



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

Ikusasa Lethu Programme

Annual report 2021



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Vision

Our vision is to make the Ikusasa Lethu Saturday school a space where knowledge, skills and resources are shared with senior school learners, who show academic potential, from schools in Alexandra. We hope to create a culture of learning where our learners can develop a clear vision for their own future with our support.

Our intention is to attract learners who have the ability to excel rather than merely succeed. We allow no more than 25 learners per class, which allows our learners to receive the individual attention usually afforded only to those in more affluent or private institutions. Many of the learners join us with idealized expectations of future careers. It is our task to help them form realistic, specific goals in line with their passion, and give each individual learner the tools and know-how to achieve these goals.

In a technologically focused future, we know our learners will need all the skills we can teach them. Our new online programmes are now able to supplement their core knowledge in the majority of their subjects and our inclusion of increased education-focused screen time teaches them the skills needed to excel in an online environment.

Many of our new learners have never touched a desktop or laptop when they first arrive. Our intention is to provide a space where they have the freedom and guidance to become comfortable with this vital tool.

Mdumiseni Nyandu, an Ikusasa Lethu alumnus who is studying computer sciences at UJ, started a job at eGrowth as an intern developer.



We intend to produce matric classes comprised solely of learners capable of and committed to attaining university degrees or diplomas. Our learners all have the potential to achieve greatness. We, along with the Sizanani Mentorship Programme and St Mary's School, are ready to guide, support, educate and mentor these learners on their journey through their schooling, university, and even into the professional sphere.

Aims

The Ikusasa Lethu programme aims to bridge the gap between the base learning available to our learners, and their ambitions. We hope to assist them in consolidating and expanding the academic and social skills developed on the programme to enable the learners to achieve the marks required to attain access to the faculties of their choice at universities and colleges. We hope to create a strong sense of loyalty and community within the programme and see our alumni return to help others on their journey. 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.

Finances

The programme director, Linda Giuricich, and head of the St Mary's Foundation, Lisa Grobbelaar, source donations and sponsorships to ensure the sustainability of the programme. These donations need to cover all of the main expenses of the running of the Saturday school, which includes textbooks, stationery, and food for the learners, the salaries of experienced and committed educators, and bus transport to and from St Mary's School for the learners. PUTCO provides some sponsorship to assist with this heavy cost. St Mary's School provides the use of their venues and resources.



Linda Giuricich
Director of Community Partnerships



Lisa Grobbelaar
Head of the St Mary's Foundation

2020 Matriculants

We are delighted with and proud of our 2020 matric class. Despite an extremely challenging year, 107 of them remained in the programme and completed their matric year. Of that number, they achieved a 91.6% pass rate. Although they will not qualify to rejoin the programme this year, we are extremely proud of their commitment to their learning and know they will use the coming year wisely to help them achieve their goals.

A (Bachelor)	62	57,9%
B (Diploma)	21	19,6%
C (certificate)	15	14,0%
F (Fail)	9	8,4%
Pass rate = 91.6%		
Total of 32 distinctions		

Top learners:

- 1st: Solomon Thato Katane - Average: 85.6%
- 6 distinctions (HL; Math; PS; LS; Geog; LO)
- 2nd: Geneva Mathebula - Average: 77.4%
- 2 distinctions (PS; LS)
- 3rd: Keabetswe Moshole - Average 77.1%
- 3 distinctions (LH; LS; Geog)
- 4th: Freddy Senamela - Average 76%
- 2 distinctions (LS; Geog)
- 5th: Samkelo Langa - Average 74.3%
- 6th: Rofhiwa Maguga - Average 74.1%
- 2 distinctions (HL; LS)

Our staff

Our staff is comprised of a diverse group of highly qualified and experienced individuals from schools around Johannesburg. Many of our teachers work a full week before giving their Saturdays to the Ikusasa Lethu programme.

We boast a full teaching staff of 26 qualified teachers, each accomplished in their fields and dedicated to the futures of our learners. In addition to this, we have operations and administrative staff, librarians, and support staff.



