

From: E. Oommen, Principal

Parents Circular No: 5/25

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## **‘Ensuring Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education’**



**Dr Kimanzi Muthengi**

Legae Academy joined the United Nations in achieving its 4th sustainable development goal “Ensuring Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education” in the presence of Dr Kimanzi Muthengi who is the Deputy Representative of UNICEF to Botswana at our annual Awards Ceremony which was held on Friday 7th March 2025. Dr. Kimanzi Muthengi was the Guest of Honour on the occasion who made the keynote address.

It was the Academy’s pleasure to welcome students, parents, guardians, and invited guests to attend this year’s Awards Ceremony. It was a memorable morning for 137 Legae award winners and their parents. The prestigious ceremony was a culmination of the hard work, an occasion of joy and a moment of pride.

We also used this opportunity to showcase our cultural diversity by a captivating and thrilling display of cultural and traditional dances performed by our students. The way our students behaved during the ceremony did bear the hallmark of the Academy’s traditional discipline which was appreciated by our guests.

The occasion was graced by a host of dignitaries including diplomatic corps, representatives of different the govt departments and traditional leaders.

I would like to thank Awards Ceremony committee in particular the chairman, Mr. Christopher Takayindisa for his tireless effort to make this occasion a great success.



**Head boy and Head girl**



**An Award winner**



**Receiving Award**



**Setswana Traditional dance**



**Indian Cultural dance**



**A moment of pride**

# Legal warning to children about smartphones and social media in South Africa



South African children over the age of seven who have access to a smartphone and social media are at risk of being sued if they post defamatory remarks online and, if they're over the age of 12, arrested.

Social media law expert Emma Sadleir spoke to “Cape Talk” and unpacked the legal dangers of letting children use smartphones from a young age.

“The idea is to try and get parents together and say: We’re going to sign a pact,” said Sadleir.

“The brain development is just not there yet for these kids to be making good decisions. Even though the law applies to them, their frontal lobe isn’t at the place where they can make decisions in the heat of the moment.”

“If we think that we sometimes do things that we regret on our phones, it’s nothing compared to what I’m seeing in the 10 to 14 age, where I’m seeing **the worst content you could probably imagine,**” she added.

Be in Touch founder Kate Farina called for **phone-free schools and no social media before the age of 16. She also said children should be banned from using smartphones until they reach high school age.**

Citing Jonathan Haidt’s *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness*, she said parents and schools should do more to protect their children online.

**In this context, I would like to stress that it is the responsibility of parents and educators to protect the young generation from this “Epidemic of Mental Illness”. Therefore, I would like to say once more to parents who buy their children expensive smartphones and encourage them to use it without any supervision: please co-operate with us in our relentless pursuit of shielding our learners from the cyber virus as they are still adolescents and not mature enough to think of the dangers of excessive use of smartphones which is not only affecting their mental health but also shifting their focus from studies.**

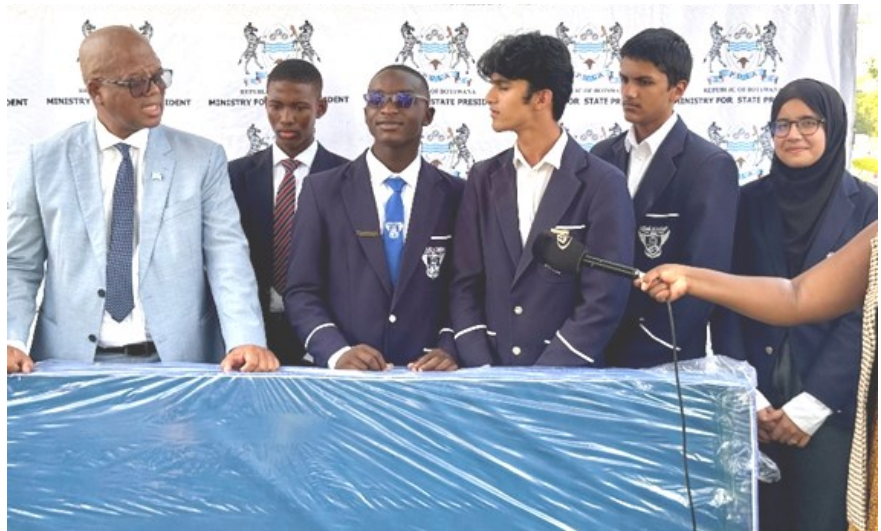
## **The Minister applauds the compassion shown by Legae students**

