

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

25 YEARS OF IMPACT

A GLIMPSE IN TIME



2025

Construction starts on our new High School



2025

First Grade 8's join as part of High School expansion



2021

Grade RR is added



2009

Christel House moves to Ottery



2006

Second campus opens in Lansdowne



2002

School doors open in Athlone



2001

Christel House South Africa is founded



VISION

A world where poverty does not limit potential.



MISSION

Christel House prepares graduates to achieve upward economic mobility, demonstrate good citizenship, and become empowered to identify and realise their goals, dreams, and human potential.



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NPO number: 017-044 NPO | PBO number: 130001018 |

NPC number: 2001/012349/08 | 100% Black beneficiary base

“Christel House is changing the way we view independent education, and setting the standard for high quality, no-fee schooling. We appreciate their commitment to invest in the Western Cape by adding a new high school and a planned second campus, which will benefit the learners who need support the most.”

- David Maynier,
Western Cape Minister of Education



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CEO'S YEAR IN REVIEW

2025 was my eighth year at Christel House South Africa, my 30th year working towards social change and my 35th year working to position education as a key enabler of economic and social mobility.

Every year, I have the privilege of taking dozens of Christel House visitors on a tour of our school, sharing our values, our theory of change, and our ethos. Our guests are always deeply moved and impressed by our learners, our teachers and our approach to education. And so am I. Every time I interact with our learners and teachers and hear the stories that chart their journeys toward economic and social mobility, I am reminded what a privilege it is to be part of a team creating opportunity for talented young South Africans.

“This year is especially meaningful as we celebrate 25 years of Christel House in South Africa.”

Founded by the late Christel DeHaan, we are proud to honour her bold vision by advancing holistic education and expanding access to lasting opportunity for the young people we serve, their families and communities.

We trust our philosophy of education, informed by our knowledge of the communities we serve and by our teachers' experience working with children who come from very resource-poor environments. We think intentionally about how to prepare our children to become contributing citizens of the world they will step into. We monitor indicators of success, we analyse and learn and improve. We are proud that, 25 years and several efficacy studies later, we know that what we do works, we know that we are flexible and adaptable, in tune with the changes in the world, in education and in the economy which leads us to be dynamic and iterative in our approach.

Over the last years we have reiterated our commitment to do more by serving more learners and widening our impact. In 2025, our Simunye programme connected 12 schools across the wealth divide and facilitated regular interaction to build social capital, minimise friend bias and create spaces for young people to feel comfortable in multicultural environments. We also

reached almost 200 unemployed youth through Youth Bridge, our programme supporting unemployed youth in our communities. Over half of them are in jobs today, an exceptional achievement in our current economic climate.

On the home front we continue to work towards expanding our reach. When I joined in 2018, we served 743 learners. Today, with Grade RR added, all classes at 100% capacity and our new high school doubling Grade 8 and 9 capacity, we serve 976 learners, as many parents and over 500 alumni.

It is a busy school! Last year alone we served over 330,000 meals, drove over 260,000 kilometres, completed almost 1000 physical assessments and immunised more than 95% of our learners. 201 full school days were completed, after school support, weekend classes, untold athletics and sports matches, robotics competitions and camps filled the year. Six parent workshops with over 350 parents in attendance every time marked a milestone of involvement and participation at every level.

We are proud of our strong academic results, particularly as we are non-selective in our intake. In 2025, 96% of our learners passed matric, with a 70% Bachelor Pass rate. Our alumni outcomes remain exceptional: 95% are in education, training or employment; 83% enrol in post-secondary studies within a year of matric; and 90% persist in their programmes.

I'd like to thank our Board Chair, Ian Russell for his incredible support, leadership and counsel over the last 9 years. Ian is stepping down as chair and from February 2026, Professor Linda Ronnie (UCT's previous Deputy Vice Chancellor) will be stepping into his shoes. We thank both for their unwavering commitment to our children.

This year we would like to start increasing our Junior School capacity by 50% and trust this will be the year where we confirm the location of our next school in the Western Cape.

With the continued commitment of our staff, partners, families and supporters, we move confidently toward the next chapter of measurable, generational impact.

Adri Marais, Chief Executive Officer, Christel House SA



CHAIR REPORT

As Christel House South Africa marks a quarter of a century of making an impact in South Africa, thoughts inevitably turn to the milestones and achievements of those years.

Thoughts turn to the lives we have touched and had an impact upon – whether it be students, teachers, funders or stakeholders. Thoughts turn to the perspiration and occasional inspiration that has sat behind the scenes and made so many of the incredible achievements possible. Thoughts turn to the savage reality that whilst Christel House SA is a beacon of hope for many, it's out of reach for even more.

I've been fortunate to have been on the Board of Christel House SA for nearly a decade and served as Chair for the majority of that time. Throughout that time, we have relentlessly pushed to make a wider and deeper impact on the communities that we serve.

Initiatives like Youth Bridge and Simunye are all about maximizing the assets, networks and relationships that we already have and creating new opportunities in neighbouring communities and areas of need.

Our focus and investment on technology capabilities and infrastructure within the school, directly leads to students that have a better chance of being on the right side of the digital divide than before.

The intentional and thoughtful focus on improving the quality of the leadership team under Adri's long-term leadership, allied with data insights that prompt us to bring in new capability where we are weakest, happens within a long-term framework of operational excellence.

The construction of our second high school in Ottery in 2025 marked a major milestone, with its completion in 2026 ushering Christel House SA into a new era.

Creating sustainable impact takes time. Focus. Energy. Structure. Planning. Commitment. Stamina. Ambition. Resilience. Belief. Impact requires an ecosystem of supportive stakeholders, patient funders and committed teamwork from everyone involved in the journey.

Our achievements over the last 25 years have not been accidental.

I want to dedicate this, my final contribution to the Christel House SA Board Report as Chair, to everyone that has served on this journey since 2001 and made so many of these wonderful things possible.

To Christel DeHaan, of course, who had the temerity to dream, and the iron-will required to execute and kick all this off in the beginning.

To the leadership teams of Christel House SA, in all their incarnations over the years, that have always sought to put the students first and have focused on educational excellence at every turn.