Teachers receive a token of gratitude at the annual prize giving.

Pictured above: (Left to right) Muzikayise Nomathole (Geography); Allen Dendere (Mathematics); Priscilla Khosa (Computers); Lebohang Makhalanyane (Mathematics); Michelle Mulligan (English); Cecilia Chigumba (Mathematics); Marion Breuer (Library); Andrew Murewa (Commerce); Isaac Wilmot (Mathematics); Derek Donora (Commerce)

Academic programme

The Ikusasa Lethu programme takes in learners from Grade 9 to Grade 12. Specialised staff are required to meet the needs of each grade and subject offered. Apart from the Grade 9 and 10 programmes, each grade consists of a science stream and a commerce stream. In 2021, Grades 10, 11 and 12 had two science classes and one commerce class each. Our timetable includes English FAL; core Mathematics; Study Skills and Computer Literacy classes for all learners.

In addition to this, the science stream learners attend lessons in:

- Physical Sciences
- Life Sciences
- Geography

The commerce stream learners attend lessons in:

- Business Studies
- Accounting
- Economics



Marion Breuer assists learners in our modest library.

In addition to the basic academic programme, time is also set aside for Life Skills sessions. The Sizanani Mentorship programme assists in the organisation and facilitation of these events. They include an annual career fair, motivational speakers, education in areas such as HIV/AIDS education, sexual health, and awareness around issues such as gender-based violence, addiction, and mental health awareness.

Supplementary online programmes

The 2021 year has also had its challenges but we were prepared to address these. After the experience of 2020, we resolved to maintain a blended academic programme. We have implemented two online platforms to supplement and expand the knowledge and skills of our learners. The Telkom sim cards we purchased for the learners at the beginning of this year allow the learners to access these platforms.



This platform provides content in the form of lessons, notes and assessments for all subjects. The additional content on this platform summarises all of the relevant sections of the curriculum for each grade and subject. Learners have customized profiles suited to their subjects and grades where they can track their progress. Our teachers have been trained to create lessons with recorded teaching sections and exercises. They can set homework which is marked automatically when pre-programmed, allowing us to collect more results from learners to monitor their progress. Teachers are also able to communicate with their classes via group chats. The platform monitors which learners have completed classes and allows teachers to take action when necessary.

Live streaming can take place, meaning we have not needed to supply data for learners when Covid-19 has prevented them from attending class physically. This platform allowed us to continue teaching through the shorter 2021 lockdown.



This is a Mathematics-focused platform which works on assisting learners in consolidating their Mathematics foundation and building from that level. Learners completed seven Mathematics assessments on the platform in the first two weeks of 2021 to determine their base level in each section. Reflective learning then created a learning path which begins from the level the learners have mastered and continues teaching and reassessing as the learners' progress.

Teachers have access to a dashboard which can generate instant reports on learners and monitor how much time they are spending on the platform daily, weekly and monthly. Each class has lessons held in the computer room for computer Maths sessions, during which the Maths teachers touch base with learners on their progress.

Holiday programmes

Last year we were unable to hold any holiday programmes as Covid-19 forced us to keep our learning online. We were very grateful to be able to take our Grades 9 and 10 learners, none of whom had experienced one of our holiday programmes before, to the Jabula Recreation Centre for three days during the April holidays. The plan was to have a second holiday programme during July, but we were forced to cancel this owing to increased Covid-19 regulations. We hope to return to having two holiday programmes per year in 2022.

The Jabula programme went smoothly and was definitely enjoyed by all. We did our best to incorporate the practical components of the subjects the learners covered. They built plant cells, used chocolates to revise fractions, learned teambuilding with marshmallows and spaghetti, and did small perspective comparison drawings in English.



Good day mam... my name is Pholoso Moila and I think that the holiday learning program at Jabulani Recreation centre were so helpful and of course it was a very wonderful experience.