**Legae Academy Community Service Club rose to the occasion and raised funds to help the victims of recent floods that ravaged some parts of the country and made hundreds of people homeless.**

A total sum of 10 890. 00 was raised and the money was used to buy 25 mattresses, 25 mosquito nets, food items and hygiene kits. These items were donated on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 and were received by the Minister of State Presidency, Mr Moeti Mohwasa. The Minister thanked the students and appreciated their compassion towards the floods victims.

In an effort to support the needy, one of our top students Vishal Reddy organized a Chess Tournament to raise funds for charity. From the money raised, Vishal donated P1 060.00 to the ARC Club. The money was received with gratitude.

The Community Service Club also appreciates the donation of P500. 00 that was made by Rafiwa Kgotso for the flood victims.



**The chairperson for the ARC Club Vansh Mishra (A2 A), with the other Club members during the Handover ceremony at the Office of the President.**



**Vishal Reddy (AS C)**



**Rafiwa Kgotso (A2 A)**



### **Business communities join hand with Legae Academy in our pursuit of helping the needy**

**The Legae Academy Community Service Club also appreciates the donation made by Debonairs Pizza on Tuesday the 25th of March 2025 . These are sanitary kits, shoe polish and shoe brushes. This donation will go to 20 vulnerable children at Taung Junior School in Ramotswa. We are really grateful for their noble gesture. These items will go a long way in meeting the needs of these children.**

**The other Community Service group which comprises mainly Form 2s, Form 5s and some A Level students work with the African Haven, a non-government organization which assists Orphans and Vulnerable children at Tshwaragano Primary School. Legae Academy students gave tutorials to these learners in Mathematics, Science and in English Reading skills. These trips are scheduled for every Wednesday.**

## **Legae Academy Uniforms are now available at BMS shop as well**

Due to an increasing demand, we have signed a contract with BMS to authorize them to sell our school uniforms. So, parents can buy uniforms either from BMS or "BRANTZ UNLIMITED". Different winter uniforms of all sizes will be available in the Sebele outlet of BMS Clothing from 26th April 2025.

I am sending herewith a price list of the uniforms in the BMS shop and a route map to BMS Clothing shop at Sebele.

## **Holiday Classes:**

There are holiday classes for Form 5 and A-Level students. A few teachers will teach Form 4 as well during the holiday. The timetables have been circulated to the students and sent to the parents via emails. In this context, the parents of IGCSE and A-Level students are requested to have a look at the timetable and ensure that their children attend all the holiday lessons without fail. These holiday lessons are vitally important to all examination classes, especially the weak students who cannot afford to miss this opportunity to get extra help from the teachers and be better prepared for their MOCK ex-

## **3-Nations School Tour for Form 2**

We are in the last stage of the preparation for the Form 2 school tour, organized by the tour coordinator Mr. Samuel Rubadiri and the Head of Form 2 Mrs. Monthusi.

Form 2 students who are participating in the tour and the teachers who accompany them are scheduled to leave the school campus at 5:00 AM on Monday 7th April and arrive back in the school by 9:00 PM on Monday 14th of April. In addition to teachers we are sending with them a male nurse and a female assistant.

The 3-Nations School Tour is a unique educational experience that brings together students from diverse backgrounds to explore the rich cultural heritage of South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini. This tour is designed to foster cross-cultural understanding of our neighbouring states, promote global awareness and provide hands-on learning through visits to historical sites and cultural landmarks such as the Phezulu Safari Park among many others.

## **Legae Students participate in International Mathematics Competitions**

This term our students took part in two International Mathematics competitions. The first competition was **Mathematics International Olympiad** first round which was held here in Legae Academy. Our students qualified for the second round which is scheduled for second term.

