



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

IKUSASA LETHU PROGRAMME



Our vision

Our vision is to share the skills and resources we have at St Mary's School with senior school pupils from schools in Alexandra and elsewhere who show academic potential. Equally, our vision is to develop a proactive and sensitive approach within the St Mary's community to issues of historical inequality.

Aims

The St Mary's community of staff, parents and pupils are given the opportunity to participate actively in the Ikusasa Lethu programme and help others succeed. Academic and social skills developed on the programme enable the pupils to achieve the marks required to attain access to the faculties of their choice at universities and colleges.

Finances

The programme director and head of the St Mary's Foundation source donations and funding to ensure the sustainability of the programme. We are grateful to those companies and individuals who have made donations in the past. The major cost incurred is the payment of experienced and qualified teaching staff. Members of St Mary's staff teach Mathematics and Geography and run the library. The other teachers are drawn from Johannesburg independent and state schools. Other costs include books, stationery, notes, study guides, sandwiches, fruit and drinks and the transport of the pupils to and from the teaching venues. Our buses are partly funded by the PUTCO Foundation.

St Mary's scholarship

Dineo Mashimate, the top Grade 10 in 2016, is now on a full scholarship at St Mary's.



Deanne King, St Mary's head of school and Linda Giuricich, director of St Mary's Community Affairs

2016 matriculation results

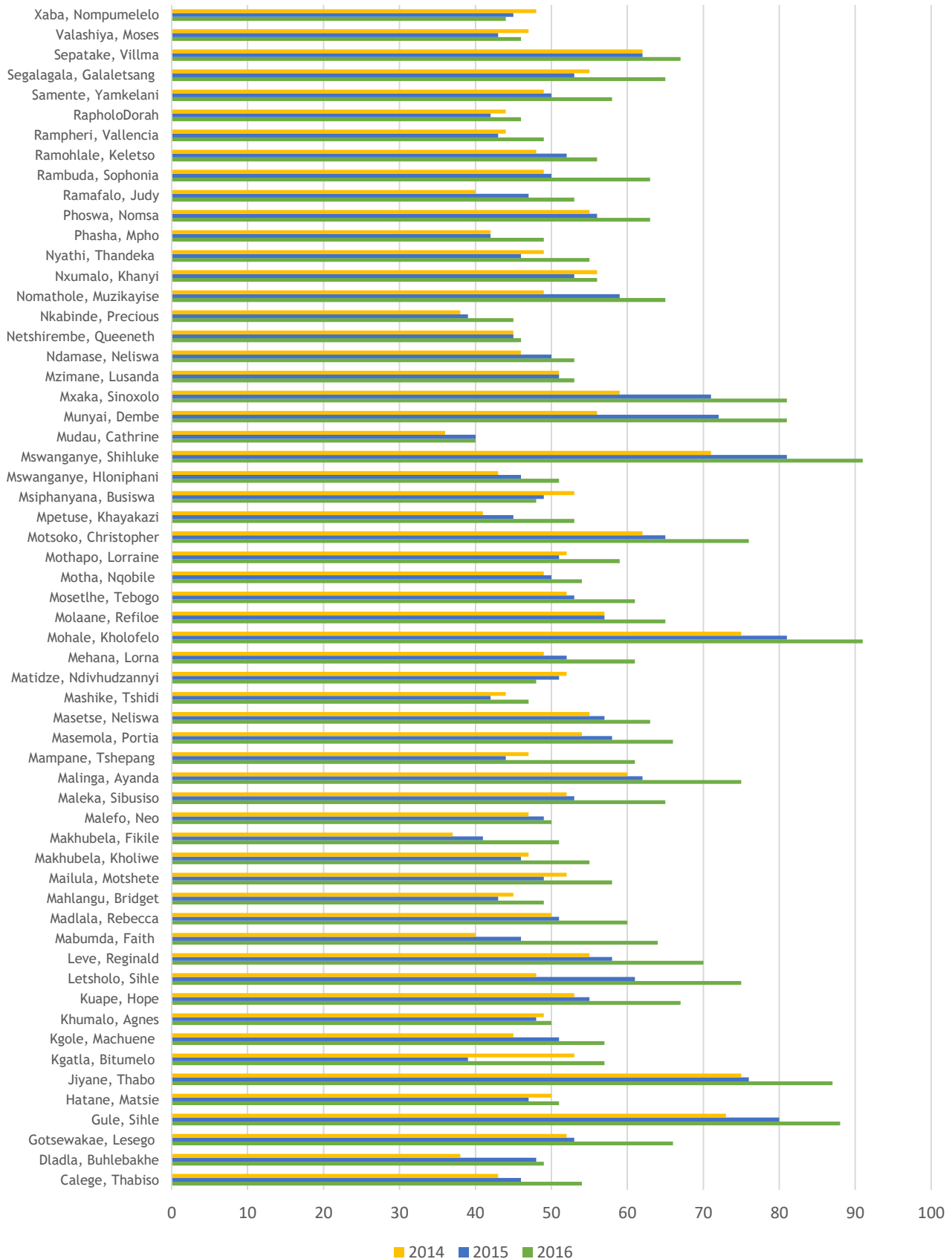
The class of 91 pupils in 2016 achieved a 99% pass rate. 7As each were achieved by Shihluke Mswanganye, Kholofelo Mohale and Kamogelo Tswai. Shihluke scored in the 90s in five subjects, with 97% for Economics. Kholofelo got 100% for Mathematics and in the 90s for three other subjects. Sihle Gule, Thabo Jiyane, Nteboheng Xaba, Kamohelo Mangwane and Lerato Phylander all achieved six As and Khanyisa Mahale, Sinoxolo Mxaka, Kutlwano Mahoko and Dembe Munyai all got four and five As. Sixty-five pupils achieved Bachelor degree passes and 25 others achieved Diploma and Higher certificate passes. A total of 98 distinctions were achieved with 122 Bs and 179 Cs for various subjects. Thirteen distinctions for Mathematics and 12 distinctions for Physical Science were achieved.

