



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

REVOLUTIONISE EDUCATION
IN SOUTH AFRICA

SPRING 2020 PREPARED BY THUTO TRUST



THUTO TRUST
Advancing Education in Africa

THUTO TRUST TEACHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - 2020 UPDATE

Thuto Trust drives meaningful partnerships in a quest to upskill promising young future teachers.

Thuto Trust recruits talented and high-performing candidates studying towards a bachelor's degree in education (B.Ed.) or pursuing a Post Graduate Certificate Education (PGCE), specialising in maths, sciences and indigenous languages, to become part of the teaching fraternity. We do this in partnership with leading Universities such as Wits (School of Education), the University of Johannesburg (UJ), North West University (NWU) and the University of South Africa (UNISA) to produce quality teachers.

The students not only receive bursaries but also join a full-time internship programme at our partners schools. *More about our partner schools later in this article.*

The Thuto Trust Teacher development programme currently has B.Ed. and PGCE students across our various partner universities, UNISA, NWU, at UJ and WITS).

Great academic results amidst challenging times

Our caring and deeply-involved student administrator, Busi Makhanya and her team not only assisted, motivated and engaged with students throughout the entire Covid-19 lockdown period to help them stay up to date with academic work, but also concerned themselves with the students' personal well-being.

Apart from the tough mind-shift required to rely on self-study, the students also had to deal with the daily lockdown challenges that came with living with family members, from vying for a quiet area to study, to dealing with data and connectivity issues.



Our
STORIES

The exams were equally stressful. They had to adjust to the challenges of writing open-book, online exams which was new to everyone. Thuto Trust helped to ease the stress to some extent, by sponsoring data so that they would at least have seamless internet access.

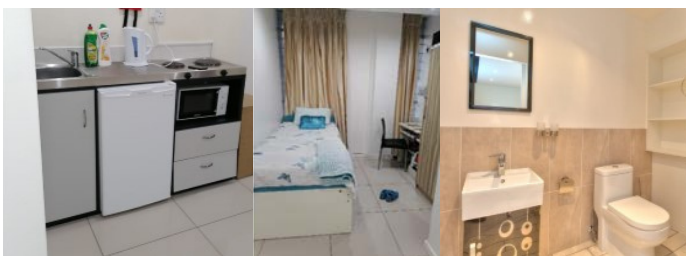
Despite these extremely difficult circumstances, all of the Thuto Trust Teacher Development Programme students completed their July exams. We are extremely proud of the fact that they have achieved amazing results. The 21 B.Ed. interns together garnered 51 distinctions, with some students attaining 100% in some of their subjects. Four of these interns are expected to graduate at the end of 2020.

Our PGCE interns achieved 17 distinctions in 36 registered subjects. All seven passed and four of them are expected to graduate at the end of 2020. As a testimony to the high calibre of teachers that finalise Thuto's programme, two of the graduating interns have been appointed as permanent teachers at Roedean School, commencing in January 2021.

The four teacher interns at Streetlight schools also passed all their subjects and acquired five distinctions.

New accommodation for our PGCE students

Thuto Trust partnered with private accommodation providers to house our PGCE beneficiaries for the duration of their studies.



Interior of PGCE - student accommodation

Our partners who help change the face of education in South Africa

Thuto Trust would like to thank our loyal partners whose continued contributions make a great difference in helping change the face of education in South Africa.

These partners are the: Cambridge University Press, Summit Educational Trust, EDTP SETA (a newcomer to the partner stall) and the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).

Our host partner schools prepare our teachers to become highly skilled teachers

Thuto Trust promotes a community of learning and teamwork and encourages interns to be part of their host school system.

Thuto Trust strives to continually identify and expand our list of host partner schools. The latest addition, Streetlight Schools, is an innovative, experiential learning school based in downtown Johannesburg. Its aim is to provide a quality and affordable education to young black students from low income families residing in the inner city of Johannesburg and its surrounding townships.

