

Eight Stars

A Botswana Examinations Council Publication Profiling the 2016 BGCSE Top Achievers



BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL

8th ANNUAL
Excellence Awards

In collaboration with

MOBE
MINISTRY OF BASIC EDUCATION





**BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL**



WHO WE ARE

■ WHO WE ARE?

The Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) was established by an Act of Parliament, Act No.11 of 2002, as a body corporate governed by a Council. The Council has fourteen members appointed by The Minister of Basic Education, The University of Botswana, private schools, teachers' organisations, the private sector, the public, Human Resource Development Council, Botswana College of Open Distance Learning, Botswana Qualification Authority, Botswana Police Service and the Directorate of Public Service Management. BEC was established as a parastatal to execute the examinations of the national curriculum for the Ministry of Basic Education.

■ OUR FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

BEC is mandated 'to conduct school examinations and any other examinations for the Ministry of Basic Education and issues certificates in respect of such examinations.' BEC's key business activity is the development, administration, accreditation and certification of school examinations in the primary and secondary education sub-sectors.

■ MISSION COMMENTARY:

Credible: Trustworthy and Error free assessments and examinations that conforms to both the local and international standards.

Responsive: Examination and Assessment system that is affiliated to the national curriculum, takes into cognisance candidates with special needs and is not detached from current issues in the environment, also relevant to the local market.

■ DIRECTORATES

Examinations work has been grouped into two core business areas within the Directorates of Product Development and Standards and that of Examinations Administration and Certification. The other Directorates; Corporate Services, Research and Policy Development, Information and Communications Technology and that of Human Resource provide support services required in ensuring that examinations are conducted efficiently and cost effectively.

In addition to these Directorates, there are stand-alone specialised support Divisions. These Divisions are Office of Strategy Management (OSM), Compliance and Quality Assurance (CQA), Internal Audit (IA), Legal Services Division (LSD) and Corporate Communications Division (CCD)

OUR VISION

To be a provider of accessible and globally competitive qualifications.

OUR MISSION

To provide a credible and responsive assessment and Examination system.

VALUES

- Excellence • Integrity
- Transparency • People Focus

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Foreword by Executive Secretary

In this magazine, the Botswana Examinations Council in partnership with the Ministry of Basic Education presents to you the recipients of the 2016 Annual Excellence Awards. Although the awards ceremony is held in 2017, the candidates belong to the 2016 examinations cycle. The primary purpose of the magazine and indeed the ceremony is to celebrate in a public way outstanding performance in general education. The awards are also designed to serve as encouragement to those still in the school system. The magazine contains profiles of the Top Ten (10) Achievers at BGCSE level and is distributed to all senior secondary schools across the entire country so that students can get insightful tips on positive learning habits. In fact, the feedback received to date shows that the magazine is widely read in the schools and that students use it to set their targets.

This is the 8th ceremony since the inception of the BEC Excellence Awards in 2010 when the Council decided to promote performance in the schools through recognition and celebration of outstanding performance. The ceremony has evolved over the years to include an additional recognition category of candidates with special needs, as well as best PTA and best performing schools at PLSE, JCE and BGCSE levels.

The awards ceremony has succeeded largely due to the generous support of the private sector. Several companies and institutions have funded prizes and trophies for the various categories of candidates. Even in difficult financial times, these entities have always found something in their coffers to assist the Botswana Examinations Council. The Council and Ministry of Basic Education will never be able to thank these organisations enough for their continued support.

In yet another important way, the magazine serves to recognise the fact that education is a collective responsibility. The government, teachers, parents and Parents and Teachers Associations, all in their own ways play an important part in the students' learning process. We celebrate and recognise their contribution through this publication as well.

Finally, we congratulate the awardees for the job well done, and wish them a bright future. You started your journey well, and please continue to focus on the ball, and make the Nation proud of you.

Prof. Brian Mokopakgosi
Executive Secretary



2015 BGCSE (Standing from Left to Right)

Sewelo Sekondeko (Francistown SSS), Tebo Simon (Francistown SSS), (Kealeboga Ntshwene (Kagiso SSS), Khumiso Lethogile (Ledumang SSS), John Mwangi Gitonga (Lotsane SSS), Simon John Musekiwa - Special Needs Education - Hearing Impairment (Maun SSS), Pholo Motshidisi (Shakawe SSS),

(Seated from Left to Right)

Oreeditse Mogobye (St. Joseph's College), Kesolofetse Ofinah Rauwe (Mater Spei College), Tlanelo Malima (Naledi SSS), Lebogang Alice Mooketsi (Mater Spei College), Tsaone Tyrphinah Mosweu - Special Needs Education - Visual Impairment (Molefi SSS)

**“Perfection is not attainable,
but if we chase perfection we
can catch Excellence.” - Vince Lombardi**

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Proud Sponsors of 2016 BGCSE Top Achievers (Special Needs Education)





Next to EXCELLENCE, comes appreciation.



Congratulations Top Achievers, you have made your schools and villages proud.

KEY			
	Top achiever	KM	Kago Motsoma
	Top achiever's place of origin	SC	Susan Charlie
		RK	Refilwe Keadireng
		YJ	Yohan Jeong
		PM	Phemelo Mokgethe
		JL	Jeminah Lotshwao
		LR	Laone Ramogerita
		SK	Sydney Kuda
		TB	Tabona Badzili
		TR	Tuelo Rapotsanyane
		OM	Olebogeng Mosobea
		LM	Legodile Mosenene

“I Was Not Spared the Rod”



★ Kago Motsoma

Molepolole born Kago Motsoma, like many traditionally raised children knows very well the meaning of the long standing saying that goes 'spare the rod and spoil the child.'

During his upbringing, his parents used the cane to put him back on the straight and narrow line whenever he veered off. He is now grateful to one particular beating that drove him all the way to the summit as he leads the pack of over 40, 000 students who sat for Botswana General Certificate School Examination (BGCSE) in 2016. "My parents beat me to read," confessed the 8th Excellence Awards Golden Star. It is this beating that cultivated the culture of reading in him; at standard three he already conformed to a study timetable.

Kago does not only have the cane to thank for his achievement, staying with his grandmother also moulded him into a responsible person at a very young age. With a smile he looks at the skies probably as he paints the beautiful picture of him staying with his grandmother when he was doing standard four and five. It was just the two of them and his granny was old and did not have much strength to do household chores and the then ten (10) year old boy knew he had to step up to the challenging task of taking care of both of them. "We collected fire wood and I also had to do other house chores, coupled with my school work," he narrates. Difficult as it sounds he recalls it all with a smile; it's definitely the good old days. He shakes his head with disbelief to the reality that he amassed nine A* and an A from his ten subjects after all that seemingly made the mission impossible.

The former St. Joseph's College student surprised his teachers with his performance. Kago though a top excellent student he was not the best nor the second best. Mrs. Bontekanye Galeitsiwe his Head of House did not waste time in admitting that Kago did not top her wish list though he always told her he is going to surprise her. "He was always jolly and laughing so I didn't think he meant his words," she joyfully shared. Despite his lively humour, Galeitsiwe also remembers Kago as a committed student who always voluntarily wiped the chalk board for the next lesson. Mr. France Rankgomo who was Kago's Class Teacher also remembers him as a jolly person but reserved. "He was easy going and always had a smile," he observed. Unlike many excelling students Kago didn't shy away from the responsibility of being a prefect and take part in extracurricular activities. "He was actually a good table tennis player" Mr. Rankgomo attested.