Twenty-seven students are enrolled at the University of Johannesburg, others are at the University of the Witwatersrand, the Belgium Campus in Pretoria and other colleges and universities around South Africa. They are studying Actuarial Science, Engineering, Logistics, Accounting, Teaching, Optometry, Event Management, Law, IT and secretarial courses.



Top 2016 matriculants

Results achieved from 2014 to 2016 for Grade 12 pupils who attended the Ikusasa Lethu programme for three years



Some of the courses being studied by the 2015 Ikusasa Lethu matriculants

Degrees in:

Bachelor of Accounting
Geography and Environmental Management
BCom Human Resources
Mechanical Engineering
System Engineering in IT
Bachelor of IT
Law (LLB)
BSc
System Development
BCom Economics
Bachelor on Business Admin

Diplomas in:

Accounting
Mechanical Engineering
Marketing
Business Management
Performing Arts and Technology
Financial Management
Graphic Design
Chemical Engineering
Town and Regional Planning
PR and Communication
Basic Computing
Nursing

Employed by the following companies:

Clientele
Jetline
Shell Garage
Woolworths

Learnerships and Internships:

Nursing
Business Administration
System Development

Grade 12 academic programme



Grade 12 class of 2017

The Grade 12 pupils received an average of 200 hours of extra tuition during the year. Subjects included English, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Geography, Business Studies, Economics, Accounting and Computer Mathematics. They attended both Saturday school and classes in the school holidays at the Jabula Recreation Centre in Sandringham. Pupils who attended the extra Mathematics and Physical Science classes during the week had 320 hours of extra tuition. These classes were held at Kwa-Bhekilanga and were run by Anand Naicker and Rachel Lotz. St Mary's Physical Sciences and Life Sciences laboratories, with equipment and interactive whiteboards, were at their disposal on Saturdays. Computer Mathematics was taught in the computer room.