19:31

Hy ma'am my name is Ashley from 9B
I enjoyed every moment I spent at jabula.the lessons were very fun and the teachers made sure that everybody understands the lesson .
It simply had a splendid time to the point that It felt as if I attended for 2 weeks

08:09

I enjoyed the lessons so much & I really picked up more and learn more than before .
thank you guys for that . ❤️

11:04

Hello Ma'am, the holiday programme was exciting
I mostly enjoyed Natural Sciences practical it was great 🤗 and also the time we were doing Maths practical that was amazing
THANK YOU SO MUCH MA'AM for everything

08:16

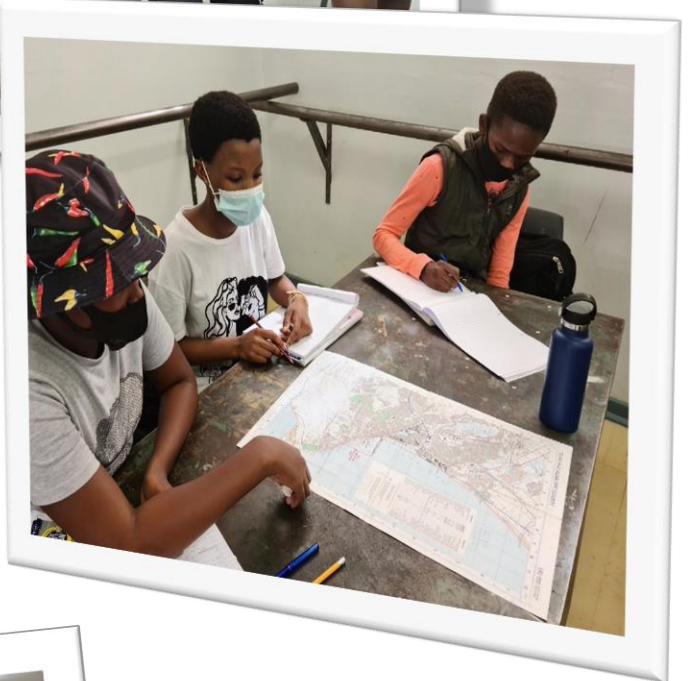




Morning miss

I would like to say I enjoyed the Jabula program. I enjoyed Accounting more because Mr Donora made it a fun activity while we were also learning. In future I would like to have more accounting lessons 😊

09:37



Hi mam my name is Noluvuyo when i was in Jabula Centre i enjoyed every thing especially the drama,i wish we could go again it was fun for me

13:29



Scholarships

After a very trying period, we were thrilled to receive notification that funding has been obtained to award a St Mary's scholarship to one of our Ikusasa Lethu learners. Mhlali Minembi was selected by St Mary's after she wrote the formal entrance tests and underwent an interview process, along with other applicants.

She will join the St Mary's Grade 10 class of 2022 as a weekly boarder on a full scholarship. We look forward to witnessing Mhlali's growth and success, with the support of Ikusasa Lethu and the St Mary's Foundation.



Farewell

Linda Giuricich retires at the end of 2021 after 18 years of dedicated service as director of the school's Community Partnership Projects.



Linda's role has encompassed project conception, implementation, financial and operational management and oversight, as well as the related fundraising responsibilities. Linda's sincere interest in community, attention to detail and her high energy levels have enriched these programmes over many years.

Sizanani Mentorship programme

This year, 101 professionals (two-thirds of whom are women) mentored 123 learners. Mentors organise outings about once a month, help the learners with study tips, career orientation, and psychological and limited financial support (data and school related items).



Gr 11 Shadi (left) with her mentor Leoné Russon

“I am grateful that you are my mentor, Mrs Leoné, my beloved mom without being connected by blood. You are always there to encourage me to do better and to believe in myself. I became less shy in front of my peers because you advised me not to let my fear overcome me and stop me from taking opportunities”- Shadi Chabangu

Events and outings

In May, 12 mentors and mentees visited the Holocaust Museum in Johannesburg.

