

Twelfth Stars



A Botswana Examinations Council Publication Profiles of the 2020 BGCSE Top Achievers



BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL

12th ANNUAL
Excellence Awards



ABOUT

BOTSWANA EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL



BEC VALUES



EXCELLENCE

We have passion for quality work and outstanding performance characterised by the use of innovative and creative solutions.



INTEGRITY

We uphold best practice standards, honesty, professionalism and ethical behaviour.



TRANSPARENCY

We are open in all matters of public interest while safeguarding confidential information.



PEOPLE FOCUS

Our people: employees, the community we serve and the nation at large are profoundly important to us. We are thus committed to cultivating a culture that is characterised by mutual respect, professionalism, courtesy, compassion and sharing to build lasting and rewarding relationships.

BEC is mandated under section 5 of the Botswana Examinations Council Act (Act No. 11 of 2002) as amended by the Botswana Examinations Council (Amendment) Act, 2019 to manage, conduct examinations and assessments in general education and technical, vocational education and training and to award certificates in respect of the said examinations and assessments. The specific functions and responsibilities also include the following:

OUR VISION

To be a provider of accessible and globally competitive qualifications.

OUR MISSION

To provide a credible and responsive assessment and examination system.

The specific functions and responsibilities of BEC are as follows;

- Manage and conduct examinations and assessments in - (a) general education; (b) vocational education training.
- Issue certificates in respect of examinations and assessments in (a) general education; (b) vocational education training.
- Provide policy advice on assessment in education;
- Withhold or cancel examination results of candidates involved in malpractice;
- Award certificates to candidates in respect of examinations or assessments conducted in general education
- Develop standards for the conduct of examinations in all registered examinations centres
- Maintain standards in the system of examinations;
- Generally attend to matters related to the conduct of examinations;
- Develop examinations and assessments in general education, technical and vocational education and training;
- Register and accredit examinations and assessments centres for general education or equivalent including centres for technical and vocational education and training;
- Conduct regional and international comparability studies and other research relevant to its mandate;
- Conduct training, registration and accreditation of examinations personnel;
- Make rules regulating the conduct of examinations and assessments;
- In consultation with the Minister authorise the release of examination results; and
- Perform such other functions as may be conferred on it.



**“EXCELLENCE ISN'T A
ONE-WEEK OR ONE-YEAR
IDEAL. IT'S A CONSTANT.”**

Michael Jordan



Foreword by The Chief Executive Officer

This is the 9th Edition of the The Stars Magazine and also marks the 12th year of the Botswana Examinations Council Excellence Awards. The awards continue to motivate students and cultivate a culture of high performance. Credit goes to all stakeholders beings schools, teachers, parents, Parents and Teachers' Associstions who continue to play a pivotal role in ensuring students excel.

It is worth noting that 12th Stars cohort sat for their examinations under strenous environment battling with the COVID-19 pandemic. Not withstanding these adverse conditions we saw improvement in students performance including a new record of 11A*s set by Tumisang Nkwe. BEC also acknowledge the effort by our Sponsors who continue to support this noble initiative. This year we received support from Stanbic Bank and Debswana Diamond Company and we would like to implore other companies to join the band wagon by partnering with BEC on this initiative.

The magazines are distributed to all the Senior Secondary Schools across the country and also placed in National libraries to inspire the upcoming students. BEC will continue profiling these Top Achievers as their are stories of hard work, perseverance and dedication. We trust you will draw a lot of inspiration from these stories in order to achieve excellence in your studies.

On behalf of The Council, I would like to express my profound gratitude to Management and BEC staff who year in and year out work tireless to ensure the examinations are written, marked and results released. We congratulate this year's recipients and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.


Dr. Moreetsi Thobega

Record Breaker

Drum roll moment goes to Tumisang Nkwe of St. Josephs' College who is the class of 2020 Golden Star. The Lekgoloboto born Top Achiever has more to his bragging rights than just being Top of his class, he set a new record with 11 A*s, breaking the previous record of 9 A* that was first set by Kago Motsoma of class of the 2016.

What a moment it is for the young man who is experiencing the Excellence Awards glory for the first time despite always having been a top student. Having missed the stage by a whisker a couple of times, both at PSLE and JCE he vowed to take down the buffalo with his last bullet and he struck the right spot. This time around he brought his entire arsenal for the taxing mission, thus his achievement record was not a fluke, it is exactly what he aimed for. Tumisang kept a forecast scoreboard on his wall and he predicted 11 A*s.

Throughout his entire two (2) years at St Josephs' College, he always came second, but he never gave up, he still believed he would be the Golden Star with 11 A*s and cometh the moment, he bagged the treasure. Tumisang's mother later reveal that it was actually his 2020 new year's resolution to an A* in every subject.

"This is a miracle", said Mrs. Tshepo Nkwe the mother of the young man. She went on to affirm that these results are exactly what she always saw on his wall for two years. He even told her it was his resolution for the year. The mother went on to disclose that her son is a hardworking humble young man who even does house chores like cooking and helps out his father at the cattle post. His father Mr. Redge Nkwe could not stop chuckling as he gazed at his son from time to time in astonishment, he has been given something to be truly proud about. "He has always been a book worm but this is beyond expectation", he said. Nkwe said as a way of supporting his son they put away the television to make sure there was no distraction, and Tumisang would always remind him to keep the radio volume low. He also refused to buy him a phone because it

could be distractive. "He likes proper planning," commended the proud father.

Tumisang has worked so hard that he has even surprised himself. "It is just unbelievable", he said as he shakes his head in disbelief. Tumisang credited his parents for teaching him humility and being a hard worker. "They are inspirational, they give their all in their chores", he said. By December 2019, he had already finished all Form 5 syllabuses, so when he started Form 5 in 2020 it was just revision for him. Talk about proper planning. Tumisang confirmed that it was not all smooth sailing during the course of the two years especially with Setswana but he never lost hope. He continued to aim for stars in all subjects. So confident he was that midway into Form 5 with just a few months before the final examinations he added Statistics to be his 11th Subject and still aced it. "Whenever I failed I took it hard upon myself to improve", he said.

Having missed the Excellence Awards stage by a whisker at Junior Certificate Examination, the young man went to St. Josephs' College hungry for success and his hunger for excellence was immediately picked by his Class Teacher Mr. Salani Kuchwe, who confirmed that Tumisang embraced the competitive spirit in his class, and this just showed his mettle as a determined student. "He has worked very hard and achieved something that has never been achieved before", he said. An outstanding and very humble young man with the willingness to go an extra mile is how his Head of House Mr. Mosiwa Wamondila remembers their Top Achiever. "He is a true identity of a St Josephs' College student. A student that can think beyond the horizon", applauded Wamondila. The School Head Ms. Constance Male said Tumisang rode on the school's strategies to ferry him to the promised land. "The students really gave their all as it was a very challenging year", she said.

Congratulations on your 11A* Record and the Golden Star Award Tumisang. Good luck with your aspirations of pursuing Big Data Engineering.