The second competition was the Second annual **Kangaroo Mathematics Contest**, which is also an international competition. The results are expected to be released on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2025.

The Mathematical Association of Botswana (MAB) Trust held a workshop for teachers on "addressing the diverse needs of the mathematics classroom". Ms Seretse attended the workshop to represent our school.

## **A-LEVEL COORDINATOR ATTENDS SGU COUNSELLORS TRAINING RETREAT IN NAIROBI**

Our A-Level Coordinator Mr. Lucas Muyela attended SUG (St. George's University of Medical Science) counsellor's training which was on 23rd –25th of February 2025 held in Nairobi, Kenya.

SGU is affiliated with educational institutions worldwide, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Ireland, and the Netherlands. Over 28,000 learners graduate from SCU every year. This includes physicians, veterinarians, scientists and public health and business professionals. SGU now plans to have affiliations with schools in Africa and other parts of the world in order to promote the aspiration of their citizens to become medical Doctors who can practice medicine all over the World. Following this proposal, SGU sponsored a Counsellor training and consultation retreat in Kenya, Nairobi. **Legae Academy was privileged to be the only school from Botswana that was invited to attend this retreat.** Other participants came from South Africa, Namibia, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, representing Southern and Eastern Africa. I am happy to report that SGU has sent us an affiliation agreement which will be duly signed by both parties in due course at a formal event.

A similar retreat is planned by SGU for Northern and West African countries in Abuja Nigeria and then Italy, Australia, Canada and New Zealand before the Schools' Affiliation program kicks off.

The affiliations will bring on board a lot of benefits including library materials for Science base subject sponsored school competitions and special considerations of scholarships provided by SGU for international students.

### **English Language Test Exemption for SGU's Medical School.**

SGU has approved a proposal to waive English Language Assessment for pre-clinical applicants to St. George's University School of Medicine who have studied IGCSE or GCSE English (as a first or second language) and earned at least a B grade. This means that they are coming into our program with A Levels having studied in English for 2 additional years post IGCSE/GCSE. However, if the interviewer identifies a communication deficit during the interview, the FSSC still has the ability to add an English provision. This is going to reduce the burden of most students going to the UK and USA taking IELTS and TOEFL, which are becoming very expensive and frustrating to most students applying for external international admissions. This will be extremely helpful for our students, as SGU continues to make medical school as accessible as possible to all international students.

We are happy to report that our application for affiliation to SGU is being processed.

## **A VISIT TO CANADA**

Legae Academy has been invited to attend an International Conference hosted by University of Calgary. The conference is scheduled to take place from Thursday 10th to Monday 14th of July 2025. Our University Liaison officer Mrs. Keletso Goiseone Monageng will represent Legae Academy in the conference.

In the conference, Mrs Monageng will be attending different sessions on the following:

- 1) Admissions of International Students
- 2) Students Financial support
- 3) International Student Support

The university will also provide the participants with an opportunity to attend a different session with international students in the university including A-Level graduates from Legae Academy. She will also use this opportunity to tour different faculties and the campus.

## Club Activities in Term 1

**CHESS CLUB :** The main internal event of the term was the Club Championship, this year won outright for the first time by a female player, Noor Fatima Toor (2B), with a score of 29 points from 16 games. In second position was Ulathi Nkomo (4E) with 27 points from 18 games and in third position was Yuhao Wu (4C) (25pts/16 games). Other students to gain prizes in this competition were Deon Martin (4D), Ayush Jagadeesh (4F) and Ryan Mooketsi (4A). 30 students participated in total.

In a closely contested House Chess Championship, held the same day as the Interhouse Athletics, many of our best players were also involved, and were won by Elephant House for the second year in succession. The final rankings are shown below: -

Elephants	4 match points/10 board points
Rhinos	4 match points/9.5 board points
Lions	4 match points/7.5 board points
Buffaloes	0 match points/3 board points

Legae Academy players participated in many external tournaments, and won many medals and trophies as outlined below: -

Aestas Youth Showdown (25-1-25). Deon Martin (4 points/5 games) won a bronze medal (3<sup>rd</sup> place), while Hariharan Ananda and Ulathi Nkomo (3 points/5 games) won chess score pads. 12 Legae Academy players participated.

