell says Minecraft Education Edition eSports incorporate the development of the following skills: Communication, Collaboration, Planning, Strategic Thinking, Creative Thinking, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Responsive and Adaptive Thinking, and Metacognition.

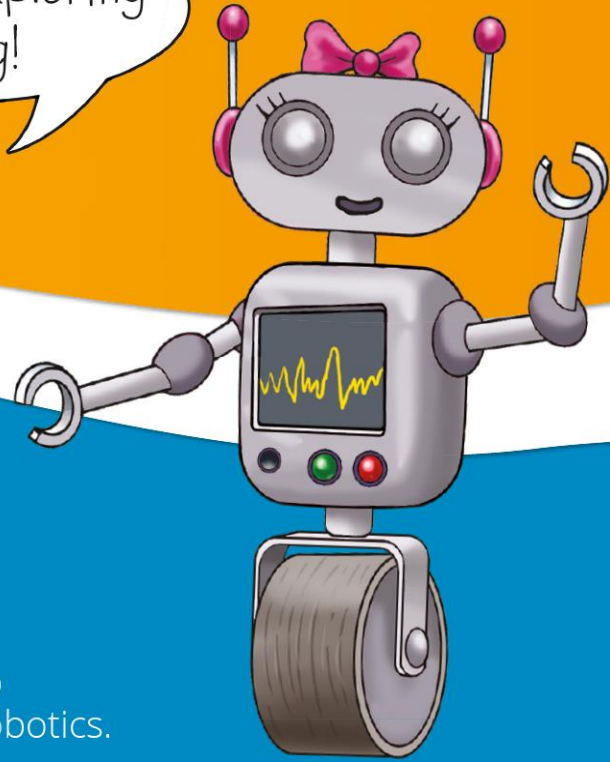
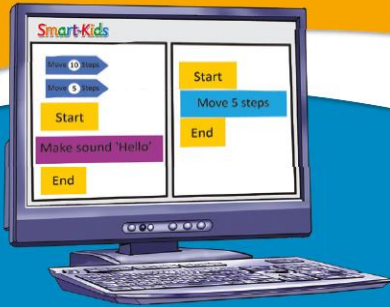
In addition to developing these skills, Digital Wellness in students across eSports is also a key focus.

RGB gaming highlights that "eSports has gained increased popularity over the past decades and has become synonymous with vital parts of youth culture, creating significant opportunities within the education industry to be leveraged as a tool for learning and skill development.

"In addition, eSports provides the platform upon which students can develop STEM skills or support more effective STEM learning. For example, students who are enthusiastic about esports often dig into their games trying to improve their skills and performance.

They tend to try and understand the data or try and dive into team mechanics to increase win rate. This process itself is a way of learning. That's why there are more schools using eSports as a learning platform."

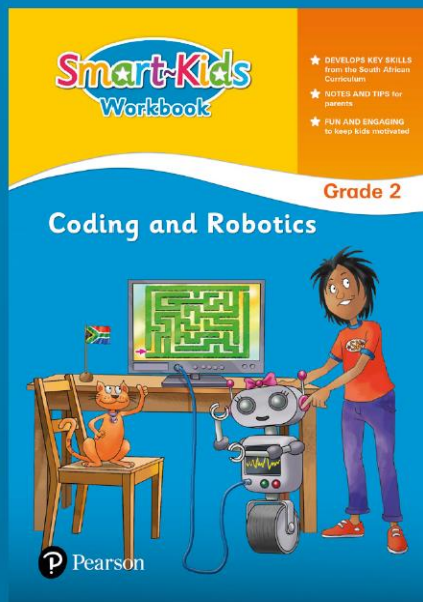
Have fun exploring coding!



Meet Robo!

Robo is the new Smart-Kids character who will help teach children the basic principles of coding and robotics.

Aligned to the draft coding and robotics curriculum released by the Department of Basic Education, the Smart-Kids Coding & Robotics Workbook for Grade 2 consists of write-in worksheets that can be used by teachers to introduce the subject to young learners, or by parents who want their child to learn and practice the skills required for coding and robotics.



