

# Fourteenth Stars



A Botswana Examinations Council Publication Profiling the 2022 BGCSE Top Achievers



BOTSWANA  
EXAMINATIONS  
COUNCIL

14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
*Excellence Awards*



# ABOUT

## BOTSWANA EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL



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



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- 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.

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**Editorial Team:** Editor: Fingile Makgalemele   **Articles:** Lesego V. Ntuluki   **Design & Layout:** Otsile R. Tapson   **Art Direction:** Otsile R. Tapson  
**Photography:** Lesego V. Ntuluki, Keitse P. Mogotsi, Otsile R. Tapson

**BEC's Annual Excellence Awards and Publicity Committee:** Karabo Morule-Segobye, Jaxqueline Monei, Mpho Moilwa



# Presidential Award Recipients (Golden Stars) for the past 10 Years.



**Kago Goveya**  
Golden Star - 2013  
Lobatse Senior Secondary School



**Dimpho Gosenyang**  
Golden Star - 2014  
Naledi Senior Secondary School



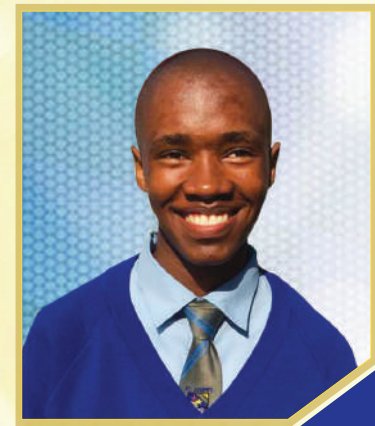
**John Gitonga**  
Golden Star - 2015  
Lotsane Senior Secondary School



**Kago Motsoma**  
Golden Star - 2016  
St. Joseph's College



Republic of Botswana  
**Ministry of Education  
and Skills Development**



**Lefika Matlho**  
Golden Star - 2017  
St. Joseph's College



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**ANNUAL  
Excellence Awards**



**Are chencheng!**  
#BwMindsetchange



**Anthony Adam**  
Golden Star - 2018  
St. Joseph's College



**Shammah Bernard**  
Golden Star - 2019  
Naledi Senior Secondary School



**Tumisang Nkwe**  
Golden Star - 2020  
St. Joseph's College



**Phemo Dan Chada**  
Golden Star - 2021  
Mater Spei College



**Joshua Omaatla Ezekiel**  
Golden Star - 2022  
Naledi Senior Secondary School





## Foreword by The Chief Executive Officer

This year's ceremony celebrates the 2022 cohort, has something extra special about it as the Stars Magazine is on its Tenth Edition, a milestone that is worth celebrating. This magazine has over the ten years inspired both students and teachers to our Excellence Awards podium, including the 2023 cohort that is featured in this commemorative edition.

The celebration of our top performing students annually without fail for fourteen years in a row, would not have been possible without collaborations with key stakeholders and the private sector that have always supported this initiative in earnest. It is against this background that I acknowledge the immense contribution the private sector has and continues to make in our efforts to improve the quality of learning and education in our country.

The stories published in the previous editions of the Stars Magazine series has indeed influenced a mindset change in many students as we have in a couple of years witnessed the power of a changed mindset through Golden Stars who had passed JCE with Second Class passes and not come anywhere near the Top Achievers status but finish above everyone at BGCSE. It is worth noting that this part is a broader strategy of His Excellency The Presidents' Reset Agenda, which is an approach to improve modification of technology, digitalisation of the public service with the aim of advancing Botswana's transition to a knowledge-based economy.

This special edition is available in both print and digital version that can be found in our website [www.bec.co.bw](http://www.bec.co.bw).

I hope you will enjoy this read and draw some inspiration from it through the unique stories of excellence.

Heartiest Congratulation to the Class of 2022. Your names will forever remain etched in the history books as the Top Achievers for the BGCSE 2022 cohort.

Dr. Moreetsi Thobega  
Chief Executive Officer



A re **ch**en**ch**eng!  
#Bw**mindset**change



# Mindset Change

The fourteenth edition of the Excellence Awards confetti will pop for Joshua Omaatla Ezekiel of Naledi Senior Secondary School.

The Kachikau native second born of three boys is yet another epitome of what a change of mindset can achieve. Joshua is a first time Excellence Award recipient besides having attained First Class passes at PSLE and JCE. For a first-time recipient to be Golden Star is quite an amazing story that everyone would love to read. We caught up with the man who earned himself the Presidential handshake to hear how he managed a skyrocket launch to the summit.

Joshua could not stop emphasising how having a positive mindset delivered his dream. He is quick to say that saving the best for last was never intentional, but it was due to finally changing his mindset. "I am essentially a bright student, but I was a bit complacent, eventually I found a balance in being smart and putting in some work", he said. He goes on to advice that; it all starts in the mind because if you control your mind you can control your life. "You just need to have a positive mindset that you will make it," advised the Golden Star. The young man couldn't stop praising his mindset change for his Golden moment. "I owe it to consistency in the mindset and performance", he continued. Seems like he long embraced the National Reset agenda before it was even launched earlier this year (2023) as he long changed his mindset two years ago when he started his BGCSE.

An avid collector of the Stars Magazine Joshua was also motivated by seeing himself amongst the faces that make the magazine cover, but the centre spread reserved for the Golden Star was the ultimate dream. He said reading the Magazine gave him a lot of take homes that he put to good use, from study tips to motivating quotes. Tumisang Nkwe who set a record pass with straight eleven A\*s is one of those that inspired him with his achievement and words. He went on to quote him "Nothing can stop a man who believes", Tumisang Nkwe 2021. Surrounding himself with good people like his teachers and connecting with previous Top Achievers kept him grounded and he started believing he will be the 2022 Golden Star. "My teachers made me believe I can be the best in the Country", he said. Joshua has helped Naledi SSS set its own record. They have become the only School to appear in all the ten editions of the Stars Magazine. In all its ten appearances Naledi SSS was under the tutelage of Mr Othusitse Othusitse who retires a happy man. Stunned by the record, Othusitse was not aware our Profiling team has visited his school for a record ten years in a row. "This is an icing on the cake for me as I am going into retirement, I couldn't have asked for more", said the School Head. He said this is a big motivating factor for the school not to drop the ball. Othusitse described the man who sealed their brilliant record as an extra miler; a go getter and a pleasure to work with.

The Deputy School Head Mr Best Bechwa said this

achievement echoes the fact that Naledi SSS is an excelling school that prioritises education. Producing Top Achievers is always their expectation, he revealed. About their star boy, Bechwa said the young man was indeed a champion of education who amazed him with his hunger for excellence. "No matter how crowded the sky maybe with the stars, he believed that he can be one of them", he applauded. Mrs Senwelo Loeto-Molelo was Joshua's Head of House and she also did not struggle recalling what kind of student she was privileged to have had. Her first words were that this did not come by surprise, he worked hard for it. "It feels good, this is the best reward a teacher could ever get for grooming a student", she said. Ms Sheila Moleta who was entrusted with being Joshua's first custodian in the school as his Class Teacher also expressed delight at their triumph. "I am a proud parent, he has left a monument, and we will never forget him", she praised. Moleta went on to say it is Joshua's behaviour that led him to victory. She boldly continued to say his social attributes should be a dip stick for the society. "He commuted from Pilane every day for two years, but he was never late for school", said the impressed Class Teacher.

As she watched the BEC Examinations Press Briefing live feed on Facebook announcing the release of results Joshua's Mother Mrs Kgomo Moga Moga didn't have any worries about her son's results. She had seen him put in the hard work and was confident he has kept the consistency of his excelling performance. However, a Golden Star accolade was far from her thoughts. "Beating the whole Country is a big achievement, it is good to see him reaping from his hard labour", said the proud mother. Mr Ezekiel Mogamisa is proud that his son has made history and honoured his house with such a big achievement. He attributed his son's achievement to his competitive spirit. "He likes to excel, we expected it", he said. He went on to say his son is an avid reader whose bulk of time is allocated to studying. As much as their son is a self-motivated person who always did his school work without them having to remind him what is at stake, Joshua's parents still saw the need to always motivate him through a reward system so that he keeps excelling. "I always promised to get him whatever he wanted or took him out to a place of his choice if he took position one or straight As", he said. He reckons this paid off good dividends as he always worked hard for his rewards.