To the thousands of students, their families and the communities around them. The success of the school is fundamentally down to them, the hard work put in, the many often unseen sacrifices made by families to support their children in their studies, and the communities that lean-in around us.

To the many, many wonderful funders and financial supporters of Christel House SA. 2025 saw us raise a record amount of beneficiary-benefitting funding from our local and global donors and partners to the ability to deliver our holistic education model, and build and run our second high school.

“Every gift, big or small, makes a difference. Every gesture makes an impact. Without your support and endless generosity, none of this would be possible.”

Finally, to the Board whose guidance, wisdom and endless support has ensured that Christel House SA has a strong and solid strategic platform. Thank you.

It is therefore with great confidence that I hand over the Chair role to Professor Linda Ronnie, who will carry the organisation into its next phase. Linda's background as a remarkable educationalist, combined with her long-term association with Christel House SA, will ensure that the momentum and drive to create more impact will carry on intact. Here's to the next 25 years!

Ian Russell, Chair, Christel House SA

SUPPORTING EVERY STUDENT TO THRIVE

Christel House South Africa continues to demonstrate what is possible when children from underserved communities receive the critical enabling support to succeed. In 2025, our students achieved a 96% matric pass rate, with 70% earning Bachelor passes. The class also produced 26 subject distinctions across a cohort of 56 students, outperforming provincial averages and opening doors to further study, employment and entrepreneurship.

For the 976 students we serve, all of whom grow up in communities facing significant socio-economic challenges, matric results represent far more than academic success. They mark a turning point not only in the lives of our students, but also for their families and communities. Through no-fee, trauma-informed education and holistic support, Christel House addresses learners' academic, physical, emotional and social needs, ensuring they are equipped not only to pass, but to thrive.

In their final year, this support is strengthened through our Matric Intensive Programme, where our multipurpose hall is transformed into a study and dormitory space during the exam periods. This safe, structured environment allows students to remain on campus, benefit from nutritious meals and receive after-hours mentorship from teachers.

Our top achiever for the Class of 2025 was Alique J. from Hanover Park, who earned four distinctions and is now studying towards an Occupational Therapy degree at Stellenbosch University. Alique joined Christel House South Africa in Grade R and persevered through significant

personal hardship, including the loss of his mother two years ago. Throughout his time at Christel House, Alique was an active committed member of school leadership initiatives, demonstrating the resilience, empathy and purpose that define our graduates. His ambition is to support children with special needs and give back to communities like his own.

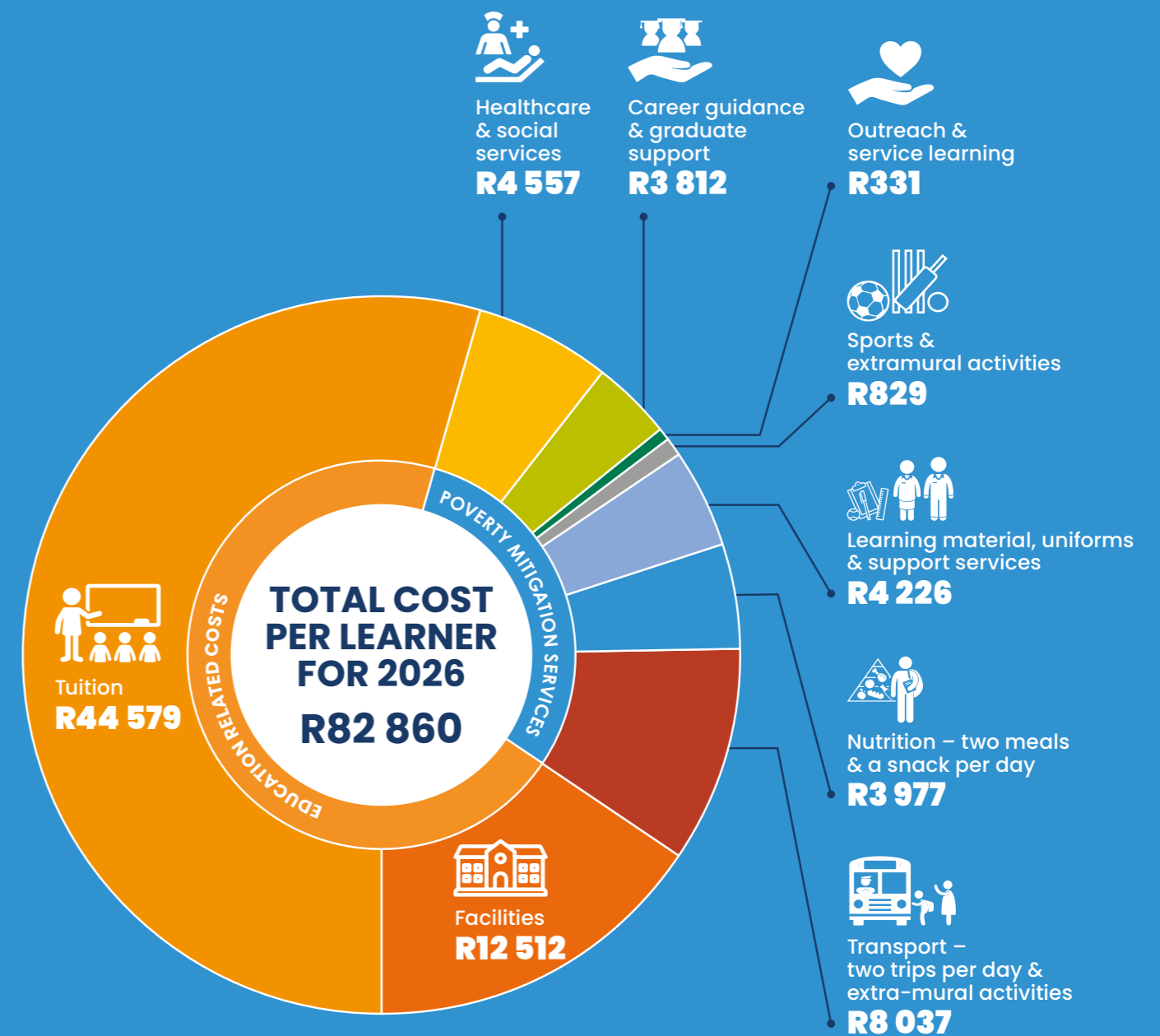
While these results are a source of great pride, our internal data also reflects a concerning trend seen across South Africa: boys are increasingly disengaging from the education system. Although boys and girls enter school in similar numbers, this begins to shift during the upper primary years.