1. School Head Ms. Male applauded St. Joseph's students for always carrying the schools vision on excellence.
2. Head of House Mr. Wamondila describes Tumisang as a true identity of a St. Joseph's student.
3. Class Teacher, Mr. Kuchwe said Tumisang has achieved the highest level of excellence never seen in this country.
4. Tumisang pictured with his family who have been with him through thick and thin.

An Icon of Excellence



It seems like record breaking was trend of the twelfth Excellence Awards. Also making history is the first runner up of the Class of 2020 **Bame Tshekedi**. The young woman has made herself an epitome of excellence by being the first ever student to make a clean sweep of the Excellence Awards trophies, making it into the Top Ten at all the three levels of Basic Education (PSLE, JCE and BGCSE).

The Maitengwe born former St. Josephs' College student might have missed on her dream of being the Golden Star of her cohort but she scored herself a very beautiful consolation by completing her Excellence Awards collection. "It has always been a dream to be a top achiever at all the three levels", she revealed. She went on to say she feels so great to have made a record and engraved her name in history books and hopes this will be an inspiration to girls that they too can make it. She however, said she would have been happier to break the boy child dominance at the summit of the standings by being the Class of 2020 Golden Star; but she is happy with getting a Ministerial Award for finishing second and completing the cycle is a sweet cherry on top.

But how exactly did she chase her dream? Bame found mornings to be a convenient time for reading so she went to bed early and woke up early to revise. This was however, not easy as she had to balance between her studies and house chores, but her spirit was not deterred she said. One thing she supposes worked for her is the fact that her teachers finished the syllabuses well on time and this gave her enough time to revise. The support she got from her teachers and parents also came in handy as she needed it to keep going. Bame said she also drew some inspiration from the BEC Stars Magazines that they were given at Form 4 orientation and found stories of Susan Charlie, Anthony Howard and Tsholofelo Sebetso to be inspirational. Above these her Class Teacher Mr. Salani Kuchwe made her aim higher by always showing his faith in her and giving her assurance she will be a Top Achiever.

Mr. Kuchwe said he was well aware that his student stood a good chance of making it three out of three to the Excellence Awards podium and as her first custodian in school he had the responsibility to give her proper guidance and help her maintain her good record; a responsibility he embraced. "She displayed a good character and was always willing to work with other students", he said. Kuchwe went on to say that Bame was very good in Science and Maths, so good when she was in Form 4 she became a Chemistry Olympiad Champion and went to represent Botswana in The Netherlands. It was not only her Class Teacher that saw potential in her; Bame's Head of House Mr. Mosiwa Wamondila said nothing was impossible with her as she was action driven and was always willing to go an extra mile. "She has a positive mentality", he noted. Wamondila closed off his praises about Bame by saying she is an icon of excellence. There couldn't be a better caption! For St. Josephs' School Head Ms. Constance Male, it is all happiness as Bame has helped them continue their legacy of excellence. Male said the COVID-19 outbreak gave them a scare as they were not sure they would produce quality grades but the commitment and resilience from the teachers saw them through. "We strive through commitment discipline and spirituality", she said.

Bame's mother gets overwhelmed with emotions when she gives an account of her clever girl. Ms. Nokuthula Tshekedi pauses in between her narration with gasps of amazement as if it is all breaking news to her; she could not just believe they are living the dream. She reveals that her daughter has always been intelligent and when she was in Junior Secondary School, teachers would summon her to school only for them to shower her daughter with praises. "I am completely out of words", she said. Nokuthula went on to describe her daughter as God fearing and humble child.

Bame also secured herself a Top Achievers scholarship and is currently an A Levels at Maru A Pula School in Gaborone and she aspires to study medicine abroad upon completion of her A Levels.



1. St. Joseph's College Headmaster Ms. Male said her school strive through 'spirituality, discipline and commitment'.
2. Head Of House Mr. Wamondila describes Bame as an epitome of excellence.
3. Mr. Kuchwe said Bame displayed a good character and was always willing to work with other students.
4. Bame's Mother said her daughter has always been intelligent, hardworking, humble and a God fearing child.

Talent is a product of Hardwork

For the Ramotswa born former Naledi Senior Secondary student **Kaelo Keakile**, his achievement is a testimony of brilliance and that 'talent is hard work' as the young man simply puts it.

His quote is so powerful coming from someone who never tasted academic glory and made his debut to the Excellence Awards stage in a stylish manner as he completes as one of the Top Three of the Top Ten. He believes that this was because he realised that there is no talent without hard work. "Talent is hard work," he said as he shared his winning recipe. When Kaelo was still in Junior Secondary School, former Golden Star, Kago Motsoma came to their school to give them a word of motivation but the young man could not be bothered, "it fell on deaf ears," he confessed.

He is to later turn the coin around, armed with his motto that if you work hard the talent will show up. Kaelo says he started his Form Four (4) on a positive note and had no doubt that he would be in the BGCSE Top 10 as he knew he had the ability and just had to work hard. He augmented his confidence by reading the Stars Magazine; he read all the seven editions. He went on to list, Kago Goveya, Kago Motsoma, Lefika Matlho, Pego Letebele and Dimpho Gosenyang as some of the previous Top Achievers who inspired him with what he called 'stories of perseverance' but all of them unique. "Kago Motsoma had never achieved much but worked so hard to surpass everyone," he commended. Though he fell short of emulating his role model and become a Golden Star he too managed to come out of nothing without a colourful academic narration but got himself a spot on the Top Three podium.

Kaelo's parents are stunned that he has finally lived up to his best. His father Mr. Keakile Keakile said his son's excellence was not an overnight job. "It was a long time plan, we expected this," revealed Mr. Keakile. The proud father said he always had confidence that his son would not disappoint as he has always been level headed and put more effort in his studies. "Discipline grounds a child, without it you lose focus," said Keakile who praised his son for his good behaviour and knowing what is at stake and keeping his eyes on the ball throughout his BGCSE journey. His mother Mrs. Dineo Keakile credited her son's triumph to his eagerness to learn, despite the fact that he is naturally intelligent from a young age. Though his head is always buried in his books, Kaelo knows his way around the kitchen and helps nurture his parents' backyard garden at home.

Kaelo's hard work is even praised by his grandmother Mrs. Kebareng Keakile who said he has always played less and paid more attention to his schoolwork. One fond memory of her grandson's school journey is when he bought her shawl (*mogagolwane*) to wear when she attended one of his Prize Giving ceremonies. "I am short for words safe to say I am really proud of him," said the granny. Kaelo's little sister Peo is happy her brother's hard work was all worth it, "he does everything with dedication", she applauded. Peo went on to say she draws inspiration from her brother who helps her with school work and doubles as a playmate.