Joshua is an ordinary child who does what is expected of a child with house chores and washing the dishes is his favourite, but he makes a good pasta dish too. He is said to be a neat freak and his bedroom always passes the snow test with cleanliness.

The now Maru A Pula A Level student aspires to be a Chartered Financial Analyst, with the United Kingdom being his preferred place of study.

Congratulations Golden star, we trust you will frame this one.



1. Naledi SSS School Head Mr. Othusitse Othusitse says Joshua was an extra miler; a go getter and a pleasure to work with.
2. Deputy School Head Mr. Best Bechwa describes Naledi SSS as an excelling school that prioritises education.
3. Omaatla's Head of House Mrs Senwelo Loeto-Molelo attribute his success to hardwork and dedication to school work.
4. Class Teacher Sheila Moleta says Omaatla was a well behaved student and that contributed to his outstanding performance.
5. Omaatla's parents came up with a reward system at home that motivated Omaatla to excell at school.



# Astrophile

If you passed your JCE with a Merit and repeat the same feat with your BGCSE by bagging stars for all the subjects, surely you would have collected enough stars to make your own constellation. Ngeepetjike Ngaruka seems to be fascinated by gazing at his own stars, and the Maun born, former Mater Spei College made his own collection of stars.

Ngaruka challenged himself with only ten subjects when he sat for his BGCSE in 2022 and he starred all of them; flawlessly. The record for the most Star passes in subjects at BGCSE stand at eleven, a record set by Tumisang Nkwe in 2020 and Ngaruka was well aware of this. Nonetheless beating that record was never his goal even when his teachers encouraged him to take up twelve subjects, he insisted his mission was to do only ten and ace all of them. True to his mission, he passed all his subjects with A\*. Ngaruka reckons one must be realistic with their goals. "Work hard and have a clear target looking at what you are capable of achieving, not capable of dreaming", he advised. Perhaps this explains why he just bit enough to chew and not overload himself with more subjects. His brilliant performance earned him a second spot in the 2022 BGCSE Top Ten and he scooped a Ministerial Award.

Ngaruka's teachers however feel he could have easily made an all-star performance had he taken more subjects. Mr Philani Chilambampani was entrusted with the Class Teacher role for the Ministerial Award recipient, a task he embraced and became a father figure to his brilliant boy. "I made him feel comfortable and sometimes we even had light conversations", he said. Chilambampani encouraged Ngaruka to help his struggling peers as this will benefit not only them but him as well. Being a Top Achiever across all levels is not an easy feat. The territory demands a lot and a couple of strategies are put in place. Ngaruka had a mentor; Mr Seeletso Lefhadola who also taught him Chemistry. Lefhadola was appointed to this challenging task by the Deputy School Head Ms. Bowelo Kesianye. Lefhadola did not only nurture the young man academically, he also gave attention to his welfare issues. "We met twice a month to analyse his marks and talk about any other business", said the mentor.

The decision to appoint a mentor for the Mater Spei star boy was motivated by his good academical record especially having finished top of his JCE class with a Merit pass. The Deputy School Head Ms. Bowelo Kesianye revealed that the school was shy of dropping the ball. "We had to be careful to protect his sterling performance", she said. Ngaruka has entered the elite league of a handful who have scooped all the three levels (PSLE, JCE, BGCSE) awards. Kesianye also commended Ngaruka for his sterling performance saying it has helped the school restore its pride and reaffirm that they are indeed an academic excellence hotspot. Mater Spei produced four of ten (10) Top Achievers. The School Head Mr Babuluki Bajiti heaped praises on the school's strong pastoral system. Bajiti went on to say they are a school of excellence and they ensure that teachers and students are supported with resources to help them perform. "Our ultimate goal is to

produce five students in the Top Ten" he promised. He commended Ngaruka for being an inspiration to the school and making them to have a strong belief that their dream is indeed attainable.

Back home in Maun Ngeepetjike's family is just as proud as his school. His parents have gone to the cattle post some 100 kilometres out of the Ngami Capital and his paternal uncle Muniovandu Kandjou gave us an insight of how they relate with him at home. His first words are that Ngeepetjike has made the family proud and put smiles on their faces. His smile cannot be missed, indeed he is a happy and proud uncle. Perhaps because he was entrusted with being his guardian during his tenure as a boarding student in Mater Spei and the uncle staying just 30 kilometres away in Tonota where he works as a teacher at Shashe River School. The uncle said learning is in his nephew's DNA, and went on to reveal that he has had a sound vision about his academics since he was twelve years old and never derailed from living the dream. "He motivated us to support him with his determination and how he took care of the school material we bought for him", he said. A very calm and collected young man who expresses himself in a few words, but his sense of humour can throw someone off their chair. Ngeepetjike is a very good cook, and his uncle actually enjoys his dishes. "*Ha a di gatile o bo o itse gore gompiano go tsile go jewa sentle*" loosely translated to "When it is his turn to cook, we know we are going to enjoy the meal", he said jokingly.

Making it into the Stars Magazine is every Top Achiever's dream, that is now an uncontested fact. Ngeepetjike knew that for him to live his dream of seeing his face on the celebrated magazine cover, he had to make it into Top Ten. "Obviously appearing on the magazine is every student's dream" he chuckled. We will make sure his face looks good on the cover of this lifetime collection. Having finished JCE with a Merit pass and top of his class his triumph was long written on the wall. That was however not that obvious it was a challenging journey marred by the pain of failure and uncertainties. "I failed an interview to get admission to Maruapula for my Form four (4)", he revealed. This was a disappointing and painful experience and he wanted to make sure the second bite at the cherry was at its juicier part. The Education Hub sponsors JCE Top Achievers to a Private School of their choice, those who fail to make the cut have a chance to redeem themselves at BGCSE. Ngeepetjike drew inspiration from his former colleague and 2021 Golden Star Phemo Chaba, and borrowed his study tactics. Talk about trusting a winning formula. Amongst his ammunition was studying in study groups, and tutoring fellow students. "I had to humble myself and work with even those I performed better than", he revealed. The fulfilment of finishing as a Golden Star and make history by finishing top of his class both at JCE and BGCSE was also a driving force.

We hope finishing second is not a train smash to his ambitions. Well done and enjoy your Maru A Pula dream as you shape a way to study Medicine in the UK.

1. Mater Spei School Head Mr. Babuluki Bajiti heaped praise on the school's strong pastoral system saying it is a proven recipe for success.
2. Head of House Mr. Charles Seboko says Ngeepetjike was a well grounded student and easy to work with.
3. Ngeepetjike Chemistry Teacher Mr. Seeletso Lefhadola was appointed to mentor him and they met twice a month to analyse his performance.
4. Class Teacher Mr. Philani Chilambampani encouraged Ngeepetjike to tutor his peers and says that also paid dividends.
5. Ngeepetjike's Uncle Muniovandu Kandjou says he has made them very proud.





# Make Or Break

Yet another first time recipient of the BEC Excellence Award, to close off the Top Three tier as he bags home a second runner up spot for the BEC Chairperson's Award. Amazing right!

The immediate question is why did the giant sleep until the last lap? Francistown Senior Secondary School's Prince Motswaiso's response is simple and on point. "BGCSE is make or break", he said. Prince does not comb the hay for a needle as he quickly admits he could have definitely passed better at JCE but his priorities were misplaced. "I had no doubts about my potential and BGCSE presented an opportunity for me to prove my mettle", he said. Though he is a first time Top Achiever it is an aspiration he has had for a long time. His former Junior School senior colleague and friend at Setlalekgosi JSS Phemo Dan Chaba' finished as the Golden Star in 2021 and this fuelled the fire in him to make him want to show that indeed they are birds of the same feather. Moreover, Prince's school FSSS was perceived as a not so good school for a brilliant student and he vowed to take one for them. "The negative connotations about my school upset me and I carried the weight upon myself to change the public perception," he said. Prince went on to praise his former school as indeed a good school with very good teachers that enabled him to realise his dream. The relief in his eyes could be seen from a distance, he has accomplished not only being a Top achiever but also putting his beloved school in good light.