In response, Christel House introduced the Build Our Boys (BOB) Programme to support our male learners, who more often than not, grow up without a consistent father figure or positive male role models. BOB combines mentorship, guidance and experiential learning to build confidence, resilience and a strong sense of identity.

Through initiatives like BOB, Christel House SA ensures more young men remain engaged. At the same time, our girls are empowered to succeed through the Girls Excelling through Mentorship and Sisterhood (GEMS) Programme, ensuring every student is equipped with the tools, confidence and support needed to thrive beyond the classroom.



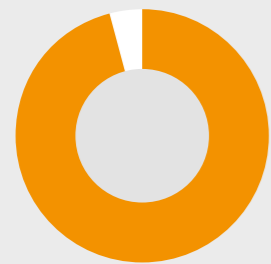
SCHOLARSHIP COST PER STUDENT FOR 2026



25% of these costs are covered by the Founder's bequest to our organisation, which serves to create a sustainable, long-term model.

OUR IMPACT

Christel House South Africa in 2025



96%

MATRIC PASS RATE FOR THE CLASS OF 2025



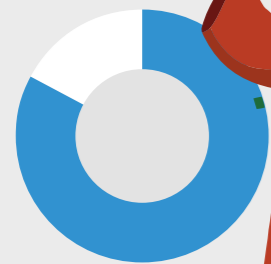
70%

BACHELOR PASS FOR THE CLASS OF 2025



95%

ALUMNI WORKING OR STUDYING



83%

OF GRADUATES ENROL IN POST SECONDARY STUDIES WITHIN THEIR FIRST YEAR AFTER MATRIC



82%

REMAIN ENGAGED IN OUR ALUMNI PROGRAMME, RECEIVING STRUCTURED SUPPORT FOR FIVE YEARS AFTER SCHOOL



90%

PERSIST IN THEIR POST SECONDARY PROGRAMMES (they do not drop out once enrolled)



Christel House South Africa in 2025



12,000+

PEOPLE IMPACTED (includes family members)



99%

MATRIC PASS RATE AVERAGE SINCE INCEPTION



1,000

PHYSICAL ASSESSMENTS



330,000

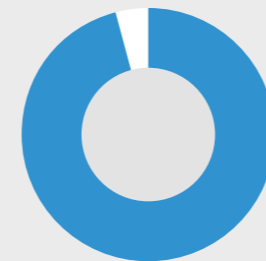
MEALS SERVED



260,000

KM'S DRIVEN

Christel House International



96%

ALUMNI WORKING OR STUDYING IN 2025

25,500+

STUDENTS IMPACTED GLOBALLY SINCE INCEPTION



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Young Innovator Creates App to Support Learning

Clivito M., a Grade 10 student from Lotus River, launched Edu Nova Pro, an innovative, student-led study app designed to help fellow learners better understand and assimilate subjects through curriculum-aligned, teacher-reviewed content. With a team of nine student collaborators across Grades 8 to 10, Clivito led the development of educational resources in subjects including Physical Science, Mathematics, Technology, EMS, and History for Grade 8 learners. The team used digital tools to create virtual lessons, notes, and visual aids. Each resource was carefully reviewed by subject teachers to ensure accuracy and curriculum alignment.

Clivito aspires to become a medical doctor, with a particular interest in neurology. His passion was ignited by his late grandmother, who lived with him and his mother while bravely facing Alzheimer's disease. This journey not only inspired a fascination with the human brain but also instilled in him a strong desire to help others.

Young Mathematicians on the Rise

In August, Christel House South Africa achieved exceptional results in the 2025 Standard Bank Matific Maths Olympiad, with our Junior School placing 1st in the Western Cape and 7th nationally. The five-day competition was designed to build strong mathematical foundations and positive learning habits through participation and problem-solving, rather than a narrow focus on perfect scores.

We are especially proud of our top achievers, led by Ziarah B., a Grade 7 student who hopes to one day study criminal psychology. Meanwhile, Sibabalwe M., a Grade 4 student represented Christel House in the final round of the South African Mathematics Challenge in September, one of the country's most competitive maths competitions. This recognition placed him among South Africa's top young mathematicians.

Empowering Young Women in STEM

Kuhle J., a Grade 12 student from Philippi was inducted into the STEM MentHER programme at the Stellenbosch University. Founded to support female learners who want to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields, the programme pairs students with a female mentor and exposes them to curated programmes involving female leaders and experts.

Kuhle's journey into STEM was sparked by her involvement in our robotics programme at school. Reflecting on her experience, Kuhle shared, "Christel House has changed my life. It's more than a school, it's a family that believes in us and gives us the tools to dream big." Kuhle says she has two role models, her mother and her Robotics and CAT teacher, Mr Cedric Esterhuizen.

Kuhle matriculated with three distinctions and is studying towards a Bachelors in Social Science at the University of Cape Town. She is a passionate advocate for women in STEM and hopes to combine her love for technology, biology, and robotics to pursue a career in healthcare in South Africa.

Students Advance to Global Innovator of the Year Finals

Our school was one of only three South African schools to advance to the finals of the 2025 goIT Global Innovator of the Year competition, which was held in March, alongside participants from Ireland, the UAE, and the United Kingdom.

For this year's challenge, our students tackled food insecurity in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goal #2 – Zero Hunger. Their innovative app aimed to bridge the gap between individuals in need and businesses with surplus food, ensuring that good food is made available at an affordable price while simultaneously helping businesses lessen food waste. Judges praised the students' project as a "very good concept," an "amazing idea," and a "well-articulated presentation."

Excellence in Music, Art and Culture

In June, the Christel House Jazz Band had the honour of performing at the prestigious Artscape Youth Jazz Series for the second consecutive year, representing one of only eleven schools selected across the Western Cape.

Individual learner achievements included Grade 11 student, Esona T., who secured second place nationally at the Namaste Desi Star singing competition, held in Johannesburg in August. The competition blended traditional and contemporary musical forms. These moments showcased our school's commitment to nurturing creative expression alongside academic excellence.