ISSSA Chess Championships (1-3-25). Ezra Bartlett and Hariharan Ananda both won gold medals for finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> place in their respective sections (U-19 and U-14) by winning all their games. Vishal Reddy and Noor Fatima Toor won bronze medals for their performances. 12 Legae Academy players participated.

Unity Charity Tournament (8-3-25). Yuhao Wu and Noor Fatima Toor won silver and bronze medals respectively in the U-14 Section and Hasitha Manikonda won a bronze medal for being one of the top three female players in the U-18 Section. 12 Legae Academy players participated.

Alex Mpuisang Youth Chess Extravaganza (15-3-25). Ezra and Hariharan won gold medals and trophies for maximum scores (5points/5 games) in the U-17 and U-14 Sections respectively. Fatima won a gold medal as the best female player in the U-17 Section. 6 Legae Academy players participated.

1<sup>st</sup> Qualifier of Metropolitan National Chess Championships (29-30 March 2025). Ezra Bartlett (4A) scored 4.5 points from 8 games, finishing in 47<sup>th</sup> position in the Open Section. Ulathi Nkomo (4points/8 games) and Deon

Martin (3.5 points/8 games) also participated. Noor Fatima Toor narrowly missed qualifying in the Ladies Section scoring 4.5 points from 8 games, and finishing in 25<sup>th</sup> position, just one place outside the qualification for the semi-finals.

**ENVIRONMENT & YOUNG SCIENTISTS CLUB :** This term's activities included making and testing egg parachutes, experiments involving air pressure, PowerPoint presentations for World Pangolin Day and a visit to the Botanical Gardens in the Village. 18 students went on this visit.

4 students wrote essays for World Pangolin Day which also featured PowerPoint presentations by four Club members. Awards were given to the following students for their presentations as follows. 1) Thandi Hove (4F) 2) Adelia Muzonzini (2D) 3) Vaishnavi Sharma (2D) 4) Chloe Ogbuabo (4C) 5) Junior Maringe (4F)

**ASTRONOMY & SPACE CLUB:** The Astronomy and Space Club engaged in various enlightening activities to enhance members' understanding of the universe.

### Electromagnetic Spectrum & Universe Observation

Members discussed the electromagnetic spectrum and explored how different wavelengths—such as radio, infrared, and X-rays—help view the universe. The study extended to the Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation (CMBR) and its role in uncovering secrets of the early universe.

### Planetary Studies

In-depth studies were conducted on Mercury and Venus, analyzing their atmospheres, surface features, and unique characteristics.

### Scaled Solar System Demonstration

A video was recorded to illustrate the scale of the solar system using a meter rule and club members as planetary representations, helping visualize vast cosmic distances.

### Sun Presentation & NASA Quiz

The club attended a presentation on the Sun by former club member Achal Gupta and others. Members participated in a NASA-sponsored quiz and won solar glasses as a prize.

### Gravity Presentations

Club members gave engaging presentations on gravity, exploring its effects on celestial bodies and its significance in astrophysics.

## MARIMBA CLUB

The marimba band performed quite well at the school assemblies and Awards Ceremony. The members recruited in each term go through auditioning so as to identify their playing skill levels. The students in the marimba group benefit a lot in terms of extending their performance skills beyond the limit and gaining confidence on stage. They also proudly appreciate performing beautiful and catchy songs with complex poly-rhythms on African marimba instruments. The students gain in confidence and enjoy when they perform in front of the other students in the hall or an audience outside school. The band has been once again invited to perform at the prestigious St. Stithians Collage International Marimba Festival in Johannesburg to be held on June 11, 2025. The marimba band looks forward to proudly represent Legae Academy well.

## TRINITY MUSIC EXAMINATIONS CLUB

The club has been very active as some of the students intend to participate in the Trinity College instrumental practical examinations at the end of this year. Some students sat for music theory exams and passed with high colours. Mayankho and Onyinye, both in Form 4, wrote Trinity music Grade 2 last year and passed with distinctions. They are currently registered and are preparing to take Grade 3 music theory exams in June this year. Neema Kamau in Form 4, who passed Grade 3 Trinity music theory examinations last year, has registered to write Grade 4 music theory examinations this year.