His journey was not an easy one and he warned that the road to the Top Achiever's podium is not as rosy as it seems. When the going got tough, he found motivation in reading the Stars Magazine and 2020 Golden Star Tumisoang Nkwe's story inspired him to his Add Maths A\*. Prince went on to advice that it takes a lot of focus and commitment to be a Top Achiever. He admitted that finishing in the Top Ten is a tough competition, so he always had to bear in mind that he was up against candidates from all over the country. Prince's success has been a long process according to his father Mr. Motswaiso Motswaiso who revealed that his has always been a brilliant child. Prince was exempted from doing standard 6 and sat for his PSLE a year earlier. "It was not easy to raise a gifted child", Motswaiso said. He went on to say they used gentle persuasion rather than excessive discipline to call him to order. Buying him gifts as a way of motivating him was not enough as his father reckons that it is also important to be inspi-

ration to children. Prince's mother Mrs Gadifele Motswaiso said they embraced the challenge of raising him and make sure he lives up to his full potential. "It is quite fulfilling to see him getting what he aimed for", said the delighted mother.

At home the Maun native doesn't give his parents trouble with doing his chores as he is an all rounder and cooks well. "He is a perfectionist, his room is always clean", his mother praised. He also added to his house chores being a tutor for his young siblings and his parents motivated him with a small remuneration at the end of the month.

FSS School Head Mr. Fanyana Charles Ntaise is happy that Prince's results has helped the school to improve its ranking, finishing on position five in the BGCSE standings. Ntaise said the young man was not much of a work as far as nurturing him was concerned. "By second term he had already finished all the material and teachers were just giving him revision", he said. The school implored a few strategies to see to it that they get the best out of their students, amongst them taking their Top Performers to John Mackenzie School for a three day benchmarking exercise and also took them to BUIST to give them a feel of University environment.

Mr. Batoli Makhane who is the second in command at FSSS also sang praises about their patriotic student and thanked him for coming through for the school. "I don't remember him ever falling short of expectations, he hit the ground running" Makhane applauded. Makhane said the school has intensified its transformation drive to turn around its outlook. Random patrols are undertaken to make sure there is class attendance by both students and teachers. Every fortnight students books are inspected, and teachers adhere to lesson preparations to mention but a few. Mr. Bikie Smarts who was Prince's HOD remembers him as a focused and well behaved neat student. "He was a man on a mission", said Smarts. He went on to say Prince has written the school's name in gold. Mrs. Irene Joseph is a proud Class Teacher and never had doubts that her student will make them proud. "He is a rare gem", she said. Joseph also took a moment to appreciate Prince's parents for always keeping tabs with school work to make sure he does not slack.

Australia, UK and Canada are the Chairperson's Award winner preferred countries to study for Medicine; talk about being spoilt for choice, packs of being a Top Achiever. Well done Prince, good luck.



1. Francistown SSS School Head Mr. Fanyana Charles Ntaise praised Prince for helping the School to improve its overall ranking.

2. Deputy School Head Mr. Batoli Makhane says Prince always set the bar too high and worked hard to reach it.

3. Head of House Mr. Bikie Smarts remembers Prince as a focused and well behaved student.

4. Class Teacher Mrs. Irene Joseph praised Prince's parents for always monitoring his performance.

5. Prince parents adopted a gentle persuasion approach rather than excessive discipline to call him to order, something which played a key role in his success.



## Fulfilled

This is another story of redemption. Mater Spei College's Natasha Bobonong missed a JCE Merit pass by a whisker and was shy to suffer a second stroke when she sat for her BGCSE.

Her corrective action didn't prescribe much, she was already a hard-working student but made one costly mistake. She found the solution to her problem in the Stars Magazine. When Natsha was inducted into Mater Spei College, she got exposed to information about the Top Achievers programme, and teachers gave them copies of the Stars Magazine. "The school created an atmosphere of excellence from the first day", said Natsha. As she perused through the different editions of the profiling booklets she came across one story that was more relevant to her. "Some stories were truly inspirational, and I found them helpful. One story talked more to me; I learnt not to focus only on one subject but all of them" she revealed. Having worked on fixing her mistake, Natasha still needed her teachers to come through for her and she couldn't stop giving them their flowers. "My teachers were very helpful and hands on", she emphasized. She went on to say the passion that her teachers put in their job was in itself a big motivation. "They made teaching fun and sometimes we attended weekend lessons under a tree", she said.

Natasha is a Maths fanatic and has during her tenure at Mater Spei made it to the national team and went on to represent the country in Morocco and put in a good show. Her HOD Mr. Thabologo Zambe said as much as she was exceptional in Maths, she always did well across subjects. Ms. Keneilwe Moatlhodi was Natasha's Class Teacher and was impressed by the young lady's conduct as she was never found in a disorderly set up. "She was a very organised student even during the teacher's absence", she said. The School Deputy Head Master Bowelo Kesianye described one of their four Top Ten finishers as a very committed student. "Her sterling performance has helped the school to re-

store its pride and reaffirm that we are indeed an academic excellence hotspot", she said. The School Head Mr. Babuluki Bajiti heaped praise on the school's strong pastoral system. Batjiti went on to say they are a school of excellence and they ensure their teachers and students are supported with resources to help them perform. "Our ultimate goal is to produce five students in the Top Ten" he promised.

The first born of three has made her family proud and brought them long lasting happiness according to her father Mr. Lebuang Bobonong. He praised his daughter for having been easy to raise and self driven with her studies. "She is not much work, she has her priorities right", he said. This however did not mean that her parents relaxed the leash too much, they still monitored her school work and fostered a close relationship with her teachers for monitoring purposes. "During the COVID-19 restrictions era there was no report collection but her teachers still kept us up to date thanks to the good rapport we already had", he said. Natsha has never tolerated falling short of her targets and always wanted to improve. Her mother Mrs. Ruth Bobonong said she sometimes felt her daughter was being too hard on herself. "If she got a 90% she will sweat to see how she missed on the 10%", she said. She went on to reveal that this was a dream come true for her daughter as she long told them she was going to be a Top Achiever.

Natasha is a good example to her siblings with her humility and nailing her chores. A very good cook on any day who likes playing around with menus and makes good pizza. However cleaning up the kitchen is her worst nightmare she is always happy to have a kitchen hand do the cleaning and she sticks to being Chef.

Natasha has always been fascinated by the medical fraternity and would love to study Medicine.



1. Mater Spei School Head Mr. Babuluki Bajiti stressed the importance of resourcing teachers and learners in order to achieve excellence.
2. Deputy School Head Mrs. Bowelo Kesianye said their students' achievement reaffirm that Mater Spei is a school of academic excellence.
3. Head of Department Mr. Thabologo Zambe said Natasha was a gem across all her subjects.
4. Class Teacher Ms. Keneilwe Moatlhodi said Natasha was a very organised and orderly student.
5. Natasha's family are delighted of her performance saying she has never disappointed them academically.



# A Shot At a Better Life

Being a Top Achiever gives one an opportunity to many doors according to Selibe -Phikwe born former Mater Spei College student Stephen Senyane who locked the fifth spot on the best ten list of the 2022 BGCSE students.