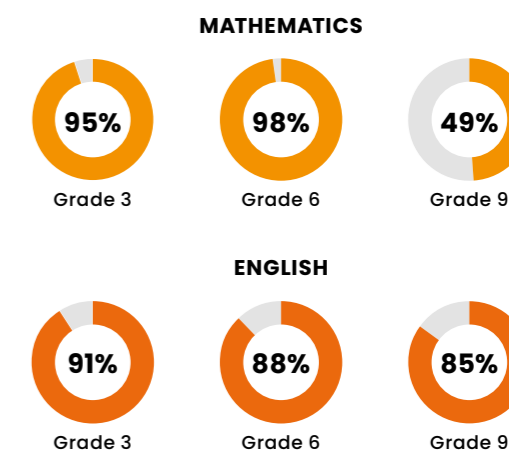
Recognised as a Microsoft Showcase School once again!

Our school has once again been recognised as a Microsoft Showcase School for 2025–2026, a prestigious global distinction that celebrates schools leading the way in digital transformation, innovative teaching, and inclusive learning environments.

This recognition places us among a select network of only nine Showcase Schools in South Africa, and we are the only school in the Western Cape to hold this honour. Even more remarkably, 100% of our Junior and High School teachers are certified Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts (MIEEs).

Outstanding Systemic Results

Learners in Grades 3, 6, and 9 delivered exceptional results in the 2025 systemic assessments, surpassing provincial averages by up to 49%. These outstanding achievements underscore the strength of our school systems and our commitment to proving that while talent is distributed evenly, opportunity is not.



Young Stylists Showcase their Talent Internationally

Two of our talented matric students, Christaylior B., (Mitchell's Plain) and Chelsea P., (Lotus River) along with two of our alumni, Amy-Lee A., (Manenberg) and Marychan O., (Strandfontein) participated in the Intercoiffure Mondial Hamburg 25 World Congress. The global hairdressing showcase took place in Hamburg, Germany from 30 May to 3 June 2025.

These outstanding young women have been part of the hairdressing training programme offered at our school, made possible through our valued partnership with Intercoiffure Mondial's Education for Life initiative.

One of the alumni, Amy-Lee is studying hairdressing at the College of Cape Town. She achieved gold at the WorldSkills South Africa Provincial Competition 2025.

Grade 8 esports Team Shines at Comic Con Festival

On 1 May, our talented Grade 8 esports team proudly represented our school at the RGB Gaming Minecraft Rookie Rumble, hosted at the 2025 Comic Con Festival. After four intense hours of competition, our team, consisting of Carlyle A., Qayoom D., Sibusiso K., and Anele J., emerged with an impressive second place finish, standing out among six primary schools.



ORGANISATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

New Buses Support Growing Student Community

Our transport system represents safety, reliability and opportunity to explore the world beyond the classroom through excursions, university visits, and workplace exposure.

Thanks to the generosity of the South African Muslim Charitable Trust (SAMCT), Peter and Pirjo Carr and Ann Schneider, we received two brand-new Hino school buses. This donation comes at a pivotal moment as we expand our reach to serve even more communities in need.

National Recognition for our Leadership

We are proud to share that our CEO, Adri Marais, was named an education category winner at the 2025 Mail and Guardian Power of Women Awards. The category featured five additional winners, while the event itself spanned a total of 12 categories. This well-deserved recognition celebrated Adri's leadership in transforming education and empowering communities. The Power of Women Awards honours women who challenge limits, shift narratives, and lead with purpose.

Refreshed Restrooms for Mandela Day

On 25 July, we welcomed over 100 volunteers to our campus to honour Mandela Day, celebrating a week later than the official date to coincide with the start of our school term. Together, they beautified school grounds, refreshed restrooms with uplifting décor, and planted trees, creating a more inspiring environment for our students. This annual event gives donors, partners, and community members the chance to contribute meaningfully to our learning space.



Honouring our supporters at our Special Assembly event

On 12 November, Christel House South Africa hosted our annual Special Assembly, celebrating the journey of our students from classrooms to life and recognising the impact of our donors, partners, and supporters.

The event featured student performances in music, dance, and theatre, alongside inspiring addresses from our CEO, Adri Marais; Board Chair, Ian Russell and Christel House International President and CEO, David Harris. Guests experienced firsthand the creativity, confidence, and leadership of our students, reflecting our mission in action.

Playground Boosts Early Learning

We proudly unveiled a brand-new playground for Grade RR and Grade R learners at an official ribbon-cutting ceremony in May. The donation for the playground was made possible by The Harry Crossley Foundation, a loyal supporter of our school.

The newly installed jungle gyms, swings, and sandpits were designed to enhance gross motor skills, while the addition of a mud kitchen and sensory nook encourages creativity, imaginative play, and the development of fine motor skills.

"This new playground is more than just a place to play, it's a critical part of healthy childhood development. For children who come from high-stress environments or who have experienced trauma, play becomes even more essential. It offers a safe and natural outlet to express emotions, process experiences, and regain a sense of control and safety," says Carol Kriel, Junior School Principal at Christel House SA.



OUR ALUMNI

JESSE STELLMACHER

(CLASS OF 2019)

Legal Administrator at a Visa and Immigration Consultancy, Qualified Attorney of the High Court of South Africa

Jesse Stellmacher grew up in Hanover Park and Mitchell's Plain, communities marked by both resilience and systemic challenges, including high crime rates, poverty, teenage pregnancy, and limited access to opportunity.

She joined Christel House South Africa in Grade 1 in 2008 and matriculated in 2019. During these years, the school became a place of stability and support, helping to shape both her academic path and her sense of possibility.

“Christel House has been and continues to be instrumental in breaking the cycle of poverty and opening doors to opportunities that would have otherwise been inaccessible.”

Raised by a single mother under financial strain, Jesse was exposed early to the realities of responsibility and uncertainty. Moving homes frequently due to financial instability and limited resources could easily have defined her path, but instead, they strengthened her resolve. “There were many moments of self-doubt,” she reflects, “but those experiences built my resilience and determination.”

After matriculating, Jesse pursued a Bachelor of Law (LLB) at Stellenbosch University. During her studies, she took on leadership roles, served as an academic mentor within the Faculty of Law, and represented students through the Student Court. In her final year, she gained practical experience through a vacation programme at Legal Aid.