## THE INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE CLUB

The instrumental ensemble club had a remarkable performance at the annual prize giving ceremony this term. The band was made up of a wide variety of instruments that performed a classic song 'Hello', by Lionel Richie of the American pop band named the Commodores. The instrumental ensemble was beautifully backed by the choir. The members of the ensemble were; Lebopo Mokotedi (Violin) 1D, Wen Qi A2B (violin), Jun Alex Xui 2C (violin), Tjendzimo Mokobi 2B (violin), Iman Kalake 1D(Cello), Tiarah Mugadza 2C (violin), Atalia Sitale 2C (piano), Eshel Shaman 1D (guitar), Mayankho Kandaya 4A (guitar), Olorato Dintsi AsA (guitar), Yun Xuan Jing ka Jessica 2C (keyboard), Believe Manyenyani 2C (Drums), Joshua Inkoom 2B (alto saxophone), Mr. Omphile Sielapele /auxiliary staff

(trumpet), Mr. M. Justice (alto saxophone), and Mr. R. Nyathi (Tenor saxophone).

## HISTORY CLUB

The History Club got off to a good start this term as 33 students signed up for it!

The following activities were carried out: Allocation of group activities according to historical categories. [The following are the activities lined up: Fundraising, Development of a History Logo, Flyers, Pictures, Posters]. Selection of a topic of choice: Students had to vote and select from several choices of topics including: The Siege of Troy, South African Apartheid, French Revolution, Mansa Musa and Ancient Egypt. The topic that won was **Ancient Egypt**. Preparations for a History Expo are ongoing. Members watched a video on Ancient Egypt. An analysis and discussion of the history of Ancient Egypt was carried out.

## DEBATE CLUB

This term we have been able to train the members of the club on the fundamentals of debate and have debate rounds every Wednesday afternoon. We have been able to train on the following fundamentals.

1) Foundational training 2) Speech packing 3) Argumentation 4) Role fulfilment

**Competitions:** We have received invitations to two debate competitions. We have been invited to the Pan-African Schools Debate Championships that is to take place in Cape Town in July 2025 and the Prominent Speakers Debate Championship. The team hopes to attend and showcase their talent at these tournaments.

## ECONOMICS CLUB

The highlight of this term's Economics Club activities was an excellent presentation given by Wedu Maja (AS B) on Botswana's Economic System and Growth of Businesses. More research on Economic issues and Presentations are lined up for next term. Plans to have an Educational Tour to one of the Financial Institutions such as Botswana Stock Exchange, Commercial Banks, Bank of Botswana and the Industry are still underway for the second term.

## Legae Sports

### ATHLETICS

The term started off on a high note with the first event being the Interhouse Athletics Competition. Field events took place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> and track events on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

#### Elephant retains trophy

Elephant house defended its title from the year 2024. The best performing student in the girl's category was Unaswi Sisa (4B) from Buffalo and Mark Mwangi (2C) from Elephant in the boy's category.



#### ISSSA Athletics Competition

The school athletics team participated in the ISSSA Athletics Competition which was held in Francistown. Field events were on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March at Clifton College and track events were on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March at Obed Itani Chilume Stadium. The following are the results:

NAME	EVENT	MEDAL
Alan-Joshua Kentshitsuwe (A2A)	U19 B Discus U19 B Shot Put	Gold Silver
Unaswi Sisa (4B)	U17 G High Jump	Gold
Mark Mwangi (2C)	U15 B High Jump	Gold
Lentle Kgengwenyane (ASC)	U17 B 200m U17 B Long Jump U17 B High Jump	Silver Silver Bronze
Marang Mokgalapa (2B)	U14 B High Jump U14 B Long Jump U14 B 200m	Silver Bronze Bronze
Katlo Letlhare (1A)	U14 B 800m	Silver
Jennifer Maloba (4D)	U14 G Discus	Silver
Miriam Fabian (1B)	U14 G 400m	Silver
Ndiko Akuje (2A)	U15 G 200m	Silver
Bumo Nlumbile (5F)	U17 B 800m	Silver
Eshan Nair (4B)	U15 B 400m U15 B Long Jump	Bronze Bronze
Samuel Chirisa (1C)	U14 B Shot Put	Bronze
Kimberly Mwangi (5D)	U19 G Discus	Bronze
Katleho Solomon (5E)	U19 G 100m	Bronze