Born and bred in one of the country's oldest and famous townships Botshabelo in Selibe-Phikwe, Stephen Senyane has never liked the graphic scenes from his hood. His face is quite packed with a bag full of emotions that are contagious to everyone around, we all froze and listened to him as he detailed how crime, violence and drugs moulded him into a sharp sword. "I had it rough through my childhood, a lot of things in the Township gave me first-hand experience" he shared. Watching his peers take turns being chauffeured to the police station on a frequent routine was heart-breaking but became his driving force. "I want to change the narrative and give my peers a better life", he revealed. His words go straight to the heart as he gives a heartfelt account of how painful it was to bear the pain of seeing the people he grew up with and played with get consumed by the township culture. Stephen chose to be the change he wanted to see and did what he believes some will find inspiration in. "These streets are full of potential and talent, but it is somehow not easy to remain focused and live up to the full potential around here", he emphasised.

The Top Achiever is very patriotic about his community and said the burden he carries is for the streets that made him and vowed to give back to his community. Stephen's mother Ms. Gloria Tjedza Senwelo could not hold back her tears as she narrated how proud she is of her son's perseverance. Ms. Senwelo as expected had fears of losing her brilliant son to social ills and bad friends. She however, didn't lose confidence in him and was always blunt with her advices to him and was not shy to always use herself as an example to drive her points home. "I even told him to stay away from the bottle", she said. Not long into the interview the bubbly mother gets overwhelmed by emotions and we took a recess to let her contain her tears. Later into the interview her tears are justified; they have been through a lot; this is indeed a big achievement. Stephen's mother doesn't have a reliable income and relies on the Ipelegeng programme and good Samaritans to be able to provide for her family. On the day results were released she was on duty on top of a scaffold painting and missed a phone call that was to deliver the good news. Her siblings couldn't wait and went to her work place to give her the news in person. "We had prayed for 6A\*s and when they told me he got seven, I got excited and spilled the paint on my shoes", she said.

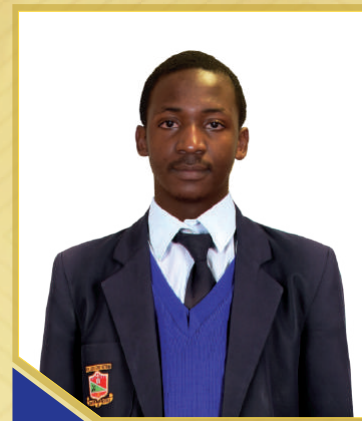
Stephen's former Junior School teacher at Mojamorago JSS Mr. Khumo Ditshamekelo is one of the good Samaritans who has come through for him, not only academically but socially and also took care of his welfare. Ditshamekelo actually never taught Stephen as he was in a different class from his and the teacher challenged him that he can't beat his top student in Maths after he was impressed by his good marks. Stephen embraced the challenge and beat them, but Ditshamekelo and

his student were not sore losers and the trio became friends ever since. A new student joined them in Form 2 and finished top of Stephen by 1%, the following test they both scored a 100% pass in Maths. Ditshamekelo would later tutor the two boys and formed a formidable team that was unstoppable in Maths and Science competitions and was first at national level. The teacher took the relationship beyond the classroom and played a father figure in Stephen's life, grooming him and making sure he doesn't lose focus. Ditshamekelo made Stephen and his mates teachers for their evening lessons, as a way of getting them better and best. The teacher said he was inspired by the potential of Botshabelo children to come through for them. Ditshamekelo's relationship with his students did not end at the school as he later facilitated Stephen's transfer to Mater Spei College as a boarding student. "I took care of him and five others so taking him to a boarding school was also a way to be able to share with them the little I could spare", he said. The good teacher said he bought them toiletries and sometimes other parents also helped him with this initiative which he sees as a long term community project. "Together with Stephen and other students we are determined to make something beneficial to the Botshabelo children", promised Ditshamekelo. He described his star boy as a hard worker with a strong mentality.

Stephen was not short of well wishers, Ms. Lenamile Tumpane is also a good friend of the family and helped them with their needs and helped his mother raise him into a responsible young man. Tumpane said with his humility and focus, Stephen was destined for greatness.

Mrs. Zibanani Smarts is one of the perennial features in the Stars Magazine, she seems to have mastered the recipe to produce Stars. This time around she led Stephen to his promised land as his Head of House at Mater Spei College. Smarts was happy to reveal her winning formula. She said she identifies highflyers and assign a teacher to mentor them to make sure they get the best out of them. She also tracks her students performance and have one on one sessions with them, not just as a corrective measure but also to encourage those that are doing well to keep up the good work. "He related well with his colleagues and always helped other students", she said about Stephen. The Deputy School Head Ms. Bowelo Kesianye said the young man seemed focused. "He behaved well and always encouraged his peers to work hard", she said. The delighted Kesianye applauded Stephen for helping the school echo their academic prowess with a total of four students amongst the country's best ten. It is a mission accomplished for MSC School Head Mr. Baboloki Bajiti who said their ultimate target is to produce at least five students in the Top Ten. Bajiti said his school is a school of excellence aided by the support of parents and committed teachers. "Our teachers are well supported with resources to teach the students and they don't disappoint us", he said.

Stephen earned himself a government scholarship and is currently at Maru A Pula doing his A Levels. He aspires to later study Computer Science or Quantum Physics.



1. School Head Mr. Baboloki Bajiti praised parents for their involvement in children's education.

2. Deputy School Head Mrs. Bowelo Kesianye said Stephen motivated his peers and encouraged them to do well.

3. Head Of Department Mrs. Zibanani Smarts says their House identify high performers and assign teachers to mentor and and to keep a tab on them.

4. Stephen's former teacher Mr. Khumo Ditshamekelo volunteered to take care of him after he realised his potential.

5. Stephen's mother Ms. Gloria Tjedza Senwelo could not hold back her tears as she narrated how proud she is of her son's achievement.





BOTSWANA  
EXAMINATIONS  
COUNCIL

ANNUAL  
*Excellence Awards*



**GOLDEN STAR**  
GOLDEN STAR



**Joshua Omaatla Ezekiel**

*Naledi Senior Secondary School*

**PRESIDENTIAL  
AWARD RECIPIENT  
BGCSE 2022**





# Early Retirement Ticket



Former Mater Spei College student Lone Alice Rasebeka gave it her all when she set for her BGCSE just so that she could see her mother go into early retirement

Lone reckons she has always been a star but she did not push herself enough to attain Top Achievers status at JCE. "I always got the first position, so I became complacent and didn't put much effort", she said. Watching her mother make sacrifices for her is a sight she just could not bear anymore. Lone is her mother's only child and thinks she is the only person who can give her mother a break. "I want my mother to go into early retirement and I take care of her", she said. This was the biggest motivating factor as she studied for her BGCSE which she says for her it was a do or die fixture. On how she turned things around for the better she said she had to be aware of her mistakes and take lessons from them. Lone goes on to advice that no matter how great one may be, they must never shy away from asking for help. This coupled with putting in extra work is what she believed was a passport to her dreams. "I even attended extra lessons at lunch", as she continued to share her winning formula. When asked if missing out on being a top achiever at JCE didn't demoralise her, she simply responded by saying "Challenges are meant to mould one's character."

Lone's proud mother, Ms Lebogang Rasebeka still vividly remembers the day they had long waited for as she heard the BGCSE Results Press Release being read on a radio news bulletin while she was at work. What followed was jubilation and ululations as they celebrated Lone's Top Achiever status success. They later had more reason to celebrate when the National Top Ten list was released as she was amongst the crème de la crème. "I am out of words to express my happiness", said the proud mother of the Taung born Top Achiever. She went on to describe her daughter as a humble child who never disappoints. It takes a village to raise a child, Lone was raised in an extended family.

Her Grandmother, Mrs. Mmabontle Semeo said as much as her grandchild is a grounded child she constantly reminded her not to lose focus. "I had to remind her to remain on the

straight and narrow path", she said. Semeo said Lone's latest achievement is a good example to her young cousins and will make her job of raising them much easier.

A darling to her aunt Ms. Lorato Rasebeka who has a very close relationship with Lone and boosts that she knows her inside out. Lorato doesn't know the quite and shy character that seems to be a common description of her niece. The two of them always have a jolly interaction and play music loudly with their dancing shoes on. "I always encourage her to be outgoing", she said. On a lighter note Lorato said she loved her niece for always earning them a day out to Lion's Park resort or a pizza date at the end of every term as her mother always promised to spoil her if she passed. Lone made sure to always deliver and her aunt always tagged along.