She completed her articles at a Stellenbosch-based law firm, passing all four attorney admission examinations on her first attempt. In January 2026, Jesse was officially admitted as an Attorney of the High Court of South Africa. She currently works as a Legal Administrator at a visa and migration consultancy firm, where she continues to build her professional experience.

Jesse's family story reflects a powerful shift toward economic mobility across generations. Her mother, Tania Stellmacher, a single parent of three, completed her matric at the age of 40 while working full-time, an achievement that continues to inspire Jesse. Today, Tania leads the Sales Department at the Cape Town Society for the Blind. Her siblings are also forging their own paths: her older brother, Keaton, who matriculated from Christel House South Africa in 2017, is now a qualified engineer employed at The Coca-Cola Company, while her younger brother, Gerrard, is currently in Grade 12 at Christel House.

Through Christel House's Career Development Programme, Jesse continues to receive mentorship and support and now gives back as Vice-Chairperson of the Alumni Committee. “I carry the spirit of Ubuntu with me,” she says. “I am because of others, and I am committed to helping others succeed.”



OUR ALUMNI

XOLISA WULANA

(CLASS OF 2012)

| SAP Application Specialist

Born and raised in Langa, Cape Town, Xolisa Wulana joined Christel House South Africa in 2002. Raised by a single, unemployed mother, he grew up facing the daily realities of poverty, crime, and limited opportunities.

“It wasn't just about staying out of trouble; it was about fighting for a future.”

His household relied entirely on the government child welfare grant to support him and his younger sibling, Owam Wulana, who is also a Christel House alumna. Owam is currently studying towards a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) at TSIBA. Remarkably, she was born on the very day Christel House opened its doors in South Africa in 2002, a moment that remains deeply symbolic for Xolisa, as it also explains why his mother couldn't walk him to the bus stop on his first day. “It felt as though my family's journey began on that very same day,” he says.

He further comments, “The support I received didn't just change my life, it brought stability, dignity, and hope into our home.”

Xolisa and Owam's mother has since passed away but they remain grateful to Christel House SA for lifting an incredible weight off of their late mother's shoulders and both have used the opportunity to succeed.

After school, Xolisa completed his Bachelor's and Honours degrees in Information Systems at the University of the Western Cape. He began his career as a Software Developer, quickly progressing into Robotic Process Automation and business analysis roles.



In 2019, he joined the Dimension Data Graduate Acceleration Programme (now NTT DATA). Today, he is a SAP Application Specialist with multiple certifications. Xolisa credits the Christel House Career Development Programme for introducing him to the company many years ago.

“Christel House protected me, shaped me, and showed me a world beyond my circumstances.”

OUR ALUMNI

RAYHAAN ARENDSE

(CLASS OF 2020)

■ *Cloud Administrator*

Born and raised in Hanover Park, Rayhaan Arendse joined Christel House South Africa in 2009, starting in Grade 1. He pursued a BCom General degree at UWC, and although he shifted paths, he found his passion in IT through the Cloud Administrative programme at Forvis Mazars Institute of Development. Graduating as a Cloud Administrator Associate and Security Operations Analyst, Rayhaan now works as a Cloud Administrator at the same organisation. "It's funny," he reflects, "I originally thought I'd become an accountant, now I work at an accounting firm, but in IT. Life has a way of leading you exactly where you're meant to be."

Rayhaan looks back on his journey with gratitude. He says his mother is forever grateful that Christel House lifted the financial burden of his education.



“I've been incredibly blessed. Christel House gave me opportunities I could only dream of, and my parents' support made it all possible.”

When asked to describe his Christel House experience, Rayhaan doesn't hesitate: "It was lively. From band practice to assemblies, etiquette lessons with Dr. Fortune, afternoon extracurriculars, Future Me events, and even those long, challenging days, where every moment was full of energy, learning, and growth."

The Career Development Programme also left a mark, helping him with mock interviews and guiding him through university applications and NSFAS processes.

OUR ALUMNI

NOSIVIWE MPUKANE

(CLASS OF 2019)

■ *Investment Facilitation Intern*

Nosiviwe Mpukane, born and raised in Langa, joined Christel House South Africa in Grade 1 and matriculated in 2019. After matric, she went on to study International Relations at Stellenbosch University and is currently building her career as a Graduate Intern at Wesgro, the official Trade, Tourism and Investment Promotion Agency for Cape Town and the Western Cape.

Growing up, Nosiviwe faced challenges within her community, including limited safe and quiet spaces to study and a lack of visible role models. She adapted by studying in the evenings and remained focused on her goals, determined to create opportunities for herself.

Family has always been central to her story. She describes her home as one filled with love and support. Her sister, a Christel House graduate from the Class of 2015, and her younger brother, currently in Grade 11, share in the family's deep connection to the school.

Nosiviwe's time at Christel House was filled with meaningful experiences. She developed a love for public speaking, often serving as an MC at assemblies, and had the opportunity to travel for the first time in Grade 10. A standout moment was her international exchange trip to China, made possible through the support of the Christel House community.

The Career Development Programme played an important role in guiding her through subject choices, university applications, and the transition into tertiary education.

Today, Nosiviwe remains a proud Christel House alumna, carrying its values with her and striving to give back wherever she can.



“My family and I will forever be indebted to the school for making a difference in our lives. I will always remain a proud 'product' of Christel House. Wherever I go, I carry the school and what it stands for with me. And I too, try in my personal capacity, to pay it forward.”

YOUTH CAREER HUB

Career Development

Students Explore Careers Through Learning Journeys

Learning Journeys include groups of students who visit workplaces to gain firsthand exposure to a variety of industries and career paths. These experiences help broaden their understanding of the working world and inspire them to envision their futures with confidence.

Our students visited organisations across healthcare, hospitality, and manufacturing sectors, engaging with professionals who shared their career journeys, the skills required in their roles, and the pathways they followed to reach their positions. They toured workplaces, observed operations in action, and gained insight into the processes, teamwork, and precision that keep these industries running smoothly.

