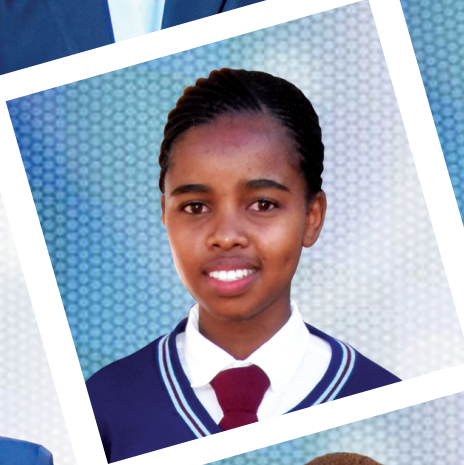
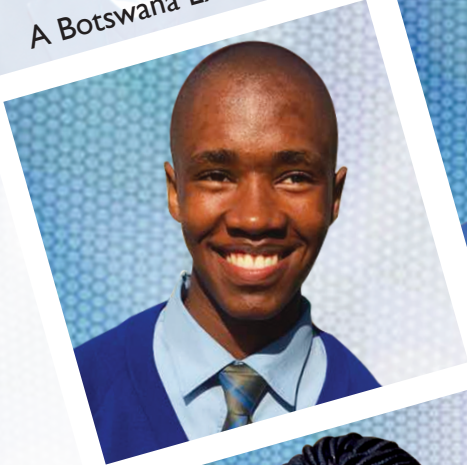


# Ninth Stars

A Botswana Examinations Council Publication Profiling the 2017 BGCSE Top Achievers



BOTSWANA  
EXAMINATIONS  
COUNCIL

9<sup>th</sup> 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 (HRDC), Botswana Open University (BOU) Botswana Qualification Authority (BQA), Botswana Police Service and the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM). 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)

## OUR VISION

Provision of a credible and responsive assessment and examination system.

## OUR MISSION

To be a provider of accessible and globally competitive qualifications.

## VALUES

- Excellence • Integrity
- Transparency • People Focus

### Botswana Examinations Council

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## Foreword by the **Executive Secretary**

The Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) Excellence Awards began in 2010 when the Council made a decision to promote performance in the schools by recognising and rewarding outstanding performance. In the years that followed, the BEC was joined by then Ministry of Education and Skills Development to host the awards ceremony, a collaborative relationship that has continued to today. This is the 9th ceremony since the inception of the awards. The ceremony recognises those top achievers who took the 2017 examinations at the three levels of general education.

The purpose of the BEC Excellence Awards is to recognise and publicly celebrate outstanding performance in the school system through the magazine, which profiles 10 top achievers at BGCSE level and two special needs candidates, one each from the hearing and visual impairment categories; It was hoped that the message of high performance would be beamed beyond the celebration hall to teachers, educators and learners across the country. The hope was that learners in the schools would be inspired to perform even better in order to be the next recipients of the awards. In this magazine, the recipients tell stories of how they have worked over the past years to be where they are now, who contributed to their success (teachers, families and friends) and give study tips to those still in the schools. The magazine is distributed at the ceremony and in schools across the country with the hope that learners in the schools would be inspired to do better.

The ceremony and magazine therefore, also celebrate the contribution of teachers, friends and guardians to the success of the recipients.

There is also the expectation that the celebrations would stimulate teachers to do better. Indeed teachers who want to produce award recipients do review their overall approaches to teaching and learning, as well as assessment. The more we get such teachers, the better the chance of performance improvement in our schools.

The celebrations have remained unchanged for the past nine years. The plan is to review them to accommodate new developments. Such developments include the plan to introduce pathways education, outcome based education, and the transfer of the assessment and moderation of pre-tertiary Technical and Vocational Education and Training to the BEC. These developments may alter the complexion of the awards in the future.

It is appropriate that I should acknowledge with much appreciation the tremendous contribution made by the private sector to the success of this event. The private sector has over the life of the awards contributed materially. This in no small measure demonstrates their commitment to education in this country.

Finally, let me express my heartfelt congratulations to the recipients of this year's awards and wish them a rewarding future.

To everyone else, please enjoy the celebrations and this year's magazine.

Brian Mokopakgosi  
**Executive Secretary**





## Congratulatory Message

Congratulations on your outstanding achievement, I think 2017 has the most A\*s than any other past year but I stand to be corrected. When you succeed in anything, you deserve to be celebrated but there is a danger when your success is at a very high level especially when made public. We put labels on you and we dictate how your life should move forward, what you should do and what you shouldn't do and our voices will soon be louder than your own voice. Don't fall into the trap of dogma, as Steve Jobs put it, "by living with the results of other people's thinking". Always take time to find yourself, find your drive and dream out your own life as you want it to be, however modest it may be. You will find happiness in doing what you love not what has been imposed on you by societal expectations, but always remember success on this level means you have greatness inside of you and THERE IS NO LIMIT TO WHAT YOU CAN DO.

So this past year I have been tutoring as a part of my effort to make an impact on other people's lives. I thought I was helping out a few people and I didn't realise I was having a way bigger impact on the society. One of my previous tutees, gave me a call recently, they had been on a taxi and were approached by a stranger. The stranger told them of how they used to pass by their yard and see us studying most of the time. Every time they saw this, they thought about a sibling of theirs who was not doing so well in school. They then began taking walks with the student past our study area in an attempt to make the underperforming student learn from that. They were on to something. After sometime this student was soon managing their time and studying everyday and needless to say their results improved. I urge you to become an example and realise your potential to inspire others to realise their potential.

Ask yourself how certain individuals are able to attain a high level of success over and over again and learn from them but also learn from the one's that have failed at the same high level. We can learn much from the failures of others so we do not fall into the same traps. Success is also a kind of trap, don't be complacent. One of my best mentors always told me, "Never rest on your laurels." That is the message I wish you can carry with you on your journey of life.

Yours Truly,

**kago Mofstoma\***

2016 Presidential Award/Golden Star Recipient

\* Kago Mofstoma is currently doing his A- Levels at Maruapula courtesy of the Education Hub Elite scholarship.





2017 PSLE, JCE and BGCSE Top Achievers pictured with MoBE and BEC Leadership during the 2017 Annual Excellence Awards Ceremony

# “Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better” - Pat Riley

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# Yes You Can



Former St. Joseph's College student, Lefika Matlho has always wanted to have his name counted amongst the best at the BEC Annual Excellence Awards, but fell short despite being the best at his Region in JCE. It was his failure to make it then to 7th Annual Excellence Awards that inspired him all the way to the summit as he made a grand entrance debut by scooping The Presidential Award/Golden Star Award.

Things just did not seem to be going the Moshupa born young man's way at the beginning of his senior school studies, but he never despaired he kept believing he could turn the wheels of excellence around. The source of his faith he reckons were his teachers who always gave him their vote of confidence even at times when he totally doubted himself. One of the best motivational speeches to ever land on his ears was by his Biology teacher Mrs. Kgangyapelo who said success is not measured by the magnitude of one's fall but their rise thereafter. His Physics teacher Mr. Modise also got a special mention from the Presidential Award recipient as his inspirational tank that never ran dry; he always told Lefika that his conduct and attitude were unique and assured him he was destined to be a Top Achiever come what may; this, Lefika asserts is one of the driving forces that helped him to always hold his head high even at his lowest points of his quest for excellence.

The Deputy School Head at St Joseph's College Mr. Hebert Setume's happiness and pride cannot be traded for anything, reasonably so because not only has his school defended its position as the best school in the country, a position they have held for half a dozen years now, but they have also defended the Golden Star Award title that was last year scooped by one of their own Kago Motsoma. Setume was quick to point out that much as they finish tops year in and year out, they are not in any way different from other schools but it is all fruits of a well-coordinated planning. "A colourful plan counts for nothing if it is not executed with excellence," he noted. He went on to share ingredients of their unbeatable recipe and amongst others he praised the commitment by teachers for sticking to their teaching plans and HOD's for making sure teachers do not miss lessons. Setume sees Lefika's achievement as an inspiration to other students around the country to also "catch the flu". Lefika's HOD Mrs. Mavis Morolong is also happy her efforts were not in vain. Morolong said she always pushed Lefika to put an extra effort though sometimes she felt she was being hard on him but she never not quite fitting from it as she believed he had the potential to take the school to greater heights. "I always reminded him I have pinned all my hopes on him to make us proud," she noted. It is Lefika's humility and warm smile that made him an easily approachable student and created a formidable relationship between him and his teachers.