The School Deputy Head Mr. Herbert Setume hails Kago's success to the strategies that the school has put in place to ensure academic excellence of the students and the school as a collective. Close monitoring and supervision of the school's learning processes makes the arsenal used by the school in pursuit of academic excellence. "Our school teachers know that they

must meet their targets," he revealed. Though the school remains locked on the first position as the best performing school, he says their percentage pass is still below par: His superior Ms. Constance Male lauds the reigning discipline in the school for helping students like Kago perform to their best capabilities. "Our students guard jealously the reigning discipline because you cannot get good results with an indisciplined lot," she cautioned with pride.

Kago did not only promise to surprise his teachers but also his mother. Even before her lips could confess that she still has anxiety she long caught when results were released, Lankie Motsoma's body language is so loud. "I always took him lightly when he said he is going to surprise me," she shared as she shakes her head with disbelief. Though unbelievable, Kago's success story was inevitable. Above the hard work he put in his studies he is a disciplined child who has always shown traits of natural intelligence from a young age. "He always showed a good understanding of concepts while he was still a toddler," said the proud mother. A jolly playful character that Kago is, he still knows when to shelve the comedy and when to pull it out. His mother has nothing but praise for his utmost discipline as she reveals that he is a very good babysitter and has no match when it comes to baking *setswana* traditional scones *Diphaphatha*; a skill he inherited from his grandmother. So rooted is the young man such that he always reminded his mother they must make visiting the fields a habit. "He confused a mortar for a calabash in a test and he blamed my lack of interest in traditional life," she noted. It was then that she started helping him read Setswana literature and explained whatever her inquisitive boy did not understand, their team work was not in vain as he got an A* in Setswana.

Kago saved his pocket money to buy internet bundles to help him do some research on the internet. His advice to students aspiring to emulate him is that they should take responsibility of their studies and make sacrifices, especially cutting off things that do not matter much to a student's life like television and social media. Aerobic Engineering is a profession Kago wishes to pursue. He says he wants to bridge the gap and reckons it can be used to improve farming technology and see the country's economy improve.

The humble child he is, Kago feels obliged to thank the Ramotswa Community who supported him and always gave him words of wisdom. "The Ramotswa community treated me like one of their own, indeed a child is raised by a village," he acknowledged.

Congratulations Kago Motsoma you are the 8th Annual Excellence Awards Golden Star; hope you enjoyed your moment on stage with His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana Lt. Gen. Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama.



1. St Joseph's School Head Ms. Male heeps praise on her school's discipline.
2. Deputy Head Mr. Setume is confident their strategies will produce more stars.
3. Kago's Head of House Mrs. Galeitsiwe was surprised by his results.

4. Mr. Rankgomo was Kago's class teacher.
5. Kago has a record of good performance as seen in his picture with the family.

Following The Footsteps

Mater Spei College has enjoyed representation the top achievers, particularly in the overall best three, year in year out. It is former MSC students, Karabo Sankoloba, Nicole Maikano who both finished as runner ups and Kesegofetse Rauwe who featured in the 7th Stars as the third overall student who inspired Susan Charlie to excellence after reading their inspirational stories from the previous Stars Magazine.

The Ramotswa born former MSC student like her role models she also finished in the top three as runner up, walking home with a Ministerial Award. Susan addressed her former school students where she shared her tips of excellence. She has a special formula she simply calls the STUDENT Concept and broke it down for them by explaining what she made of each letter in the word student. She said student was made of acronyms representing, Student, Teamwork, Unwavering, Dedicated, Excellence, Notable and Tenacious. It is these seven pillars derived from 'student' that helped her realise her dream. "I wanted to be noticed and recognised for good things," she shared. The second time Excellence Award recipient implored MSC students to find motivation in everything especially family background. "I want my family to make a wish and I make it happen," she said to a cheering audience.

Susan missed the record of being the first student to get an Excellence Award at all the three levels, missing only the JCE badges in her collection. Having tasted glory at PSLE with her first Excellence Award, failing to defend her position at JCE was a bitter pill to swallow but the pain made her develop fear for failure and she came back stronger scooping the second position at BGCSE. She closed her pep talk with a quote borrowed from her role Model Kesegofetse Rauwe "Fear being ordinary, strive to be known."

The hard working student as noted by her Class Teacher Mr Obusitse Thapelo who says Susan always did extra work on her own. "She did not wait for teachers to give her assignments," applauded the proud teacher. Not only did she impress her teacher with her work rate, he also admired her respect and spirituality.

Ms Kelebile Hubona was Susan's Head of House and like her Class Teacher she remembers Susan as a very focused and humble hard working student. Hubona said one of the strategies they used to nurture their students was having them accounting for their marks every time they wrote tests.

Her school management team also played a notable role in her excellence. Mr. Mong-

wewarona the Mater Spei College Deputy School Head revealed that the school allows its students to discover their abilities. "She is a motivation to others," he said. The School Head Mr. Jabulani Munyere also reckons that instilling confidence in their students helps the school produce top achievers every year, which confirms that they are indeed a school of excellence. Munyere says they publish end of term results on the school notice boards and PTA rewards those that have done well to encourage the spirit of competition amongst their students. The School Head who from time to time interacted with Susan and other students says planning was her master tactic.

Susan's colourful results are not a surprise to her mother Rebecca Charlie who thinks her daughter has always been an intelligent hard worker. Rebecca narrates how she and her daughter used to draw the family budget and the young lady would be sent from Ramotswa to Gaborone to withdraw money, buy groceries and pay the bills; a challenging task she always executed with perfection. She was only a 12 years old girl when she confidently took the task, which proved not only her intelligence but maturity and life skills.

Speaking to Stars Magazine her mother who is a teacher in Borolong village near Francistown said her daughter's results did not come by luck or surprise they worked hard for them. "Every time she finished an examination we wrote down her forecast grade and all the 9 grades came as predicated," shared the proud mother. Rebecca's face has an everlasting expression of excitement as she narrates a long story about her daughter's excellence.

The mother says her daughter is so addicted to the phone, when it is her turn to cook they always eat late as she will be busy chatting on the phone while cooking. Although she is addicted to her phone she put all her electronic gadgets including laptop and tablet she won at a school prize giving in a black refuse bag and surrendered them to her mother to safely keep them and for three months she did not have her phone as she wanted to focus on her examinations.

Susan draws inspiration from Botswana Defence Force pilot Captain Kgomotso Phatima, and would like to pursue a career in Aircraft Maintenance and Engineering. Her ultimate dream was to be the Golden Star award recipient. "I wanted to see myself in the Stars Magazine as the best student," she revealed. Though she did not win the presidential award finishing second is worthy a celebration especially that she got her forecast results.



★ Susan Agetha Charlie



- 1. Mr. Munyere says instilling confidence in their students helps them produce top achievers every year.
- 2. Mr. Mongwewarona sees Susan as a motivation to other students.

- 3. Ms. Kelebile Hubona applauds their star's hard work.
- 4. The proud Class Teacher Mr. Thapelo
- 5. Susan's certificates are too many to fit into her family's hands.



“I Am A Perfectionist”



★ Refilwe Obonetse Keadireng

A former American College football college coach who won back to back championships with his team Vince Lombardi always told his players that, “Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence.”

One might conclude that the Gabane born former St. Joseph’s College student Refilwe Keadireng who regards herself a perfectionist and that she credits her perfectionism as her main drive to finishing as the third best student of the Class of 2016 BGCSE was a fly on the wall in Lombardi’s team’s dressing room to master his motto to an excellent execution. “I am a perfectionist, if I can’t give it my all then I might as well not do it,” proclaimed the young lady. Refilwe who will receive the Chairman’s Award for her achievement says she never got her desired grades in her twelve years of education until now. This is despite the fact that she is not a new entrant to the Annual Excellence awards having won a prize at PSLE level.