Gr 12 learner, Boitumelo Madisha Boitumelo won our 6th Talent Show with her powerful, beautiful voice and expressive singing of Rihanna’s ‘Love on the brain’. The CEO of Bombela operating company (Gautrain company) and the Consul of France were part of the deliberating jury.



A soccer competition has been organised between 23 learners and players from the French School in December.

Life skills and career guidance

We hosted health and personal development workshops for Grades 10 to 12 learners (reproductive health, depression, addictions, mindfulness training, LGBTQI+, motivational talks) in February 2021. We also hosted a session on the Covid-19 vaccines.

Our annual Career Fair (Grades 11 and 12) was attended by 23 working professionals and six graduates in May. Grade 10 learners were addressed by the graduates on careers in health, sciences, IT, engineering, finances and commerce.

In August, Grade 11 learners did a psychometric assessments at Sci-Bono to help them to choose their tertiary studies in 2022.

We partnered with Solidaridad network to host a series of online sessions from June to October to encourage learners to embrace jobs in the agro-business sector.

In addition, company visits were organised to Deloitte (15 Grade 11 and 12 learners), MA Automative (16 learners), Bollore (12 learners), Putfontein Farm (15 learners), Saint-Gobain (12 learners), Tutuka (9 learners) and Siyakhana organic gardens (9 learners).



“At Deloitte, what I enjoyed most was getting to hear the different paths of the consultants, each one of them had a different story to tell. I was impressed that this big company has over a 1 000 different careers world spread. ”-Oratile Jonas Gr 11

Online classes and tutoring

Our alumni students played a huge role in helping the learners to improve their marks: 80 of them dedicated their time to tutoring learners, mostly on a volunteer basis, especially in Maths, Science and Accounting. Six tutors were hired by companies for part-time work.



Furthermore, 29 Grades 9 and 10 learners were tutored every Monday, by Stellenbosch university students, from April to September.

*“Zandile is very good with Maths. She makes me understand clearly. I would trust her even if my eyes were closed”
-Letsoalo Mogoboya*

University applications, bursaries and laptops

In January, Sizanani assisted the 2020 matriculants to secure places at university. Of 108 Ikusasa Lethu matriculants, at least 37 are studying at universities and private colleges.

The 75 Grade 12 learners of 2021 were assisted - either by mentors, by Sizanani staff, our students or by counsellors from other NGOs - to choose their studies and apply for university entrance and for bursaries.

Twenty two bursaries and funding opportunities were provided by Wallonia Brussels International, the Foundation of Groupe RATP, Bombela operating company, Tutuka company and a mentor to 38 university students for a total of R 665 000. Computers were also given to 22 students.



“Thank you so much for making it possible for me to have the opportunity of achieving my dreams through funding me. You have made a difference to me as a student through your financial support, with the stipend that I am given I can support myself and learn to be independent along the way”

*Shaun Letsoalo Mogoboya (extended BCom finance) -
Bursary from Bombela operating company*

Graduates



Collective “Work readiness” coaching sessions and one-on-one coaching was also offered by professional coaches (paid by Sizanani). Out of the 15 graduates who did the coaching, nine have been hired by companies.

“Ingrid helped me with my career goals and to prepare for the interview at City of Johannesburg. I got the position”. Nandiswa Thotswana HR honours graduate.

Donations and help

About R60 000 was donated to families and students (food donations, data, sanitary pads). Three orphans each received a monthly allowance.

Some learners also received individual psychological or medical assistance.

If you would like to become a mentor or help Sizanani, please contact Samantha on +27 81 319 6532 or send a mail (info@sizanani.org.za) - www.sizanani.org.za

Donors

Thanks to our 2021 donors

Ayavuna Trust
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SASKO Bakery
Werkmans
VMLY & R
Telkom Foundation
Tutuka Software
Bellairs Trust

and individual donors

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<https://www.stmaryschool.co.za/foundation/our-programmes>

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