Workbook features:

- One activity per page with clear instructions
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- Coding blocks for additional practice
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Download FREE worksheets at smart-kids.pearson.com

Online school checklist

what's best for your child



Colin Northmore
Principal of Evolve Online School

In the wake of the lockdowns, parents increasingly considered online schooling a viable alternative to traditional in-person schooling. As a result, several new schools opened their (virtual) doors to prospective students. However, parents don't always know how to determine these schools' quality objectively. It has now become clear that over the past year, many schools which on the surface appeared of a high standard were unable to fulfil their promises to students.

"It shouldn't come as a surprise that choosing an online school requires the same kind of due diligence from parents as choosing an in-person school would," says Colin Northmore, Principal of Evolve Online School.

"However, there is still a misconception that online schools and their offerings are comparable because they use similar technology, stick to a curriculum, require a child to have a device and some self-discipline, and from there, it's smooth sailing. The reality could not be further from the truth, as good online schools must offer much more than a curriculum and some tutoring from behind a screen," he says.

Northmore says many young South African students who started online schooling this year are finding themselves in a difficult situation right now, after having signed up with online schools whose marketing did not live up to their delivery, and with parents now trying to remedy the problem so that their children don't need to repeat the year.

"Online school is a great option for students who work better on their own, families who are mobile and need to ensure consistency of education while travelling, and so forth – there are many reasons for choosing to attend an online school. But we implore parents to carefully weigh different schools against the objective factors that can mean the difference between success and failure," he says.

Some of the complaints that have arisen over the past year as online schooling became more mainstream include overwhelming workloads, lack of communication, lack of student support, logistical incompetence on the part of the institution, and sub-standard materials.

When investigating and comparing online schools, parents should ensure they are happy with a school's offering and competence in all the following:

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REGISTRATION & ACCREDITATION

The most basic first check is to ensure that the school is registered and accredited by the relevant authorities. The registration is difficult to check because the Department needs a policy for online school registration. Without this certainty, parents can check if the school is a stand-alone or part of a group of schools. They can also find out if the school is registered with an examining body like the Independent Exams Board of Cambridge International. Registration with an examining body should be non-negotiable.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, REPUTATION, TRACK RECORD & INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Is the online school part of a school group with a proven track record of academic excellence in its brick-and-mortar schools? Do their students have a reputation for excelling and thriving online and in-person schools across the board? These are essential questions to ask to determine whether a new school is exploiting the growing demand for online schools or whether they have a history, track record and the requisite institutional support to deliver quality education. Can an online school demonstrate that it has translated its historical track record in the in-person space to the online area? Reputation is a crucial consideration, given that sometimes reputable institutions have yet to make the transition successfully. Ask for evidence and speak to current parents and students.

LOGISTICAL COMPETENCE

Can the school deliver assessments, lectures, and materials timeously and stick to the annual calendar without floundering around? Online study requires a great deal of discipline and independence. The last thing a student needs is to have their progress hampered and frustrated by an institution logistically incapable of delivering a consistent quality offering.

ROUNDED EDUCATION/ SCREEN TIME vs GREEN TIME

Is the school committed to the whole child and a rounded education? Simply being a delivering and testing factory is not going to cut it.

An excellent online school will incorporate **diagnostic testing** to determine the exact level of proficiency of a student before placement and during the educational journey; **asynchronous learning** so that learners can move through content at their own pace and according to their own proficiency, with direct access to teachers who will facilitate extra activation classes.

This includes **synchronous learning** where students will also be able to attend live interactive lessons, and **socialisation opportunities** with academies, studios and day camps so that students can mingle with their peers and balance their screen time **with green time**.

“When investigating an online school, parents should take heed of their experience dealing with the school during the initial phases. They should also continue to interrogate all claims, as promises are easily made but hard to keep in the online education environment,” says Northmore.

Are you confident that they are responsive and accessible after dealing with the school?
Are you confident your child can access additional support easily and routinely?

Online schooling is much more than a delivery of the curriculum. An online school should be focused on helping students to grow, develop and perform at their best academically while also supporting them to grow into confident and competent members of society.