But what did it take to win it when it mattered most? Mr. Ketlametswe Dingalo who was Refilwe’s class teacher, attributes it all to humility and focus by his student. “She was forward with her vision to become a Top Achiever,” he shared. Dingalo says Refilwe even shared her dream to be amongst the country’s best students with her parents in his presence during an open day. So bold a statement it sounded, but she was sure it was not impossible.

Her Head of House Mr. Michael Tabona also believes their student’s master tactic was focus. “She was a very focused and concentrated more on her studies,” he said. Refilwe’s pursuit perfection was a joint effort not only by the student and her parents but other stakeholders as well, at least according to her Deputy School Head Mr. Herbert Setume. “There is hard work and hunger to perform well from all the parties including parents,” acknowledged Setume. He went on to praise the School’s PTA saying that they are the behind the scenes agent that makes things happen. Ms. Constance Male echoed Setume’s words and also singled out the good relationship they have with their students’ parents as one of their working strategies. Male went on to reveal that parents whose children fall short of five credits every time they have tests, are summoned to the school to discuss ways to help their children meet the set targets.

Short tempered and sensitive are the common words that Refilwe’s family use to describe her. Though sensitive and short tempered her elder sister Wame Mohubu couldn’t have for a better sister. She says her little sister respects her and they are the best of friends. “Whenever she was stressed with exams she sent me texts and after talking to her she would be so cheered up like I said the best speech ever,” she reflected. But like normal siblings they do fight, and guess over what; same shoe size problem! But the fights are only limited to the ladies over the wardrobe, her brother

Otsile Keadireng says her sister is a sweet soul. “She is not an offensive person,” he shared as the two siblings took a glance at each other and the spirit of brotherhood immediately lit their smiles.

Her mother Poifo Kampura says her genius is so sensitive sometimes she cries before the mother can even reprimand at her. Like a typical tswana young lady, Refilwe cooks and cleans but between the two she would choose cooking on any day. The genius in Refilwe is said to be a genetic inheritance from her biological father Thatayaone Magole. This is according to her aunt Gladys Magole who said the young lady has always wanted to prove a point of being the family’s encyclopaedia. “She has always wanted to beat her father and he has since surrendered and declared her better than him,” she said. Thuso Kampura is the top achiever’s step dad and stays with her and the rest of the family. He says though they expected such brilliance from her they are short of words to caption such an honour bestowed to them by their daughter.

Her mother smiles and stare lovingly at her seemingly shy daughter as she recreates the day results were released and could not believe what her work computer screen put before her sight. “I couldn’t contain my excitement, I shared the good news with my colleagues and everyone was happy for me,” she flashed back. Poifo says her daughter has always been an intelligent student, so much that her teacher at Mophato Primary School in Francistown cried when she had to take a transfer to Gaborone. Refilwe’s intelligence saw her skip standard four and almost skip standard six during her primary school days which she spent at private schools.

Refilwe discovered the perfectionist in her from an early age when she was doing standard one. “I realised I was the best and never wanted to come second,” she shared with a straight face. Thought she has always enjoyed the record of always finishing first, she says when she got to St. Joseph’s College she was confronted with a very tough contest for her number one spot and she had to supplement her God given brains with more sweat and prayer. “I prayed a lot and asked God to give me strength, I do the best and he gives me the rest,” goes her confession. Refilwe fought to the wire to finish Top of the 8th stars and she only missed the summit by two positions and finished third earning herself The Chairperson’s award. Her step dad says the top three finish is a cherry on top of their happiness and her mother said she would cry if her daughter is in the surprise best three, hope you found your happy tears mum.

Refilwe also qualified for the elite Top Achievers Scholarship to do A Levels before proceeding to a University of her choice where she will crunch the numbers in Actuarial Science or pursue Chemical Engineering.



1. Ms. Male says involving parents in students education is very important.
2. Mr. Setume reckons Refilwe’s results are a team work effort.
3. Head of House Mr. Tabona believes focus was Refilwe’s master tactic.

4. Mr. Dingalo lauds Refilwe for having a forward vision.
5. Refilwe’s family is happy for her triumph.



2016 BGCSE Top Achievers



Studying is Hardwork

For an eight year old, boarding a plane to travel 12,569 kilometres in the skies above the waters of the seas doesn't come with any hard thought or a dilemma like choosing between two toys. Excited about leaving South Korea to Botswana, Yohan Jeong didn't know he is going to face a language barrier as he looked forward to a new life and schooling in a far-flung African continent.

The young boy landed in Botswana and immediately enrolled at Segoditshane Primary School. English which was expected to be the medium of communications at his new school immediately proved to be a challenge for Yohan, but in his quest for education he was not shy to learn, actually he confidently conversed with his peers in his not good English. His father still remembers the day he went to pick him from school for the first time, to his surprise he found Yohan with his new friends and the boy was so happy to introduce him to his friends. His father said Yohan proudly repeatedly chanted "Look, me father; me father". Nine years later Yohan doesn't only speak fluent English he passed his BGCSE examinations with flying colours, finishing amongst the Best Ten (10) Students in Botswana).

The 17 year old former Naledi Senior Secondary School student though a top achiever he did not have it with ease. His, started as a rough journey that he almost quit but it got better and smooth with time. For this he reckons studying is hard work. "My primary school days were rough because of the language barrier and I scored low marks," he reminisced. "It was so tough, and so discouraging" he said. Yohan emphasised the fact that he has his family to thank for always supporting and encouraging him never to give up because without the support he doesn't believe he could have braved the rough path he had to go through during his basic education school days.

Hard work as studying has proved to be, Yohan attests that with proper planning, setting clear goals and endurance of the hurdles experienced along the way, one can easily come out tops like he did. "There are always temptations which prevent every work to be achieved, but if we overcome temptations and procrastinations that students are always going through we can accomplish what we set to achieve," he advised. Yohan went on with his inspiration as he addressed Naledi Senior Secondary School students where compared real life to a car, he said "No matter how good an engine a car has, if the brakes are not working well, the car cannot be considered good rather it becomes a dangerous

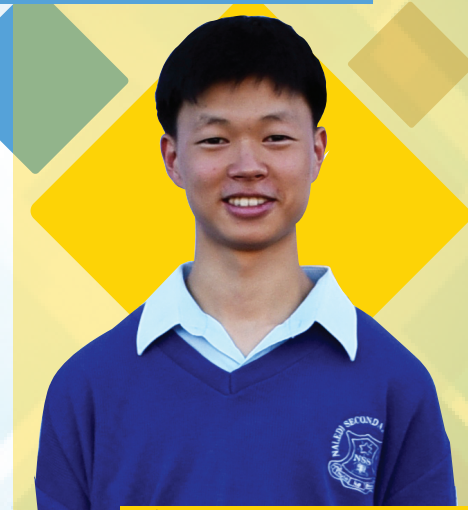
vehicle which can take away life. Likewise, everyone has desires but if they have no self-control, they are just like a vehicle with bad brakes."

Naledi SSS School Head Mr. Othusitse Othusitse is proud of their product's achievement, which ensured the school kept its record of being represented in the Top Ten Achievers list. He admires the young man's discipline. "He was a level headed young man and never caused trouble in school," he commended. Mrs. Dipuo Keatimilwe his Head of House reckons that above Yohan's work rate was a good support system in form of his parents. Her words are endorsed by his class teacher Mrs. Caroline Mahlanza who believes his parents pushed him to work hard. "You could tell he is from a culture that promotes hard work and respect," she said. This she says made him pleasure to work with.

