

Medical school beckons for Athlone teen who topped Engen's Maths & Science School

Athlone's Abdurahmaan Esau is a step closer to realising his dream of qualifying as a medical doctor; supported by South Africa's favourite petroleum brand* Engen, the Rylands High School alumni recorded five distinctions in the 2019 matric examinations.

This set of impressive results secured Esau top spot amongst the Western Cape-based Engen Maths and Science School learners who wrote matric in 2019.

Esau, along with second-placed Western Cape matric, Fatima Floris (Claremont High School) and third placed, Abdullah Jaffer (Claremont High School) were acknowledged at an awards ceremony at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) in Cape Town on Saturday, 8 February to celebrate the outstanding results of the matric class of 2019.

Engen's long-running Engen Maths and Science School programme offers supplementary Maths, Science and English tuition to underprivileged grade 10-12 learners.

Saturday classes are held at nine locations: in the Western Cape (Cape Town), Eastern Cape (Port Elizabeth, East London, Cala), Gauteng (Johannesburg), and KwaZulu-Natal (Fairvale High School, Ganges High School, Howard College, Mangosuthu University of Technology).

The 2019 Engen Maths and Science School matric class attained an impressive 96% overall pass rate of which 70% attained bachelor passes, versus the broader South African matric pass rate of 81%.

Esau, who hails from Silvertown in Athlone, attributes his excellent 2019 matric results to the extra classes provided by the Engen Maths and Science School initiative.

"Engen Maths and Science School helped me in so many ways especially having teachers that were incredibly helpful and knowledgeable, for which I remain extremely grateful," says the 19-year-old.

Esau says the experience also helped him improve his self-confidence.

"When I first joined the Engen Maths and Science School, I was extremely shy and never spoke in class, but as time went by my confidence grew and I was able to participate and answer questions."

Esau plans to pursue Islamic studies and the fundamentals of the Arabic language in 2020 and then to enroll to study medicine at Stellenbosch University in 2021.

He says he dreams of being a successful medical doctor.

“I really want to give back to my community one day, by not overcharging patients and helping out and volunteering in underprivileged communities.”

His advice for the matric class of 2020 is that hard work pays off.

“If you don’t put in the effort, you won’t see the results.”

Engen’s General Manager: Corporate Strategy and Communications, Khalid Latiff says the Engen Maths and Science School programme focuses specifically on providing extra tuition in “gateway” subjects such as mathematics and science, which are considered critical in addressing the country’s technical and engineering skills shortage as well as economic growth and development.

“Engen Maths and Science Schools seek to better the future of talented young people in difficult circumstances and to contribute to the pool of scarce skills in the country,” comments Latiff.

“Starting off as Engen Saturday Schools over 30 years ago, Engen Maths and Science Schools are central to our skills development efforts and to help build the human capital of the future.

“The programme has worked tirelessly to transform young lives and has, we believe, made a meaningful contribution to a more transformed and vibrant South African workforce.”

Latiff says the company is incredibly proud of Abdurahmaan and all the learners who completed matric in 2019.

“Our ultimate reward is to help set them all up to pursue stimulating careers that won’t only benefit them personally, but also the broader macro economy of South Africa.

“Importantly, I must acknowledge the role of the Department of Education and thank them for their continued support. Engen Maths and Science Schools are a great example of a public/ private partnership that is yielding incredible results, while helping boost transformation of the country.”

In an exciting development, the Engen Maths and Science Schools are being converted to include STEM/STEAM subjects in 2020, to prepare the learners and educators for the fourth industrial revolution (4IR).

“Engen is committed to building tomorrow’s leaders and if we want to ensure that the youth of tomorrow are prepared for a rapidly changing world, we need to ensure that they have the right mix of skills, for them to reach their full potential,” concludes Latiff.

Engen, which in 2019 was named South Africa’s fastest-growing brand**, congratulates Hillary and the Engen Maths and Science School class of 2019 and offers a well-deserved round of applause to all the learners and teachers.