Naledi Senior Secondary School which has made it a norm to always feature in the Top Achievers Top Ten also gave a good account of their gem. Mr. Kitso Bhunu who was Kaelo's Class Teacher said his student's results speak for themselves. "The young man was very dedicated", he confirmed. Bhunu said one positive trait about Kaelo is that he was not shy to ask questions whenever he needed clarity, even from teachers that didn't teach him. He went on to say the Top Achiever was outspoken and very good with presentations. His Head of House Ms. Ellen Mosesane said she realized Kaelo's potential after his first test and summoned him to her office, and at this meeting she told him he has potential and she will be working with him to improve his performance with a target of six (6) A*s. Mosesane said she found it easy to work with their star as he was not easily derailed and showed a high level of commitment. She went on to say her House made students to account for their marks and assigned mentors to work with them in small groups. These are some of the strategies she reckons helped them polish their gem. "He is a very calm and collected child", she praised. Mosesane said she gave Kaelo assurance that he will make it to the BGCSE Top Ten from time to time to boost his confidence.

Ms. Senwelo Molelo, who was Kaelo's Deputy School Head, described their star boy as a very serious student, who playing came second to him. She went on to say the young man liked challenges and he took up one more subject on top of the mandatory nine subjects. "His results are a motivation to the school and gives us a legacy to work on", she said. Molelo also took the chance to praise teachers for their dedication as they taught students through Whatsapp during the lockdown duration. She said they were hoping to produce more top achievers by creating a more conducive environment and encouraging students to aim higher. One doesn't need to comb through Naledi Senior Secondary School Head Mr. Othusitse Othusitse's feelings to tell he is overjoyed by their consistent performance. Their strategies have helped them keep a good record of always featuring on the Stars Magazine cover; a magazine he praises without getting economical with words. "The literature from the BEC magazine helps us cultivate the culture of excellence in our students", praised Othusitse. He went on to say their consistent performance gives them confidence but without getting complacent. "Teachers have also been bitten by the bug and excellence is now our DNA", said the proud School Head. Othusitse said Kaelo set himself high goals and always wanted to beat his previous record. This attitude is what made it easier for the school to deliver yet another Top Achiever, according to Othusitse.

Kaelo is currently a student at Westwood International School, a private school in Gaborone where he is pursuing his A Levels, a privilege that comes with being a Top Achiever. Moreover, upon completing his A Levels he will have an opportunity to go and study at a University of his choice, and the young man aspires to go study either Medicine or Finance and Accounting at Oxbridge University in the United Kingdom (UK).



1. Kaelo's Headmaster Mr. Othusitse says Excellence is a DNA embedded in Naledi's teaching staff.
2. Deputy Headmaster Ms. Molelo says Kaelo's performance gives Naledi Senior a foundation to build on in a quest for excellence.
3. Head of House Mrs. Helen Masane, said Kaelo displayed high level of maturity.
4. Class Teacher Mr. Bhunu praised Kaelo for never shying away from asking for help.
5. Kaelo's family proudly displaying some of his accolades.

Team Confidence



If you ever doubts that you are capable and you will, then you need to read this story. In this story you will meet **Tefo Kapaletswe** a former Selibe Phikwe Senior Secondary School Top Achiever.

The Mmadinare born young man cuts a lanky figure laced with a cool character and does not look anything like someone who can grab a bull by the horns. The former Selibe Phikwe Senior Secondary School Top Achiever set his eyes on the three levels (PSLE, JCE, BGCSE), and it his dream came true. Tefo's academic journey of excellence started on a high and he never let the ball drop. The Mmadinare born young man said he realised his potential when finished in the PSLE Top Ten. "Getting a PSLE excellence award was an affirmation of my potential and I vowed to make Top Ten at all three levels," he said. The young man speaks eloquently of his success as he lays bare his strategies and credits his self belief for ushering him to the promised land. Having finished in the Top Ten twice he was confident he will complete the treble. "I set goals at Form 4 and believed I can make it," he said.

Completing the treble took more than just believing he could make it; he put in some hard work. Tefo did a lot of revision work using past examinations papers and YouTube videos. "I did not only rely on class exercises, I challenged myself with difficult questions from text books," he said. He went on to advice that the more questions you solve the more you understand concepts. The young man could not hide the delight that came with his achievement. "I am very happy and proud that all the hard work devoted into studies for a difficult year paid off," he said referring to studying under strict COVID-19 protocols.

Selibe Phikwe Senior Secondary School teachers are not a rookies when it comes to producing Top Ten Top Achievers having previously featured a couple of times. The School Headmaster Mr. Abraham Senabye said the school was proud and happy to produce another Top Achiever having missed the feel of familiar grounds for some time now. Senabye could not hold back being poetic about the man who made it all happen. "Cool, intelligent, inspirational but give him books or a microphone at the assembly and you will see that indeed dynamites come in small packages," he praised. The School Head also took the opportunity to credit his teachers for the good work they are doing, saying they do their best to extract the best from students. The School Deputy Headmaster Mr. Mojadi Motswaiso who is also Head of Academics shared strategies that oiled their engine to glory. One of the major initiatives they undertook was to divide the school into two such that they had school A and school B. "This has made the students very active, and the teachers are also happy with the low student ratio that this has created," he said. Motswaiso said they however, did not release the students to go home early after their lessons. "When for instance school A is done with their lessons, we keep them in school for revision, teachers capitalised and used that time for revision," he noted. He went on to say they encouraged teachers to scheme their work in such a way that term two they are done with the syllabus and term three they just revise.

About their Top Achiever, Motswaiso said the young man is very brilliant, highly committed to learning and always wanted to pull everybody to success.

Testimony about Tefo at SPSS is consistent. His HOD Mr. George Sentle said the young man proved from the start that he was a force to be reckoned with. "The very first week he proved to be a very willing learner and expressed desire to be a Top Achiever," he said. Sentle described the Top Achiever as well mannered and intelligent. Ms. Gaone Kenaope was Tefo's Class Teacher and also taught him Biology. As the top achiever's custodian in school she had more than a handful of paint to give us a picture of her star student. She said it did not take time to realise his potential and tipped him for Top Achiever status. "He was different; he always wanted to know more," she said. Kenaope said the young man was responsible and portrayed leadership skills. Tefo initiated a class WhatsApp group where he always shared his extra learning material with his peers especially during the lock down phase. "He always led discussions and he was always willing to share his knowledge. He made sure classes continued during lockdown," said the proud teacher.

The first born of two has made his family proud, and they are happy to see him realise his dream. His mother Lebogang Phuduhudu received a text from her son as soon as results were published and she could not believe her eyes when she saw a series of stars. "I cried and took a while to compose myself before calling to congratulate him," she revealed. "Getting a PSLE Excellence Award was a big motivating factor and he promised to scoop all three," she said. Tefo gave a special mention to his grandmother who he says her no nonsense approach in his upbringing and always emphasising that education is the future, guided him to success.

His Grandmother Theresa Kapaletswe reminisced on Tefo's early days. The little boy would use charcoal to write, unlike his peers he was not interested in cartoons but writing. The grandmother went on to reveal that the boy was so good and his primary school teacher was so fond of him. She commended him for taking his lessons and being an obedient child. The grandmother said raising children by disciplining them with love, is guaranteed to yield results.

One fact that makes Tefo special than his Class of Twelfth Stars and their predecessors is that he is the first mainstream student to complete a treble by clinching a Top Ten finish at PSLE, JCE and BGCSE. "I always believe that I can make it and I always do," said the proud young man. Tefo commuted from Mmadinare to SPSS on a daily and was always early at school despite the fifteen kilometres distance between his village and the Copper Nickel mining town.