As noted by his teacher, the culture of respect reigns at Yohan's house. The family of five does not only limit the mutual respect amongst themselves, but also extends it to their guests. So knit is the family such that when Yohan was busy preparing for his exams his elder sister Dayoung Jeong says they missed him. His father Mr. Doojun Jeong, was surprised to learn his son was among the Top Ten students beating well over 40, 000 candidates who also sat for the exam. "Botswana is full of intelligent students, this was not expected. It is a great honour," he noted. Yohan echoed his father's sentiments that his class had more intelligent student who were more capable than he was, so it could only mean he was more focused than them to finish above them. Joy can still be spotted on his mother's face even months after results have been released, she still can't believe her last born of three has defied the odds so much. She says she always encourage her children to deny themselves leisure time even and avoid distractions when they are studying even though it sometimes breaks their hearts.

Though studying is not a walk in the park as declared by the young man he says he likes watching television and playing computer games and made time for them. This he said he did to refresh and sometimes music and fellowship with the family were perfect substitutes. "Television helps in relaxing the mind," endorsed his father who however advised against getting carried away.

Yohan aspires to study medicine at the University of Botswana Medical School as he sees being a Doctor as the perfect platform to help people.



★ Yohan Jeong



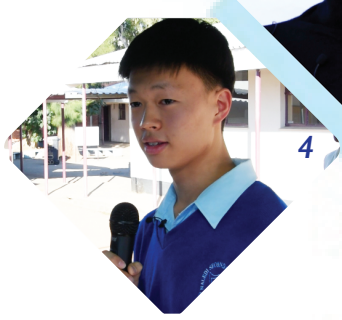
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1. Mr. Othusitse says Yohan was a level headed young man.

2. Head of House Mrs. Keatimilwe applauded Yohan's parents for their outstanding support.

3. Mrs. Mahlanza is pleased to have worked with the top achiever.

4. Yohan giving Naledi SSS students a word of inspiration.

5. Yohan posing for a picture with his supportive family.





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GOLDEN STAR
GOTDEM 2IAB

Kaao Motsona

'Kago Motsona

St. Joseph's College

**PRESIDENTIAL
AWARD RECIPIENT
BGCSE 2016**



Do It With Love



★ Phemelo Bosa Mokgethe

When you love something you give it your attention to the maximum, you cherish it and do your best to see it blossom. Bosa Mokgethe fell in love with knowledge and learning and he attributes it to his academic excellence.

It was however, not love at first sight for the Kang born former St. Joseph's College student. The young man who believes to a large extent has a God given talent, did not love his studies during his early days of schooling. For two years he played with fire and got away with it but standard three was not as easy as its predecessors and it humbled him with a fail. It is this fail that saw him kiss and make up with learning and the two have lived happily ever after to date.

It was not so long after his matrimony with learning that he started reaping fruits of his labour as he made his debut to the Annual Excellence Awards stage and walked home with an accolade for being one of the best ten students in PSLE. This was perhaps the motivation he needed to hold on to his passion with books. Be that as it may be at JCE though he passed with flying colours but couldn't make the cut of an Excellence Award recipient, but he made up for that slip up by finishing as one of the BGCSE top achievers of class of 2016.

His love for knowledge and learning saw Bosa doing a lot of research especially from A Level material. His extensive learning did not go unnoticed by his teachers, actually his Class Teacher Mr. Ketlametse Dingalo on a few occasions asked him to take it easy on higher learning material. "The way he answered questions showed that he was reading higher education material," he noted. Dingalo went on to describe Bosa as a self motivated student who never despaired when results were not coming forth. All this was not just for amassing knowledge for the love of it; he wanted to be a top achiever and once asked his teacher to guide him on how to be one. Mr. Michael Tabona who served as his Head of House remembers Bosa as a very competitive student with so much knowledge in Maths and Science. "He wanted to register for statistics when he was doing Form 5 and I advised him against it but he went ahead and he passed it," he revealed. As a result, Bosa did eleven instead of ten subjects. Tabona says Bosa

once told colleagues from his House that he was studying university mathematics.

According to Deputy School Head Mr. Herbert Setume Bosa's pursuit of perfection was a joint effort not only by the student and his parents but other stakeholders as well. "There is hard work and hunger to perform well from all the parties including parents," acknowledged Setume. He went on to praise the School's PTA, he said they are the behind the scenes agent that makes things happen. Ms. Constance Male echoed Setume's words and also singled out the good relationship they have with their parents as one of their working strategies. Male went on to reveal that parents whose children fall short of five credits every time they have tests, are summoned to the school to discuss ways to help their children meet the set targets.

The last born of four has made his parents proud and his father Mr. Phodiso Mokgethe sees him as testimony that the family is capable of raising children well. "We are in high spirits, his effort cannot be ignored," he said. Mrs. Annah Mokgethe also believes her son's achievement is a result of good upbringing. She says her son is very disciplined; so much that other parents envied him and above that he is a God fearing child. His passion for studying also comes up in conversation with his parents at home. "He doesn't have friends, his friends are his books," said his mother.

Bosa like a well raised child partakes in house chores, with washing dishes being his favourite and cooking the worst. Even though he helps around the house he often forgets to do his chores as he prioritises reading. His sister Nametso Makhura was happy to share his persona and revealed that although he takes everything seriously and never compromise he has a very good sense of humour. "He is not shy to speak out his mind, you would even think he is uptight," she said.

Though his parents are singing praises about his discipline his sister still found it necessary to give him some advice. She advised him to remember that he has a plan so he should remain focused and not let go. About his future endeavours Bosa says he wishes to be a Nanotech Engineer; and one day be an owner of a mega technology factory.



1. Ms. Male says involving parents in students education is very important.
2. Deputy SHcool head Mr. Setumo says the school has put measures in place to ensure consistant performance.
3. Mr. Tabona admires Bosa's competitive spirit.

4. Bosa's Class Teacher says his student was self-motivated.
5. Bosa's family are happy for his second Annual Excellence Award.



2016 BGCSE Top Achievers



No Sweet Without Sweat

July 13th 2017, will for many years to come be a day to remember for Kanye born former Naledi Senior Secondary School Jeminah Letshwao, who also managed to have her name engraved on the list of the Annual Excellence Awards recipients book.

Jeminah was smart enough to embrace that, being good at something is no substitute for hard work and determination. She highlights these attributes as her charm, with God being in the steering wheel in her journey to excellence. Concluding that she is a humble person from a distance cannot be reversed; she values respect. "Respect will create rapport for good relationship with teachers and it will always be easy to approach them," she advised as she addressed Naledi Senior Secondary School students. Never mind that hard work was her portion, she had her lazy days and performance enhancers were her hard working classmates. "Whenever I looked around the class and saw my classmates' heads buried in their book I had the drive to study," she quipped.

The admiration in her class teacher's eyes when she talks about the student that Jeminah was is written genuine all over her face; there is no confusion that she is every teacher's dream student. Self-motivation that made her give herself extra work is one of the good student qualities that earned Jeminah Mrs. Caroline Mahlanza's admiration. Mahlanza was also impressed by her student's lack of interest in the latest fashion trends despite being a city girl. "She didn't care about fashion and trends but marks," she justified her perception. Her lack of interest in trends is not a total surprise as the shy young lady knighted only a chosen few to her circle of friends. Mrs. Dipuo Keatimilwe whose house was also represented in the previous version of Annual Excellence Awards revealed that the school encouraged students to attend morning studies before classes start.

Keatimilwe who is Kefilwe's head of house corroborates with Mahlanza's version that their student is an epitome of hard work. "Jeminah had a consistent good performance; she never stopped working hard," she highlighted. The 8th Star's hard work was also given a thumbs up by the school's first citizen Mr. Othusitse Othusitse. "When you lead such hard working students you are guaranteed your school will be represented well," said the proud School Head. Othusitse went on to say the school's triumph card that sees them produce top

achievers year in year out is discipline and a dedicated hard working personnel. The dedication displayed by Naledi Senior Secondary School teachers was also appreciated by Jeminah who refused to let it go to waste, especially for those teachers who didn't teach her class but were always team players and assisted her whenever she shouted for help.