An Excellence Award is surely Lone's biggest academic achievement but representing the country in a Maths Olympiad in Morocco is a highlight that even her former school Mater Spei College still prides itself with.

Her Head Of Department (HOD) Mr. Thabologo Zambe said the young lady loved Maths and used mind maps to study for examinations. Ms Keneilwe Moatlhodi was Lone's Class Teacher and was impressed by the leadership qualities the young lady possessed. "She was a very organised student even in the teacher's absence", she said. The School Deputy Headmaster, Ms. Bowelo Kesianye praised one of their Top Achievers for her outstanding results, and said it was fruits of her hard labour. "Her sterling performance has helped the school to restore its pride and reaffirm that we are indeed an academic excellence hotspot", she said. The School Head Mr Babuluki Bajiti heaped praise on the school's strong pastoral system. Batjiti went on to say they are a school of excellence, and they ensure their teachers and students are supported with resources to help them perform. "Our ultimate goal is to produce five students in the Top Ten" he promised.

Lone's Top Achiever badges has earned her a scholarship to do A Levels and she chose Maru A Pula as her preferred school. For her tertiary education, Australia is on her wish list, where she would like to study medicine.

1. Mater Spei School Head Mr. Babuluki Bajiti heaped praise on the school's strong pastoral system saying it is a proven recipe for success.
2. Deputy School Head Mrs. Bowelo Kesianye praised Lone for her hardwork and dedication.
3. Head of House Mr. Thabologo Zambe says Lone employed the mind maps techniques as one her study techniques.
4. Class Teacher Ms. Keneilwe Moatlhodi says Lone had outstanding leadership qualities.
5. Lone's family are over the moon about her sterling performance.





# The Class Clown

**T**eto Dazel Dintwa of Masunga Senior school's journey to excellence is quite an interesting documentary, inspirational to say the least.

The Motlhabaneng born young man who was raised in Selibe Phikwe's Botshabelo township speaks boldly about his dark past that could have ruined it all for him. From his facial expressions one could tell the young man is proud of his turn around and is not shy to spill the beans. In a tell all story Teto talks about his past, the right environment and his circle. The former Boikhutso JSS student was once popular for gangsterism, school fights, bullying, and stealing from other students. "We took other students' stuff not because we needed to but just to harass them", he revealed. He admits that this was also influenced by the environment he grew up in as one could easily lose themselves. "Growing up in Botshabelo one needs to be well focused and principled", he warned. He went on to emphasise the importance of having personal principles and sticking to them and avoid negative influence.

Fortunately for Teto, he managed to pass his JCE and booked his BGCSE ticket. You would think the young man had learnt a lesson and would not want to bank on a lucky escape again. Teto learnt of the Top Achievers programme during his Form 4 orientation, but the motivation was still not enough to ground him. "I associated with non-performers, and it dragged me down", he said as he shook his head in disbelief. With this attitude Teto's performance was way below par from attaining him Top Achiever status and he knew it. "I was a naughty child, I was the class clown sitting at the back seat", as he continued to spill his beans. Teto would later make a turn around when the school management made what he called a deliberate decision to bring performing students earmarked to be top achievers to his class. "Their arrival kept me on my toes, and this was the beginning of my beautiful story", he said. He expressed his gratitude to this master class move by his teachers, saying to be a top achiever one needs an enabling and right environment; and for him Masunga SSS was exactly that. "What you feed your mind is important and it is influenced by the environment", he advised.

Teto went on to advice that working hard was not the only way of investing into his academics. He said he still socialised and played with his peers but finding a balance of play time and his schoolwork was important. "When I read, I leave no stones unturned", he said. Former Masunga SSS student Thabo John was very influential to Teto. Previous Stars magazine also came in handy with lots of study tips from previous top achievers as he borrowed a leaf those that matched his calibre. The Class of 2022 Top Ten finisher also had a bag full of his own advices. "Plant a seed of excellence because life gives no freebies", he said. He continued to advice that a hardworker can beat a genius if a genius does not put in some work. "Listen to those who have done it before", he concluded.

Having changed his ways Dazel was confident this time around he would live up to his potential. His mother Ms. Diphetogo Dintwa said her son was sure he

had given it his best shot and told her he had passed even before the results were released. Indeed when the results were published, Dazel was trending on social media and her mother's phone was flooded with congratulatory messages and calls. Her first born has done her proud with his outstanding performance that she never thought she will wake up to. In an emotionally tense interview she paints the picture of their days in Botshabelo township as she struggled to raise him as a single parent. "It wasn't easy especially as a single parent without much on the table", she reminisced. As she continued with their journey to gold, tears that had been welling up in her eyes have no room anymore and started rolling on her make up, prompting a break to gather herself and defuse the tension in the room. She comes back on set all smiles and the happy story continues. Ms. Dintwa's biggest goal was making sure that her son focuses on what was important especially when she could see early signs of brilliance. "Nurturing him to his full potential was a big challenge", she said. She went on to reveal that her son had contrasting personalities; a naughty boy away from her but a very obedient and shy son at home. "He is a man of few words and I barely need to reprimand him", she shared. Sending him to a boarding school away from home was not only a way of getting him new friends but to groom him to be independent. Dintwa advised that parents must protect children and monitor them especially with the friends they choose. "Keep them on a tight leash without being too strict", she tipped.

At Masunga SSS he will be remembered as a neat and disciplined young man. I guess his Class Teacher Mr. Oarabile Koboekae who also taught the top achiever Chemistry did not pick up the naughty class clown traits or the brilliant performance made him to put on a veil of ignorance on the negative and focus on the good. "He always took up extra work and did brilliantly with less errors", he said. Dazel's Head of House Mr. Kaisara Marakakgoro was also instrumental in making sure that their star's cup overflows. Marakakgoro always evaluated his classes marks and encouraged those that needed to improve. "I always visited his class every morning and pushed them to continuously improve their marks", he said. The School Deputy Headmaster Mr. Reuben Lerothodi said Dazel who is one of the four Top Ten finishers improved during the final year and did well in his mock exam and that gave them a good forecast that he will make it to the Top Achievers list. Masunga SSS School Head Mr. Jabulani Munyere said that his school has laid a good foundation for academic excellence and students like Dazel tapped on that so well. Munyere further said excellence cannot be separated from discipline. "To keep our students discipline in check we host character building sessions in collaboration with the Police, social workers and other stakeholders", he shared

Dazel is currently enjoying a fully sponsored A Levels at Maru A Pula, a package that also comes with a living allowance and a laptop. Moreover he is awarded an iPad at the Botswana Examinations Council Excellence Awards. The young man aspires to study medicine abroad.



1. Masunga School Head Mr. Jabulani Munyere says their students ride on the wave of his school academic excellence.
2. Deputy School Head Mr. Lerothodi says they were positive about Dazel finishing in the Top 10 due to his performance.
3. Head of House Mr. Kaisara Marakakgoro says his House provides feedback to students to help them improve their grades.
4. Class Teacher Mr. Oarabile Koboekae says Dazel took up extra work to augment his grades.
5. Dazel's mother says she worked tirelessly to nurture his son.





# From Second Class to Top Ten

**K**esego Sikume is the second student from Masunga Senior Secondary School class of 2022 to make it into the Top Ten.

My pen is always happy to write such inspirational stories; the headline alone is packed with hard hitting facts, go ahead read it again. The Parakarungu born young lady finished her JCE with a Second Class, but she upgraded it at BGCSE and finished amongst the best ten students in the country amongst over forty thousand (40,000) candidates. This hard telling fact makes one want to grab a chair and launch a probe about this unbelievable story.