One of the people who piloted Lefika to the promised land, his Physics teacher Mr. Modise who also happens to be Lefika's predecessor Kago Motsoma (The 8th Annual Excellence Awards Golden Award winner) former Class Teacher corroborates Lefika's praises of him that he indeed saw something beyond what meets the human eye that he was indeed destined for greatness despite his somewhat reserved quiet persona. "I repeatedly told them about the BEC Annual Excellence Awards and Top Achievers' Scholarship and he eventually started believing in the dream," he revealed. Mrs. Daphney Sethibe who taught Lefika Setswana also had nothing but praises for their Golden Star; "Students have an attitude towards Setswana and perceive it as a difficult subject but Lefika was special, he loved Setswana", she said. Mrs. Sethibe went on with her praises, she said

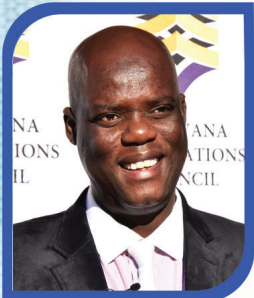
she observed that Lefika studied the syllabus in advance and gave himself revision exercises. His Statistics teacher Mr. Albert Sereto's testimony inter-twines with that of Mrs. Sethibe that indeed he studied ahead and tasked himself with assignments. "He was a special student, he even helped me to explain concepts to his colleagues during lessons," he highlighted. Getting an A\* for this subject is not an easy feat as most excellent students always manage to only score an A and for Lefika to have defied the odds it is a commendable success story according to Sereto. His Class teacher Mr. Donald Makakatlilo said Lefika showed great potential from the onset and coupled his natural intelligence with hardwork. He remembers his student as a helpful colleague to his peers as he often helped those in double science classes with revision.

As it is tradition Lefika was availed the opportunity to give his former school students a motivational talk to help inspire them to emulate him. He told them about the pain of missing out on the BEC Annual Excellence Awards previously; especially that he was the best at his region. "The failure hurt me but then I remembered that one must go through failure to eventually achieve the best", he revealed. Lefika went on to share something shocking; just before he sat for his BGCSE, he scored only 55% in a test something which he said under normal circumstances is discouraging and terrifying but he refused to be shaken. He implored the students to give themselves time to study so that they can understand concepts taught from class. "Have a plan on how you are going to pass and stick to it", he advised. Lefika paid gratitude to his teachers who he said made him believe that if he is the best in the School he can be the best in the Country.

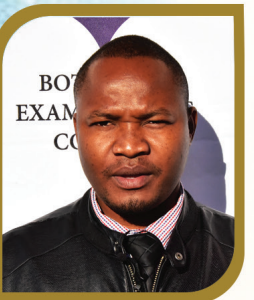
Lefika's mother Mrs. Goabaone Matlho still remembers vividly the day the radio announced through a news bulletin that BGCSE results were released as she was still doing some grocery shopping in Moshupa. She immediately paused from her shopping mission and called him; he told her his results were obvious he had scored 48 points and she rejoiced making a loud noise, oblivious of other customers in the shop. According to his mother Lefika has always shown outstanding commitment to his school work as he always did his homework without supervision and never wanted to come second; if he did he always redeemed himself. His uncle Mr. Bonno Botshologile also attributed his nephew's success to self-discipline and focus, otherwise their guidance as parents would have been a waste of time. Botshologile said Lefika is a well groomed young man who does house chores without any hustle. "Actually he is a very good cook" his aunt Mrs. Kefilwe Botshologile chipped in. She described her nephew as a quite person who talks only when you talk to him and that one has to dig deep to tell if his mood is off key as he keeps a neutral smile all the time.

Lefika's triumph seems to be already rubbing in on his young cousins; ten year old Keletso and her nine year old little sister Mosha. Keletso said Lefika is very strong and focused when it comes to school work. Mosha echoed her older sibling's sentiments about their role model who she said does not need a reminder to do his school work. Young as they are Keletso and Mosha reminded their older cousin to carry on with his never give up attitude and strive to be best in all he does.

Lefika who confessed to be passionate about Mathematics and Sciences would love to study a Statistics related course when he completes his A Levels. He believed if he was the best at his school then he can be the best in the country, now he is going for the ultimate; he believes he might as well be the best in the world. **'Yes you can'!!!!**



St. Joseph's College Deputy Head Master Mr. Hebert Setume hailed school strategies for their continued excellence.



The Golden Star's Class Teacher Mr. Donald Makakatlilo will miss Lefika's work ethics.



Mr. Modise is happy to be associated with a Golden Star for the second year in a row.



Mrs. Daphney Sethibe taught Lefika Setswana and says their gem was a special student.



HOD Mrs. Mavis Morolong is happy their efforts were not in vain.



Lefika's family cannot wait to display yet another accolade.



# Because I Was Willing

Mater Spei College's Palesa Baraki believed that where there is a will there is a way and refused to be discouraged by the second class she obtained at JCE. For two years she worked tirelessly and transformed the second class grade into a second position amongst BGCSE's best 10 students of 2017.

According to Palesa's aunt Annah Motswagagadi, this is a befitting redemption and they did not expect anything less as she started her form 4 with guns blazing and never let her finger off the trigger. "We expected her to pass with a Merit at JCE but somehow it eluded her", she noted. The proud aunt could not hold back her smiles throughout the interview; one could fairly conclude it is a race they ran together. Palesa's mother Rosinah Baraki still cannot believe that her very own has made such a big come back though her track record at Mater Spei has always been brilliant, living the moment is not easy to suck in perhaps that is the reason why she cried the day the BGCSE results were released and her second born of three had passed with flying colours. "It is very commendable for a child to do so exceptionally well", she applauded.

Her Class Teacher Mr. Ntiseng Mani said Palesa was more of an assistant to him than just a student; she coordinated her classmates' birthday celebrations and updated him on her peers' social welfare. This he said displayed how helpful and humble she was. Mani said upon realising that Palesa had potential to fly their flag high, he sat down with her and together they designed a revision timetable and her results are evidence that she followed it religiously. Palesa's Head of House Mr. Best Bechwa was full of praises about their pride. "She proved to be a hot property from the onset and she never dropped the ball", he commented. The school Deputy Head who also assumes the responsibility of being Head of Academics Mrs. Zibisani Smarts attributed Palesa's excellence to the strategies the school has put in place. "We are very pleased with the performance, this shows our efforts are not in vain", she noted.

Palesa is one of five (5) top achievers that Mater Spei College has out of a total of ten countrywide. The School Head Mr. Jabulani Munyere was very happy to share their five (5) stars formula which he credits as Palesa's driving force to greater heights. The culture of excellence is cultivated into students on their very first day as form 4s, this is done during the orientation exercise where they are made to believe in themselves. SURE an acronym for Silent Uninterrupted Reading Exercise an initiative which is meant to encourage the habit of reading is also one of the notable exercises that the school has put in place to at least defend their position two and ultimately go back to position one. SURE takes place ev-

ery Tuesday mornings before lessons commence, Setswana and English departments prepare comprehensions for students to read. Munyere also said Christian values go a long way in helping them achieve their mission. "Our students are disciplined, so we do not spend lots of time solving cases of indiscipline", he highlighted.

Hardworking as she is said to be, Palesa is not anywhere near being labelled a book worm, according to her cousin Nkabo Motswagagadi who cements her revelation by saying her young cousin would rather be found writing notes. This allegation is further given substance by the Top Achiever herself and her aunt. Palesa recalls how her dormitory mates used to tease her whenever they caught her sleeping "Tsoga, balekane ba gago ba a bala wena o robetse" (your peers are reading while you are sleeping). For finishing second Palesa bagged the Ministerial Award presented by the Minister of Basic Education and this she says was not a miracle as it might be seen by a distant eye, it is fruits of hard labour. "I did it because I was willing", stressed Palesa. Never mind that Palesa slept only a few hours a day, she also had a lot on her plate besides the 10 subjects she had to take head on. She had a couple of responsibilities including being her Class Monitor and Senior Prefect.

According to her mother, Palesa has always been an ambitious young lady who from early days and showed signs of being a passionate student as she always shared with them what she had learnt at school. Her aunt corroborates her mother's sentiments. "She is very intelligent and grasps concepts quicker", she noted. At home Palesa is an obedient child who does her chores without being reminded to. So obedient she is, such that she is said to be afraid of being shouted at as it always leaves her shivering with fear. Peaceful, obedient and ever smiling are a few of the good words that best captures her persona. Rosinah went on to advise other parents who aspire to raise Top Achievers by saying it is important for parents to be involved in their children's education from a young age no matter the parent's level of literacy. "When the parents are not interested, it does not get easier for the student", she emphasised.

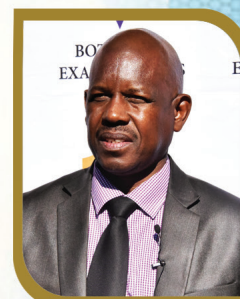
Upon completing her A Levels Palesa wants to study medicine so that she could be a doctor. Becoming a doctor is a dream that comes from back in the days when she used to massage her grandmother and she commended her by saying she would make a good doctor then she started following television programmes like Dr. House and her interest in the profession grew. Her mother also thinks she would make a good doctor as she is a good examiner who likes doing things with exception without rushing them.



Mater Spei College School Head Mr. Jabulani Munyere is happy to be represented in the Top Three again.



Deputy School Head Mrs Zibisani Smarts.



Head of House Mr. Best Bechwa.



Class Teacher Mr. Ntiseng Mani.



Palesa and her family showing off her previous awards.



