



DEAR CALLING EDUCATION SUPPORTER

We are so excited to share with you the recent progress that has taken place at Calling Academy! With 180 learners in the school in 2020, a serious upgrade in facilities was required. In this letter, we want to highlight these upgrades and share other progress. While much of our “old news” is also good news, we have tried to focus on recent developments. Thank you so much for your support and encouragement that has propelled us thus far!

LEFT: Parents gather for a parent meeting in the new “quad” of the school. This paved area used to be just dust (in summer) and mud (in winter). In the backdrop, the new computer centre is visible as well as some trees that have been planted in the quad.

RIGHT: Along with two other new classrooms, the new computer centre is the flagship addition to the school’s facilities. The classroom is large enough to also host the library and work areas in the back, creating a multi-functional space. With the help of some incredible kindness from donors, this wonderful facility was established.

Lona Group took a stunning lead in donating and installing computer equipment along with First Technology, Keyphase Technologies, Paltrack and SeeSIDE. GiftDrop.gifts further donated two virtual realities masks and a 3D printer which are very novel additions indeed!



BELOW: After a proper upgrade, including extensive interior design consultation, we can now be truly proud of the learners’ bathroom.

BELOW: The soccer field at school was very uneven in the past but was levelled professionally recently. Two cricket nets will be built in the next few weeks.





LEFT: After a donation from the Legacy Centre and a BMus student volunteering her time, boys now have the option of learning to play guitar. The school's piano is also in regular use.

BELOW: Three new teachers started at Calling Academy this year. **Ms Lita Hahn (Afrikaans)** grew up in Lutzville and taught at Jan van Riebeeck Hoërskool before an eight year teaching stint in Taiwan. **Mr NC Vermeulen (CAT and Technology)** grew up in Paarl and taught in Vietnam. **Mr Reinhard Appolis (Social Sciences and Life Orientation)** grew up in Touwsrivier and qualified last year with an Honours Degree from CPUT.

ACADEMICS

Providing outstanding tuition and academic opportunities is at the core of what we do every day. Many of our learners do not come from strong and supportive academic backgrounds which can make it difficult to measure our success, particularly in subjects where the learner's foundation plays such a big role.

Here are some class averages from the November 2019 reports:

Gr 8 Maths: 41,7%	Top performer: Junior Myabe 84%
Gr 8 English: 62,5%	Top performer: Jordan Meyer 81%
Gr 9 Maths: 41,1%	Top performer: Liam Louw 89%
Gr 9 English: 60,5%	Top performer: Aiden Gabriels 79%

Gr 8 Top achiever: Jordan Meyer 80% All but one of the top ten performers in Grade 8 achieved an average of above 70%. One learner failed Grade 8, while two learners failed Grade 9.
 Gr 9 Top Achiever: Liam Louw 80.1%



GRADE 10 SUBJECT CHOICES

Figuring out what subject combinations we need to provide for our Grade 10 to 12's was quite a task. We want the boys to have great tertiary study opportunities, but we also need to cater for weaker performers, while building a viable model for a low fee context. After much research, we are very happy with our final combinations. The Grade 10 class is split evenly between Maths and Maths Literacy. Just under 50% take Physical Science; the rest Business Studies. The other choice is between Accounting, History and Life Science. All Grade 10's have to take Computer Applications Technology, Life Orientation, English and have a choice between Afrikaans and isiXhosa as additional language.



ABOVE: A special feature is that nine of our learners take Art at the PJ Olivier Art Centre. Three of our learners also take Information Technology at Paul Roos. These classes take place in the afternoon – wonderful opportunities which open excellent future career possibilities.

GROWTH OF SCHOOL AND ETHOS: With six classes, nine teachers, one receptionist, one administrator, one teacher's assistant, one groundsman and a bunch of occasional volunteers, Calling Academy really is starting to feel like a proper school! As far as the ethos of the school is concerned, there have been big strides forward. While a lot of work remains, we are increasingly happy with the commitment and discipline that the boys bring.

FINANCES

We are so grateful to the Lord for his provision in that we were able to complete the building project of which the total cost was over R 1,6 million. Thank you to every funder who was involved in this! The subsidy from the Western Cape Education Department is secured and should bring just over R1 million into the school this year.

Despite the successful fundraising efforts for the operations and building project of last year, we still require a lot of assistance for this year. Securing more learner partnerships (where individuals or companies are willing to sponsor a learner at a cost of R9600) will be a big focus in the next month. If you can assist with this or with any other donation, please let us know!

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Oxford Day Academy: After our visit to Oxford University in August 2019, the relationship with the Oxford Day Academy (a school in the USA) has been further strengthened. One of their instructional coaches shared best practice regarding the Oxford Tutorial Method with our staff in a telephonic staff development session. We see this method as something that could add huge value to our school. If possible, we will take four learners to visit Oxford University this year to deepen this collaboration.



University of Cologne, Germany: After a visit in 2019 from a professor in education from Cologne, we have our first student teacher from Cologne, Moritz Schuetz (right). He will spend the majority of the first term and a part of the second term at Calling. A second student from Cologne is likely on her way in the fourth term.



Gap year student from France: Thomas Poole-Jones (right) is currently on a gap year after finishing school in France. He will spend a few months helping with a variety of matters at Calling.

4Challenge, the Netherlands: After exceptional programmes run previously by 4Challenge at Calling, we will host them again in June. They will present Level 1, 2 and now 3 of the so-called Young Entrepreneurs Journey where our learners team up with Dutch learners through video calls to solve business problems.

FMS, Sweden: FMS is a programme developed in Sweden to help learners set targets to assist them with personal life style choices. We are currently testing the suitability of this our context.

PRAYER POINTS

- Building project of this year – there are still several uncertainties relating to the development potential of the property (ownership of property, traffic impact, etc.)
- Funding – for growing support in the light of a growing budget and Phase 2 of the building project
- Wisdom for decisions regarding when to pursue a second campus.

CONCLUSION

The growth of Calling Academy is tangible in so many ways which would not have possible without your backing! Thank you again to everyone who is excited with us about the wonderful possibilities of this school and organisation. We really appreciate your support!



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Calling Education CEO

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