Kesego first learnt of the Top Achievers programme through the Stars Magazine when she was admitted at Masunga SSS as a form four (4) student, and she immediately set her eyes on the ball. She said this was her biggest motivator to turn things around. "I didn't know about Top Achievers initiative, just wanted to pass good enough to qualify for senior school", she revealed. Upon learning about this lucrative initiative Kesego enquired more about it from senior students and teachers. She continued by giving credit to her school for being a supportive environment that moulds a student to thrive for excellence. "The way they prioritise academics and have structured the school creates a good environment to excel", she praised. Besides the school being a breeding ground for excellence, Kesego reckons government initiatives like the Top Achievers programme are a commendable way of rewarding and motivating students. As she was reading the different editions of the Stars Magazine, she found 2016 Golden Star Kago Motsoma to be very inspirational and related more to his story.

To get from second class to Top Ten, Kesego surely had to do things in a different fashion. The Top Achievers scholarship recipient had to improve her attitude towards her subjects and give all of them equal attention. "I stopped having attitude towards other subjects and it paid off", she said. A hard working humble student Kesego will be remembered by her Class Teacher Mr. Oarabile

Koboekae as a reserved student who one would not immediately associate with excellence. "She kept to herself, but her marks did the talking", said the proud Koboekae. He went on to say his student always sacrificed her lunch break to study. Getting the young lady to perform to her best was a team effort and her Head of House Mr. Kaisara Marakakgoro also played a pivotal role in this achievement. "I visited her class every morning to motivate them and remind them what was at stake", he said. Marakakgoro said one other way of keeping his students on track was evaluating their marks and identify the loose ends to tie. According to the School Deputy Head Master Mr. Reuben Lerothodi, the school put more effort to produce stars like Kesego. Lerothodi said they aimed for a big number and being able to feature on the Top Ten with four students was quite an achievement. "Our staff's commitment in helping the students is just outstanding", he said. Sharing his school strategies to nurture excellence, Masunga SSS School Head Mr. Jabulani Munyere said that he believes very much in laying a good foundation for academic excellence. Munyere further said excellence cannot be separated from discipline. "To keep our students discipline in check, we host character building sessions in collaboration with the Police, social workers and other stakeholders", he shared.

The third born of seven was also motivated by the commitment of her single mother in raising her and her siblings. "Her hard work motivated me to push myself", she said. Ms. Namakaliza Sikume sighs in disbelief of her daughter's achievement. Sikume said her daughter was a goal driven person and a big dreamer. "She long envisioned this moment and wrote it down on a diary" she said. Ms Sikume is proud of how her daughter has embraced her upbringing and nurturing. She described her daughter as a quite person who is always home studying and picks her friends well, but spends less time with them.

Kesego would like to study Medicine and be a Cardiologist. But first she has to pass her A Levels at Maru A Pula where she is currently a student, enjoying the packs of being a Top Achiever.



1. School Head Mr. Jabulani Munyere says his school underscores the importance of discipline as a foundation for academic excellence.
2. Deputy School Head Mr. Reuben Lerothodi praised Kesego for helping Masunga to be the top performing school nationally.
3. Head of House Mr. Kaisara Marakakgoro says his House have daily motivational talks to inspire and motivate students.
4. Class Teacher Mr. Oarabile Koboekae said Kesego sacrificed a lot and devoted her time to studying.
5. Kesego's mother Ms. Namakaliza Sikume says her daughter envisioned being a Top Achiever and even put it in her diary as one her goals.



# Want It Badly

Masunga Senior Secondary School's third strike in the 2023 BGCSE Top Ten is courtesy of Chiedza Tafangombe, who believes her achievement is a result of wanting it badly.

Chiedza like her other colleagues only got to learn of the lucrative Top Achievers' programme when she started her Form four (4). The two years she spent at Masunga SSS were enough to see her enjoy the sweet from her sweat. The young lady resolved to introspect her study methods and and come up with a winning strategy. One of the notable methods she used to study was that she looked at the subject objectives and made sure she understood how to answer questions as guided by the objectives. Chiedza also appreciated that no man is an island; she worked with some of her colleagues an even drew inspiration from previous Top Achievers. "Thabo John taught us in a way that is simple to understand", she said. (Thabo John is class of 2022 Top Achiever) Chiedza said she studied humanities subjects with Double Science Award students and studied for her sciences with fellow separate sciences students. Making her parents proud is also one of the reasons she sweat it off for her grades. "I just love the look they always give me when I have made them proud", she said.

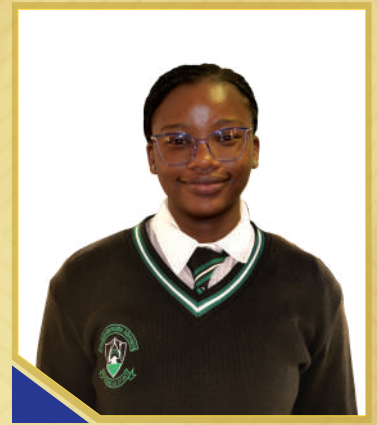
Being a team player also goes a long way in helping one mould their path to success, Chiedza worked well with her peers, according to her Class Teacher Mr. Calvin Sello. "Her interaction with her peers was very good, she was not stingy with information." Sello continued to shower his student with praises for her utmost humility. The Top Achiever producer advices that it is not easy to produce a Top Achiever. "I motivated them every morning. Sometimes students fail because of lack of motivation, and with it they can go a long way," he said. Chiedza was not short of motivators, her Head of House Mr. Thomas Bajiti encouraged his students to study in groups as they are not perfect and can always learn something from each other. An advice Chied-

za embraced. He said their star girl was a mature and well-grounded child. "I didn't need to put her under pressure, she was very focused", he said. The School Deputy Headmaster Mr. Reuben Lerothodi said Chiedza helped the school make history by adding on their tally of four top ten finishers. "We were confident with our forecast that she will make it", he said. Masunga SSS School Head Mr. Jabulani Munyere said that his school has laid a good foundation for academic excellence and students like Chiedza tapped on that so well. Munyere further said excellence cannot be separated from discipline. "We make sure that our students are disciplined as we are always checking on them. We also invite the Police and Social Workers to help us in monitoring our children ", he shared

Chiedza's mother Mrs. Lucy Spickson Tafangombe will never forget the day she was listening to the afternoon radio news bulletin at work, and it announced that BGCSE results have been released. Upon checking the results, she was met by a series of stars. What followed was ululations and jubilations in the office as her colleagues celebrated with her. Tanfangombe said her daughter has always been an excelling performer and seeing her achieve so much was so fulfilling. She went on to emphasise that it is important to support children so that they do not have much to worry about away from their books. The last born of four has a good relationship with her mother and they talk openly. "She is a funny and a very obedient child", she said.

Chiedza is an A Level student at Maru A Pula and she says the environment challenges them to be diverse, socialise and excel in sports as well. Her closing words of the exclusive interview was an advice to her successors. "Want it badly and work hard for it, believe and do away with a negative mindset", she said.

Chiedza aspires to follow on her big brother's shoes and study medicine in Australia.



1. School Head Mr. Jabulani Munyere says his school host character development programme in collaboration with the Police and other stakeholders to improve discipline in the school.

2. Deputy School Head Mr. Reuben Lerothodi says Chiedza helped Masunga to realise its ambition of being a centre of academic excellence.

3. Head of House Mr. Thomas Bajiti says Chiedza embraced the group study approach and that helped her to improve her marks.

4. Class Teacher Mr. Calvin Selelo says Chiedza was a cheffful student who interacted well with her peers.

5. Chiedza's mother Mrs. Lucy Tafangombe says they supported her with their all at home to help her to realise the dream of being a Top Achiever.



# “I Had To Win Twenty Pulas For My Toiletry”



One hundred articles and hundreds of thousands words later, lighting has a second strike on my pen. This story is nostalgic; it took me back to the very first interview I conducted when we put the Stars Magazine on pilot for the BGCSE class of 2013..

This are the kind of stories that every writer will salivate to write. They are easy to write and they give the writer a proper feature story setting. In 2014 our first stop was Lobatse where one young man got my eyes welling up with his response to my first question. “I was tired of poverty”, Kago Gouveya, 2013. This was in response to what inspired him to come out of nowhere and scoop the Golden Star Award. What he said was literally before my eyes, and he put it bluntly with his head held high I could see he meant every word of it.