# Powerful Mind



It takes guts to start Standard one (1) as young as four (4) years old, but it takes something special for a 15 year old to ace their BGCSE and finish as one of the country's best ten students, actually best three (3). Refilwe Rebaagetse a former Mater Spei Student reckons her special character that elevated her to the BGCSE top three (3) is her realisation and believe that she has a powerful mind.

A debutant of the BEC Annual Excellence Awards Refilwe has always wanted to be a Top Achiever but never made the cut at the first two levels of basic education; (PSLE and JCE); and she vowed to make the last chance count. So determined she was; she did not only make it to the Top 10 but she is amongst the cream of the crop of the class of 2017 as she finished third and got herself the BEC Chairman's Award presented by the BEC Board Chairman Dr. Joseph Tsonope. Last year's Ministerial Award Winner Susan Charlie also a former Mater Spei Student's moment of brilliance did not go unnoticed by her young peer who wanted to emulate her. Refilwe was also inspired by other previous Top Achievers who were documented in the BEC Annual Excellence Awards Top Achievers Profiling Booklet and she strived to reserve herself a page in the 2018 edition.

Refilwe in them over their two years in high school. Refilwe is one of five (5) top achievers that Mater Spei College has out of a total of ten countrywide. The School Head Mr Jabulani Munyere was very happy to share their five (5) stars formula which he credits as Refilwe's driving force to greater heights. The culture of excellence is cultivated in the students on their very first day as Form 4's during the orientation exercise where they are made to believe in themselves. Munyere also said everything they do in Maters Spei revolves around God and christian values. He added that this go a long way in helping them achieve their mission.

Refilwe's family just like her former school are proud of their daughter's achievement. Refilwe's mother Kedibonye Rebaagetse reckons her daughter's academic success is not a fluke as she worked hard and never stopped believing in herself. "She is a hard-working, God fearing and humble child", she noted. Her father Seako Rebaagetse revealed that the decision to enrol her for standard one when she was still below the set age of seven (7) years was not out of their will. He went on to narrate how much their daughter proved to be passionate about school from early days; she never asked for any kind of toy but edutainment material, she would even sulk if she ran out of learning aids. "When other girls played with dolls instead of joining them she would make a classroom set up and play teacher and student all at once", he shared with a chuckle. It is her passion for learning that will later on land Refilwe in a class of seven (7) year olds when she was just four (4); her cousin cum playmate was due for her Standard one (1) and Refilwe cried whenever she left for school until she was also enrolled and she did well in her first term and that's how she went on to set a record of being the youngest BEC Annual Excellence Award recipient at BGCSE level.

Refilwe's advice to those who aspire to be like her is that they should not underestimate the power of their mind, and must remain humble and focused and not be derailed by short term success. "Success without character is not success", she warned. Her mother on the other hand advised parents to attend school with their children; saying they should make routine visits to school without waiting to be called as this will enable them to monitor their children's performance. Her father's dream was to see his daughter as a lawyer one day but the young lady has chosen to study medicine. At home Refilwe who is said to be a big fan of Minister of Investment Trade and Industry Bogolo Kenewendo likes to engage in debates about politics and current affairs. She also loves gardening.



Mater Spei College School Head Mr. Jabulani Munyere.



Deputy School Head Mrs Zibanani Smarts.



Head of House Mr. Rashoro Rebabedi



Class Teacher Mrs Olebaganye Thokweng

In Refilwe her class teacher Mrs. Olebaganye Thokweng had a very committed team player. "She enjoyed working with other students and was very helpful with group work", complimented Mrs. Thokweng. She went on to describe her student as an epitome of a student who understands that a teacher can only do so much but students must have the drive to work hard. She said she monitored her students' performance and regularly consulted their subject teachers to make sure they reached their full potential. It is all praises for the Top Achiever; her Head of House Mr. Rashoro Rebabedi reckons that Refilwe was a responsible young lady who always motivated her classmates especially in Statistics classes where she always shared with them how she was coping with the monster that they saw in the subject. He echoes her class teacher's words that Refilwe was a team player. "She was very helpful to other students," he concluded.

Head of Academics who is also The Deputy Headmaster Mrs. Zibisani Smarts added that the school has put in place a strategy that all teachers and staff and students must follow to attain academic excellence. Smarts described Refilwe as a humble student who behaved well even during the examinations period when a few students are always tempted to lose the values instilled



Refilwe's family with some of her accolades.



# Make It Count

Former Mater Spei College student Sethunya Pearl Ratlale reckons second chances do not come by every day so one must make their first chance count. With this in mind the young lady gave it her all as she sat for her BGCSE and she was rewarded with a Top Ten spot.

Sethunya who is not a new comer to the BEC Annual Excellence Awards having first tasted the glory at JCE level, wanted a second bite of the cake and falling short was not an option. The young lady gave her former school students an inspirational talk where she shared tips and philosophies that drove her to excellence. Self-motivation is one of the pillars she singled out as agents of her excellent performance, she emphasised that getting to greater heights all starts with one; their willingness to win. "Self-motivation will do wonders for you", she emphasised. It is her drive from within that was a daily reminder that she had only one chance and she was not going to let it go to waste and this called for sacrifices.

Sethunya who confessed that she loves watching television, had to substitute her hobby for books and today she is happy her substitute helped her live her dream of going to Maruapula School. Much as she wanted to add another Excellence Award to her accolades, she said her primary motive was to qualify for the Education Hub Top Achievers Scholarship a dream that dates back to her JCE days but failed to make the cut in the earlier years. Above an admission and scholarship to pursue her A Levels at Maruapula, Sethunya says she drew some inspiration from the stories told by previous Top Achievers that she read on their Profiling Magazine. "I wanted to be recognised so that I can also tell my story of success", she shared. Like any other student her academic journey was not as easy as she had to overcome a few challenges. At Junior Secondary she went through a self-discovery stage that led her to a few bad choices like making bad friends, but she answered her wakeup call before it was too late. "Remain true to yourself and avoid living a life of double standards", she warned. She went on to reveal that all along she knew she was a heavy weight but was not doing enough to become a star she knew she was posed to be. Sethunya finished off by challenging students to always help each other as that will help them to understand further and earn themselves blessings.

Her Class Teacher Mrs. Olebaganye Thokweng described Sethunya as a committed team player. "She enjoyed working with other students and was very helpful with group work", complimented Thokweng. Thokweng went on to describe her student as an epitome of a student who understands that a teacher can only do so much but students must have the drive to work hard. She said she monitored her students' performance and regularly consulted their subject teachers to make sure they reached their full potential. It is all praises for the Top Achiever; her Head of House Mr. Rashoro Rebabedi reckons their star was a very good competitor who was never intimidated by circumstances even when results were not coming forth. "She was a very hard working student and a very responsible young lady", he applauded.

The school Deputy Head who also assumes the responsibility of being Head of Academics Mrs. Zibisani Smarts attributed Sethunya's excellence to her ethics towards school work. She added that Sethunya was reserved but yet focused.

The School Head Mr Jabulani Munyere was very pleased about Sethunya's driving force to greater heights. Munyere said the school subscribe to a credo dubbed 'SURE'. SURE an acronym for Silent Uninterrupted Reading Exercise an initiative which is meant to encourage a habit of reading is also one of the notable exercises that the school has put in place to at least defend their position two and ultimately go back to position one. Munyere said SURE takes place every Tuesday mornings before lessons commence, Setswana and English departments prepare comprehensions for students to read.

If there is anyone who is happier for Sethunya is the woman who gave birth to this star and raised her as a single parent, Ms. Kgomotso Ratlale. A jovial character, can be confused for happiness but with the mother of the Moiyabana born star, the source of her mood is obvious and she seized the moment. It is upon having a chat with her that our Profiling Crew understood that she deserved to be over the moon as she seemingly was, even to someone who did not have an idea she had special guests courtesy of her brilliant girl. Sethunya's successful story is not by accident, her mother put in a lot in nurturing her. "As a mother I am very happy and proud that she embraced my teachings", said the self-confessed disciplinarian.

Ms. Ratlale said watching television during the week is a no go area for her kids and clearly this is something that her daughter knew and never attempted to do as no amount of protest could ever win. She went on to describe her daughter as a big dreamer who always set the bar high for herself; this is a girl who during her PSLE vacation already had a list of subjects she will study three (3) years later for her BGCSE. As a kid Sethunya was obsessed with studying so much that she was always in trouble for writing on the wall until her mother bought her a chalk board that she put in the court yard where she played teacher to her peers. Her mother's neighbour is to later comment that her child improved academically thanks to the courtyard school. Much as her young version played tutor to her mates, she never vouched for the idea of having tutors when her mother wanted to arrange some for her, citing that they might just confuse her.

Ms. Ratlale implored parents to cultivate the culture of reading and academic excellence in their children from early childhood by buying them books, edutainment materials and actively participate in their education. "A positive attitude cannot be embraced late in life", she emphasised. Sethunya said above everyone else she thanks God, her parents and all teachers that have ever taught her for helping her attain her academic badges. Chartered Finance Analysis is the career she wishes to pursue after her two years A Levels.