The title book worm befits the young lady but ironically she was hardly seen at the library. She wanted to excel so bad the library atmosphere put her under so much pressure her sweat glands would over work so she was comfortable studying from home. Studying from home made it difficult to juggle between chores and school work. She is the only girl in the family, the youngest child, she stayed with her two elder brothers in Gaborone while their mother stayed in Kanye, when she cleans, she leaves the house spotless, she is a very good cook; for all these reasons there is just no how she could have been excused from the kitchen and being the hygiene marshal of the house.

Unbelievable as it is the house chores rota rotated between the two gentlemen and the little sister was given time out to focus on her last lap of basic education. "We made a sacrifice and supported her in every way we could and it paid off," said the first elder brother Dr. Kebapetse Lotshwao. The senior brother, spots a happy smile as he battles against composure when he speaks about his sister's achievement which he says was not a surprise. "She is intelligent and always worked hard," he said.

Her mother Kooreng Letshwao is very happy her last born has made her proud. "I thanked God countless," she said. She has every reason to believe they owe it to God; Jeminah is a very spiritual person and her mother recalls her daily reminders asking her mother to pray for her 48 points and their prayers have been answered. "BGCSE brought me closer to God, I have grown spiritually," said the Unity Church Sunday school teacher. When she needed to cheer up her spirit in the morning before going to school, she played Gospel music.

Being a CEO is Jeminah's biggest dream and her brother Mothusi Lotshwao believes she can live her dream, for as long as she remains focused. She believes studying a business related course at a reputable university in the United Kingdom will give her a better chance to be a Chief Executive Officer one day.



★ Jeminah Lotshwao



- 1. Mr. Othusitse says Jeminah's hard work was a guarantee she will make them proud.
- 3. Mrs. Keatimilwe says Jeminah was consistent.
- 3. Jeminah's Class Teacher Mrs. Mahlanza was impressed by her simplicity and focus

- on academics.
- 4. Jeminah motivating Naledi students.
- 5. Jeminah's family are familiar with the feeling of winning awards especially Top Achievers Award.



Dreaming Beyond Limits



★ Laone Ramogerita

All the way from the Southern District of Botswana in a village called Kanye, he graduated from Harvard University in the United States of America and now finds himself on the World Bank payroll. This will one day be an introduction of former St. Joseph's College student Laone Ramogerita, an 8th Star top achiever who believes he can live his dream.

Laone attributes finishing in the top ten and qualifying for the first bracket of Top Achiever scholarship to humble beginnings inspired by his family background. "My family looks up to me for a better life, so I always dream ahead of my goals," he said. His Class Teacher Mr. Salani Kutjwe is in concurrence that dreaming beyond the horizon is the young man's portion. "He reads A Levels and University material, at times I had to ask him to tone down," he said. A self-acclaimed reading addict, Laone believes classes are meant for revision so he always reads ahead. "Before our Form 3 results were released, I was already studying for Form 4 and now am reading for my A Levels," he revealed.

According to his Head of House, Mr. Mosiwa a Wamundila, Laone is not just an ambitious dreamer he has all the good qualities that will see him live his dreams. Wamundila also thinks that their former student makes a good leader with his utmost discipline that saw him appointed a prefect.

The St. Josephs College School Deputy Head Mr. Herbert Setume hails Laone's success to the strategies that the school has put in place to ensure academic excellence of the students and the school as a collective. Close monitoring and supervision of the school's learning processes makes the arsenal used by the school in pursuit of academic excellence. "The teachers know that they must meet their targets," he revealed.

Though the school remains locked on the first position as the Best Performing School, he says their percentage pass is still below par. His superior Ms. Constance Male lauds the reigning discipline in the school for helping students like Laone perform to their best capability. "Our students guard

jealously the reigning discipline because you cannot get good results with an undisciplined lot," she cautioned with pride.

Laone is so obsessed with learning, when he is relaxing in the backyard of his parents' house in Kanye and has no book and a pen in his hand but something comes to mind he writes it on the ground. This sweet obsession however got his mother Mrs. Maikano Ramogerita worried at times. "I used to think he was losing his mind," she smiles with relief and joy. The young man believed in his capabilities and never did he doubt he will attain his set goals in pursuit of his dream. Mr. Soriletsile Ramogerita his father says though their son has always been brilliant they wanted to hire him a tutor as one of the many ways of supporting him, especially to compensate for his short sight but he declined the offer.

His elder brother Steve also attests to the family perception that his young brother loves his books more than anything. Steve says Laone would never go to bed until he solves a maths problem and he does this while listening to Deep House music which he also loves.

The very shy and reserved young man is praised by his family for his obedience, which his Uncle Mosimanegape Lebogang pin points as one of success pillars. "He has always been a humble and grateful person," he said. Being noted as one the country's best students has been only a dream to Laone; despite his brilliance he is on debut in the Excellence Awards having failed to make the cut at PSLE and JCE. His paternal uncle Mosimanegape Mosimanyana who could not contain his excitement see his nephew's listing on the Top Ten as a cherry on top to his consistent good performance.

The intelligence that Laone displayed from an early age made his mother believe that her little boy will one day be Dr. Laone Ramogerita. She says she always painted a picture of him in white coat attending to her. But the young man has a different dream, he wants to be a Financial Engineer so that he can develop financial policies and programmes.



1. St Joseph's School Head Ms. Male heeps praise on her school's discipline.
 2. Deputy Head Mr. Setume is confident their strategies will produce more stars.
 3. Mr. Wamundila endorses Laone's dreams.
 4. Mr. Kutjwe says it's a good thing to be a reading addict.

5. Laone's certificates are too many for his big family.



“I Almost Lost It All”

Then his conscience hit him hard and reminded him BGCSE was make or break it moment. This is a young man who was blessed with brains and not on a single day had he felt he could have been given even just a little bit more, because he also was confident that he is very clever.

Born in Sebina, the former Mater Spei College student Sydney Kuda could be ordinary and unknown today, but he put his act together after not passing his Junior Certificate Examination (JCE) as was expected of him, he recalls how this made his mother cry and he realised what a disappoint he was. “I cried, my mother cried, and her tears changed the way I looked at things at that time,” he revealed. Through primary school and at junior secondary school, everything he touched turned into gold. Then just before he sat for his JCE he thought he had it all, he became a resident at the village night club. “I used to drink and go clubbing, I even tried drugs,” he made a shocking revelation in a motivational speech to Mater Spei students.

The students could not believe it, before them stood a very neat young man who is among the Country’s Best Ten students. But his was not fiction, there was total silence as he went on with his moving speech. Coming close to failing the JCE while he could have easily aced it was a punishment from God, a wakeup call he embraced, he says.

The born again young man made the best out of the opportunity to address the students as he continued to give them more tips from his recipe book. He advised them to pray without seizing and God will see them persevere, no matter the challenges they face. Sydney also shared that discipline and dedication ushered him to the Promised Land. “I do not like reading, I never liked it but sometimes you have to do the things you do not like for the sake of succeeding,” said the top achiever.

Walking through the gates of Senior Secondary School as a changed man, his mission was simple; he wanted to reclaim his glory. So changed he was, his class teacher Mr. Obusitse Thapelo saw nothing but a leader in him he was appointed SRC President because of his respectfulness. Thapelo says his student was a good team player in the Mathematics Collaboration Club where they solved very complex maths problems. Ms. Kelebile Hubona was Sydney’s Head of House and she also heaps praise on his sound discipline. “He was a disciplinarian,” she emphasised. Hubona went on to share that their strategies to get the best out of their students is to set targets for students and make them account for them.

