

## **Seven South African schools selected for inaugural World Education Week**

**The seven schools have been selected from among schools across the globe to showcase their teaching approaches towards inclusive and equitable education at the inaugural World Education Week, in partnership with the Jakes Gerwel Fellowship.**

Seven South African schools have been handpicked to present at the inaugural World Education Week, one of the world's biggest education gatherings. The virtual event will showcase 100 international schools between 5-9 October 2020.

World Education Week aims to accelerate the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Quality Education, and provide a platform for teachers to share approaches towards promoting inclusive and equitable education.

Each school will host an hour-long online event to an audience of over 1 000 participants, under the theme 'Learning Today'. These presentations will be guided by one of five educational themes that are seen as being of utmost importance to learners today, including: enhancing employability and life-skills; deepening family and community engagement; the use of technology; wellbeing; and promoting the science of learning and teaching.

The selected schools include a combination of public and private institutions that range from primary to high school level. The schools include: The African Leadership Academy, Hyacinth Primary School, The Jakes Gerwel Technical High School, The Learn to Live School of Skills at The Salesian Institute, Pinelands High School, Parklands College and Roedean High School.

The Jakes Gerwel Fellowship (JGF) – which is funded through the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation Endowment – has partnered with World Education Week in the role of country partner. JGF will support the schools with technical training and through the organisation and facilitation of the local events.

World Education Week is closely aligned with JGF's mission to nurture top learners to become quality teachers who are experts in their subject matter. The Fellowship offers full university scholarships to help recipients embrace innovation and lead positive change across South Africa's education sector, despite long-standing challenges and those introduced by the global Covid-19 pandemic. It also builds communities of educators to allow them to share best practice approaches and teaching resources towards improving education across the country.

"Our mission is to reshape society's perception around the value of being an educator and to position it as a prestigious occupation," says Sihle Ngesi-Magubane, Programme Officer at Jakes Gerwel Fellowship.

"Especially in our current socio-economic climate, where learners have to be taught how to be agile, open to change and experimentation in order to thrive in ever-changing and demanding times," he adds.

The real magic is in the work being undertaken by the schools themselves.

“Jakes Gerwel Technical High School illustrates the power of career- and skills-based education to change the future outlook of learners who typically would have had limited post-school options,” says principal Albert Mocke.

“Despite the fact that many of our learners come from under-resourced communities around Bonnievale in the Western Cape, they are educated to help drive economic growth by being entrepreneurial and creating further employment opportunities once they graduate,” he continues.

Similarly, The Learn to Live School of Skills at The Salesian Institute in Cape Town embraces a student-centred education approach of project-based learning to assist vulnerable youth with developmental disabilities establish future careers.

“Our dynamic classroom approach involves active and inquiry-based learning through the exploration of real-world challenges, where students learn by investigating complex scenarios,” says Professor Tom Ryan, Programme Development Director at The Learn to Live School of Skills.

“We need to rethink and redesign how we can better serve vulnerable youth, who are under-served from an educational and social developmental point of view. Our participation in World Education Week will go a long way to highlighting this problem and how it might be alleviated,” he adds.

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Note for editors:

Tickets for the free [T4 World Education Week](#) event can be booked on Eventbrite. The South African schools will present on the following topics.

### **1. African Leadership Academy – Johannesburg, Gauteng**

The African Leadership Academy seeks to transform Africa by developing a powerful network of over 6 000 leaders who will address Africa’s greatest challenges, achieve extraordinary social impact and accelerate the continent’s growth trajectory.

#### **Effectively teaching entrepreneurial leadership: 8th October, 12:00 to 13:00 GMT**

This Entrepreneurial Leadership class builds interpersonal and leadership skills – project management, communication, collaboration, problem-solving, values and ethics – that are essential to nurture future agents of positive change and entrepreneurial leaders.

### **2. Hyacinth Primary School – Mitchell’s Plan, Western Cape**

Hyacinth Primary School is government school based in Mitchell’s Plain that was opened on 15 March 1982 to serve the community of Lentegeur, which was forcibly

removed from District Six due to Apartheid's Group Areas Act. Today, the school has over 1 300 learners from foundation to senior phase.

### **Hip Hop Maths: 7th October, 17:00 to 18:00 GMT**

Educators will illustrate how to seamlessly merge music, mathematics, dance and design as part of their Hip Hop-based approach. This performative, multi-disciplinary teaching method uses kinaesthetic, auditory, visual and traditional learning styles that are supplemented with educational materials, such as CDs, posters, choreography and a teaching booklet.

### **3. Jakes Gerwel Technical High School – Bonnievale, Western Cape**

Jakes Gerwel Technical High School is a heart-warming story of a community working together to create a no fee school of excellence with a generosity of spirit. The Bonnievale community banded together with the help of the Western Cape Education Department and the Jakes Gerwel Entrepreneurship School Funding Trust to open this career-based school in January 2018. It offers both technical and agricultural training as well as a School of Skills for those who have fallen behind, are over aged for their grades or would have dropped out of school in normal circumstances.