Mater Spei College School Head Mr. Jabulani Munyere.



Deputy School Head Mrs Zibisani Smarts.



Head of House Mr. Rashoro Rebabedi.



Class Teacher Mrs Olebaganye Thokweng



Refilwe and her proud mother.





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# Introspected Excellence



It took some introspection for Naledi Senior Secondary School's Katlego Konopo to finally live to his full potential and finish as one of the Country's best ten (10) students in BGCSE.

Being in the Top Ten (10) has always been his dream, but always fell short because his focus was misplaced; his attitude was negative and his discipline was not something that could be praised. At JCE, he passed with an A but according to him it was an average pass, considering his capability and he didn't realise it. Katlego addressed his former school students where he shared his inspirational quest to the BEC Annual Excellence Awards Podium. The young man was frank with his colleagues as he shot from the hip. His speech flowed so well like an oiled machine, one could immediately tell he was sharing about his, very own experiences, the mistakes and the comeback. The day he realised that it would be pointless and a shame for him to go back home empty handed after twelve years of basic education, comparing the worst scenario as that of a man who just buried a dog in the woods. "You are not immune to failing, once you lose focus you will without any doubt fail", he cautioned.

Katlego implored on his junior peers not to be demoralised by their dreams not maturing immediately and the challenges they will come across along their way to glory. He gave his statement more fire power by revealing that he failed Additional Mathematics with an E grade during the mid-year examinations but he passed the subject with an A when he sat for BGCSE and confidently said it could have easily been an A\* had he started preparing earlier than only two months before the examination. Another shocking revelation by the Top Achiever was that through his class teacher Ms. Emang Motsumi he applied to withdraw Geography from his Statement of Entry but never submitted the letter. Three weeks before the examination commenced his Statement of Entry reflected Geography as one of the subjects, and he panicked but remembered panic attracts nothing but failure. "I panicked and doubted myself but I persevered", he said.

One of Katlego's tried and tested philosophies is that genuine willingness coupled with faith in God is a bridge to success. "Once you have reinstated your dream you need no motivation", he emphasised. Coming to school only to honour the routine that comes with being a child is pointless he highlighted. "You are not in school by mistake, there is a reason why you are here, use that reason", he challenged the Naledi Senior Secondary School students. He told the students who could not cease from applauding his brutal facts that if they can divert their attention to important things, they will get to the top of their game. "Having a dream is like being an expectant mother; expectant mothers don't indulge in everything so you also should get your priorities right", he advised. Katlego did not only give his former peers a dose of wisdom about a student's life as he sees it, he also shared tips that powered him to attaining his dream. He said the important part of the learning process is to understand. "Failure to understand is not a disease but if it is, there is a cure; and that cure is asking for help", he shared. He urged those who grasp the concept quicker than their mates to always be avail-

able to help others as this will also enhance their understanding. He also mentioned that Dimpho Gosenyang also a former Naledi SSS student who just like Katlego tasted the BEC Annual Excellence Awards glory at BGCSE level after some serious introspection and was bestowed with the coveted Golden Star Presidential Award taught him about the spirit of knowledge sharing as he read about her in the BEC Annual Excellence Awards Profiling booklet. He confessed that the Profiling Magazine was his cheering up portion whenever he had doubts about attaining his dream and mentioned Khumiso Lethogile a 2015 Ministerial Award winner as one of his role models.

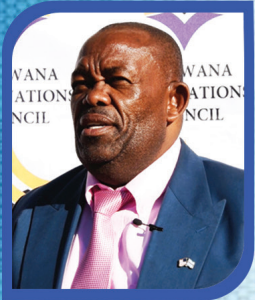
Ms. Emang Motsumi who was his class teacher during his tenure at Naledi was over the moon about one of her own's above board performance. She described him as a self-motivated hardworking student who took his studies seriously and even motivated other students. Motsumi said she always reminded her students to remain focused as focus gives one direction. "Even if there are many stars in the sky, be the one that shines the brightest", she highlighted. His Chemistry teacher Mrs. Kefilwe Chinyepi applauded him for pushing himself hard to make sure he lives up to expectations. "He showed potential from the onset and kept his eyes on the ball", said the jubilant Chinyepi. The school Deputy Head Mr. James Ponoesele said though the school performance was not as pleasing as they wished, they are very happy with Katlego's performance. He went on to sing praises about Katlego's motivational speech to Naledi SSS students. "It is great to hear sound advices from a student", he applauded. By finishing in BGCSE Top Ten Katlego has helped Naledi retain their good record of having at least a representative in the Top Ten for five consecutive years now, something the School Head Mr. Othusitse Othusitse said was a morale booster to the students and the school to keep striving for excellence. He commended their shining star for stepping up when it mattered most. "He never dominated the school prize giving ceremonies, he was a dark horse", he noted. He concluded by saying Katlego's triumph was an example that introspection can do wonders.

His mother Maipelo Konopo said she had set a target of six (6) A\* for him so that he could qualify for the Top Achievers Scholarship but he surpassed that by scoring seven (7) A\* and a Top Ten finish was a cherry on top. She described her son as a responsible humble young man who relates well with his sibling. "His commitment to school work is like that of a soldier to his duties", she said. His mother went on to applaud his son for always encouraging his young sister to read, and said he never lets go until he has a satisfactory explanation when he wants to understand something. Ms. Konopo advised other parents to be present and make sure their children's school needs are met.

Katlego would like to thank all those who played a role in making his dream possible especially his family, teachers, peers and their supportive neighbours who always played a parental role when his mother was away due to work commitments. Upon completing his A Levels he wants to pursue a Mathematics related course to satisfy his love for crunching the numbers.



Naledi School Head Mr. Othusitse Othusitse.



Naledi Deputy School Head Mr. James Ponoesele.



Class Teacher Mrs. Emang Motsumi.



Chemistry Teacher Mrs. Kefilwe Chinyepi.



Katlego with his mother displaying some of his accolades.



# Mending A Broken Heart

Passing PSLE with flying colours and making a grand entrance at JCE and remaining the best in school for the first two years, the Mandunyane born Olorato Maphosa thought she had it all. Pride would later shatter her heart to pieces when JCE results were released and she had performed way below her potential.

Heartbroken as she was, she progressed to Senior Secondary with a fierce determination to redeem herself because she knew she could not turn back the hands of time but making her last chance count would be remedy. Commuting a total of 50km to and from school every-day from Mandunyane to Francistown and back was never a challenge; she still managed to pass exceptionally well through her primary and junior levels of education. Being what she termed a local heroin and thinking she was untouchable was the biggest mistake the former Mater Spei College student ever made and warned her former school students not to follow her heart breaking path. "Don't you dare think you've got this, it got you", she warned sternly much to the appreciation of a packed assembly.

Losing focus that almost cost her a qualification to see the gates of a Senior Secondary school was amidst her teachers' warning, but she chose to be a local heroine as she told herself that marks will come her way come rain come sunshine. Ignoring her teachers' advices was just the beginning of her script of failure; the last throw of the dice was discovering Facebook in August, 2015 just a few weeks before she sat for her JCE. Today she knows the ruthless lessons of complacency and pride, a lesson that sends her into emotional wreckage when she reminisces it, almost losing control of her tears. Though she warned others about remaining humble and focused, she also advised them to remain confident and believe in themselves.

The local heroin of her Junior Secondary School at Senior Secondary was a different version of the former. Mr. Ntiseng Mani was Olorato's custodian during her tenure at Mater Spei as her Class Teacher and had only positive things to say about the young lady. He perceives her as an outright intelligent student who is self-driven and needs little to no motivation to excel. "Whenever she failed she redeemed herself", he noted. She was so focused on mending her broken heart to a point where no one would associate her with "local heroine tag". Actually she was a down to earth student who kept a low profile you would not even think she was anywhere near Top Achiever aspirations. This is according to her Head of House Mr. Best Bechwa. "She played her cards close to her chest", he highlighted.

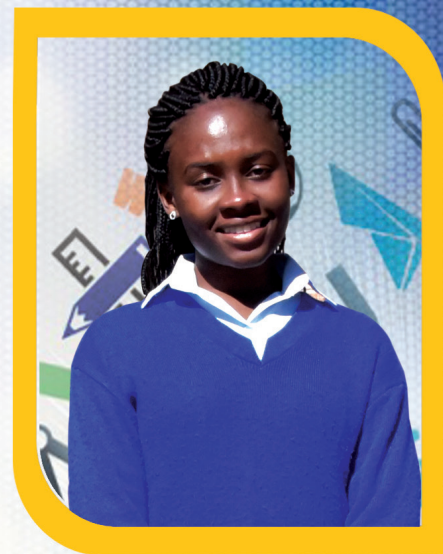
The school Deputy Head Mrs. Zibisani Smarts said the school offers weekly themes that are geared to academic excellence. She also added that they also encourage parents to take centre stage in their children education by allocating time to attend Parents and Teachers Association meetings and prize giving ceremonies and collection of students academic progress reports.