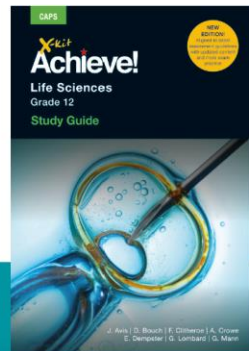
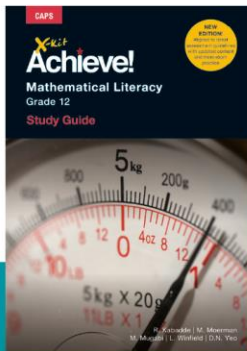
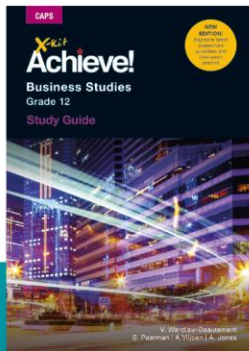
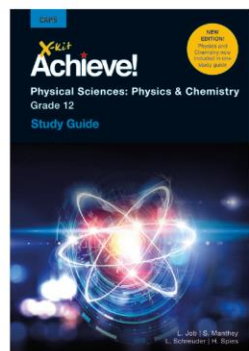
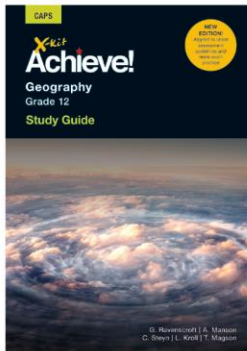
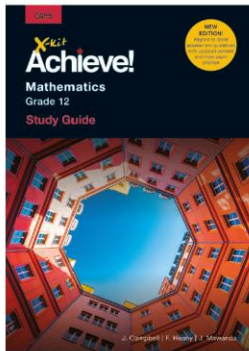


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Supporting high school learners to achieve their best.

The content is organised into units according to CAPS and clear, step-by-step explanations help learners understand concepts. Worked examples, summary tables, highlighted keywords and definitions, and annotated diagrams enhance learner's understanding. Learners can practise, assess and improve their skills with graded exercises and answers.



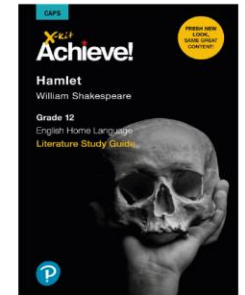
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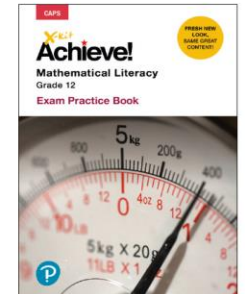
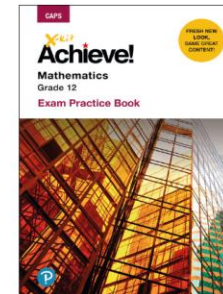
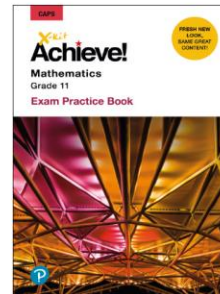
Study Guides

X-kit Achieve Literature Study Guides make nationally prescribed novels, dramas, poetry and short stories accessible to learners. They provide insight into the context and analyses of themes.



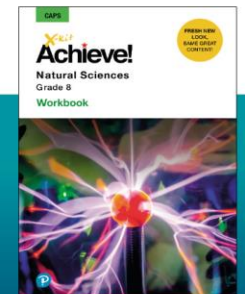
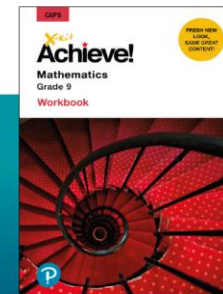
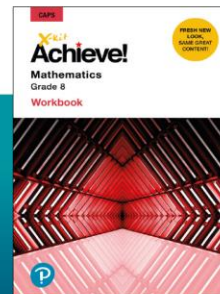
Exam Practice Books

X-kit Achieve Exam Practice Books focus on preparing learners to write exams. They include CAPS-compliant exam papers with appropriate cognitive levels and content weighting.



Workbooks

Filled with worked examples, exercises and practice test for each term, the X-kit Achieve Workbook enables Grade 8 and 9 learners to practise and apply their skills, improving their results.