Thuto Trust selected Streetlight School based on its unique philosophy and methodologies complementing Thuto Trust's vision. These include: 'Project Based Learning' which allows learners to explore and share knowledge amongst themselves, creative collaboration on innovative projects in various focused centres, namely numeracy, literacy and design thinking centres, as well as Teacher Preparation Workshops.

Streetlight Schools is a great addition to our partnership that includes Roedean School and St' John's School. Both these schools provide excellent and diverse learning experiences, that Thuto Trust believes will filter into the South African education system in a very positive way.

Thuto Trust on-boarded four new teacher interns during the previous semester as bursary recipients and participants in the online Thuto Teacher Development Programme psycho-social support programmes.

EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Nelson Mandela

THUTO TRUST STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

THUTO TRUST PROVIDES BURSARIES FOR A FULL-TIME INTERNSHIP AS PART OF ITS TEACHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARTNER SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES. THE BURSARIES AND FULL-TIME INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME ARE OFFERED TO QUALIFYING BLACK STUDENTS WITH A PASSION TO TEACH MATHS, SCIENCES AND INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES.

TWO OF THUTO TRUST'S FINAL YEAR STUDENTS WERE RECENTLY APPOINTED IN PERMANENT TEACHING POSITIONS AT ROEDEAN SENIOR SCHOOL.

Lerato Zikitane

Lerato Zikitane, is a Thuto Trust Teacher Development Programme beneficiary, who will complete her PGCE by the end of 2020 was recently appointed as a teacher at Roedean Senior School to start at the beginning of 2021.

Lerato shares her experiences during her PGCE study internship: *"I've applied to study towards a PGCE at the University of Johannesburg and was accepted and referred by the Dean to apply for the Thuto Trust internship programme. I was extremely excited when I researched the partner school, Roedean School (SA), where my internship program would commence due to its promotion of women empowerment and leadership but also the large variety of subjects offered and easily accessible STEM resources available. I've received so much support, patience and understanding from my mentors with a lot of constructive feedback during the Thuto Trust Teacher Development Programme.*

Not only did I receive guidance from the school during my internship, but Thuto Trust's mentorship programmes through Value Ed have really changed the way I look at life, such as how to invest in myself.

As a recently appointed employee of Roedean School I can also now offer meaningful mentorship skills to my students.

Overall, Roedean School and Thuto Trust really gave me an opportunity that changed my life and I will forever be grateful.

Schae Jenay Niekerk -Life sciences and maths teacher

Schae Jenay Niekerk, a Thuto Trust Teacher Development Programme beneficiary, who will complete her PGCE at the University of Johannesburg by the end of 2020, was appointed as a life sciences and maths teacher at Roedean Senior School for grades 8 and 9 from January 2021.

Schae shares her gratitude for the PGCE internship programme: *"The Thuto Trust Development Programmes' internship experience has enabled me to be trained by and work alongside an incredible team of dedicated, passionate and experienced teachers. I have learned so much about education, my strengths and weaknesses in my short time being here. I plan to utilise everything that I have learned for my new position at Roedean and I am excited to take on this opportunity.*

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Didintle Sechogeli
– recipient of a laptop

Didintle Sechogeli completed her Bachelor of Science (Honours degree) in the field of Archaeology in 2019 and passed with distinction. She then decided to register for a PGCE at Wits and is a well-deserved Thuto Trust Teacher Development Programme bursary recipient. She is doing her full-time internship at St Johns College in the Geography department.

“Thuto Trust has provided me with an amazing learning experience through my full-time internship at St John’s College to learn from some of the most experienced teachers. I am learning a lot of different teaching strategies and how to use a diversity of resources to improve my teaching methodologies,” testifies Didintle.

She excitingly thanks Thuto Trust: “I am delighted with my recently acquired laptop sponsored by Thuto Trust which enables me to do research and gives me the flexibility and freedom to work on academic assignments anytime, anywhere. It also helps me to be more efficient as an intern, enabling me to prepare technology-enhanced lessons for my learners.”