During the Life Orientation sessions, pupils completed university applications online. They were encouraged to apply for degree and diploma courses at tertiary institutions and for bursaries and NSFAS loans. A variety of speakers provided them with an understanding of future career options.

On the Saturday after Mandela Day, the pupils donated money to an under-resourced primary school homework organisation called Edu-Clay and took part in Yoga4Mandela.



Yoga4Mandela

Grade 11 academic programme



Grade 11 class of 2017



Careers evening

The Grade 11 pupils were also given an average of 200 hours of extra tuition. They did the same subjects as the Grade 12s but they also had study and computer skills lessons. Extra Mathematics was offered during the week at Kwa-Bhekilanga and taught by Anand Naicker. This group enjoyed the St Mary's careers evening and expo in July. The Life Orientation classes were arranged on two Saturdays during the year and focused on career choices. A small group of Grade 11 pupils spent a day at Hatch.

The Grade 11s also took part in the Yoga4Mandela project in July.



Yoga4Mandela

Grade 10 academic programme



Grade 10 class of 2017

Study skills, computer skills, public speaking, music and Life Orientation sessions were available in addition to lessons in English, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Geography. The pupils were encouraged to begin thinking about possible career choices and study at tertiary institutions. The Grade 10 pupils were also encouraged to read novels from our Ikusasa Lethu library. This library is well stocked with donated novels.



Chess lesson



Yoga4Mandela

An enrichment programme offered tennis coaching, chess lessons, drama, baking and art lessons during the year. This was arranged by St Mary's staff and senior pupils. The Grade 10 pupils also enjoyed the Yoga4Mandela programme.



Drama, art, tennis and baking for the Grade 10s

Winners by Thabang Mabaso

Winners take chances like everyone else

They fear failing, but they refuse to let fear control them.

*Winners don't give up.
When life gets tough,
they hang in until the going gets better.*

*Winners are flexible.
They realise there is more than one way
and they are willing to try others.*

*Winners know they are not perfect
They respect their weakness
while making the most of their strength.*

Winners fail but they don't stay down in life

They stubbornly refuse to let a fall keep them from climbing.

*Winners don't blame fate for their future
Nor luck for their successes.*

Winners accept responsibility for their lives.

Learn to be a winner in your life.

You can fail but you can't fail for ever

Learn to be a winner and you will be a winner through life.

Dear Chikwemeke

It is with sadness and a broken heart I write this letter to you.

The reason I wrote this letter is because I read "A Xenophobic cry" article and this hurt me so much. I didn't realise that xenophobia was such a hurtful thing until today. The article really opened my eyes and touched my heart. As of now, I am filled with hatred and regret for the way I treated you. I encouraged xenophobia instead of trying to stop it. I tried to take away the place you call home instead of letting you stay and I tried to cheat you from your education instead of letting you get educated to better your life and our country. I now know the pain you've been feeling and I really apologise for that. I am sorry for the pain I've caused in your life. I now know that we are all the same and nothing will ever change that. We are all Africans and we should stay united.

I hope you accept my apology.

Your neighbour, Neo.

Written by Precious Monyela.

Going to school with some top learners from different schools in Alexandra made me work harder.

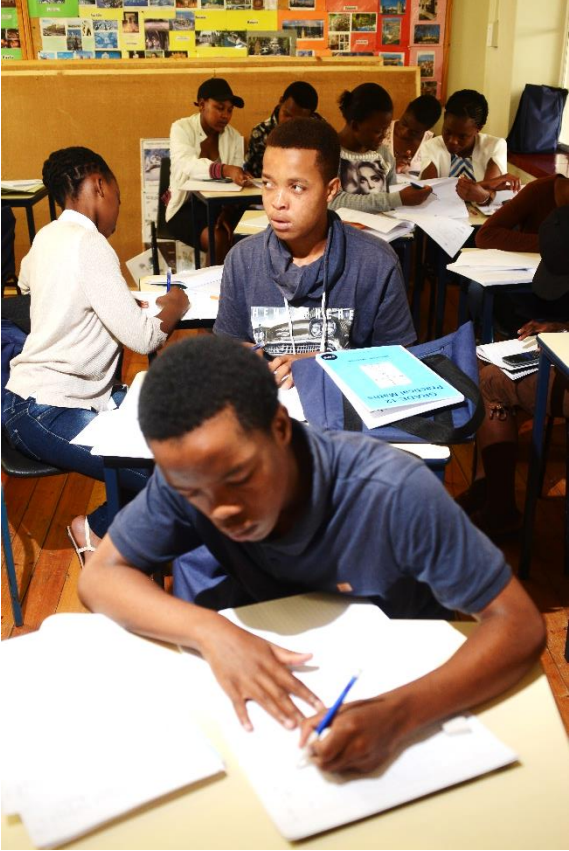
Thank you for our mentors and the computer lessons we have never had before.