Career Days Help Student Dream Bigger

Christel House South Africa hosted Career Days for our Junior School students, introducing potential jobs and expanding horizons at an early age. Students were exposed to a range of fast-growing professions and industries, with visiting professionals sharing their insights and experiences. "With youth unemployment at an all-time high, it is vital we prepare our learners for the jobs of tomorrow," said Louise de Marillac St. Julien, CHSA Career Development Manager.

"By introducing them to high-growth sectors and connecting them with a diverse network of professionals, we open doors to new possibilities."



Youth Bridge

Youth Bridge continues to play a critical role in addressing youth unemployment by equipping youth (18-35 year olds) with the skills, mindset, and networks needed to succeed. In 2025, this off-campus programme marked a significant milestone with the successful completion of six cohorts, supporting 200 youth in total. Each cohort was oversubscribed, highlighting the growing demand for structured, high-quality employment readiness programmes among young people.

Youth Bridge expanded its reach in 2025, accommodating between 32 and 35 participants per cohort in response to growing demand. This growth was matched by strong outcomes, with the programme achieving a 60% average employment placement rate across the year. Earlier cohorts continue to deliver even stronger results, with employment rates exceeding 70%, underscoring the programme's sustained and growing impact over time.

These outcomes are driven by strong employer partnerships, which open doors to meaningful workplace opportunities. At the same time, an increasing number of participants are choosing to further their studies. Youth Bridge has supported unemployed youth through application processes and access to financial assistance, including NSFAS, ensuring that more young people are able to continue building their futures through education.

From Participant to Professional

Namhla's story is a powerful example of how our youth unemployment programme, Youth Bridge, equips young people not only to access opportunities, but to grow into confident, employable professionals. Youth Bridge alumna, Namhla previously ran a small mobile gym business, demonstrating early entrepreneurial drive. In 2025, she re-engaged with the programme in a new capacity, facilitating one-hour fitness and wellness sessions as part of the Personal Development Plan modules. Through this experience, coupled with her ongoing personal development, Namhla has since secured permanent employment as a Foot Analyst Specialist at The Athlete's Foot in Newlands.



DEEPENING OUR IMPACT WITH SIMUNYE

In 2025, our Simunye (We Are One) Project took a significant step forward with the launch of *The Simunye Show* podcast, an exciting evolution of the programme that brought conversations on social capital to a broader audience.

Simunye, our social capital initiative in partnership with the Julius Baer Foundation, connects 12 schools across the Western Cape, bridging divides across the wealth spectrum. Social capital is the shared value that comes from our connections and relationships with each other. It's the strength of community ties, which helps us work together and support one another.

“What makes Simunye truly transformative is the shift it inspires: students develop confidence, build meaningful relationships, and gain a sense of belonging in a more interconnected society.”

– Saadiq Chotia, Simunye Project Manager

The Simunye Show featured influential entrepreneurs, celebrities and celebrated researchers. Tristan Claridge, CEO of the International Institute of Social Capital was featured as well as entrepreneur, Zaid Osman and award-winning local musician, YoungstaCPT. Through candid conversations, Simunye explored challenges, lessons, and the pathways that bring people together. These discussions not only deepened learning but illustrated how connection can open doors and shape future opportunities.

The programme's impact extends beyond the podcast. Parent workshops, camps and school rotations provided exposure to diverse people and environments.

As the programme evolves, it continues to demonstrate the power of social capital in shaping young lives, proving that deepening connection is a path to unlocking opportunity. With each conversation, workshop, and shared experience, Simunye reaches further, extending its impact and building bridges that last a lifetime.

HIGHLIGHTS SOCIAL SERVICES

Record Number of Admissions Applications

We received nearly 1 400 applications across Grade RR and Grade 8 and ultimately selected 60 new Grade RR learners and 66 new Grade 8 students, together with their families. The onboarding process exposes our families to Christel House support services, including education, nutrition, transport, healthcare and social services and much more.

Our incoming Grade 8 students participated in a compulsory 10-day Acculturation Programme at the end of November 2025, designed to build familiarity with our school culture, routines, and to create new friendships.

Recognising the Power of Parent Partnership

On 25 November 2025, our Social Services department hosted a Parent Appreciation Celebration to recognise 50 parents who demonstrated exceptional commitment to their children's education through our Sebenza Sonke ("Working Together") Programme. Led by our Social Services Department, the programme encourages active parental involvement through volunteering, workshop participation, and support of school initiatives, reinforcing the critical role families play in learner success.

Beyond recognising participation, the celebration highlighted meaningful behavioural change, with parents reflecting on how the programme has positively influenced their homes and communities. While 50 parents were honoured, the initiative continues to strengthen engagement across our wider parent body of more than 800 parents, reinforcing a shared commitment between school and family to support learner wellbeing and long-term success.

A Mother's Journey of Growth and Transformation

When you uplift a child, you empower their parent or guardian. And when you empower a household, you uplift a community. This truth is beautifully reflected in the journey of Melissa Jackson, a resilient mother from Manenberg, whose daughter, Vaughan, is currently in Grade 7 at our school.

When Melissa first joined the Christel House community, she was ready to embrace new opportunities for herself and her daughter. Melissa found a support system that believed in her potential as much as her child's. "What I love about Christel House is that it isn't just about the kids, it is about the whole family," says Melissa.

With the encouragement and guidance of our team, she took a bold step forward and enrolled at university. She has since completed a Higher Certificate in Adult Education and is currently in her first year of a Social Work degree at the University of Cape Town.



EXPANSION

High School

In December 2024, we reported on turning the sod for our new High School on our Ottery campus. Since then, construction progress has been visible throughout 2025. Access to quality education for underserved youth in the Western Cape remains limited, with an average annual shortfall of 18,000 school seats, mostly in high schools. Our new High School allows us to double our impact and answer the moral imperative to do more.

The new building includes 11 classrooms, an IT lab, communal spaces, and dedicated recreational areas which we know our students will love. In 2025, we welcomed our first complete cohort of additional 60 Grade 8 students, who have since integrated seamlessly into our school and culture through our successful acculturation programme. This has increased to 120 additional students in 2026 as we welcomed our second Grade 8 cohort in January 2026.

Barring inclement weather, we expect to take occupancy in mid-2026, marked by a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony and art installation celebrating our 2025 expansion donors.

