



# Our Teachers Plus programme makes the news

## And gets applauded by one of SA's leading academics

*'One of my favourite South African companies is a family business called Polyoak...'*

Prof Jonathan Jansen



There was high excitement in the corridors of our Teachers Plus foundation following the visit of Professor Jonathan Jansen, when he was quoted in the Daily Despatch in December talking about our scholarship programme.



Professor Jansen is the former Vice Chancellor of the University of the Free State and a distinguished professor at Stellenbosch University's Faculty of Education. He is a highly regarded South African academic and social and political commentator, who'd

visited to see how our Teachers Plus scholarship programme takes students from high-need communities and turns them into great maths and accounting teachers.

Here is what Prof Jansen said:

*One of my favourite South African companies is a family business called Polyoak and their Teacher Plus Foundation takes average high school students, registers them at Unisa for a teaching degree and then takes over their on-the-ground training. Polyoak places these future mathematics and accounting teachers in the classrooms of the best schools in the country working under expert supervision while they spend the rest of their time at company headquarters in specialist training workshops to build their competence as prospective teachers.*

*'What a great accolade from the prof and a feather in our caps. If there was ever a pat on the back for the work you have been doing, this is it. Congratulations and a thank you are definitely in order.'*

Jeremy Mackintosh  
PPG Group  
Managing Director

The Unisa degree would be pretty useless - as they are for the most pre-service teachers - without this critical scaffolding in classroom practice that Polyoak provides. Unsurprisingly, most of the Polyoak supported teachers find jobs in some of South Africa's leading schools.

# Four more of our Teachers Plus students graduate

## And get great jobs passing on maths and accounting skills to a fresh crop of learners

Congratulations to Karyn Gideon, Abigail Maree, Shihaam Morris and Kayla Voskuil on your Bachelor of Education degrees and your fabulous positions as teachers at Rustenburg High and Junior Schools and Wynberg Boys Junior School. We welcome you as Teachers Plus Alumni and wish you every success with your education careers.



Kayla Voskuil

Says Kayla: 'I have learnt, and grown so much. The programme helped me to gain independence and grow in confidence. I can

stand in front of 30 or more learners for an entire day imparting knowledge with enthusiasm and passion while

enjoying the learners and not feeling intimidated by them.' Kayla has a job at Rustenburg Girls High School.



Shihaam Morris

'I know my teaching foundation is solid, thanks to this programme. It afforded me incredible networking opportunities, experiences in teaching and outstanding support. I have no doubt that I am ready to add value to the teaching profession. Shihaam Morris has a job at Rustenburg Girls' Junior School.

**A message of inspiration to any learners or students reading this:**

*'Malcolm X said: "Without education, you are not going anywhere in this world". I am a living example of these words. Education is taking me far beyond my perceived boundaries in life to an exciting place that I could never have imagined.'*

**Nuelin Hendrics: Current APT Scholarship Student**