Celebrating teachers - every day



The PMET Team

The team at The Marang Education Trust, a SACE Accredited research and professional development and support organisation which is part of Pearson South Africa's corporate social impact initiative

Doctors, firefighters, presidents, artists, and all other professions under the sun usually share the same foundation – they were all groomed by teachers. As teachers, we devote our lives to imparting knowledge to others and encourage learners to reach for the stars and follow their dreams.

Every October, we celebrate [National Teachers' Appreciation Month](#). In a [statement](#) emphasising the importance of teachers, Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga said, "You have become our hope to produce and harness future leaders. You are mothers of all professions from whose hands every country is built."

Dr. Nadeen Moolla, an educational psychologist who manages research and development at Marang Education Trust, Pearson, said: "I have worked in the education sector for many years, and I have seen first-hand how the teaching profession may seem simple and straightforward, however, as teachers, we often occupy various roles, including mentors, coaches, and counsellors. All these roles call on different skill sets, requiring teachers to operate with ultra-high levels of emotional intelligence."

Dr. Moolla says a recent challenge that teachers across the globe faced was Covid-19.

According to the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, school closures were "an unprecedented risk to children's education, protection, and well-being." The school closures also highlighted the growing digital divide in South Africa. During the pandemic, some teachers and learners were not equipped to shift to online/virtual learning. This was a time when all sectors needed to come together to help bridge the divide.

Partnerships between the government and educational institutions allowed for unique solutions to emerge to address teachers' challenges. The Marang Education Trust, in partnership with Pearson, does this by employing former teachers to make sure that schools in rural areas have enough capacity to facilitate the implementation of the Department of Basic Education's policies.

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These former teachers, dedicate their lives to training teachers in rural areas and teaching them new ways of delivering content and dealing with learners in a way that facilitates more successful learning outcomes.

Nondumiso Mnyamana, a former teacher who now works as a regional supervisor for the [Pearson Marang Education Trust \(PMET\)](#), says, "I contribute to the lives and work of teachers through the work that I do in schools. Having been a teacher for many years, I know the hard work teachers put into shaping the lives of learners. Supporting teachers on curriculum differentiation, mathematics, and reading to learn is gratifying as I get to work with all the teachers in all the subjects. It is, thus, heartwarming to interact with and touch the lives of each teacher."

Echoing Mnyamana's sentiments, Thandiwe Mthimunye, Leadership and Management facilitator at PMET says, "I feel privileged to know that the work we're doing at PMET is supporting communities and furthering quality education. The work we do benefits teachers, school management teams, parents and most importantly learners."

Like Mnyamana and Mthimunye, I am a former teacher who understands the value of teaching, and my way of celebrating teachers is by paying it forward. Our work in Marang Education Trust aims to show that other teachers can enhance their practice and be motivated to continue to give their best and give of themselves wholeheartedly to the young people in their care.

This Teacher's Appreciation Month, show the teachers you know some extra love, and tell them how much you appreciate them or how they have impacted on you. All teachers are superheroes and should be respected because they are the ones who truly shape the future of our country.

Dr. Nadeen Moolla is an educational psychologist who manages research and development at Marang Education Trust, Pearson South Africa's non-profit social impact arm involved in teacher and school development in township and rural schools.

A global event

The theme for World Teachers' Day 2022 is "The transformation of education begins with teachers".

World Teachers' Day is held annually on 5 October to celebrate all teachers around the globe.

It commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, which sets benchmarks regarding the rights and responsibilities of teachers, and standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, and teaching and learning conditions.

World Teachers' Day has been celebrated since 1994.

It is a day to celebrate how teachers are transforming education but also to reflect on the support they need to fully deploy their talent and vocation, and to rethink the way ahead for the profession globally

World Teachers' Day is co-convened in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF and Education International (EI).

The focus is on showcasing how guaranteeing teachers' decent working conditions, access to professional development opportunities and a recognized professional status is a first step towards more resilient education systems.