The Top Achiever loves Maths and that has inspired him to study Actuarial Science with his desired place of study being the United Kingdom. Good luck Mr Confidence, if you believe you can, you will.



1. SPSS Headmaster Mr. Abraham Senabye attributes their success to teachers who give it their all for their students.
2. Deputy School Head Mr. Mojadi Motswaiso says they divided the school into two groups for better management.
3. HOD Mr. George Sente describes Tefo as a well mannered and focused student.
4. Class and Bilology Teacher Ms. Gaone Kenaope praised Tefo as a student who was hungry for knowledge.
5. Tefo's family pictured with the PSLE and JCE Top Achievers accolades.

Play Break

The Top Achievers programme is a big motivation for students to put more effort in their studies so that they can qualify for the elite Top Achievers Scholarship. The Mochudi born **Hakim Mokwena** of Masunga SSS became aware of this programme whilst he was still a Form 1 student in Maun. The young man however, could not make the cut when he sat for his JCE, and the source of this heart breaking failure was him being too playful.

He reckons the pain pushed him to pull out all stops and made the last chance count when he sat for his BGCSE. This meant that he had to put some brakes on playing and be more focused on his school work. Hakim was not shy to dream, he set his eyes on the most prestigious reward of being a hard working student; the Golden Star Award. He said the Ninth Stars Golden Star winner Lefika Matlho was his inspiration, so much he contacted his idol through social media to borrow his winning recipe. Hakim took the formula and applied it. For the first time he was not a playful boy but a determined student.

Doing everything right was however not enough to even get him in the Top Three at least but he comfortably secured a seat in the most sought after Top Ten. Hakim will be happy to take solace in Vince Lombardi's famous words that "perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence". That is exactly his fate, he pursued perfection but when he fell short he still secured an Excellence Award.

When he realised too much play time was his downfall he voluntarily decided to go to a boarding school because he was assured there would not be much distraction. "I did not want to leave Masunga SSS with nothing to show", he said. Hakim also shared that he put his whole life into a time table and followed it to the tee. No man is an island and Hakim understands this very well. He was never shy to ask for help from his peers when they understood something better than he did. In the first term of Form 5 he got a G in Setswana, but through the help of his peers he passed the subject in his final examinations.

Being a book slave dominated his life, he worked hard than he ever had. "COVID-19 brought a lot of uncertainties but I put in a lot of hard work to be examinations ready", he advised.

At his former school Masunga Senior Secondary, Hakim will not only be remembered to for his sheer brilliance in class but for the charity in his heart. His Spelling Bee Coach Ms. Chengetani Gaolebale who stood in for Hakim's Class Teacher Mmoloki Monyatsi was happy to talk about their philanthropist. The humble, very quite introvert, with time proved to be very sociable noted Gaolebale.

Hakim's discipline rubbed off on his peers, who saw him as an inspiration. Gaolebale revealed that Hakim has a foundation named after his second name Lefika; the Lefika Foundation. The foundation helps in promoting academic excellence by sponsoring prize giving and awarding excelling students. "When the results were released, he received a lot of presents and he donated them to the school so that they award excelling students in Maths and Science", she said. His Head of House Mr. Kagiso Kgweetsi also spoke volumes about the Lefika Foundation and revealed that along side his teachers Hakim contributed P5,000.00 to be used by the school to motivate excelling students. Kgweetsi described the young man as an academically gifted hard worker who should be seen as motivation.

Masunga SSS Head Teacher Ms. Madube Letsholathebe praised her school as an institution of excellence where there is commitment from students, teachers and all the stakeholders like the PTA, village leadership, the North East District Council and the business community. "This is a very good motivation, you can never go wrong with hard work", she commended. Letsholathebe said Hakim was a calm, focused and intelligent student. She went on to express delight and said they saw this coming as they have been working hard to polish their strategies.

Hakim aspires to study Finance or Accounting at London School of Business.



1. Headmaster Ms. Letsholathebe says her school strive on the backdrop of commitment from all key stakeholders.
2. Head of House Mr. Kagiso Kgweetsi described Hakim as an epitome of hardwork that other students need to emulate.
3. Ms Chengetani Gaolebale says Hakim will not only be remembered to for his sheer brilliance in class but for the charity in his heart.
4. Hakim says he became aware of the Top Achiver's programme whilst doing his Form 1 in Maun.
5. Hakim through his foundation Lefika Foundation sponsors prize giving ceremonies as a way of encouraging excellence.



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GOLDEN STAR
GOLDEN STAR

Tumisang Nkwe

St. Josephs College

PRESIDENTIAL
AWARD RECIPIENT
BGCSE 2020



I had no Plan 'B'

If it was high profile secret agent assignment it would have been delivered to her in a sealed envelope marked MISSION IMPOSSIBLE. She was just the right candidate to make the seemingly out of reach task a possibility.

From Lerala village in the Central District, **Katlego Botshelo** of St. Joseph's College was not aware of the Top Achievers programme until after sitting for her JCE. Nonetheless her daily walks on the dusty paths were not in vain as she passed her JCE with a very rare pass of Merit, that only a handful get to experience at least once in their lifetime. A pass that automatically earned her a BEC Excellence Award. The thought that would have dominated her mind during her thousand lonely walks to school was never different. All she dreamt of was making it out of the village and go to a city she has never seen but only visualised about. "I wanted to be an inspiration to my village" she said in an emotional interview. Her words were coming from the heart and written all over her face. When she narrates her story you feel it and see it in her facial expressions. As she continues with her story Katlego said she didn't know how but she knew somehow, she had to make it. "There was no plan B" she emphasized.

Passing JCE with a Merit as expected, she says was quite a thrill but came with a lot of pressure. This also gave her a golden opportunity to do her Form 4 at Maru-A- Pula school but she failed the interview and the dream was put on hold. All was not lost she still had two years to pursue good grades in BGCSE to secure a seat at the school of her dreams. Like a slave she work hard day and night to make sure the dream does not elude her again. "I would often cry when my results were not satisfactory", she said. Katlego borrowed some wisdom and motivation from the previous Top Achievers as she often read the Stars Magazine and learnt from their journey. "I used every opportunity I got to climb up the ladder", she said.

It takes a village to raise a child. Mrs Mpho Moroka attended a prize giving in Lerala and pledged to take care of the top student 'adopt a child'. One girl dominated the day, taking everything on offer. Her name was Katlego Botshelo, the humble young lady that she often saw walking past her home from school. Mrs Moroka thought it would be good for this young lady to be exposed to a much more competitive environment. Her husband Edwin Moroka was not in objection to his wife's proposal, and they approached Katlego's parents. "Her parents afforded us the opportunity to be her guardians", she said. Katlego's dream was taking shape, she moved to Gaborone with the Morokas and was admitted at St Josephs College. The city life was not a smooth ride as she had imagined. "The city life was just too fast, and I was nervous about getting along with my foster family", said. Katlego who said she is not a sociable person had to learn being a bit more interactive with other students. Upon realising this, Mrs Moroka encouraged her to enrol for extracurricular activities at school. Katlego then joined the school choir but she soon quit and joined the Debate Team. Debate and someone who is quite reserved and intimidated

by a new environment are a total contrast one would think of. Just a week into the team, they went for competitions and she brought three silver medals and a gold medal. That was the beginning of an illustrious spell, the team soon went for competitions in Durban and brought home five medals including being the Best Speaker, wow! That however did not transform her into being more sociable, she continued keeping to herself. "She would agree to a movie or ice cream date only to ask for a rain check at the eleventh hour", the foster mother revealed. So cool is Katlego, such that even when her family rejoices over her results, she remains calm.