### **Implementing a career-based curriculum: 5th October, 12:00 to 13:00 GMT**

This event will highlight the importance of offering high school students an array of career-based curricula that include high-demand skills required by employers. It aims to increase access to dignified employment for low-income students, who are often plagued by significant learning deficits.

### **4. The Learn to Live School of Skills at The Salesian Institute – Cape Town, Western Cape**

For the last 27 years, the no-fee Learn to Live School of Skills at the Salesian Institute has been catering for vulnerable youth aged 14 to 18, all of whom receive daily cooked meals and transport fares. The learners participate in academic classes and four vocational skills workshops – hospitality, hairdressing, electrical and woodwork – according to a project-based learning methodology. Ninety per cent of learners either graduate, continue their education at a different facility, attract learnerships or find employment.

### **How we teach students with developmental disabilities the technical skills: 9th October, 10:00 to 11:00 GMT**

Project-based learning is a student-centred pedagogy that involves a dynamic classroom approach that involves active and inquiry-based learning through the active exploration of real-world challenges. Students learn about a subject by investigating and responding to a complex question or problem. The school's methodology was created by Professor Tom Ryan, who is one of South Africa's foremost thought

leaders in executive development and also co-designed UCT's Graduate School of Business's Executive MBA.

### **5. Parklands College – Parklands, Western Cape**

Parklands College offers an innovative environment that engages learners through authentic and meaningful learning experiences with technology. Our approach integrates project-based learning and real-world platforms, where learners create positive outcomes, products and solutions for an ever-changing, environmentally-challenged world. The development of global citizenship, creativity, collaboration and communication are vital aspects of the curriculum, alongside problem-solving skills which are paramount to prepare learners for the future.

#### **Preparing learners for the future: 7th October, 18:00 to 19:00 GMT**

Our Project-based learning methodology creates meaningful learning experiences with technology through our Robotics programme and Mobile Application Development Incubator. Learners create products and solutions for an ever-changing, environmentally-challenged world by integrating Mathematics, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Design, Coding and 3D Printing, while developing problem-solving skills.

### **6. Pinelands High School – Pinelands, Western Cape**

Pinelands High School is a co-ed, public high school that offers a broad educational experience, including a wide subject choice in the formal curriculum, as well as sport, music, drama and other extra-mural curricular activities. Many of the students come from previously disadvantaged backgrounds and represent the broader demographics of South African society. It caters to a multitude of learning interests to ensure that its graduates are whole-rounded individuals who constructively contribute to society.

#### **A transformation journey: tackling bias and racism in a diverse society: 6th October, 14:00 to 15:00 GMT**

Our four-day Rainbow Camp residential programme enhances learning across intra- and interpersonal spheres of life. It teaches Grade 11 students more about their ideologies and biases, while encouraging open-mindedness, tolerance, peace-building and the celebration of diversity in South Africa's multi-cultural society.

### **7. Roedean Parktown, Gauteng**

Roedean School is a private all-girls' school with an exceptional reputation as a centre of all-round educational excellence. Roedean's progressive cross-curricular approach aims to nurture socially responsible women. Active social responsibility programmes are fundamental to Roedean School's ethos and the school is committed to setting new standards in educational transformation models for disadvantaged communities.

#### **Helping inner city's disadvantaged children with schooling: 6th October, 13:00 to 14:00 GMT**

Living a Life of Significance, Roedean's social responsibility programme, creates partnerships to share resources and skills that help to equalise the difference between independent and state schools in South Africa. Building a sense of social

entrepreneurship fulfils the imperative for educational and economic equity and social justice, as well as personal and societal well-being.

## **ABOUT THE JAKES GERWEL FELLOWSHIP:**

Jakes Gerwel Fellowship is a full university scholarship that provides extensive mentoring and leadership development for top learners with a passion for teaching and education. At the heart of what we do is in nurturing expert teacher who embrace innovation and can lead the kind of change that our educational sector so desperately requires. In short, we want to make the strongest possible case and provide the greatest possible support for our best students to become our best future teachers.

## **MISSION**

Jakes Gerwel Fellowship is an aspirational fellowship which identifies high potential students who, through financial support, high quality teacher education and professional induction, become expert teachers, educational leaders and social entrepreneurs who will lead system change to achieve quality education for all learners.

## **JAKES GERWEL FELLOWSHIP AT A GLANCE:**

- Founded in 2017, Jakes Gerwel Fellowship nurtures a pipeline of high impact educators who innovate and lead change.
- Fully funded by Allan Gray Orbis Foundation Endowment
- Chairman of the Board is Professor Jonathan Jansen
- Current cohort of 70 students at UCT and UP
- Focus on high school teachers
- Candidate Fellows pursue an undergraduate degree followed by a PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate in Education)
- Offering over 60 full scholarships in 2020
- Undergraduate Teaching Fellowship applications for Gr 12 and 1<sup>st</sup> Year students
- New Graduate Teaching Fellowship stream launched on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and is open to graduates who are under 30 years of age and are accepted into the PGCE stream at UP, UCT, WITS or UJ in 2021
- Teachers and members of the general public can nominate aspirant teachers at <http://apply.jgfellowship.org/nominations>
  
- Website: [www.jgfellowship.org](http://www.jgfellowship.org)

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