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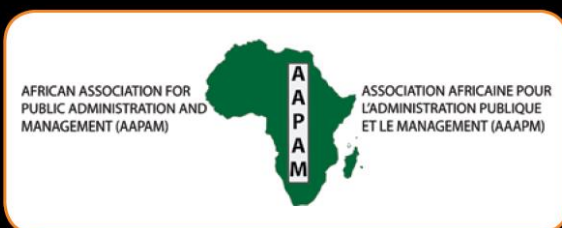
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WINNER of the 2015 Centre for Public Service Innovation Awards (CPSI) for Innovative Use of ICT for Effective Service Delivery



SPHS E-learning project nominated for the African Association for Public Administration and Management Awards (AAPAM)

LEARNERS WHO BENEFITED FROM THE ALATEEN PROGRAMME

Below are some comments from school children in the Alateen programme

(Names are changed to protect members' anonymity)

My daughter has changed so much in the past year since attending Alateen. There's a new confidence, a renewed happiness, and more openness. She has the courage to share in AA meetings, and to engage with people outside of them. She's growing into an amazing person, and I couldn't be prouder of her.

"Proud Mother".

It's amazing how much honesty there can be in Alateen when alcohol is full of lies. *"Maria" age 11.*



Alateen has relieved me of the stress in my life. I have more focus on my schoolwork and I have stopped overthinking everything. I have serenity in my life for the first time as I have stopped worrying about my Dad's drinking and am more confident.

"Jabulani", age 11.

I have been told by my friends & family I am much more relaxed, calmer and more mature. I have been going to Alateen for nearly three years and I don't worry so much about my Mom and am not so negative. *"Lucy" now age 13.*



Alateen has helped me stop worrying about what might happen at home if my parents are drinking and fighting. *"Ray" age 12.*

Alateen has helped me deal with the stress at home and my school marks have improved. I didn't want to go to meetings at first, but now I look forward to the weekend meeting and seeing my friends there.

"Rebecca", age 15.

Before Alateen I found it very difficult to talk to other people at school. Now I feel freer, am much more confident, and understand it's not only my family that has this problem. *"Mark" age 14.*

I used to bottle up my feelings about everything, until my anger would explode. At Alateen I learned a better, calmer way to share discuss any problems with my group. *"Jay" age 16.*



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BENEFITS TO...



MEMBERS

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EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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- Values the input of member companies when determining policies and setting standards

How to ace your Matric exams: expert advice

The Department of Basic Education has released the Grade 12 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination timetable; this means that exams are around the corner. Exam season can be an incredibly stressful time for all learners, especially with the weight of expectation in these economically challenging times. How are learners supposed to cope?

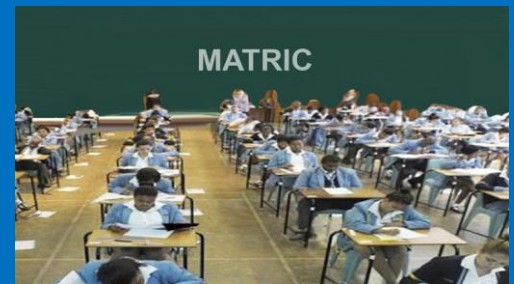
According to Dr Bernadette Aineamani, Director at Pearson South Africa, many learners feel overwhelmed by the amount of information they are required to retain.

“This problem is particularly where a lot of material is covered, learners may not know where to start, and endless amounts of content available simply doesn’t mean that information gets adequately retained or remembered when needed,” says Dr Aineamani,

Dr Aineamani recommends ten ways in which learners can tackle their exams with confidence

1. Be at your exam venue at least 30 minutes before your exam starts.
2. Stay calm and do not panic. Approach every question in a calm way, take deep breaths when you feel overwhelmed.
3. Read the instructions and entire question paper before starting the examination.
4. Read each question carefully to ensure that you understand how to best answer the question.
5. Write neatly.
6. Adhere to the mark allocation of each question. Refrain from giving too much or too little information.
7. Show your workings and calculations in brackets if required.
8. Do not use correction fluid or tippex.
9. Do not leave questions out – even if a question looks unfamiliar, at least try to provide some answers.
10. Remember you are competing with yourself. Do not start panicking when another learner completes the question paper before you do.

“I also encourage learners to take time off to rest and recuperate when needed. It is vital that mental health is looked after because stress and pressure are in abundance while calm and focus are the key to examination success,” advises Dr Aineamani.