Katlego's father Mr. Edwin Moroka was happy to share the tips they implored in support of her academic quest. The parents arranged for extra tuition for her; this was mainly to help manage her load as she was always reading and barely slept. So the parents thought tuition will help her understand better and won't need to stay up all night reading. "She always got home so tired, she would even fall asleep in between her meal", he said. Her mother was equally worried the Top Achiever did not get enough sleep. "She would sleep at 10pm and be up at 2am and read until 5.30am", she shared. Job shadowing and career guidance is one of the things that her parents exposed her to. Katlego would love to pursue medicine, so now and then she went for mentorship at Dr Namanyane's Clinic. "Parents must do their all to make sure children have support to fulfil their dreams", said Mr. Moroka. The parents described their daughter as a highly disciplined and very dedicated child. She was excused from house chores so that she could have enough time to prepare for examinations. She loves music and unwinds over movies.

A child with attributes on an excelling student. This statement of affirmation was said by her Class Teacher Ms. Thabo Mogobye who also taught her English Language. Ms. Mogobye said she always motivated her students by telling them success doesn't come easy and she believes Katlego took this to heart. "She is a team player and too exceptional", said the proud teacher. She went on to say her student had admirable resilience to absorb the pressure. Katlego's Head of House Mr. Kethamile Keolopa is happy their Top Achiever has living her dream. "I am proud of her; this has always been her dream", he said. Keolopa said having a student who passed with Merit at JCE the onus was on them to make sure her performance does not drop. His Deputy Head Mr. Setume even joked with him saying if he does not produce a Top Achiever he will have to pack his bags. Katlego's performance has helped St. Josephs retain their bragging rights as an academic powerhouse. The School Head Ms Sethunya Male commended Katlego for her contribution to their brilliant record. "It was a challenging year; this shows how committed and determined she was", praised Male.

Katlego is an A Level student at Maru-A-Pula and would love to study Medicine. The proud Lerala native had suggested her story to be titled 'From the Ashes', sorry Katli we had other ideas.



1. St. Joseph's College Headmaster Ms. Male said her school strive through 'spirituality, discipline and commitment'.
2. Head Of House Mr. Keolopa says they support all students to realise their full potential.
3. Class Teacher Ms. Thabo Mogobye motivated all her students to work hard and says Katego took the advice to heart.
4. After witnessing Katlego's performance at a prize giving ceremony in Lerala, The Moroka's approached Katlego's parents to request for permission to mentor and unlock her full potential.

From Gangstarism To Wonder Kid

Thabang Matlale. How come you are only hearing of this name now? The Moshupa born young man never really had his eyes on the ball; actually he was unruly and vandalised school property amongst other extreme acts.

Thabang started his primary school as an averaged student with C being his best grade and in some subjects his best effort only got him an E. When he was in Standard 6 his teacher showed some faith in him and told him he could be a Top Achiever and indeed his vision came to life; one year later Thabang Matlale passed his PSLE with an A. Wow what a turnaround! Then boom from hero to zero in no time, Thabang became a gangster and lived on the wrong side of the law for most part of his Junior Secondary school days. The young man confessed eluded the wheels of justice forever as his mother was a teacher at his school and knew she would always pull strings to get him immunity privilege. "It was so worse I didn't even have a single note book by the time I sat for my JCE", he revealed. When the JCE results were released he was once again a darling, he had passed with an A, yes A! But just how did he cheat death this time? "I asked my mother to buy me revision books just before the examinations and I used them to prepare for my final papers", he said.

One might think his is a natural God given intelligence but Thabang doesn't think so. "I am not gifted, I had to work hard", he said with a straight face. Having ducked the bullet twice, Thabang started his BGCSE at Moshupa Senior Secondary School on a high. He revealed that by the time he started Form 4 he had already finished the Form 4 syllabus and had no problem writing a Form 5 Maths paper and finish top of the school despite being a new arrival to senior school. Ms Kamogelo Kono, Senior Teacher Guidance and Counselling confirmed that indeed Thabang came to Moshupa SSS like a wrecking ball. "He passed his first Maths test and we gave him a Form 5 paper and he got 100%", confirmed Kono. Thabang is said to have done Statistics in only one year at Form 5 and still passed it. Kono described the self driven young man as a wonder. The guidance and counselling teacher said she used the Stars Magazines to motivate students. "The magazines are very good as they make it easier to give students relevant examples that motivate them", said Kono who had unreserved praise for the Stars Magazines.

The first Excellence Award recipient from Moshupa SSS was described by his Class Teacher Mr. Ramdeen Aubeeluck as serious and hardworking student. "He is like stagnant water; cool but deep with learning", said Aubeeluck. Thabang had a cordial relationship with his peers and teachers and this came in handy as he could

approach his teachers who were always willing to go an extra mile, for help. "Teaching him was a pleasure, he has made the community proud", he said. Aubeeluck's account of their Top Achiever has an alibi in Mr. Tshoganetso Maribeng who was Thabang's Head of House. "A very humble and ideal learner you would wish to have for two years and beyond", concurred Maribeng. Maribeng went on to say that Thabang was in a very competitive class and this was motivation enough to help him keep focused even without a leash.

Moshupa SSS which has not had a tale to tell at home about their academic performance for long now, have put strategies in place to help students excel and ultimately contribute to the overall ranking of the school. The School Deputy Headmaster Mr. Caliston Tachinyuni said the school also does a thorough results analysis and come up with ways to deal with challenges. Tachinyuni admitted that like many schools they are also faced with a challenge of ill-disciplined students. "Appropriate action is taken to eliminate indiscipline in the school", he said. The School Head Mr. Herbet Setume also emphasized on the importance of discipline. Setume said discipline is a corner stone of excellence. "No institution can excel without discipline", he said.

Which gangster's paradise! Thabang's family are over his bad boy days and are happy he got to the bottom line; no one mentions a thing about how they almost lost a star to the dark world. Maybe they were clouded by happy moment, reasonably so; it's a moment worth a toast, a toast of excellence. Thabang is a very compassionate young man who has since learnt to be selective with who he knights to his circle of friends. This vote of confidence was given by his father Mr. Fred Matlale. Mr. Matlale revealed that he was however always looking over his shoulder lest his promising child catches the flu of the wayward behaviour of his peers, which has been an eye sore in the village of Moshupa. "I never needed to remind him what was at stake, he always did what he needed to do", he said. He however promised his son a cow, and that if he passes, he will slaughter a goat for him. On a lighter note, Mr. Matlale said his son always had a way with his mother's mood whenever she needed some cheering up. His mother Ms. Beauty Matlale describes her mood as over the moon, her giggles are in sync with her words; her boy has made her proud. It was not all mana from heaven, Thabang has enjoyed a spell of consistent performance and always dominated the school prize giving ceremonies. "He has really worked his socks off for this one", she said.