I am now good at Economics so I now study harder.

I am now winning awards at my school.

The teachers and mentors motivated us to work hard, giving us hope and confidence to succeed.

Pupils at work



My marks, especially Mathematics have improved. I speak English better. My report this year is going to be good.

Ikusasa Lethu has kind, nice, friendly, patient, helpful teachers.

Thank you for letting us use the St Mary's WI-FI.



Annual prizegiving

Certificates, trophies and cash prizes were awarded on Saturday 14 October for outstanding effort and achievement.



Grade 10 pupils sing

Trophies were won by the following pupils:

Grade 10



From left to right: Natasha Languza, Precious Monyeka, Mpilehle Ntombela and Oyama Sindelo

Grade 11



From left to right: Lebohang Ramakonopi, Maanda Mathavhathe and Wandisa Tseki
Kathutshelo Mashiane was absent but his mother came to collect his trophy and certificates.

Grade 12



From left to right: Dineo Ndlovu, Kgomotso Setlhabi and Katlego Modiba

The cash prizes were won by the following pupils:

Grade 10:

Oyama Sindelo, Precious Monyela, Natasha Languza, Natalie Languza, Thapelo Chabalala and Innocent Ntombela

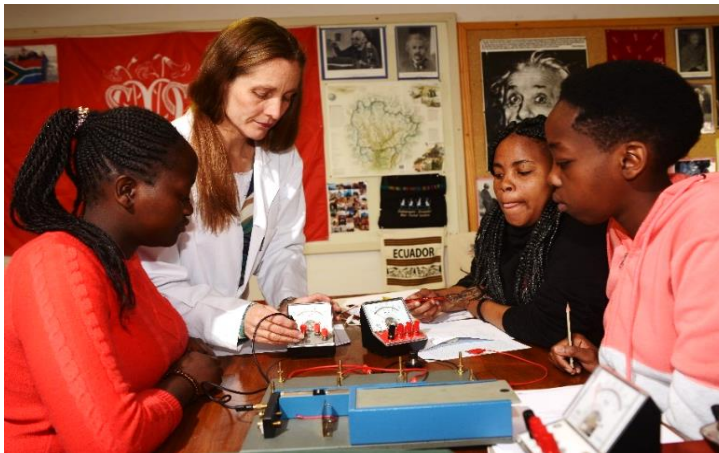
Grade 11:

Lebohang Ramakonopi, Maanda Mathavhathe, Wandisa Tseki, Gloria Dyamle, Dineo Nkomo, Lucia Thobejane and Kelebogie Setlhodi

Grade 12:

Katlego Modiba, Kgomotso Setlhabi, Nombuyiselo Tshoedi and Dineo Ndlovu

Some of the teachers in the classrooms





Professional development

Thirty teachers from the high schools in Alexandra attended monthly Mathematics and Physical Science workshops at St Mary's. Herbert Mudzingwa, our Science facilitator, visited the schools and assisted the teachers with practical work. The Science teachers also spent a day in the classrooms at St David's College in Inanda. The Mathematics workshops were facilitated by Winnie Khanyile and Ingrid Zlobinsky-Roux from St Mary's.