His school management team was not a surplus player in his quest for excellence, they walked the journey with him. Mr. Mong-

wewarona the Mater Spei College Deputy School Head revealed that the school allows its students to discover their abilities.

The School Head Mr. Jabulani Munyere also reckons that instilling confidence in their students helps the school produce top achievers every year, which confirms that they are indeed a school of excellence. Munyere says they publish end of term results on the school notice boards and PTA rewards those that have done well to encourage the spirit of competition amongst their students.

The Stars Magazine team visited Sydney and his parents in Sebina where he was born and raised, to get his lighter side away from school. His father Mr. Mbinganyi Kuda is in high spirits one cannot miss the honour the visit has brought for his family. Yes he failed them before but that didn’t stop his parents from believing he will give them a reason to celebrate. “We expected him to make us proud and he did” he affirmed. Their confidence in him was perhaps resultant from him having finished as the best form four student at his school. Sydney’s good results did not come with ease he once told his parents he was under pressure to make his family and relatives proud but his parents advised him to go easy on himself. His mother Mrs. Joy Kuda’s smile glows when she narrates about her pride and what a journey it has been.

The last time her son sat for a final examination what followed were tears of sorrow from a disappointing performance and this time around it is all in contrast. So proud of her son she boosts that his brilliance is not only in academics, he is also good in house chores especially cooking. About his inner persona his father thinks his son is ‘Mr Cool’, a neat, very organised and reserved person, something he says would make you doubt his grades are his.

Familiar with the shame of letting his parents down, Sydney says he is very grateful to his upbringing. “My parents are not rich but they sacrificed everything to give me a good education foundation,” he acknowledged. He did his primary school at Mophato Primary School, an English Medium School in Francistown. When he speaks of the support he got from his parents, he sinks and his face gets dull, emphasising it was an emotionally draining journey. “It is my turn to satisfy them and give back, not necessarily in monetary form but with joy.” he said with relief.

While a student at Mophato Primary School, Sydney visited Cape town in South Africa on an educational tour and they toured Groote Schuur Hospital where the world’s first heart transplant was performed. Cardiology immediately infested in the then young boy’s heart and it remains his dream job, a career he hopes to pursue when he completes his A Levels.



★ Sydney Martin Kuda



1. Mr. Munyere says one way of motivating their students is publishing their end of term results.
2. The Deputy School Head Mr. Mongwewarona says help their students live to their full potential.

3. Kuda was a disciplined student according to his Head of House Ms. Hubona
4. Class Teacher Mr Thapelo says Kuda displayed attributes of a good leader as he was the SRC President.
5. The Kudas can’t wait to add another accolade to their cabinet.



Yearning For Greatness



★ Tabona Baba Badzili

Tabona Badzili, a former Selibe Phikwe Senior Secondary School (SPSSS) student believes that for as long as people are becoming rich and famous everyday he also can reach greater heights. It is this belief that he will one day be a household name that saw him defy the odds and muscle his way into the 8th Stars Magazine edition as one of the Top Achievers for the 2016 BGCSE.

Motswaiso the Deputy School Head says being the number one school is an achievable dream and Tabona's achievement is a morale booster. He credited the school's regular featuring amongst the Best Ten Schools to dedication by everyone involved. "We can never go wrong with dedicated parents and all our stakeholders," he assured.

The Top achiever was in his element as he addressed his aspiring successors during a special assembly at his former school Selebi-Phikwe SSS. "People become millionaires every day, why can't we be like them," he posed a question to the attentive students at his school. Tabona took advantage of the attention and drove a few points home as he tried to inspire his former peers. He told them that the hopes of their families and the Nation at large are on their shoulders so they should step up and make their only chance count. He said sometimes children feel unappreciated but if they could introspect they would realise the many sacrifices that parents make out of their love for them.

Tabona's parents are over the moon about their son's success story. Composed but with a distant disbelief in his face, his father Mr. Obed Badzili says his son's performance shows he knows his future is dependent on education. His mother Mrs. Baboloki Badzili with all smiles as she remembers the moment she went online to check her son's results and could not believe her eyes. "I used a ruler to confirm that indeed the results were in the same line with my son's name," she recalls. Satisfied that the results belonged to her Tabona Badzili, she celebrated and made a big noise, never mind that she was at work, and her colleagues congratulated her for her son's excellent work. In his quest for greatness Tabona made a few sacrifices but his parents thought he went a little hard on himself. His mother's joy is suspended as she gets emotional and tries to contain herself to keep the tears welling up in her eyes from rolling down as she narrates how much effort her son put to his school work. She said the hurtful part was when he suddenly lost weight and they thought he could be sick. For his father who stayed with him in Selibe-Phikwe while his mother stayed in Bobonong where she works, it was his isolation that worried him most. "Though we stayed together I always missed him because he spent much time reading," he said.

Tabona acknowledges that though he is living his farfetched dream it did not come with ease but took a lot of perseverance. "When I patched this side, the other side broke as well but we all need that and all other challenges of childhood to shape us up," he shared. A speaker of note he is, he earned respect from the students as soon as he was on the podium as all the whispers and murmuring stopped and upon his last word there was clapping and cheering, there is no doubt they paid attention.

At home the God fearing young man lives by the commandment 'honour your mother and father'. His father says he is a very obedient child who never sulks. His father might have cooked and washed for him while he was preparing for his final examinations but his mother still rates his culinary skills highly. Humility is something his mother admires most about him, she says she was left amazed after his church offered him the Sunday offerings upon learning he had aced BGCSE but he surrendered back all the money to the Church.

Amongst the people the Siviya born top achiever is grateful to is his former class teacher Mr. Watson Ben who always implored them to challenge themselves to outdo themselves so that they can reach their full potential. Ben believes his student embraced his guidance hence his success. "He was an easily inspired student," he said. Ben classifies Tabona as a reserved person and not playful which shows focus. His Head of House Mr. Enambao Skanda holds the same sentiments as Ben about their shining example. "He was a reserved and a very serious student who paid most attention to his studies," he applauded. Skanda went on to say Tabona has always been a dedicated consistent performer and they knew he was destined for greatness.

Tabona is currently an A Level student at Rainbow Private School. Once done with his A Level he wants to study Bio Medical Engineering and be knighted to international circles.

Aspiring to be a greater person is not only Tabona's dream, his former school Selibe-Phikwe SSS community also believe that their will one day be the school to beat. Mr. Mojadi



1. The School Deputy Mr. Motswaiso sees Tabona's achievement as a morale booster.
2. Mr. Skanda says Tabona is destined for success.
3. Mr. Ben says Tabona is an epitome of fruits of hard work.

4. Tabona sharing his winning formula with Selibe Phikwe SSS students.
5. Tabona's family are over the moon about his latest award.



2016 BGCSE Top Achievers



Dare To Be

To be, one must dare to be; this is according to the former St. Joseph's College student Tuelo Rapotsanyane who had the zeal to be excellent and his zeal was not in vain as he finished as a Top Achiever.

Taking on the challenge to be amongst the country's best students, he had to be dictated to show that he wanted it badly. "To get the right results you must make the right choices," said the Ramotswa born young man. One of the right decisions that Tuelo made was to stop watching television shows apart from educational channels like 'Mind Set'. This is perhaps because he found learning through audio visual notes interesting and easy to drive the point home. His resolution to make the right choices to get right results came after some deep introspection after an average performance at JCE. "From a young age I was inspired by excellence so I had to get results that would reflect that," he highlighted. He advised that failures should not demoralise but should rather be taken as motivation.