Thabang aspires to study Physics, Particularly mechanical Physics.



1. Moshupa Senior Headmaster Mr. Setume says discipline is the corner stone of excellence.
2. According to The Deputy School Head, Mr. Tachinyuni, one of the strategies employed by the school is to conduct results analysis and come up with appropriate steps to deal with the challenges.
3. Head of House Mr. Maribeng attributed Thabang's success to his humble character and competitive spirit.
4. Class teacher Mr. Aubeeluck described Thabang as a fountain of knowledge.
5. Thabang is not new to academic excellence according to his family.

It wasn't hard to pass

Passing has never been a problem, but the attitude was a barricade between academic and excellence and **Mukolo John**. The former Gantsi Senior Secondary School Student said she had a simple goal; go to school pass and go to University of Botswana.

But all that changed when she adopted a positive attitude towards her studies at Form 5. This is all to what she says was nagging by her teachers who challenged and encouraged her to set her eyes on being a Top Achiever. "It wasn't a dream, I had a simple goal, I had never seen a Top Achiever, and didn't think it was real", she revealed. Though the Top Achievers programme was a mystery, the Gantsi born star said she had aspirations of finishing in the JCE Top Ten but she failed to make the cut. Never mind that her teachers made it their business to make sure she puts in more effort, being in a boarding school also worked in her favour she reckons. "In a boarding school if you are bored you read, if you want to do something fun you read", she said. Mukolo's advice to those who want to follow her foot steps is make use of revision papers and to never shy away from consulting their teachers about whatever they don't understand.

Mukolo's mother Ms. Boitumelo John, describes her daughter as an introvert who enjoys staying indoors and is never excited by even visiting the mall. "She always chooses to stay home and study," said the delighted mother. The Top Achiever's mother was not just a cheerleader from a distance, she has always been actively involved in her child's learning, so much she still keeps in touch with her previous schools. "I always made random visits to her school, to monitor her progress and cheer her up", she shared. The fifth born of six, Mukolo is an all rounder who does house chores in between her studies, she is a good cook. Ms. John advises other parents to encourage their children to identify their interests and monitor them.

All thanks to Mukolo's efforts Gantsi SSS finally manage to register a recipient in the prestigious BGCSE Top Ten of Top Achievers. The School Head Ms. Kachana Shamukuni

could not hide their happiness for the debut which she reckons is not only a ticket for bragging rights but gives them a much needed shot of confidence. This achievement did not come as a fluke; Shamukuni was happy to take off the lid on their winning dish. "We boast of a hard working community, with teachers putting in extra hours and sacrificing their weekends", she praised. The proud School Head hailed their star as a very academically gifted young lady. "The whole school was looking forward to her results", said Shamukuni. The commitment to helping the school produce more Top Achievers is hailed by the School Head as a community project. She applauded especially the Business Community for being partners and supporting the school prize giving and welfare. Shamukuni said the school also has a taking school to the community initiative which sees them visit their catchment areas where they interact with parents.

The Head of Academics and also Deputy School Head, Mr. Reuben Gaokgorwe praised the strategies that the school has put in place as a key factor to improving students academical performance. "Re-evaluating our strategies helped us turn things around", he said. Gaokgorwe said despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, they were not hard hit as they had expected. It was without a shadow of doubt that Mukolo will be amongst the Top Achievers when results come out. This is just how confident her physics teacher and Head of House Mr. Kissinger Thomas was. Thomas said his student was down to earth and serious with her education. "She had an amazing commitment to her studies", he said. A visionary, team leader, well behaved and responsible student are the traits that her Class Teacher Mr. Bontsi Moalosi attributed to her triumph. "Her good discipline helped her pass", he said.

By tasting glory as a Top Achiever Mukolo's simple dream of wanting to pass just enough to go to a local university has since been upgraded. The now Maru-A-Pula student would love to go abroad and study medicine, specialising in Neurology.

1. Gantsi Senior Secondary School Headmaster Mrs. Kachana Shamukuni attributes their success to hard working teachers and stuff who put in a lot of work.

2. Deputy School Head, Mr. Reuben Gaokgorwe praised the strategies that the school has put in place as a key factor to improving students academical performance.

3. Mukolo's Head of House Mr. Kissinger Thomas described Mukolo as a committed student.

4. Class Teacher Bontsi Moalosi praised Mukolo's good behaviour as a key ingredient in her performance.

5. Mukolo's proud Mother displaying some of the accolades she collected over her schooling years.



A Drop of Hope

Seepapitso Senior Secondary has never been represented in the National Top Ten since the inception of the BEC Excellence Awards. Today they owe their first bragging rights to **Onkabetse Seremane** who finished amongst the best ten BGCSE students of 2020.

Their debut was theirs to lose as Onkabetse is not new to the stage having won her first Excellence Award at JCE. Mr. Kgari Ramodisa the School Head at Seepapitso hopes this is a first drop of a heavy rain of Top Achievers. Ramodisa had a lengthy ballad about their drop of hope. "You cannot achieve success as a spectator", he said. The School Head went on to say the humble student had a dream to be a yard stick of quality and excellence. One of the things the school uses to motivate students and instil a competitive spirit is the wall of fame which Onkabetse has earned an induction to. The second in command at Seepapitso SSS Mrs. Evelyn Marambe also expressed delight at their moment of glory. "We are very privileged to produce such a gem", she said. Marambe said as expected it was a long year with many interruptions due to COVID-19 time to time lockdowns that disrupted teaching. "But we persevered as we have very determined teachers", she said. She went on to say Onkabetse believed she is a diamond and she set the bar very high.

Onkabetse is a disciplined, special kind who understood why she went to school. These words of affirmation were said by the Head of House Mr. Boitumelo Makgosa said the school was aiming to be in the Top Five. Though they did not make the Top Five, Makgosa said they have upped their gears and they have been working harder than before. Onkabetse portrayed traits of a well-behaved student and was always ahead in her studies. This is according to her History Teacher Ms. Boipelo Letloba. "She inspired her peers to a 100% pass rate", said Letloba.

The bearer of the good news was Radio Botswana. As her parents were driving back home in Kanye from the cattle post, the news bulletin made the long awaited

announcement "Maduo a lekwalo la mophato wa botlhano a dule...." Back home Onkabetse checked her results via the Short Message Service (SMS) platform. Beep beep and when she opened the message she was met by a stream of A*, seven in total. Girl oh girl didn't she cry! "I was so happy I ran to my aunt's house with tears rolling down my cheeks", said the still visibly jubilant Top Achiever. That would not be her only tears of joy as she later joins her mother in the tear party. Without even saying a word as soon as her parents got home she hugged the mother and started crying and soon both of them had wet each other's clothes with tears. "She did not even give me a chance to get off the car," said the Top Achiever's mother Mrs. Tshagofatso Seremane. Mrs Seremane said the results were not a total surprise considering her daughter's track record. Despite the demanding BGCSE final year workload, Onkabetse is hailed as a hard worker at home and was always happy to do house chores.

