

Fairvale Secondary School gets a new Science Lab courtesy of Engen

Learners at Fairvale Secondary School in Wentworth in Durban will welcome in 2018 with a brand new modern science lab following extensive renovations by Engen.

Engen, a leading producer and marketer of fuels, lubricants and oil-based products, invested R650 000 in the project, which includes eight new computers and a fully equipped and furnished modern science laboratory.

Engen's Corporate Social Investment Manager, Mntu Nduvane says this improved learning environment will empower learners to excel in the sciences.

"In particular, the science lab will ensure that learners are exposed to basic science equipment in an environment that is conducive to learning. By creating this positive experiential learning experience, the subject matter will really come alive for the learners," comments Nduvane.

Despite being situated in a disadvantaged community characterised by high unemployment, Fairvale Secondary School has consistently risen above these circumstances, defying the odds with impressive matric results. Last year, the matric pass rate was 76% up from the previous year's 74% pass rate.

One of their star pupils who matriculated last year is Kerisha Lutchmia. Kerisha, who attended the Fairvale Engen Maths and Science School (EMSS) programme, studied actuarial science at the University of Cape Town this year.

EMSS is a national initiative that addresses key skills shortages in the engineering and technical fields by providing after hours Math and Science education to learners who show an advanced aptitude in these subjects. There were 42 matric learners who attended EMSS Fairvale in 2016 of which 100% passed and 81% achieved a bachelor pass.

Overall, the EMSS matric class achieved an impressive 94% pass rate, which is up 5% from last year's average of 89%, with 70% of the learners attaining a Bachelor pass.

"We are very grateful to Engen for their support. The biggest impact for us will be the reaction from our teachers and students when they see their new facilities. They will be so proud of the new environment in which they can thrive and learn," says Mr. Dale Seidle, Principal of Fairvale Secondary School.

Nduvane says the future of our country rests in the quality of education that we provide our youth, which is why Engen is actively involved in making a positive difference.

"Not only is this school an inspiration, but a shining beacon of hope as its demographics speak closely to the skills development, BEE and Social Investment imperatives of Engen. With 100% of the learner population being from disadvantaged communities, this sponsorship remains true to the South African objective of uplifting those in need."

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