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Young Math whiz hopes to uplift SA



A story filled with hope has blossomed at the Moletsane Secondary School in Soweto, Johannesburg. Olebogeng Dintoe has become the top Mathematics achiever in his school, and he is only in grade 8.

The reason for this incredible accomplishment, is that Olebogeng has unwavering support in the subject. His teacher, Mr Arthur Shiba uses 30% of his salary to support students in need each month. He says that teaching is a calling and being on the ground, he gets to see the need. Mr Shiba helps buy uniforms or brings lunch when giving extra lessons on the weekends.

The school principal at Moletsane was previously Mr Shiba's teacher when he was in school. Mr Shiba says that he always felt supported, even though he wasn't the best in the class. He says the very best in him was highlighted and uplifted throughout his schooling career, which set him on his own path to becoming a teacher.

"When I see these kids, I do not see them as grade eights, I see them as the future CEOs, state enterprise managers, entrepreneurs and maybe even the future leaders of the country."

Mr Shiba advises fellow teachers to look beyond the job and to see the good in each child.

Olebogeng "Ole" Dintoe (13) is currently in grade eight at the Moletsane Secondary School. In his first year of high school, he has already gone on to represent his school at the provincial level in Mathematics.

Through entering local olympiads, Olebogeng has been able to make his school, Mr Shiba and his father immensely proud. He feels honoured to be able represent his school.

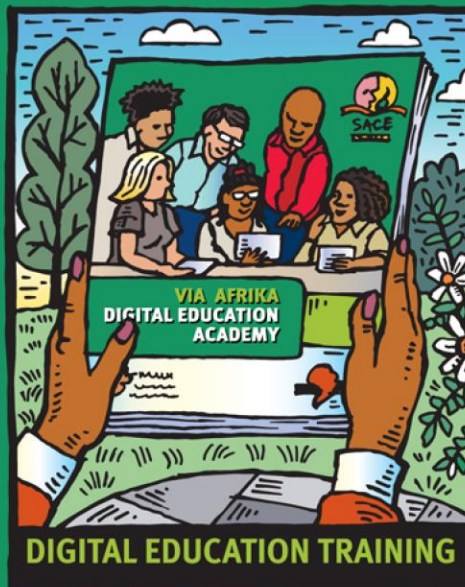
He has competed on a provincial level and went on to earn one of the top three places in Gauteng recently.

He keeps motivated by staying in contact with his teachers, especially Mr Shiba, who he calls caring and supportive. When asked how he stays focused, Olebogeng says he doesn't tolerate distractions during class time. His teachers get 100% of his focus and time. He shares some advice for fellow students who want to achieve more, saying:

"It doesn't matter what background you come from, no matter how many challenges you are facing, if you study hard and focus, you can achieve anything," says Olebogeng.

Olebogeng has set his mind to working hard at his school grades so that he can earn a scholarship or bursary for university.

He is committed to his future and furthering his education and one day hopes to become an electrical engineer or doctor. He hopes to lift South Africa out of its power crisis.



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Consider the costs of a university course

Getting a qualification is a big commitment, both financially and the time and effort you'll need to invest to get your degree or diploma.

According to a Careers Portal story on the high drop-out rates at South African universities, over half of the students who apply for university do not complete the first year. This high drop-out rate is not only due to poor academic performance but also because many students run out of money.

Education is amongst the top reasons people give when applying for loans with specialist loan provider.



Monita Zeterberg, communications manager at DirectAxis, says there are some important questions to consider before you decide to enrol for any post-matric qualification.

Unfortunately, many of these are financial and even with government funding for some students, affordability will remain a problem for many.

Starting a course if you can't afford to complete it, makes it much less likely you'll ever go back and get the qualification.

Can you afford the university or college you want to attend?

You may have your sights set on a particular institution, but it's worth doing some research. According to the BusinessTech website, first year university fees are on average R62 000, but this can vary considerably depending on the university and the course.

It's sensible to research all the options that are available before deciding which is the most suitable.

Remember that in addition to the course fees you'll have to pay application and registration fees. Some bursaries and funders do not pay these costs.

You will also have to pay for books, other course material, stationery and possibly a laptop or other device.

If the institution is far from home you'll have to budget for food, accommodation or transport, and possibly even data or WiFi connectivity.