Mr. Rebaone Seremane; Onkabetse's father said he was happy his daughter reaped what she sow. He went on to say though they expected the brilliant performance, living the moment is just unbelievable. "This is a big deal," said the proud father. Mr. Seremane commended his daughter for her hard work and self-discipline. His advice to other parents is to teach their children right from wrong at a young age so that they can grow with it. Her Sister Naledi also showered praises on her hard working little sister. "She is naturally clever but she likes reading a lot," she said.

The Top Achiever has a bag full of advices for those who aspire to reap what she reaped. Top of her list is Self-discipline. "There is no way you can aim for success if you are not disciplined," she said. She went on to advice that one must be conscious when choosing friends. Onkabetse also said she used a lot of revision papers. "More practise will give you examination experience," she advised.

Onkabetse is now a student at Maru-A-Pula and she aspires to be a Neuro Surgeon.



1. Onkabetse's Headmaster Mr. Ramodisa says they had pinned their hope on Onkabetse having come to their school as a Top Achiever from JCE.
2. Deputy Headmaster Ms. Marambe says beside being disturbed by COVID-19 pandemic, they did their best to support their learners academically.
3. Head of House Mr. Makgosa's dream is to see Seepapitso in the top 5 nationally and says they are working harder than before to realise that dream.
4. History Teacher Ms. Boipelo Letloba says Onkabetse was an inspiration to her peers.
5. Onkabetse family are used to her bringing loads of awards which also includes the Top Achiver for JCE level.

We Dance Again

When a song is too good, you want to play it twice and dance again. This is **Theo Ramagonono's** story. The Molepolole born former Mater Spei College just wanted to dance again.

Having passed her JCE with a Merit, Theo automatically qualified for an Excellence Award. The second time Top Achiever would be left mesmerised by the aura of the Excellence Awards Ceremony and wanted one more bite at the cherry. "I was also motivated by the opportunities that come with being a Top Achiever", she said. Theo went on to say her failure to get admission for Form 4 at Maru A Pula School was also a motivation to position herself for another opportunity to go to her dream school for her A Levels. "I knew being a BGCSE Top Achiever comes with an elite scholarship", she said. It was as expected not a smash and grab, she had to work hard for her stars. She used mainly mind maps and flash cards to study. Theo drew some inspiration from former Mater Spei College students Susan Charlie and Abdul Alick.

A reserved and humble individual. This is according to her Teacher and advisor Ms. Betsho Mackenzie. The teacher went on to praise their wonder girl for being one of those that were not pushed to do their school work. "Hard work came easy for her", she said. Mackenzie went on to say Theo was determined to excel and strived for it. Her character was consistent in school; her Head of House Ms. Zibisani Smarts was also full of praises. "A self motivated, responsible student with a zeal to learn," she said. The School Deputy Head Ms. Bowelo Kesianye said their Top Achiever could easily have got 9A*. She said Theo had a positive attitude and was very focused. "The expectation was very high, we are pleased with her", she said. Theo has helped Mater Spei redeem their pride and bragging rights for being one of the consistent schools to produce Top Ten

(10) achievers. The school made unwanted history as they failed to feature in the last edition of BEC Top Achievers Magazine Booklet for the first time in history. This redemption brought some relief and joy to Jabulani Munyere the School Head. "We are excited to be back where we belong", he said. Munyere said they instil confidence in their students and make them believe that by having made it to Senior School they have potential to excel and even shock themselves.

Ms. Botsala Ramagonono is proud of her daughter's achievement. Though Theo was gunning for the Golden Star Award, her mother is happy she passed well enough to secure a place in the Top Ten (10). "It is quite a blessing to have such a consistent performance", appreciated the mother. Botsala went on to describe her daughter as a simple child who maintained her humility through out her life. She went on to shower her with praises for always working hard towards the achievement of her goals. "she would come back from the fields and still make time for revision", she said.

The mother could not hold back showering her daughter with praises. "She is just an amazing person" she said behind a smile. Despite the age gap between Theo and her siblings, she is always willing to help them with their home work. A sisterly duty she is said to execute with so much passion and patience, so much to the admiration of her mother. "She plays with her siblings like she is their age mate," praised the mother. From playing with her siblings and helping with their school work, Theo is also always happy to do house chores, without even being reminded to.

Theo grew up dreaming of being a doctor. She would like to be a surgeon, a quest she will pursue abroad once she finishes her A levels at Maur-A-Pula.

1. Mater Spei College Headmaster Mr. Jabulane Munyere expressed his appreciation to Theo for putting his school back in the Top Achievers records after missing out the previous year for the first since the inception of the Excellence Awards in 2009.

2. Deputy School Head Bowelo Sesianye described Theo as a focused and positive student.

3. Head of House Zibisani Smarts praised Theo and described her as "a self motivated, responsible student with a zeal to learn,"

4. Betsho Mackenzie describes Theo as a self starter who was never pushed to do her work.

5. Theo's Mother, Botsala Ramogonono said her daughter has always been consistent in her performance over the years.



The Power of The 5Ps

From a closely knit community of Gaborone Broadhurst Extension 27, where everyone is family even the area Councillor is addressed by nickname compared to the usual comrade or honourable, just to show the togetherness of the people, comes **Seneo Taolo**.

Seneo Taolo a hard nut to crack passed her BGCSE from Molefi Senior Secondary School and earned herself a BEC Excellence Award. The young lady's excellence was powered by the motor; Proper planning prevents poor performance or simply the 5Ps. The visually impaired Seneo said learning was not easy especially that they didn't have Special Education (SPED) teachers. "The challenges were beyond us and a bit overwhelming, so I had to work harder", she said. She did her proper planning by borrowing learning material from other students and former Molefi SSS students to supplement her notes.

The first born of three said her motives to work hard at school was to be independent and not rely on her parents forever as they are struggling to provide for them, actually her family background is one of the talking points why she wants to see the four corners of a university. The Taolos might not have much to put on the breadbasket, but their relationship could not be confused for nothing but pure love. Seneo's journey has not been a lone feat or dual for her and her parents alone, her uncles have always held her hand and they were happy to join the interview by the BEC team. The area Councillor Honourable Stanley Solly later joins the interview, though without invitation he was curious about the full house and cameras in action. But the more the merrier, the community leader was welcomed with cheers and warmth, one could tell Stanley is a people's person. He took the opportunity to congratulate the young lady and gave her a word of encouragement. "This is a good example for our community, and I hope it will inspire our children", said the councillor.