### Legae Badminton

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the LA Badminton team participated in the ISSSA Girls' Badminton Tournament. The tournament was at Livingstone Kolobeng College. Shelomi Simon (2C) won a **bronze** medal in the U14 girls singles category. Prograsree Moullick (ASC) and Qeswa Ghiya (A2B) also won **bronze** in the U19 girls doubles category.

### Legae Table Tennis

On the same day, the table tennis team participated in the ISSSA table tennis tournament. The tournament was hosted in the Legae Academy Hall. The results are as follows:

NAME	CATEGORY	MEDAL
Preet Patel (4A)	U16 Boys	Gold
Reatile Sentsho (4A)	U14 Boys	Silver
Aarav Tyagi (4E)	U16 Boys	Bronze
Mekdelawit Mulugeta (4B)	U19 girls	Bronze



**Table Tennis team**

## Legae Cricket

Legae cricket team was one of the participants in the Suzuki U17 T20 Cricket Tournament hosted by the Botswana Cricket Association. The tournament took over a period of 2 days: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at the BCA Cricket Oval. Our team won a **bronze** medal. In two different matches

Legae Cricket players won “Man of the Match” awards. They are Akshit Kumar Muddasani (ASB) and Anjaneya Sharma (4C).



**Cricket Team**

Akshit Kumar Muddasani (ASB), Anjaneya Sharma (4C), Eshan Nair (4B), Gorang Sharma (ASB), Hariharan Ananda (2C), Johann Theethai (1C), John Moreti (2B), Mark Tumaini Mwangi (2C), Namit Mehta (4A), Niket Kumar Sambyal (4F), Nivruth Kumar Maddha (ASB), Prithvi Rajiput (ASB), Ritvik Sayana (2C), Srivats Sivaramakrishnan (5E), Tanveer Singh (2B), Vansh, Mishra (A2A), Vihaan Naik (1B)

## Highlights on Term 2 Provisional Calendar

Wed 30 April -	Deadline for 2nd term school fees
Mon 5 May -	School opens
Thu 29 May-	Ascension Day (Holiday)
Fri 30 May -	Form 5 MOCK Exams begin
Fri 20 June -	Form 5 MOCK Exams end
Mon 16 -Wed 25 June -	Continuous Assessment Period
Fri 27 June -	Talent Show
Mon 30 June	Mid-Term (School holiday)
Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> July -	Sir Seretse Khama Day (Holiday)
Wed 2 July	Consultation with Form 5 parents (2:00 PM- 5:00 PM)
Fri 4 July -	Deadline for the payment of IGCSE, AS and A2 Exams fees.
Fri 11 July	Form 5 practice & Form 4 Mid-Year exams begin
Mon 14 July-	AS MOCK exams begin
Thu 17 July	A-Level exams begin
Fri 18 July	Forms 1 & 2 Mid-Year exams begin
Mon 21 July	President Day (Holiday)
Tue 22 July	Holiday
Wed 30 July	All exams end
Fri 1 August	School closes

## Term 2

The school will open on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Please be informed that Sports and Club activities will commence only on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May. However, 10<sup>th</sup> period lessons (after lunch 1:45 –2:30 PM) will be taken from the beginning of the term (Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May). So, the students are free to go home at 2:30 PM in the first week of the second term.

“AI may change the context of our work as leaders, but it cannot change the essence of leadership. We believe **leadership is a social process** that enables individuals to work together to achieve results that they could never achieve working alone. Our definition, supported by decades of research and experience, emphasizes that leadership is inherently a human activity, driven by **communication**, **empathy**, and **collaboration**”.