Smarts described Olorato as a humble student who behaved well and consistently performed well during her time at Mater Spei College.

The School Head Mr Jabulani Munyere said they are ecstatic that for the past nine years they have managed to secure at least a spot in the Top Achievers Category. He attributed this success to the cooperation and benchmarking missions they do as a school. Munyere also said Mater Spei College takes pride in instilling confidence in their students as they believe it plays a role in academic excellence.

Olorato's parents expressed delight at their daughter's achievement; so much a great deal her mother said when her daughter shared her results with her through the phone she got overwhelmed by emotions and suddenly felt dizzy she had to be excused from work. Mrs. Judith Maphosa supposes her daughter's humility was one of the notable characters that helped her finish as a Top Achiever. "She is obedient and soft spoken, you would even feel bad shouting at her," she shared. Her father Mr. Richard Maphosa shared his wife's sentiments that their daughter has never been a problematic child though they had to tighten her leash as she grew older. "From a young age she has been serious about school work", commended the proud father. Her love for school work however worried his father who felt she was overdoing it and feared she might be strained by reading especially overnight, but she coped and all her hard work paid off. Olorato's parents also shared that being supportive parents goes a long way in helping children excel in their studies. "We were always first on report collection day, to make sure we had ample time to get feedback from all her teachers", shared Mrs. Maphosa.

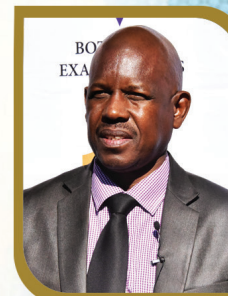
She may have been on a quest to mend her broken heart and restore her pride but the biggest driving force was her dream to see herself as a Neurologist one day. A dream that was conceived when Olorato was just nine (9) years old. She narrated that one day she was watching a movie with her sister and she was inspired. The Movie titled 'The Gifted Hands', depicting a true story about one young boy Ben Carson who doubted his capabilities especially when his academic report did not look any good to boost his confidence but his mother natured him to excellence and eventually he became a Neurologist, actually one of the best Pediatric Neurosurgeon the world has ever seen. It is Ben Carson's seemingly impossible journey to become a Neurologist that is infused in Olorato's dream to study Neurology at Harvard University. Today her role model Benjamin Solomon Carson Sr. (born September 18, 1951) is an American politician and author serving as the 17th and current United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development since 2017, under President Trump's Administration. Prior to his cabinet position, he was a candidate for President of the United States in the Republican primaries in 2016.



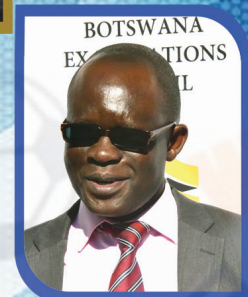
Mater Spei College School Head Mr. Jabulani Munyere is happy to be represented in the top three again.



Deputy School Head Mrs. Zibisani Smarts.



Head of House Mr. Best Bechwa.



Class Teacher Mr. Ntiseng Mani.



Olorato and her family showing off her previous awards.



# A Synonym Of Success



It is not about A\*s, but it is about being the best one can be; let your today's effort show improvement compared to your yesterday attempt. These are words of Mbaki Kabo Sonny who believes this is the mind-set that elevated him to success as he finished as one of the best Ten Top Achievers.

Mbaki was given the opportunity to step up on his now former school Mater Spei College's assembly area and inspire the students. His revelations confirmed that indeed his effort reflects a distinct improvement compared to his JCE feat; where he qualified with a second class. "At JC, results did not come my way, not because I was not working hard; but I remembered that one is a failure only when they are dead", he shared. An affectionate Kung Fu movies follower as a young boy, Mbaki said he always emulated what he saw on the movies but he could not master any of them. The Top Achiever supposes that just like his interest in copying movie stars, he said challenging his former school students to try and emulate his style of learning and try to forever make it a part of them. Mbaki gave his statement weight by confessing that he also was inspired by previous Top Achievers as he read their stories on the Profiling Magazine hence he emulated their success.

He went on to share that he realised some students lack a reason to work hard. "What is stopping you from working hard?, find a reason to work hard", he challenged. His reasons for working hard were circumstances he found himself in. "My loses motivated me and I wanted to make my name synonymous to success", he shared. Mbaki told the students that his success was not by luck but hard work. "To be successful you should not only have a dream you should work hard", he advised. He was barely eight (8) years old when his parents divorced but that was just the beginning of a trying script; not long thereafter his mother passed away. Devastated by the two hard blows he moved from Selibe-Phikwe where he had a smooth childhood and went to live with his grandmother in Somerest Township in Francistown. This was later to prove to be a blessing in disguise. "I had a choice to either die with my mother or live for her", he revealed. Mbaki said the sight of corrugated iron roofing without a ceiling was his daily motivation and that he is confident he will one day wake up from a house with a designer ceiling. Mbaki a devoted Christian also implored students to invite God into their lives for a much needed spiritual guidance. "God is not your blessing to just provide for your wishes", he said. Mbaki concluded his motivational speech by saying success is not a one size fits all thing, one should not just dream big but dream from the heart.

Mr Ntiseng Mani who was Mbaki's class teacher described the young man as a born leader who helped in taking care of the class in his absence. "He is a humble and respectful young man", he said. Mani further said his student was the first to embrace his philosophy and credits that as one of the attributes that led him to success. His Head of House Mr. Best Bechwa also said Mbaki was a born leader. "I deliberately appointed him to be monitor to groom him for leadership", he revealed. Besides spotting traits of leadership, Bechwa said Mbaki is academically gifted. Bechwa went on to describe their star boy as a down to earth person who thrived best under pressure. "He is a hard nut to crack", he commended.

The school Deputy Head and Head of Academics Mrs. Zibisani Smarts said they have a very dedicated teaching staff who put in a lot

of effort to make the school one of the best in country. They know that when they put in work they will get credit when the school performs well, and that's on its own a rewarding feeling," she emphasised. Mbaki is amongst the five (5) top achievers that Mater Spei College produced in the 2017 BGCSE examination out of a total of ten Top Achievers in the whole Country.

Mbaki's grandmother Ms. Beauty Sonny assumed the role of being his mother when her daughter; his mother passed away when he was doing standard two (2). The excitement in her heart lights up her face that one could just see it without any examination of her mood. Reasonably so; the boy she raised from just running a tuck shop has grown into a smart and responsible young man. With a broad beaming smile she narrated how she heard from a radio news bulletin that BGCSE results have been released and she immediately became anxious and started calling everyone she could so that they could check for her if the egg she has been incubating has hatched. The next call she received was from none other than the man of the moment, and as soon as she picked up he did not say anything but just screamed and she screamed along because she knew it could only mean one thing. She later learnt her voice cords strain was all in the name of seven (7) A\*s. Ms. Sonny described her grandson as a hard working student who spent most of his time reading. "He is a bookworm and a visionary", she praised. Mbaki's granny had a discussion with him when he was in form 5 and proposed to him that they get a Setswana tutor but he suggested that they should rather write to the school seeking permission for him to be enrolled for evening studies and the school agreed.

About his personal character Mbaki is praised for being very respectful and loving. "He never talks back to adults when he is being reprimanded for any wrong doing, he is a humble Christian", said his grandmother. She said her grandson has a spirit of brotherhood as he is always willing to share his knowledge by tutoring his peers, to the extent of even following some of them at their homes. Ms. Sonny said they enjoyed a very healthy relationship with her jolly playful grandson, who she refers to as her age mate. One other person who has a good chemistry with Mbaki is his eighty one (81) year old great grandmother Ms. Evelyn Phindela. Old as she might be, the great grandmother is the one who was responsible for his meals, a commitment she never ran out of strength for and she says this is all because of love. "He is such an angel full of love. I love him because he loves me dearly too", she said.

Allowing children to participate in extracurricular activities is often perceived as a distraction to the core mandate of studying according to Mbaki's grandmother and she advises parents to desist from this perception. She also said parents should avoid over loading children with chores and parental responsibilities so that they can focus on their studies.

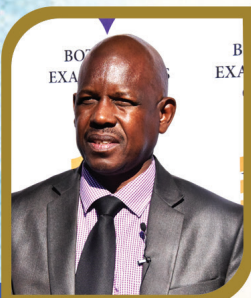
Mbaki said he has never discussed his future plans with his family but was happy to learn during the interview that his great grandmother had the same vision as him. She said she wish he could be a reputable economist, citing Botswana's Minister of Finance and Development Planning Honourable Kenneth Mathambo as a benchmark. Her dream is well on point as Mbaki aspires to study Actuarial Science and Economics and hopes to help Botswana become a high income country.



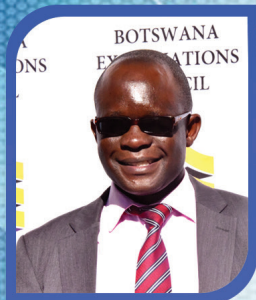
Mater Spei College School Head Mr. Jabulani Munyere.