Tuelo's Class Teacher Mr. France Rankgomo says the young man always showed some determination to make it count. "He knew what he came to school for," he said. Rankgomo said the student demanded education as he always asked for help from teachers whenever he wanted to understand something that he was not sure of. A team player he was; he always helped his peers especially during group discussions. Mrs. Bontekanye Galeitsiwe also showered praise on the dedication Tuelo had in achieving the best from his studies. "He liked things on the straight and narrow," she said. Galeitsiwe said Tuelo did not only want to pass but wanted to be a Top Achiever.

Achieving his set goal to be a Top Achiever was not a solo effort but team work with fellow students, parents and other stakeholders as well, at least according to his Deputy School Head Mr. Herbert Setume. "There is hard work and hunger to perform well from all the parties including parents," acknowledged Setume. He went on to praise the School's PTA members that they are the behind the scenes agents that make things happen.

The School Head Ms. Constance Male echoed Setume's words and also singled out the good relationship they have with their parents as one of their working strategies. Male went on to reveal that parents whose children fall short of five credits every time they have tests, are summoned to the school to discuss ways to help their children meet their set targets.

Speaking from her home in Taung near Ramotswa, Tuelo's mother Ms. Berenice Rapotsanyane said she was in high spirits about her son's performance. "I am reaping fruits of my hard labour," she proudly said. With a smile she describes her boy as an obedient child who upholds her teachings and values. She credits his discipline to her nurturing, which helped in moulding him into a responsible young man. Sitting next to him his mother takes a glance at him and smiles, making him shy, which evidently shown the healthy relationship they have. Berenice says her son has lots of charity in his heart he always donates his school uniform to the under privileged and also tutors students.

By virtue of being the last born of four and the only boy in the family, one would expect him to behave like the King of the house who just snaps his fingers and everything is done for him, but for Tuelo it is a totally different thing as he is a real gentleman who helps his sisters with the house chores. His big sister Laone says they enjoy a very good relationship with their brother. "We treat him like the head of house but he knows he is our little brother," she said.

The 'man of the house' Tuelo acknowledged the support accorded to him by his family especially his other two sisters who always woke him up in the early hours of the morning to read. He attests that discipline is the foundation of excellence. "Charity begins at home, discipline will take you to greater heights," he advised. He went on to highlight that he is only half way through his journey as he still aspires to go beyond the limits.

Tuelo is still undecided about a career path but for his love for Mathematics and Physics he is considering Instrumental Mechatronics.



★ Tuelo Rapotsanyane



1. Ms. Male says involving parents in students education is very important.
2. Mr Setumo says discipline forms part of St. Joseph's core values.
3. Mrs. Galeitsiwe says Tuelo was a principled young man.
4. Mr. Rankgomo applauds his student for being a team player.

5. Tuelo family is proud of his achievement and making it to the Top Achievers cohort.





The Optimistic One



★ Olebogeng Mosobea

For some optimism is just a word but for Olebogeng Mosobeya, being optimistic led her to greater heights as she finished above her Hearing Impaired peers, not only at her school Maun Senior Secondary School but country wide.

“The road of achievement presupposes that in order to succeed in life, one must have a clear picture of what they want to pursue in life”, she argued. A principle she lived with, devotion; her Class Teacher Mr. Muteyiwa Manas agrees with her that she had her eyes on the ball. Despite her being put with about 40 other students who did not have a problem with hearing, she demonstrated better understanding in her school work better than them. “She always stepped forward to make presentations by writing on the board what she understood, for the benefit of her classmates” revealed Manas.

Olebogeng mentioned that below optimism is dedication, motivation and patience to complete her four pillars of excellence or in her own words a brighter future. Her focus was also noted in caps by her Head of House Mr. Brisco Gwandu who sees her as an epitome to ‘disability is not inability’.

A neat ever smiling student is how Olebogeng will always be remembered as she always waved to everyone, the first thing that the Headmaster Mrs. Selebatso Modisaemang notes about her above her sterling academic record. This she recalls with a smile which cements her sentiments that indeed their star had a warm and perhaps a contagious smile. “We are very proud to have had such a determined student” she said. Despite the school facing challenges of limited resources especially in aiding special education students, Modisaemang is convinced with more commitment and optimism from her students they can have more top achievers in future. Olebogeng a very good essay writer according to Ms. Neo Mafunye, Senior Teacher Special Education; was placed in a better performing Double Science awards class upon realising that she had a better academic aptitude against her peers.

It is not the first for the Serowe born top achiever but the second time Excellence Award winner having scooped the same

prize for best student under the hearing impaired category in 2015 at JCE level. It was then that she made a vow to be recognised again. Her aunt Nurse Mosobeya still recalls her niece making a promise to her to get the award again. She said Olebogeng the top achiever, is a cool cat at home who always wears her trademark welcoming smile but rubbed on the wrong side it is traded for a long face, but she doesn’t take long to take the peace pipe and the smile will be restored.

Having used sign language as her first medium of communication for her entire life, she is so good at it that she taught some of her family members how to communicate using signs. Her cousin Tshephang Walter who translated our interview at home without any struggles never had any formal training but is confident the skill imparted on her by Olebogeng is good to go by; actually if you see her translate you would not doubt her a bit. “She is always willing to share whatever she has especially knowledge,” noted her cousin cum sign language student. Her aunt also says her niece has such a soft heart she wants to see everyone excelling, so much that when her friends seemed not to listen to her advice, when they visited her house she will in their presence tell the aunt to ask them to listen to her.

For being such a loving and caring person her aunt thinks she would make a great social worker. Olebogeng has been admitted at the University of Free State in South Africa where she will pursue her BA in Social Work and Psychology Degree. She is currently volunteering at local school in her home village, as a translator for hearing impaired students.

2014 Golden Star Dimpho Gosenyang was her inspiration. She says while reading about Dimpho she realised she was always willing to work with her peers a leaf she borrowed and it worked for her.

Olebogeng is also a strong believer of the word of God. It is not surprising that her personal note book full of inspirational messages has a biblical quote from the book of Philippians 4:13 ‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.’



- 1. Mrs. Modisaemang says Olebogeng was very popular in the school because of her friendliness.
- 2. Ms. Mafunye will forever admire their top achiever’s aptitude.
- 3. Olebogeng’s focus impressed her Head of House Mr. Gwandu

- 4. Olebogeng’s Class Teacher Mr. Muteyiwa says Olebogeng was a determined student despite her disability.
- 5. Olebogeng’s family are accustomed to her winning loads of awards.





I Persevered Against All Odds

He had finished his practical projects and was confident in a few weeks' time he would go into the examination room and pass his BGCSE examinations, but his fate was unknown to him. The Palapye born Top Achiever did not despair he took his challenging new twist head on.

Until October 2011 Legodile Mosenene would have never thought he would lose his sight and be partially paralysed; he had no reason to think that he was not fit as a fiddle as he had no sign of any illness but only a mild influenza like cough. A few days on the traditional home remedy of warm water would have cured his cough but it was worse than that, he got diagnosed with Spinal Tuberculosis. Nonetheless he still was not worried because he trusted the TB treatment will take care of things but guess what; three days into the treatment he lost his sight.

Keitsholetse Mosenene, Legodile's mother reflects back on the fateful day with agony as she tries to contain her tears. She came back home and asked him if he was reading for his final examinations, but his response shocked her: "O raya ke bala jang mama, ke sa bone?" (How am I supposed to read when I cannot see Mum?) He is a reserved person who hardly makes jokes so she knew he defiantly was not joking but she still could not believe what she just heard from her son.

He had a glimpse of hope when doctors in South Africa told him that it was not all lost as they could help him regain his sight, but his next appointment got postponed a couple of times and when the doctors finally saw him again, they had sad news for him. It was too late to help him to see again.