Junior School

We plan to expand capacity at our Ottery Junior School by 50%, enabling us to reach and support significantly more students.

New School in the Western Cape

As part of our five-year strategy, we are establishing a new Grade RR-12 school in the Western Cape, expanding our reach to serve more students in need and providing them with the same opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive. Your support in funding new schools and facilities ensures that we can bring hope, education, and upward mobility to even more under-resourced areas in the Western Cape and South Africa.

 To find out more, please email Lara Black, Development and Partnerships Director at lblack@sa.christelhouse.org.

“Christel House South Africa’s 25-year journey reflects the power of sustained investment, strong partnerships, and a holistic approach to education, recognising that a thriving economy starts in the classroom. As they expand their footprint in the Western Cape, Edu Invest remains committed to supporting initiatives that deliver economic growth that strengthens competitiveness and creates jobs in the Western Cape.”

- Wrenelle Stander, CEO, Wesgro



NORTH STAR AND BUSINESS PLAN GOALS

Our North Star sets a clear path to 2030, brought to life through five strategic goals that will drive our impact forward.



OUR 2026 LEADERSHIP TEAM



Adri Marais
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

“My 8 years at Christel House have been filled with inspiration. We work hard and we are passionate about impact. We experience every day that talent just needs opportunity for extraordinary things to happen. Congratulations to the pioneers who have been here from the beginning, we stand tall on your foundation.”



Dr Ronald Fortune
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER 2025

“Over 25 years at Christel House South Africa, we have seen children from dire circumstances transform their lives through care and learning. During Covid, we put people first, supporting families while restoring learning in record time. Today, we advance this impact through technology and AI, helping future-proof every learner we serve.”



Carol Kriel
JUNIOR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

“Our passionate team has remained grounded in shared purpose. We were privileged to learn from Christel DeHaan and her wisdom and remain proud custodians of her mission in service of transformation. We celebrate successful alumni, empowered parents, and children thriving in a safe, supportive school community.”



Nasar Harris
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

“We celebrate how far we’ve come, but we remain focused on how far we can go. At our high school, we demand excellence, build character, and refuse limits. Here, potential is not a promise, it is a responsibility we rise to every single day.”



Eugenia Dlodlo-Sibanda
DEAN OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

“Our journey reflects expanded access and deepened impact. As Head of Health & Social Services, I have seen us move beyond opening doors to better education for the community we serve to building meaningful, sustained partnerships with them in supporting learners. Together with caregivers we are ensuring the next generation is equipped and world-ready to succeed.”



Lara Black
DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS DIRECTOR

“In 2025, we’ve not only increased our impact, but have accelerated growth by building a new high school! We are deeply grateful to our financial and in-kind partners who enable this impact. Going forward, we are focused on inviting new funding and marketing partnerships to deliver and scale this successful, life-charging model.”



Louise de Marillac st. Julien
CAREER DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

“For 25 years, our Career Development Programme has empowered Christel House SA learners and alumni. We are proud of our expanded community reach with the Youth Bridge programme, and look forward to the next 25 years of youth career innovation!”



Shereen La Fleur
CHIEF FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONS OFFICER

“As CFOO, I’m proud that our school’s 25-year journey is marked by educational excellence, good governance, and financial sustainability. We are well positioned to expand our impact. Looking ahead, my focus remains on optimising resources to empower every student’s potential and secure our mission into the foreseeable future.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Adri Marais
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:
CHRISTEL HOUSE SA

Experience: Business Development, Tertiary Education and Social Transformation.



David Harris
PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: CHRISTEL HOUSE INTERNATIONAL

Experience: Founder of The Mind Trust, a national model for driving urban education reform in the U.S.; previously partner with City Fund.



Baba Mogase
MARKETING COMMITTEE

Experience: Business and Marketing specialist.



Laila Naidoo
MARKETING COMMITTEE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE CHAIR

Experience: Executive Director; Experience in Strategy Development, Business Management, Sales & Marketing, Business Finance.



Tania Slabbert
MARKETING COMMITTEE

Experience: Investment professional with experience in both the business and development sectors.



Khoabane Phoofole
MARKETING COMMITTEE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Experience: Managing Director and Head of BlackRock Africa, with strategic expertise in Asset Management, Capital Markets, and more.



Ian Russell
CHAIR: CHRISTEL HOUSE SA

Experience: Author, Speaker, Advisor. Experience in Business, Finance, Corporate Governance, Marketing, Communication and Technology.



Shereen La Fleur
CHIEF FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONS OFFICER AND COMPANY SECRETARY: CHRISTEL HOUSE SA

Experience: Chartered Accountant (CA(SA)).



Prof. Linda Ronnie
EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

Experience: Education and Transformative Education specialist.



Dr. Antonio Fourie
AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE CHAIR

Experience: CEO and Chairman of multinational listed groups in Retail, Financial Services, Diversified Conglomerates. Expertise in Strategy, Business Leadership and Governance.



Nicola Gubb
AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Experience: 30 Years of investment, business management and development experience. Has served as a non-executive on boards of private and public companies in Financial Services, Media and Education with expertise in Governance, Strategy, Investment Management and Transformation.



Matimba Mbungela
HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Experience: Chief Human Resources Officer at Vodacom Group with HR expertise in different portfolios and industries.

DONORS AND PARTNERS



Thank you! We would like to thank each individual and organisation who generously supported us in 2025. The below names represent donations we received in 2025 greater than R100 000.