Deputy School Head Mrs Zibisani Smarts.



Head of House Mr. Best Bechwa.



Class Teacher Mr. Ntiseng Mani.



Mbaki pictured with his grandmothers and some of the accolades he got at Mater Spei College.



# Live Your Dream

No one should be reminded what it takes, have a dream and pursue it. These are words of advice Magret Gaogakwe imparted on her colleagues at Mogoditshane Senior Secondary School.

Born and raised in Thamaga under the guidance of both her parents, the second born of three gave the six (6) years old senior school its first bite of the BEC Annual Excellence Awards cherry with 6A\*, 2A and a B. Though Mogoditshane SSS has boarding facilities, Margret was a day scholar and commuted a total of 60 kilometres by public transport from Thamaga every day of her two years in pursuit of her BGCSE badges. This would turn out to be her biggest stumbling block; one morning on her way to school she escaped an attempted rape from unknown assailants who ghosted in the early morning darkness of an unoccupied bushy path. But the scary experience did not derail her from living in the future; the more she dreamt of winning a BEC Excellence Award the more she saw it happening. Her dream was a good motivation to help her bury the scary attempt, she reckons.

Like a well groomed Tswana child, at home Margret does her chores exceptionally well, actually her mother Phadi Gaogakwe thinks she is the most hardworking person in her family. "She puts so much passion and effort in everything that she does, she is our work horse at the fields," she showered praises. The pride in both her parents when they talk about her as a daughter and a student cannot be missed even in the face of her seemingly reserved and calm father Thomas Gaogakwe, once he talks about his amazing daughter there are no reservations. The head of house of the Gaogakwe home goes down memory lane spotting an uncontrollable smile as he shares how young Margret has always been a big dreamer; her eight year old self wanted to be a medical doctor a dream she still holds. Both her parents speak highly of her reserved character; she talks less, barely does wrong they cannot even remember the last time they had to tighten her leash. "She is a very obedient and determined child", her father emphasised.

Mr. Gaogakwe compared raising a child to nurturing a garden of vegetables as both a child and garden need patience to blossom. "Teach them from a young age to have a schedule of their day and let them follow it until it becomes routine", he shared. Magret's triumph is not the end of the road for her as her mother said she has had a pep talk with her to remind her to remain grounded by the values she was raised under; the script of her life is all in her hands.

Magret the student's persona is not in contrast from how her parents perceive her as a daughter at home. Mr. Douglas Dube her Class Teacher remembers his former student as reserved but cooperative student who related well with her peers. He corroborated her father's words that she was a determined student. "Magret was very bright and didn't need external push to do her work, her inner desire to learn drove her", he said. Her Head of House Mr. Emmanuel Rasesia's testimony about Magret does not fall short of what is already on the table; he said she was a highly motivated, focused and determined

student. "Her work ethic was very impressive, I always used her as an example", he said. Mr Rasesia went on to say even though Magret had a consistent good performance, they still had to make sure the learning environment was conducive to help students attain their own set target and more. Ms. Sekete Ngope the Deputy School Head and also the school's Head of Academics attributed Magret's excellence to what she said was pre-learning before going to class. Mogoditshane SSS was just the right place for Magret to chase her dream as the School Head Mrs. Kesaobaka Matsoma is confident her school is a good school and has potential to be a top performing school despite missing the Top 10 finish by a spot in 2017. "We are very delighted, this child has really done us proud", she commended. Matsoma sees Magret's victory as a morale booster to those who had doubts about the school and reckons it instils confidence not only in the students but all the stakeholders.

For a soft spoken reserved person Magret left no stones unturned when she was availed the opportunity to inspire her young peers. As the students were still cheering her, she started her speech with a succinct opening statement. "If you are not willing to learn no one can help you. If you are willing to learn, no one can stop you", she said. Magret was not done with hitting the right notes as students paid attention. "No one should remind you what is at stake, have a dream, see your dream, want the dream and dream the dream", she advised. She further emphasised that one must imagine themselves living the dream, because the more you imagine the dream the more you want it. Magret told her peers that motivation came from having a dream and revealed that her quest was not smooth sailing as she had some challenges to overcome. The Top Achiever who had advises oozing like water from a fountain went on to advise that one should always make the most out of what they have, "all that I know today, I read from the same books that are also at your disposal", she said.

Magret cautioned Mogoditshane SSS students against taking their school work for granted, emphasising that even what they might regard small like coming to school late just for one day as it might be the day they miss the bus to their dreamland. "Much as you cannot expect a plate of food to develop feet and come to you, the concept is the same with our dreams, we ought to nurture them to live them", she said. The now Maruapula student; courtesy of her A Levels scholarship which is one the packs of her Top Achiever status told her former school mates that they are wrong to think studying is an easy feat. "We were never told it is going to be easy, we were actually told its going to be difficult, and it is difficult for a reason", she warned sternly. Magret whose speech was not short of hard facts ended with her reminding students that they are children and should be just that 'children'; and do what children do and leave adult deeds to adults.

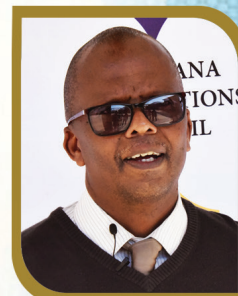
After completing her A Levels which are a two year programme, Magret aspires to study medicine and ultimately be an Oncologist as she wants to help curb the rapid increase of cancer related diseases.



Mogoditshane School Head Mrs. Kesaobaka Matsoma.



Deputy School Head Ms. Sekete Ngope.



Head of House Mr. Emmanuel Rasesia.



Class Teacher Mr. Douglas Dube



Magret's family showing off her previous awards.

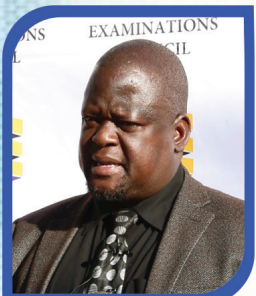


# Delighted Feat



For five (5) years Delight Tirelo was a religious follower of the BEC Annual Excellence Awards particularly the Profiling Booklet/Magazine featuring the Top Ten Top Achievers, and was inspired to follow suit.

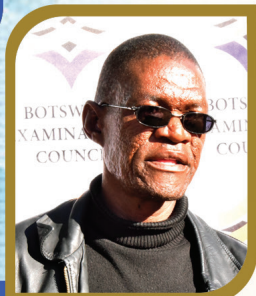
Delight who went to Lobatse Senior Secondary knew the last time his school was represented in the Top Achievers Top Ten was five (5) years ago when Kago Goveya finished Top of his cohort, earning himself a Golden Star Award. Though he has been aware of the initiative for a while now, he has always fell short of making the cut, only to make his first entry courtesy of his last chance. Studying in pursuit of excellence is nothing but an exhausting journey he reckons, perhaps why he describes the feeling of finally making it as delightful. "I am very delighted, it is an overwhelming feeling", he said. He might not have matched Goveya's record of finishing as the best of the best; a record which was set when Delight was still a Form One (1) student but he has saved the school's bragging rights. Delight was welcomed to his school with a big applause as he visited to share the good news and to give a motivational speech to his juniors. He revealed that easy as it seems, success does not always come at first take as it took him a couple of efforts to finally have his name counted. "Always strive to improve and persevere", he advised.



Head of House and Acting School Head Mr. Kgosho Morake.



Biology Teacher Mr. Peter John expressing his delight.



Mr. Karabo Pilane taught Delight Agriculture.



Mr. Mosalanyana Rantona was Delight's English Teacher.

Delight went on to share tips that drove him to an excellent performance. He attested that as a boarding student he had lots of time to spare unlike a day student that also has house chores on their schedule and he used this time to read. When reading he said he never skipped a topic even those that the syllabus might not have covered yet. "The examination does not choose what you were taught and what you were not, so you must study all topics", he shared. He asked the students to be very disciplined and committed to their reading schedule because examination is never easy and it gets even tougher if you haven't bothered to study. He implored them to keep on working hard even when results are not in their favour. "It is best to know you gave it your best shot than to be left asking yourself what if", he cautioned.

Delight went on to emphasize on hard work saying his good grades did not come out of nowhere; they are results of two years of hard work. He also said hard work pays when coupled with sacrifices, citing himself as an example and mentioned the use of a cell phone and attending social gatherings like weddings as some of the things he had to give up to create more time to study. "Sometimes my performance dropped by 20% but I didn't give up", he lamented. His last advice was that when results finally come their way, students must introspect and find their winning formula and keep it in the pocket.