On the tenth edition of our Stars Magazine, we feature Arena Deco Ngakaemang of Mookane who sat for her BGCSE at Masunga Senior Secondary School. Indeed, experience is the best teacher; this time around the cold facts didn't chill the spine like the 10 years ago experience. Deco does not mince her words when she shares her story and where she derived motivation from. Breaking what she labelled a cycle of failure, is the highlight of her story. Before she can give a detailed graphic picture of the economic status at home, what is before the eyes tells an obvious picture. It's a dire situation. As I am taking notes through the interview in the back of my mind, I am trying to sell myself a different picture that at least the family managed to take care of their daughter's welfare and see her through school. My pen is having a good afternoon under the shade of the lone tree in the centre of the yard, and boom she says something that had me and my crew pausing. I ask her to repeat it, to make sure the point gets home raw as it was dished. “I lived off 20 Pula notes I won for being the best in our end of month tests”, she repeated. This she said with a calm face and even smiled to defuse the tension as she could see we were frozen with shock. Masunga SSS has an initiative in which they reward students who scored higher than everyone in month end tests with P20.00 per subject. Deco went on to say asking from her parents would have been asking a chair from a squatting tot, so that was never an option, so she had to study hard for the red notes, which at one point she made a clean sweep of them. She laughs as she reminisces about that moment, as much as it was for survival, she also enjoyed the moment. Sometimes she was lucky and won One Thousand Pula (P1000.00) vouchers during the school prize giving ceremony. It is these P20.00 prizes that made her always strive for best results, because only then she will be able to afford herself some toiletry without worrying about asking from her mother.

Deco also took the moment to give her former school and teachers their flowers. “People discouraged me from going to Masunga SSS citing that it was not a good school”, she said. The fourth of Masunga SSS's four Top Achievers further said her decision was not welcomed by her sponsor who in turn dropped her but she was unmoved. “This gives me so much relief because I have proven those that doubted my school wrong”, she said. Teachers always came through for her by contributing for her needs and transport money when she had to go home and made sure all she had to worry about was her academics. Her advise to her peers is that, they

shouldn't let outside forces derail them. “Time is life, you master your time, you master your life. You waste your time you waste your life”, she advised.

A dream that looked unbelievable has come to life and Deco's mother Ms. Goitseone Ngakaemang is still in awe of her daughter's outstanding performance. “She always told me she wanted to be in the national Top Ten”, said the proud mother. She went on to say, as much as she had confidence that she will pass with flying colours, a Top Ten finish didn't sound like an attainable mission. Deco had a lengthy home sick spell as she went for a boarding school very far from home during the COVID-19 restrictions era and she couldn't see her family for a long time. This is one of the most difficult challenges they had to overcome according to her mother. Eventually the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, and Ms. Ngakaemang was able to visit her daughter, her last visit being a month before her final examinations to give her the much-needed moral boost. Deco's grandmother Ms. Marotse Ngakaemang is also proud of her darling grand daughter and when she learnt of her brilliant performance, she offered to slaughter a goat for her but Deco declined the offer. The old lady struggles with her speech due to old age but her facial expressions are still good enough to paint a crystal clear picture of her emotions. “I wish I could lift her”, she says as the two gaze at each other with embracing smiles.

A laid back person who enjoys reading so much her mother thinks she is a book worm. “She can do house chores yes, but she loves her reading more”, the mother said. Ms. Ngakaemang went on to say her daughter is barely out socialising as she loves a quite and calm environment suitable for her reading.

A darling at her school, where she was a popular face on the Prize Giving ceremony podium, Deco received praises from her teachers. Her Class Teacher Mr. Koboe-kae said his student enjoyed making presentations in her class and was never troublesome. “She could have done even much better, I guess she had exam fever”, he said. Mr. Kaisara Marakakgoro was Deco's Head of House and he left nothing to chance in making sure that he delivers her to the promised land. “I visited her class every morning to motivate them and remind them what was at stake”, he said. Marakakgoro said one other way of keeping his students on track was evaluating their marks and identify the loose ends to tie. According to the School Deputy Head Master Mr. Reuben Lerothodi stressed that the school put more effort to produce stars, amongst them Deco. Lerothodi said they aimed for a big number and being able to feature on the Top Ten with four students was quite an achievement. “Our staff's commitment in helping the students is just outstanding”, he said. Sharing his school strategies to nurture excellence, Masunga SSS School Head Mr. Jabulani Munyere said that he believes very much in laying a good foundation for academic excellence. Munyere further said excellence cannot be separated from discipline. “To keep our students discipline in check we host character building sessions in collaboration with the Police, social workers and other stakeholders”, he shared.

Deco is currently an A Level student at Maru A Pula School in Gaborone. She aspires to go to a University that can allow her to do a double degree, one of which will be Medicine.

1. School Head Mr. Jabulani Munyere says his school underscores the importance of discipline as a foundation for academic excellence.
2. Deputy School Head Mr. Reuben Lerothodi says Masunga SSS put a lot of effort to produce stars.
3. Head of House Mr. Kaisara Marakakgoro says his House has daily motivational talks to inspire and motivate students.
4. Class Teacher Mr. Oarabile Koboe-kae said Deco was a God fearing child and enjoyed making presentations in front of her peers.
5. Deco's Mother and Grandmother are very proud of her achievements.





# Maths Teacher

**M**aun Senior Secondary School is the country's only senior secondary school in the country with Special Education enrolment for students with Hearing Impairment and this year Abednico Senkhu finished top of the Special Education Hearing Impairment Class.

The Serowe born young man in an interview with the Stars Magazine, revealed that his dream is to be a Maths teacher. "Maths and Art were my favourite subjects at school", he said. It is his passion for Maths that fuelled his journey to excellence. Abedinico said he had less interest in anything else other than his school work. At school he said he was never shy to ask for help and further explanation from his teachers. "In class I listened attentively", he said. The interview was conducted in sign language and his older brother Sylvester Senkhu was the interpreter.

Sylvester is a self taught sign language interpreter, as he learnt from his little brother's pamphlets to make communication between them easier. He said his little brother was a self disciplined person so they did not struggle with keeping him focused. "He likes learning so much that made him love school", he said. Abednico was born with hearing impairment and has been a boarding student for his entire school life. His mother Ms. Galeepelwe Sinkhu admits it has been a challenging journey having to stay separated with her last born of five boys, but she had to be strong because she understood it was in his best interests. Ms. Sinkhu expressed delight at her son's achievement and labelled it an utmost blessing. She described his son as a down to earth person who relates easily with everyone and is exceptional with house chores. "He keeps the

house tidy and a very good cook especially that he likes his own cooking more than any other persons", she said.

The young man is hailed by his teachers as a focused student. Ms. Onneile Molongwe who was his Class Teacher and Interpreter reminisced about her humble and obedient student. She said she enjoyed leading the grounded young man. "He was mellow in and out" she said. Molongwe said she always gave her class a pep talk to motivate them to give it their all in their studies. Maun SSS Senior Teacher SPED Ms. Neo Mafunye was in sync with Molongwe as she also described their gem as a quite and mature student. Mafunye said her department held supplementary lessons on weekends to help students catch up and do revision. Mr. Kemmapetse Komoki was Abednico's Head of House, he kept track of their student's performance and pushed him to improve. He believes this and other mentorship programmes propelled Abednico to excellence.

Maun SSS is on a turn around strategy and the Deputy School Headmaster Mr. Kehilwe Oageng said the school has been introspecting what to do to improve the school performance. "Amongst other things, we have held consultative meetings with all stakeholders to interrogate the results", he said. Oageng promised that besides their challenges they will keep trying their best to produce best students academically. He went on to say the school is exploring partnering with Universities to help them with staff development.

Abednico is hoping to enrol with a College of Education to pursue his ambition of being a Maths Teacher.



1. Maun SSS Deputy School Head Mr. Kehilwe Oageng says the school has engaged on a transformational path aimed at improving the school's results.