- Ackerman Family Foundation
- Actuarial Society of South Africa
- Air Products SA
- Albert Wessels Trust
- Allan Gray Orbis Foundation
- Amabutho Investment Managers
- Ann C. Schneider
- Anonymous
- BlackRock Foundation
- Brenley Trust
- Burgan Cape Terminals
- Cape Grace a Fairmont Managed Hotel
- Capitec Bank Holdings
- CHEP
- Christopher A. Holder
- Cummins South Africa
- Dell Technologies
- Donaldson Filtration Systems
- Doug Cleland
- Flash
- Frank Jackson Foundation
- Garcia Foundation
- Green Leaves Education Foundation
- Growthpoint Properties
- Hamid Yunis
- Harry Crossley Foundation
- Helen Blakemore
- Ho Jala Community Trust
- ILANGA Foundation
- Industroclean
- Jane and Philippa Notten
- Jason & Natasha Goodall
- Joan St Leger Lindbergh Charitable Trust
- John Battersby
- Julian & Danny Huxtable
- Julius Baer Foundation
- KFC Add Hope
- KLAY
- MAD Leadership Foundation
- Mapula Trust
- Marc J. Leder Foundation
- Old Mutual Insure
- Paula Meaker
- Peires Family Foundation
- Peninsula Schools Feeding Association
- Peter and Pirjo Carr
- Pfizer Laboratories
- Rachel Du Toit Charitable Trust
- RAIN
- RGA
- Roche
- Rupert Education Foundation
- Simone and Daniel Gremaud Foundation
- Smollan
- Sony Justice Fund
- South African Muslim Charitable Trust
- Staff Scholarship Fund
- Sygnia
- TELVIVA
- The Peninsula All-Suite Hotel
- Tjaart Esterhuyse
- Western Cape Education Department

“It is with deep pride and gratitude that the Actuarial Society of South Africa reflects on our longstanding partnership with Christel House South Africa, especially as they celebrate their 25th anniversary year. As one of the schools supported through our Education Trust, Christel House has consistently exemplified the values we champion—resilience, curiosity, discipline, and the transformative power of education.”
– Michelle Abrahams, Member Engagement Executive, Actuarial Society of South Africa

“CHEP’s involvement with Adri and her team over the past six years aligns with the values she champions—collaboration, empowerment, equity, and measurable impact. Her ability to build meaningful partnerships and sustain operational excellence has been a cornerstone of Christel House’s success, and CHEP can take pride in supporting an organisation led with such clarity of purpose and unwavering commitment to transforming lives.”
– Arena van Zyl, Key Accounts Manager: Agriculture, CHEP

FINANCIALS



Statement of Financial Position

FIGURES IN R	2025	2024 RESTATED
Assets		
Non-Current Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment	81 922 600	51 059 535
Intangible Assets	375 834	407 190
	82 298 434	51 466 725
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	32 649 475	33 273 070
Inventories	1 437 077	1 269 169
Trade and Other Receivables	3 190 008	1 482 403
	37 276 560	36 024 642
Total Assets	119 574 994	87 491 367
Equity and Liabilities		
Equity		
Accumulated Surplus	90 257 920	55 672 832
Non-Current Liabilities		
Deferred Revenue	1 974 344	2 085 187
Current Liabilities		
Deferred Revenue	15 515 037	22 113 252
Trade and Other Payables	11 827 693	7 620 096
	27 342 730	29 733 348
Total Reserves and Liabilities	119 574 994	87 491 367

Overhead and fundraising costs are funded by the Founder’s bequest to the organisation. The audited financial statements were compiled in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards for Small to Medium Sized Entities and in the manner required by the Companies Act of South Africa 2008. The registered auditors were Mazars, Cape Town. The complete set of audited financial statements is available on our website: www.sa.christelhouse.org

Statement of Comprehensive Income

FIGURES IN R	2025	2024 RESTATED
Revenue	143 865 301	105 340 521
Surplus on Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment	16 601	-
Operating Expenses	(111 286 876)	(100 273 474)
Operating Surplus	32 595 026	5 067 047
Investment Income - Interest	1 993 599	1 134 596
Finance Costs	(3 537)	(215)
Surplus Before Taxation	34 585 088	6 201 428
Taxation Expense	-	-
Surplus for the Year	34 585 088	6 201 428

Statement of Cash Flows

FIGURES IN R	2025	2024
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Cash Generated from Operations	27 750 813	12 364 367
Investment Income - Interest	1 993 599	1 134 596
Finance Costs	(3 537)	(215)
Net Cash from Operating Activities	29 740 875	13 498 748
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Property, Plant and Equipment Acquired	(30 105 825)	(8 697 688)
Intangible Assets Acquired	(373 450)	(209 185)
Investment Acquired	114 805	38 500
Net Cash Utilised in Investing Activities	(30 364 470)	(8 868 373)
(Decrease)/Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	-623 595	4 630 375
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of the Year	33 273 070	28 642 695
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of the Year	32 649 475	33 273 070

CHRISTEL HOUSE EXPANDING AROUND THE WORLD



Christel House SA delivers on eight of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED



1 **Subscribe to our monthly updates** via the QR code OR email marketing@sa.christelhouse.org and we will add you directly to our newsletter subscriber list. We'll share stories from our school and community and keep you connected to our journey.



2 **If you're able to give, you can donate in a way that works for you.** Monthly giving is one of the most powerful ways to support our programmes and services. By joining our Circle of Givers, you become part of a committed community investing in lasting change, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive and build a brighter future. South African donors can sign up for a monthly debit order from as little as R200 per month or make a once-off or recurring donation through our secure online payment portal.



3 **You can fundraise or donate goods.** Our school has both small and large needs – from toys, books, and stationery to sports equipment and classroom resources. You can view our wish list or use your social, community, or workplace network to help spread the word and mobilise support.

✉ **Email Lara Black, Development and Partnerships Director at lblack@sa.christelhouse.org**



4 **Make a lasting difference by sponsoring one of our programmes or covering the cost of a student's education.**

Your sponsorship can support various aspects of a child's development, from academics and healthcare to nutrition and career guidance. By sponsoring a student, you directly empower them to build a brighter future.

✉ **Email Lara Black, Development and Partnerships Director at lblack@sa.christelhouse.org**

5 **Help with Career Preparation and Support.** Open doors to help our students and graduates feel empowered to realise their goals, dreams and human potential. Your employees can engage directly with our students through job shadowing or by attending our career workshops and events.

✉ **Email Louise de Marillac st Julien, Career Development Manager at ldmsjulien@sa.christelhouse.org**



100% of donations directly benefit the students who attend Christel House SA. Finance, fundraising, marketing and administrative costs are covered in perpetuity by the estate of our founder, the late Christel DeHaan.

Please help us to continue to transform lives by donating. Visit sa.christelhouse.org/donate/. All South African donations are tax deductible, and businesses can qualify for BEE points when supporting us. International donors can also donate to Christel House SA through our registered charity organisations in the United States and the United Kingdom.

For more information, visit sa.christelhouse.org