Winnie Khanyile and teachers



Thanks for the lessons on the iPads, we really learnt a lot.



Herbert Mudzingwa and Science teachers

“Herbert Mudzingwa assisted me with all the Grade 12 experiments and worksheets.”

“Thank you for visiting our laboratory and giving us tips on conducting experiments with Grade 10, 11 and 12s, especially dealing with high numbers of learners in a class.”

“The Science facilitator provided us with resources and made it easy for us to administer the SBA tasks.”

In November the group were given re-conditioned laptops and new tablets to assist them with teaching and administration.

Sizanani Mentorship programme

This non-profit organisation was established 10 years ago and has a B-BBEE Level 4 certificate. The 91 mentors on the programme assisted 151 pupils by organising individual and collective outings, life skills development, career guidance and job shadowing opportunities.

In March, 25 Grade 11 and 12 pupils attended a Wits campus tour. The Sunninghill Hospital invited some pupils to job shadow. Twelve past students attended the Kingsmead College Book Fair. The World Bank invited a group of Grade 11s to “Take a girl child to work” day. Twenty-six university students have also been assisted with bursaries or funding. More than 25 received used laptops, mostly from ABSA Bank.



Valérie Hirsch with mentors



Hélène Raison

In April, some of the mentors and mentees went camping in the Magaliesberg. In June, some attended the French national rugby team training camp or went to see “Tartuffe” (a play by Molière). In December, 15 Grade 12s and past learners will attend Bizschool.

The programme celebrated its 10th anniversary in October, with a learners’ talent show and a brassband. The Belgian Ambassador, the secretary general of RATP Foundation in Paris, the CEO of Bombela, sponsors and representatives of the French Embassy and the Belgian Chamber of Commerce all attended the function, as well as present and past pupils, mentors, teachers and friends.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for accommodating and welcoming me to the Kingsmead Book Fair 2017. It was a day to remember, filled with a lot of knowledge. I learned a lot about novels and authors who write these novels. They told us about their personal and mental space when writing their books and the story was just amazing. I loved the session when the panel talked about The Art of Resistance. All the sessions were great and full of content. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity, Kingsmead College.

Mentors and mentees



Sponsors

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(Gautrain)
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(Paris)
Zetes Company
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AF Compressors
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Donors

Careerwise
Gordon Institute BizSchool
Sunninghill Hospital
Kingsmead College
ABSA Bank

The Mentorship programme helped me not only with passing your grades but also with university preparation and exposure. Then there were all these extra activities that help in terms of your self-esteem and having goals bigger than getting a job and supporting your family. I remember in 2011 after getting my grade 12 results, I was thinking of getting a job at a retail company. My mentor asked me: "Your family survived the last 18 years with you not working, don't you think they can survive the next three years? By then, you would have a job! After that first stop was UJ. I got to complete my Diploma and B.Tech in Industrial Engineering and now I am a young manager at Nestlé.

Siphesihle Lolwana - Industrial Engineer





Saskia Long-Innes helping to hand out certificates at prizegiving



Alexandra and Katherine Coetzer preparing sandwiches for the Ikusasa Lethu pupils

St Mary's School

St Mary's pupils assist with invigilation, packing stationery, making and serving sandwiches and covering books. Girls also assist in the Computer room and library. St Mary's girls give new pupils tours of the campus, assist with registration and offer their services at the annual prizegiving.

The programme director communicates with the Alexandra schools and funders. The venues, resources and accounting services are provided at no cost by St Mary's School.

The St Mary's Community Affairs department and Foundation acknowledge all the generous contributions received over the past 27 years. We thank the donors.

Sponsors and Donors

Donors 2017

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Sponsors 2017

St David's Marist College, Inanda
Jabula Recreation Centre
Kwa-Bhekilanga High School
St Mary's School, Waverley
Hatch
Yoga4Alex



Ikusasa Lethu 2017

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Link to Ikusasa Lethu video:
<http://www.stmaryschool.co.za/foundation>, the video is on the home page

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