Are you getting value for money?

There's more to tertiary institutions than just academic life, particularly if you're planning to spend three or more years of your life earning a qualification. If you can, visit the campus beforehand to get a feel for it and to check out the facilities.

Ask about student support such as tutoring, guidance or career counselling.



You won't spend all your time studying, so also consider what non-academic activities and facilities are provided. Find out what sports are offered and if there are other clubs and societies that interest you.

"Do your homework and spend wisely," says Monita.

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High demand careers – no degree needed

As hundreds of thousands of Matric students consider their study and career options for next year, many won't have the option of going to university for three years to earn a degree. The good news is that some of the highest in-demand jobs in South Africa can be accessed without a graduate degree, an education expert says.

“While it is unfortunately so that university study isn't accessible to everyone, whether it be because of finances, personal circumstances, or academic results, that doesn't mean Matric is the end of the road for these young people,” says Siyavuya Makubalo, Marketing Manager at Oxbridge Academy.



She says some of the most in-demand careers, as identified recently in a large survey by jobs portal Career Junction, are within attainable reach of young people who can't or don't want to go to university, whether because of circumstances or personal choice.

According to the Career Junction survey, job seekers within admin, office & support, and warehousing and logistics, have been experiencing improved employment prospects since the start of 2022, with vacancies increasing by over 17% since the fourth quarter of 2021.

Client and customer support, admin clerk, human resources, secretarial positions and call centre leadership positions have all seen a marked increase, according to the survey.

“This should come as excellent news to ambitious young people who want to further their studies and equip themselves with the skills and accreditation they need to get a foot in the door of these industries,” says Makubalo.

“Because all of these careers are accessible through vocational training, part-time and via distance learning. This means that even if you need to start work after Matric, you can still start developing your skills in a specific sector. In addition to getting you ready for a specific career, vocational training is often shorter in duration, and fees are also likely to be lower.”

Furthermore, vocational training allows students to build on previous qualifications within the NQF framework, meaning that they can start searching for a position within an industry upon achieving their first qualification, and then continue to build upon their qualifications while working.

Makubalo points out that students considering vocational training and distance study should ensure their institution of choice equips them appropriately to contribute to the workplace from day one.

“When looking at distance learning options, ask the institution how they ensure students gain the practical knowledge and skills they need to find a job, over and above the theoretical principles that form part of the curriculum. Additionally, ask them about Work Integrated Learning opportunities, student support and how their qualifications are structured to allow for further study.”

Makubalo points out that National Courses, for instance, are nationally accredited and equip students with the vocational skills and formal qualifications that prepare them for working in their chosen field. Students who completed a course at N6 level, combined with evidence of 18 months relevant practical experience, may go on to apply for a National Diploma. There are also Short Learning Programmes designed to equip students with workplace-relevant knowledge and skills in a short period of time.

“The jobs marketplace remains highly competitive, but it should come as some comfort that some professionals remain in- high - demand, and even more so that these high-in demand professions are not catering exclusively to university graduates. We encourage young people to consider their options to reach their full potential and eventually professional success. The road isn't always easy, and it isn't always the only road you imagined leads to success, but the road is certainly there.”



Magazine EDUCATION

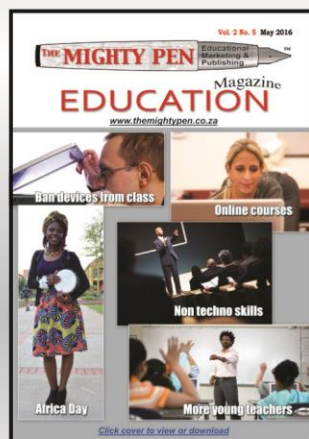
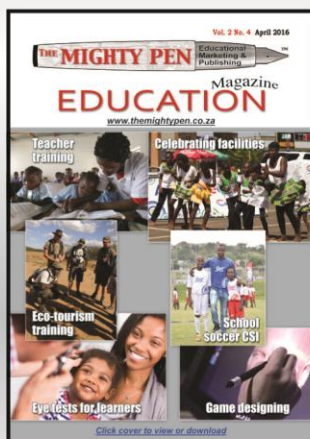
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