A humble student who sacrificed a lot for his studies, this is according to his English Teacher Mr. Mosalanyana Rantona. "He knew his priorities and wanted to do well and he has achieved that", commended Rantona. He went on to say Delight's academic success is good feedback that they as teachers are doing things right. Mr. Peter John taught Delight Biol-

ogy and the first thing that comes to his mind when Delight is mentioned are; wonderful, hardworking and dedicated. "His dedication was also motivation to me as a teacher to come to class better prepared for his difficult questions" he shared with delight. Failing to prepare well for a class was risking being exposed by the young man, John elaborated. His colleague Mr. Karabo Pilane and Delight's Agriculture teacher, said "he was a very humble student who was very intelligent in many ways." His Head of House Mr. Kgosho Morake was also not different to his colleagues as he described Delight as an intelligent focused young man who cared so much about his studies. "He is a once in a while type of student, if I could I would duplicate him" commended Morake. The Head of House who also was representing the School Head said it was good to have a student in the Top Ten as they can use him as reference when motivating other students. Morake said the school had a couple of initiatives that are intended at improving their overall performance, like remedial, weekend classes and monitoring of students individually.

At home the first born of three is perceived as a child on every parent's wish list; he is God fearing, obedient, committed to his studies and a role model to his young siblings. This is according to his father Mr. Boingotlo Tirelo who said his son's performance was expected. "His teachers saw his potential and asked us to encourage him", he noted. A very committed Christian he is; his mother Mrs. Natefo Tirelo heard about the BGCSE results release from the lunch hour radio news bulletin and informed him so that he can retrieve his results online but he insisted that they wait for him to break his fast in the evening at 6pm. The 6pm time came with celebrations and the family found a reason to eat out. His mother said he is a blessing. She continues, "He is very mature, he helps with house chores and other errands like paying the utilities bills." Delight is content with spending time at home and watch cartoons if he is not studying using his laptop and books. Her mother further talked about an amazing bond they have, actually they are very close friends with her son who she says never sulks.

His father attests that his son is easy to manage as he is self-driven. The two gentlemen stayed together in Lobatse since Delight's Junior School days as his mother worked in Molepolole. He said there was never conflict between them especially about house chores. Delight's mother was happy to share with other parents tips on how to raise a Top Achiever and the first thing she noted was that parents must have a close relationship with teachers. Speaking of a close relationship with teachers; she revealed that when Delight was doing standard five (5) his teachers asked that he proceed to standard six (6) just after the first term in standard five (5) and they gave the school the go ahead. However his mother, who is a teacher by profession, was worried that his bad hand writing will cost him marks so she made him practice with standard one (1) writing exercises and he improved.

Delights says his journey to success has just started!!!



Proud family displaying some of Delight's awards.



# “I Could Make It As a Herd Girl”

Life is all about having a vision and knowing what you want, these are words of Katlo Galefete who is one of the BGCSE Class of 2017 Top Achievers. This she said to Kgari Sechele Senior Secondary School students at an event held to announce and celebrate her achievement and also motivate her former school students.

The Molepolole born young woman who gave her school its debut in the Top Ten Top Achievers platform told her peers that being recognised as a Top Ten finisher was never her motivation. While the students were still reeling from shock at her revelation, she continued to say her dream career was the biggest motivation. As if that was not enough, with a serious face she dropped another bomb shell; “I could be a herd girl and I still would make a big break in life”, she quipped. She put some weight behind her assertions by emphasising that we cannot all excel with ease but we can succeed somehow if we give it our all. Katlo challenged the students to choose their career path as early as possible and take notes during career fairs as this will guide them in knowing what it takes and help them pursue their dreams. She went on to plead with her former school’s students to work hard but be careful not to strain themselves. “Work smart and get results without sweating, but don’t be lazy”, she advised. Katlo capped off her speech by challenging students to be obedient to teachers, parents and all stakeholders.

Mrs. Malebogo Nakedi, who is Katlo’s former Class Teacher described her as a well behaved, humble, kind and loving student who related well with all teachers and students. Nakedi said never mind that her student was very intelligent she supplemented her brains with hard work and commitment. “Whenever she missed school her parents always made arrangements for her to get assignments and she would do them”, she commended. Katlo’s Head of House Mr. Kwenasebele Modukanele expressed delight and relief about their star’s results. “She passed with an A at JCE so our mission was to at least retain that performance”, he said. Modukanele also said Katlo was a very determined and independent student who never wanted to be wrong and always did corrections from her tests and submitted them. “She stretched her intelligence to the best of her capability”, he applauded.

The School Deputy Head Mr. Israel Moalosi expressed gratitude to Katlo and thinks her success has redeemed their pride as their school was one of the least performing schools for years now. “She is a hard working individual, we are happy to be associated with such excellence”, he

noted. The School Head Mr. Lapologang Kwelagano intertwines with his second in command that indeed Katlo has removed doubt from people, especially parents who always transfer students to what they deemed ‘better schools’. He described her as a typical student who always put school first and was self-motivated. Kwelagano challenged parents to be involved in their children’s education and said teachers and other stakeholders must play their part diligently. “A committed teacher is liked and respected by students, therefore students will have a reason to do well in whatever they teach them”, he advised.

Katlo’s father Mr. Shadrack Galefete credits his daughter’s victory to her grandmother’s guidance and nurturing. “This shows she embraced her grandmother’s values and encouragement to work hard”, he said. Her aunt Ms. Masego Mahatelo who together with Katlo’s grandmother Baikgatlhi Mokgoko served as her custodians due to her parents’ work commitments was also full of praises. She said Katlo showed signs of intelligence from a young age and started school when she was barely five (5). “We are a family that loves to read and she always grabbed our newspapers” she said. Aunt Masego’s claims that her niece proved to be intelligent at a young age have an alibi in her uncle Mr. Tshabo Sedimo who revealed that his niece never saw the four corners of a pre-school but her intelligence and a strong support system from a family that values education helped her adapt well at school young as she was. He said as parents they just did not fold their arms and hoped their intelligent child will do magic on her own. “We monitored her behaviour and school performance throughout”, he said. One of the things they did was to dictate her television hours, content and constantly reminded her to remain humble and disciplined.

Though her grandmother helped her with chores especially making fire for her every morning and also making sure she had something to eat before she went to school, Katlo still had her fair share of doing house chores especially during weekends. She however likes easy duties like making tea, which she is said to always make in a split second. Her aunt described her persona as cool, calm, loving and a neat person by nature.

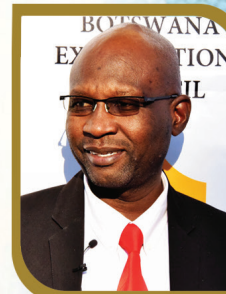
Katlo would like to study Chemical Engineering as she sees it as a dynamic field. “With current developments like the plastic ban we need more innovative people”, she said.



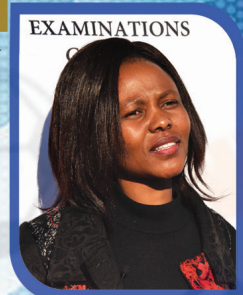
School Head Mr. Lapologang Kwelagano.



Deputy School Head Mr. Israel Moalosi.



Head of House Mr. Kwenasebele Modukanele.



Katlo’s Class Teacher Mrs. Malebogo Nakedi.



Katlo and members of her family.



# Humble Beginnings



People draw inspiration from different things; some are inspired by those they admire, some by their circumstances and for some it just comes from their will to make a name for themselves. The best student in BGCSE Special Education, Hearing Impairment category for the class of 2017 from Maun Senior Secondary School Keneilwe Makombo was inspired by her family background, particularly the sacrifices that her single mother have always made for her.

For her Class Teacher Mr. Thatayaone Tebogo, inspiration to produce a Top Achiever came from his longing to be featured in the BEC Annual Excellence Awards Profiling Magazine. Mr. Tebogo made his desire known to his student and together they worked towards achieving that goal. "I challenged her to put me in the BEC Magazine and asked her what she needed me to do to help her accomplish the mission", he shared with a chuckle that emphasised his pride. He said his student portrayed multiple abilities and showed so much interest in academics. He further said she was a self-motivated student who believed that she could make it and he was not surprised when the results came out, though he admitted she could have done better than she did. As alleged by her Class Teacher, Keneilwe's interest was in her academics, her Head of House Mr. Machai Machai also vouched for her. "She was a hard-working individual, concerned about nothing else but education", he highlighted. He went on to label her as a confident and bubbly student who related well with her peers.

aimed at monitoring, tracking, remediation and enrichment. He commended Special Needs department for their utmost commitment. Ms. Selebatso Modisaemang the School Head is head over heels, her colourful narration about Keneilwe is a handful. She started by describing her as a very nice to work with individual adding that they were privileged to have had her as one of their students. She went on to say "Keneilwe portrayed a very strong character, and displayed a very good spirit of sisterhood as she always had her peers interests at heart", she praised. Time conscious, smart and free to express herself are some of the words she used to describe her further. Modisaemang also took the opportunity to give an update about her school's welfare and commended the Ministry of Basic Education for availing adequate teachers for Special Education but expressed concern on shortage of teaching aids and a class room dedicated for Special Education. "We could do better with more resources, but it is not a train smash our teachers are doing their best", she said.