**LET US STAND
TOGETHER TO
CHANGE THE FUTURE**

*of Education in
South Africa*





Thuto Trust
IS MAKING A
DIFFERENCE IN THE
LIFE OF A YOUNG
INSPIRING TEACHER

"I do not have words to express my gratitude for the growth opportunity Thuto Trust afforded me. Through the Thuto Trust Teacher Development Programme I have experienced great growth in my teaching career and will forever be thankful for this. Due to the internship programme I had the privilege of being mentored by world-class educators, experts in math education and real professionals who put thought into what they do," testifies Reboana.

Reboana Gabanakgosi comes from Taung, a small town in North West Province. He obtained a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics in 2016 at the University of Pretoria.

He registered for a PGCE at the University of Johannesburg (UJ). He was selected as a beneficiary of the Thuto Trust Teacher Development Bursary Programme and placed as an intern at St John's College.

Reboana was recently appointed as resident tutor at Nash House, St John's College, teaching grade 10 academy boys.

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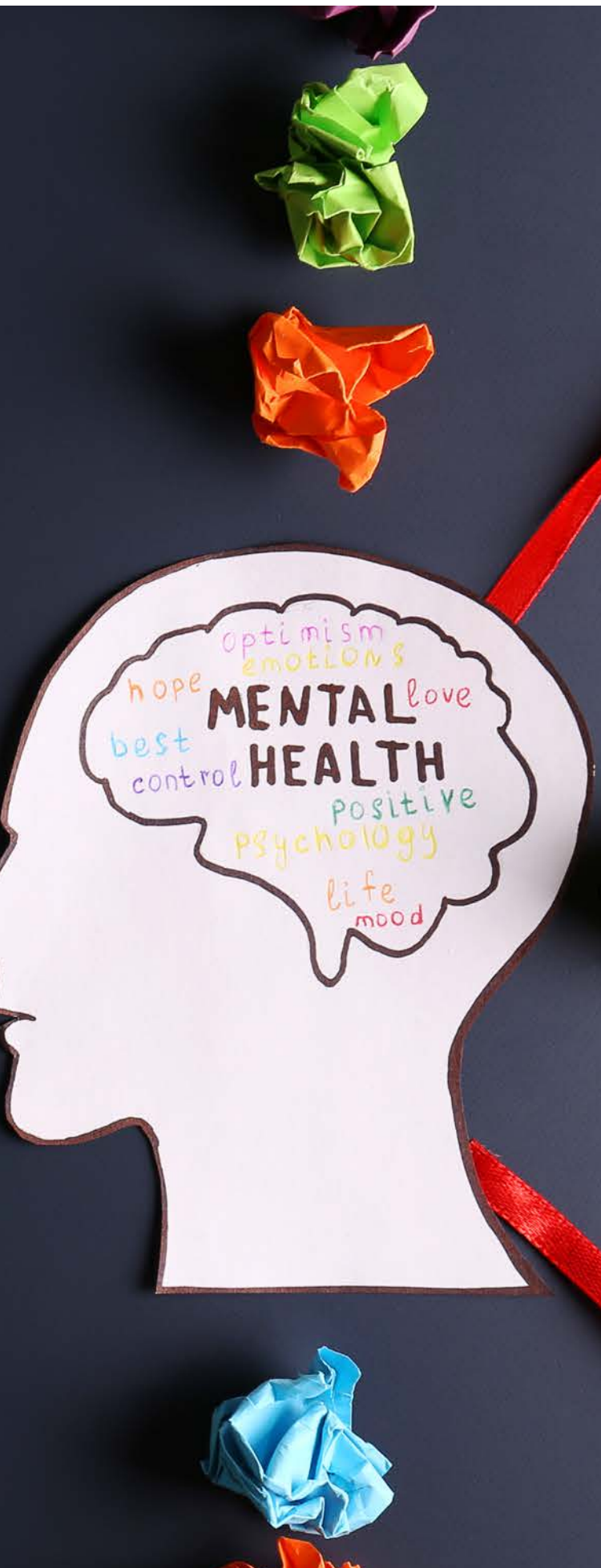
Once he's completed all his studies, Reboana believes that he will go back to teach in the public sector, so that he can apply the experience and knowledge he gained at a state-of-the-art private school.