Disappointed, hurt and confused he says he had no feeling of anger as he tried to make peace with the rather sudden change. At this point he did not only have to deal with losing sight but also with his lower body which was now paralysed, he had to take the double hit head on. "It was not easy to deal with the situation, I contemplated committing suicide," he revealed. His composure and calmness when he talks about his ordeal, emphasises that he indeed is at peace and drawing the positive out of it. Though he never sought or got any professional counselling, church was enough solace and he was soon healed emotionally and looked forward to taking every step of life as it comes.

Legodile's next challenge was going back to class, he had no idea or plan on how he was

going to study without his eyes anymore, moreover braille was a mystery to him. That all noted he eventually went back to class at Molefi Senior Secondary School in Mochudi. It was never going to be an easy journey for him as he had to learn braille and the BGCSE syllabi concurrently. Nevertheless, the determination and hunger to learn was just what he needed, in not so long a time he had passed the two levels of braille and could now focus only on BGCSE. "I have always believed education could help me improve my family background," he shared. Legodile says living with a disability is very expensive but one should have perseverance and a never give up attitude.

His teachers at Molefi Senior Secondary School remembers him with lots of admiration. "He was a very determined student, I arranged extra lessons for him and he always attended them" said his Geography teacher Mr. Mooketsi Letshabo. He said Legodile was so focused to the extent of being a tutor to his classmates who did not have any vision impairment issues, by always willing to explain to them what they did not quite understand in class. This was also confirmed by Head of Special Education Mrs. Masego Thamage who says she was impressed mostly by how fast Legodile learnt braille.

Though relatively new to the school, the Deputy School Head Mrs. Gabankitse Magwape says she was surprised and charmed to learn that the student whose name appeared most on the prize giving list was a visually impaired student. Ms Mpolokeng Chake, HOD - Pastoral also has nothing but praises for their star who she says is an indicator that they really put an extra effort in Special Education. For his part, Head Teacher of the school Mr. Francis Semathane praised Legodile for being a fast learner that always came out tops of his class despite his challenges. "We have a challenge of shortage of special needs teaching aids but he was never discouraged," he commended.

At home he is a humble hard working child, yes hard working. Despite his disability sometimes his mother finds him bathing his siblings when she knocks off from work. "I do not like him doing any work, but he always finds an excuse to help," shared the emotional mother. His granny who takes care of him when his mother is not home is also fond of her grounded grandson.

Legodile is going to study Media Studies at the University of Botswana and aspires to either be a radio or television personality because he wants to use the media to reach out to more disabled people.



★ Legodile Mosenene

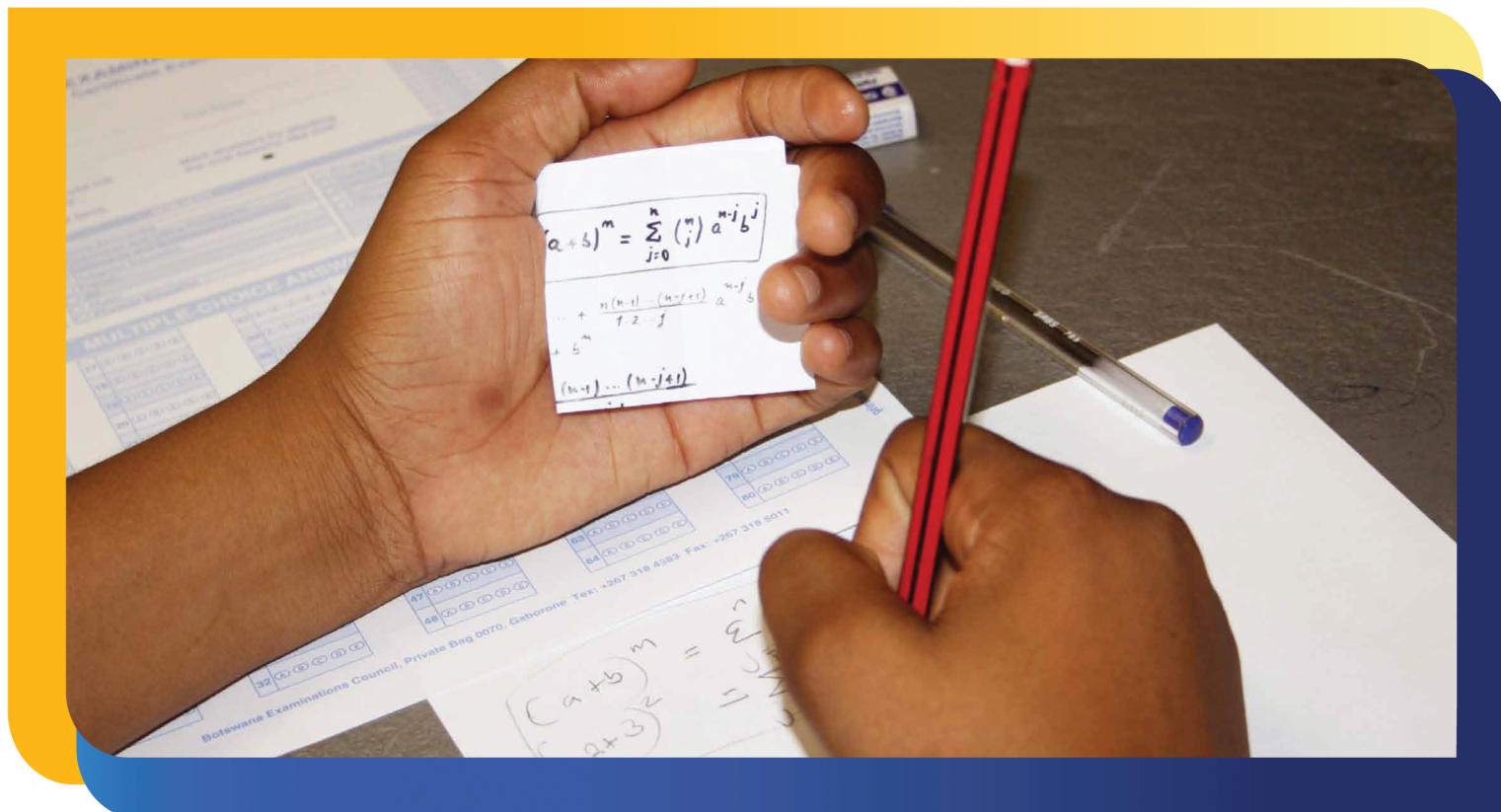


1. Mr. Semathane reckons Legodile was a very fast learner.
2. Mrs. Magwape is still charmed by the fact that their best student was a visually impaired student.
3. Mrs. Thamage praised Legodile for learning braille faster than expected.
4. Ms. Chake reckons their top achiever is a testimony that they are putting an extra

5. Mr. Letshabo says Legodile was excellent in Geography.
6. Legodile pictured with his family with some of his accolades.



Stop Examinations Malpractice



Malpractice involves a deliberate act of wrongdoing, contrary to official examination rules, and is designed to place a candidate at an unfair advantage or disadvantage.

DETECTION OF MALPRACTICE

School heads, chief invigilators, invigilators, supervisors and Examination Council officials provide much of the evidence for malpractice. Evidence is also provided by candidates, parents and the public who witness malpractice, and from others disillusioned by the failure of bribed officials to deliver the expected level of support.

Examinations malpractice is a serious offence punishable by law. Any person who commits an offence shall be liable on conviction to a fine not less than P5 000.00 but not more than P8 000.00 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

All enquiries and reports of examinations malpractice should be reported to the Executive Secretary Botswana Examinations Council either by form of writing or in person.

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