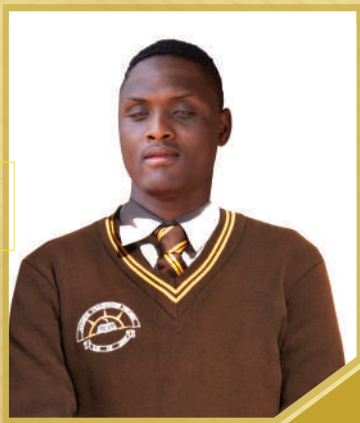
2. Senior Teacher SPED Ms. Neo Mafunye says they conduct supplementary classes on weekends to help students catch up and also to revise in preparation for examinations.

3. Head of House Mr. Kemmapetse Komoki says the House keeps track of top performing students as well as encouraging them.

4. Class Teacher Ms. Onneile Molongwe says Abednico was a humble and obedient student who strived to do the best.

5. Abednico's family says he is mostly interested in his school work above anything else.





## Against All Odds

**M**olefi Senior Secondary School is the country's only senior secondary school with classes for Special Education students with visual impairment and in 2022 Oteng Moselathi finished Top of his class to walk home with the BEC Excellence Award.

The Mabeleapodi born lad has seen the beauty of the universe and would have never thought one day he would have only an imagination of how the world looks like. Oteng started losing his sight when he was doing Standard 4. There was however still a glimmer of hope as he could still see large font; all was not lost he thought. He would go on to use the large print until Standard 5 when he could no longer see at all. This story is another epitome of perseverance, like a couple few in our previous editions.

Oteng was immediately enrolled for braille lessons as it would now be his medium of reading and writing. As he was still learning braille, he lost on time to continue with the syllabus and his peers proceeded to the next grade leaving him behind. This was a bitter pill to swallow for him, but he embraced the challenge. "You need to accept your fate and live with it", he said. He continued to emphasize that crying over spilt milk does not change the complexion of the picture but rather eats away on precious time to move on and make something out of it. The eleven (11) year old boy that lost sight envisioned himself as a medical doctor in future but that dream became bleak and lost just like his sight. Nonetheless he kept a positive mindset and strived to produce better grades so that he could be a Social Worker. "I am proud of my achievement and motivated to achieve more", he said.

Ms. Olepolotse Moselathi is proud of her only son's achievement, considering the roller coaster they had to go through. "It wasn't easy going through it all as a single parent but my mother has been

supportive throughout our journey", she said. Oteng spent most of his life in boarding school and only saw his parents during school holidays. Though he spent little time at home, it was enough for him to learn home chores. Ms. Moselathi hailed her son as a hard worker who likes spending time at the cattle post with his grandmother Ms. Koeletse Moselathi. The granny talked fondly of her grandson and said the young man takes good care of her and never wants to see her struggling. "We are very close, he is an obedient boy", cemented granny.

At Molefi SSS Mrs Labobedi Topisi was entrusted with being Oteng's Class Teacher cum Translator and he made her role easier with his humility and maturity. "He was always at his good behaviour and showed commitment to his studies", said Topisi. She gave a positive account of her student saying he was not shy to consult his teachers and encouraged his peers to study in groups. In Ms. Mpolokeng Chake the Head of House's words, the young man was a brilliant and intelligent student with a strong character. "A very responsible boy with a never die attitude", she said.

Representing the special education SPED department, Senior Teacher I SPED Ms Masego Thamage said their student showed determination in his studies. Thamage was also impressed by Oteng's discipline and sense of responsibility he portrayed especially as the Hostel Head-boy where he did a sterling job. The joy, delight and excitement brought by his performance cannot be hidden from his Head Master's face. Mr Khangelani Tshebo said it was beautiful to see his student rise above his challenges and make them proud. "He was a marvel to work with to his teachers", said Tshebo.

At the time of his interview, Oteng was doing a short course on Horticulture and Bee-Keeping.



1. Molefi SSS School Head Mr. Khangelani Tshebo says the school is happy about Oteng's performance.

2. Senior Teacher I SPED Ms. Masego Thamage remembers Oteng as a determined and focused student.

3. Head of House Ms. Mpolokeng Chake describes Oteng as a brilliant and mature student.

4. Class Teacher Mrs. Labobedi Topisi says Oteng was committed to his studies.

5. Oteng's mother thanked the whole family for supporting him all the way after he lost his sight at the age of eleven.



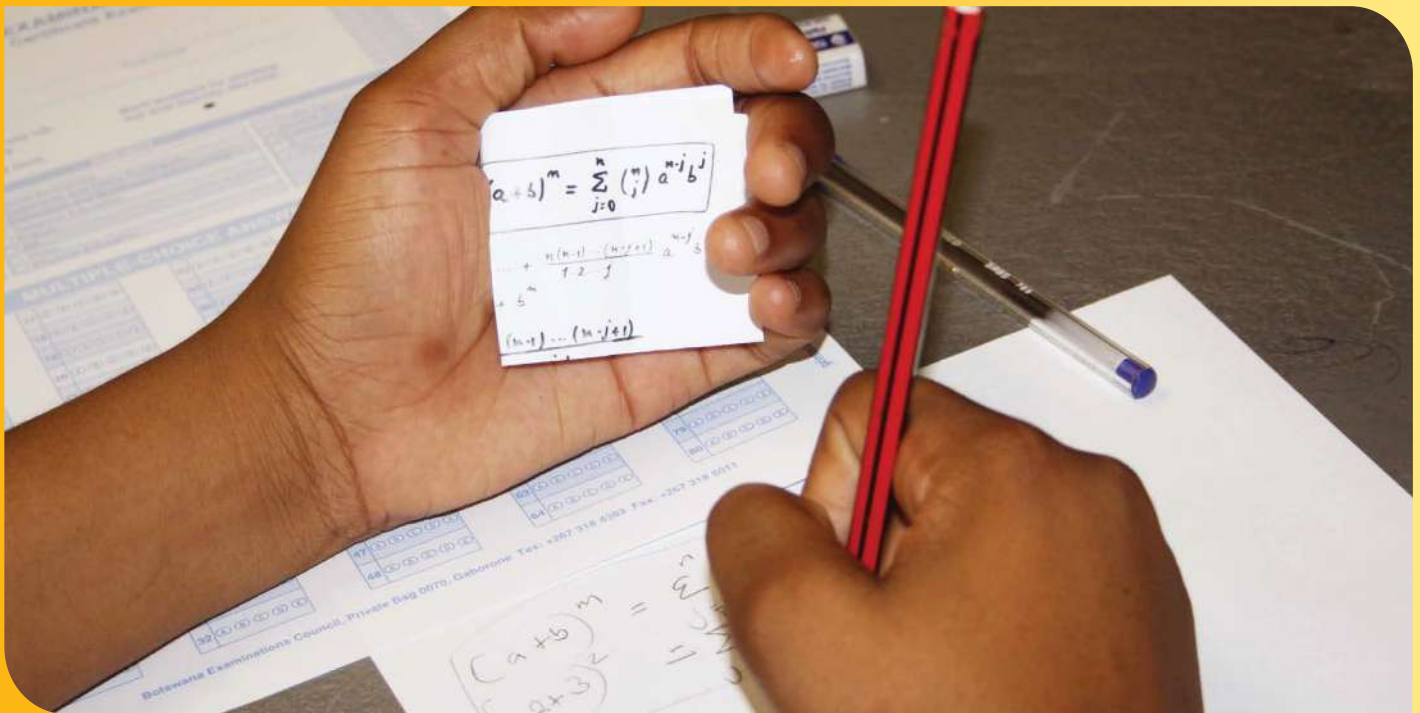


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# Stop Examinations Malpractice



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  
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### Corporate Communications

Botswana Examinations Council Private Bag 0070 Gaborone, Botswana  
Plot 54864, KT Motsete Rd, Tel: +267 3650700/910 Fax: +267 3105313  
[www.bec.co.bw](http://www.bec.co.bw)

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