Keneilwe, a last born of two made her mother Ms. Idah Makombo proud. "I am still excited as I was the day results were released", were her first words. She said her daughter is her hope, and that is why she has always worked hard to support her. Idah said her daughter has always liked school. "She always read whatever she came across", she said. She described her daughter as a God fearing, loving and humble person. "She is a sweet girl, she just gets frustrated when people speak to her and they are too fast for her to hear", she noted. Keneilwe communicates using sign language and her family are not conversant in it so they just speak to her and she reads their lips. The jubilant mother called on other parents to be supportive and be there for their children. "Don't make taking care of your children, anyone's responsibility", she advised. Her aunt Ms. Luzile Makombo urged Keneilwe to keep on working hard as she has a bright future ahead of her.

Keneilwe said her love for education and her Class Teacher's daily motivation and encouragement were her driving forces.

She would love to study Special Education so that she can teach the Hearing Impaired and reckons she will make a good teacher as she understands their challenges.



School Head Ms. Selebatso Modisaemang



Deputy School Head Mr. Steven Morris



Head of Special Need Education Ms. Neo Mafunye



Head of House Mr. Machai Machai



Class Teacher Mr. Thatayaone Tebogo



Keneilwe with her Mother Idah Makombo and Aunt Luzile Makombo.



# The Visionary

His sight might be impaired but Teedzani Mokgege has a far sight about his future; 'a visionary' captions him best. Born with a visual impairment, the former Molefi Senior Secondary School student has grown to believe that being blind is not a curse because God has bigger plans for everyone; as he put it in his own words.

From a young age Teedzani proved to be a force to reckon with as his teachers from Lephoi Primary School for the Blind made him proceed to Standard three (3) after his first year in primary school, which means he did not have to go through the Standard two syllabus. Their confidence in him was never disappointed them as their wonder boy went on to scoop a BEC Excellence Award for finishing top of his Visually Impaired mates at JCE, and he has repeated it once more, this time at BGCSE level.

The visionary that he is, Teedzani knew being intelligent alone would not take him to greater heights that he was destined for. "I was blessed with very committed teachers who believed in me and I never wanted to disappoint them," he highlighted. Mr. Edwin Mogomotsi who served as his Class Teacher heaped praise on his student. "He was a very good boy and a self-motivated student" he said. Mogomotsi continued to applaud Teedzani, "whenever they were given extra work, he did it and submitted it on time." The Class Teacher however, confessed that Teedzani's results shocked him as they were more than the good he expected. Mr. Kholisani Zibani his Head of House's testimony about him connects with that of his Class Teacher: "A very intelligent student who did his work on time, and always motivated his colleagues to read", he applauded. The proud Head Of House went on to describe Teedzani as a go getter and his marks showed that he had a vision. Senior Teacher (I) for Special Education Mrs. Masego Thamage also gave a colourful account of the young man. She said he competed well not only with his peers in special education but with those in the mainstream as well. She described him as a very determined and committed learner. "He did not depend mostly on his teachers like his other colleagues," as she showered praises. Thamage took the opportunity to express some gratitude to the Ministry of Basic Education for their support, considering how expensive the Special Education teaching aids can be.

Teedzani's positive attitude was very popular in the school; his Deputy School Head Mrs. Gabankitse Magwape was impressed by his attitude. Magwape shared that upon picking up signs of intelligence on him, she was compelled to peruse his JCE academic record and it confirmed to her that he was indeed a serious student. "It was not shocking that he gave mainstream students a run for their money", she said. Magwape went

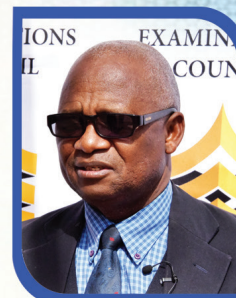
on to say she is very confident Teedzani will do well in his further studies. Mr. Francis Semathane described their star as a hard working dedicated student who spent most of his time learning. "I am very happy because this an example that when a student is determined they shall excel", he said.

Teedzani was raised by his elder siblings after their parents passed on. His sister Ms. Violet Gaosupelwe battled to contain her emotions of excitement as she shared her little brother's journey of excellence and their winning secret. She started the interview with a shocking revelation; when she heard the news about the release of BGCSE results she called Teedzani to check how he has done since he is tech-savvier than her and her husband Mr. Letsweletswe Gaosupelwe. Violet said when her young brother went to Molefi Senior Secondary School she got worried thinking he would not cope as he was going to stay in a boarding school far from home (Francistown) but he managed. Violet is proud her brother has defied the odds. "I have always wished him success, I am very happy he has passed", she expressed. His brother in law was also full of praises about the young man. He described him as a very shy, humble child who is always on the straight and narrow. The jubilant brother said Teedzani showed he had a bright future from a young age, by showing a positive attitude to his studies. "We expected nothing but brilliance, he is a very smart child", he emphasised.

Inside Teedzani's winning formula is commitment, discipline, and hard work. The internet is his favourite source of research as it is user friendly with its talk back functions. Despite challenges like teaching aids that do not cater for the visually impaired and teachers that are not trained for Special Education, he still made the most of what he had. "It was not an easy journey, but I worked hand in hand with my teachers and my colleagues", he said.

A wonder kid at home Teedzani is the go to guy when they need technical assistance, with their cell phones, television and other technology gadgets. This he does with ease even when he is not around they give him a call and after diagnosing the problem he will tell them which buttons to press to solve the problem. His brother Letsweletse said one of the things he found special about his young brother is his amazing culinary skills. "He is very good, it still beats me how he learnt to cook so well without any assistance", he noted.

Teedzani has been admitted at the University of Botswana where he will study Bachelor of Education in Special Education as he wants to be a Special Education teacher so that he can help students with visual impairment.



Molefi Senior Secondary School Head Mr. Francis Semathane.



Deputy School Head Mrs. Gabankitse Magwape.



Senior Teacher (I) for Special Education Mrs. Masego Thamage



Head of House Mr. Kholisani Zibani.



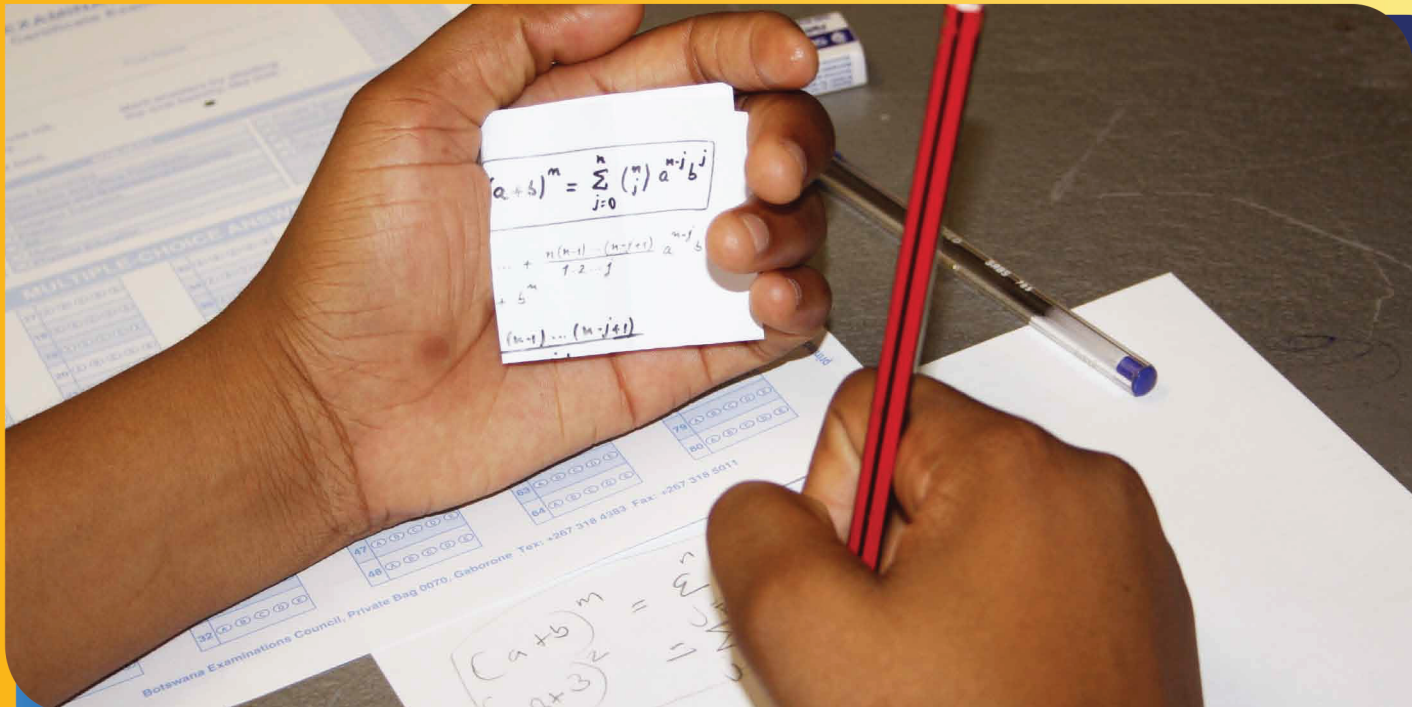
Class Teacher Mr. Edwin Mogomotsi



Teedzani and his family.



# 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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