Reboana appeals to Thuto Trust to continue with its successful programme, empowering South African teachers. He emphasised the importance of such teacher development programmes to transform education in this country, making it more relevant, but also appealing to students and the learners they will teach.

His success story does not end there. He is keen to further his education, focussing on Information Communications Technology (ICT), still within the Education field. He has applied at UJ for an Honours Programme in 2021 and trusts that should he qualify, Thuto Trust might again fund him to support his dream.

We will continue to follow this amazing young man's journey, a proud product of the Thuto Trust Teacher Development programme.





Thuto Trust

PSYCHO-SOCIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2020

The Thuto Trust Development programme includes an innovative psycho-social programme. Not only is it a unique attribute, but also a great value-add to prepare students mentally and to shape well-balanced leaders and teachers. The ripple effect of this programme is extended to the students within schools where they will teach, preparing and supporting learners to become well-adapted individuals within their communities.

With the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, Thuto Trust and its psycho-social programme partner, Value Ed, had to review the way forward for the implementation of the programme, and change their engagement with its PGCE and B. Ed. students for the remainder of the year.

The psychosocial support sessions recently commenced online via Zoom, offering five additional combined sessions to both PGCE and B.Ed. students.

The content of the five monthly sessions comprise:

- The Future of the Youth “Post Covid” (taking advantage of the future). Motivational speaker, Nomzamo Moalusi facilitated the issue of “How to cope?” A general discussion to understand frustrations and identify solutions to deal with these frustrations.
- Teaching in underprivileged areas (how are you going to add value) presented by Principal Ntuli, of Meadowlands High School. An in-depth look at the challenges of teaching and teachers in underprivileged areas and the expectations of the future generation of teachers in these areas.

- Keep on Keeping on (managing stress and coping with pressure) - presented by Viklela Rankin, Value Ed. This is one of the modules that forms part of the existing Value Ed programme. The topic is an extension of some of the topics already discussed to support the approach to daily anxiety management.
- The Future of Learning and e-Learning skills (scaling teaching for the future) - Refilwe Digoamaje, knowledge leader on "The digital future, platforms and e-commerce". How will teachers teach in future under the current circumstances? How to meet all markets within South Africa and how can e-Learning become available to all?
- Social Media and Social Media Awareness (impact, usage, and reliance) – Guest Speaker Linda Mthenjane a Social Media Guru. This forms part of the Value Ed module and discusses how social media should be approached, the benefits for the future and the detrimental impact of incorrect usage.

Students are also encouraged to attend additional sessions conducted by Value Ed for the public, that run with the public subscription model at no extra cost.

A few student testimonials about the additional sessions of Thuto's Psycho-social support programme.

The workshop on Saturday was amazing and insightful. I was taught how to deal with challenges and adapt to new environments in a way that can make me a better leader in the future. I am grateful to Vikela's dedication and hard work towards his cause of uplifting the youth through difficult times, thank you. - *Mahlatse Maifo*

The Zoom session with Vikela was quite fruitful, a much-needed session during these trying times and a good thing that we had a guest speaker Nomzamo who also shared her story and tips on how to make and not let a good crisis pass us by. I have learnt that it is important to take life as it comes, because sometimes we just need to adjust and make the best out of the worst times.
- *Nomvuyo Magabela*

The session we had with Vikela was wonderful and it made a great impact, especially with this dark cloud pandemic which is hovering in our lives. I have learnt more about how to dust yourself, pick up the pieces and move on after you had a downfall. The guest speaker spoke about how important it is to stay positive even during the dark times. These kinds of workshops really boost our self-esteem and self-confidence so that we can cope with whatever reality throws at us including our anxiety and fears.
- *Precious Ncube*

How to DONATE

You can contact one of our fundraisers to receive details on how you can partner with us, or indicate your interest by sending an e-mail to info@thutotrust.org with subject **#TTfunding**.

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