Kealeboga Taolo, Seneo's brother who is a Form 3 student heaped praises on his sister and said he will be hoping to emulate her. "She is inspirational, I admire her and wish to be academically recognised too", said the little brother. One thing Kealeboga adores about his sister is that she is very loving, always gives everyone advice and is very patient when helping her young siblings with home work. "When you go astray, she is quick to put you back in line", he said. Uncle Ontiretse Taolo is in awe of her niece's achievement and says it is a miracle. "She made history I would love to see her pursue her academic quest", he said. The uncle had only good things about the niece. "She is not a troublesome child", praise Uncle Ontiretse. Her other Uncle Tiroyamodimo Taolo is happy his niece heeded to his advice to put her studies first. "Her achievement is quite fulfilling", he said.

Ms. Irene Taolo is a proud mother of the star of the moment. She reckons it was not easy raising a child with special needs, more especially that she spent her entire basic education years in boarding schools, with her Primary School as far as Francistown. "This is a big achievement", said the visibly emotional Irene. Seneo has no problem with doing all the house chores and cooking is her favourite. Her mother is confident she will still do wonders going forward especially with her good record of academic accolades.

Seneo's School is proud her efforts paid dividends. The Headmaster Mr. Khangelani Tshebo gave a bare account of their star: "Seneo was a very disciplined child and it is no surprise that she attained good results" said Tshebo. He went on to say where there is discipline there is success and Seneo epitomised this. "She was committed to her studies, and was not shy to consult even myself about academics" he noted. Mr. Tshebo said the school was working around the clock to improve their results. They do this by promoting self belief because he believes it can enable one to go an extra mile. They also engage supportive former students, who from time to time help the school with identified needs; recently they helped the school with buying copying machines. Ms. Masego Thamage who was Seneo's overseer as Senior Teacher I Special Education also heaped only positives on their Top Achiever. She described Seneo as a well behaved and a focused student. "She embraced advices and was constantly improving" she said.

Ms. Doreen Boikanyo was Seneo's Class Teacher and also taught her Chemistry. She attributed Seneo's excellence to her high self esteem. "She never expected special treatment, Seneo was very vocal and had a very good relationship with teachers and students, orderly and neat student" she applauded. During House meetings she always happy to share something with her peers. Seneo taught her teacher a bit of braille especially alphabets. Seneo's self esteem booster might have been her Head of House Ms. Mariam Chimidza who reckons Special Education students need to be addressed in a manner that will create a positive attitude towards learning without undermining their capability. Chimidza said Seneo was pro active in trying to encourage other students to do well. "Her disability never pulled her down and she interacted well with other students in her class and the main stream" she noted.

Seneo is a sports fanatic and that's what she winds time by watching on television, if she is not on the track practising her 200m and 400m races. She has flown the Botswana flag high in countries like Dubai where she brought home some medals. Her aspiration is to pursue Bachelors in Special Education or Sports Management.



1. Headmaster Mr. Khangelani Tshebo said one of their strategies is to enlist support from alumni to assist with learning materials to improve the school results.
2. Senior Teacher I SPED, Mrs. Masego Thamage said Seneo was focused and that helped her to constantly improve her performance.
3. Head of House Mariam Chimidza says Seneo interacted well with other students in her class and the main stream"
4. Class Teacher Doreen Boikanyo said Seneo displayed positive attitude and never allowed her special needs to eclipse her capability.
5. Seneo's family are proud of her achievements.

Inside The Sever Room



His initial dream was to be work in the Medical field to help the sick; as a doctor or a nurse. Dr Gagoope Odiseng surely has a nice ring to it, but the Kanye native has since switched career lanes.

The 2020 SPED, Hearing Impairment Top Achiever is now fascinated by servers and the server room call was his motivation as he sat for the BGCSE. The young man is not letting any time go to waste in pursuit of his dream as he has already completed a Certificate in Information Technology at GIPS, sponsored by Society for the deaf. He passed the qualification with a first class.

"I find Information Technology to be easier and interesting", he said in an interview at his home village in Kanye. The interview was emotional as the young man detailed how he battled with motivating himself to carry on and finish the BGCSE having attempted to quit a couple of times. Being thousands of kilometres away from his parents in a boarding school, did not make it any easier; despite her mother visiting him on short frequencies. "It was so frustrating sometimes I didn't want to go to school", he shared.

The former Maun Senior Secondary Student was not born with Hearing Impairment; he lost his hearing and speech when he was only three years of age. A condition he had to adjust to living with without any professional aid or therapy at least until he was doing Form one, when him and his brother enrolled for learning sign language. His brother is to later be his daily translator. His mother Mrs Oaitse Odiseng said though it has not been an easy journey she embraced the challenge and gave it her all and was never discouraged or lost hope. She went on to tip other parents who have children living disabilities to love them proudly and not give them any special treatment as that might be an echo of their disability. "Give them love and attention without spoiling them, make them comfortable", she said. The proud mother has given her son more than just emotional support at home, she has even took him for workshops outside the country to equip him with the necessary skills to aid his day to day.

A very respectful young man on the school corridors, an outstanding trait that quickly describes him. Maun Senior Secondary School SPED Senior teacher Ms Mafunye heaped praises on their star's admirable good behavior and commitment to schoolwork. "He was a passionate and dedicated learner", she said. Ms Mafunye went on to say Gagoope had leadership qualities and was very active in Deaf Children Clubs, and was at one point Mr Deaf Schools. Ms. Mafunye also took the opportunity to shed light on her department and the challenges they are facing. "We are short staffed with trained personnel and struggle specialised resources", she said. However the school has strategically deployed the little that is at their disposal to get the job done nonetheless. Gagoope's class teacher Mrs Tebogo Chainda also gave her student's discipline and attitude towards school work. "He was a very good student and related well with his colleagues", she said.

Gagoope's efforts were not running solo. His Head of House Mr. Kemmapetse Komoki shed light on the initiatives that they have at House level to try and elevate their students to glory. He said House set up helps them manage students in small units and maximize in academic performance. Morning studies, close supervision, accounting for month end tests and analysing them, were top of their winning formula. "Those that miss targets are summoned to account and aided with ways of helping them" he said. He said Gagoope was always on the straight and narrow and that showed he will perform well.

The School Head Ms Lekala Legwaila said though the students set for examinations under difficult conditions and strict covid 19 restrictions, the teachers showed commitment to help the students with learning material and revision. Legwaila commended their Top Achiever for putting in a winning shift. "He was a very interesting student who showed seriousness towards school work", she commended



1. Headmaster Ms. Legwaila showered praises to her teachers who despite being faced with the COVID-19 pandemic did their all to ensure students were not negatively impacted.
2. SPED Senior Teacher Ms Mafunye attribute Gagoope's success to the lads good behaviour and commitment.
3. Head of House Mr. Komoki says they closely monitor students using monthly tests and close supervision.
4. Class Teacher Mrs Chainda praises her students for good discipline and positive attitude towards school work.
5. Gagoope's Mother Mrs Odiseng says she supported his son with everything including taking him to South Africa to be equipped with necessary life skills.

**“EXCELLENCE IS
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VISION TO SEE
OBSTACLES AS
OPPORTUNITIES.”**

Anonymous

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 P200 000.00 but not more than P500 000.00 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

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



BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL