HOME & SCHOOL®

NOVEMBER 2026



Feature:
WHY AI IS NOT THE ANSWER TO SA'S LITERACY CRISIS

H&S at EDUXPLORE

Coding, Robotics and ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI Hackathon 2026
BUILDS SOUTH AFRICA'S FUTURE TECH TALENT

One Online School, WHOLE SPECTRUM

THE OVERLOOKED MATRIC DIAGNOSTIC AND UNIVERSITY PASSPORT

The South African AI OLYMPIAD

the digital african

mdda



COGNITION, LEARNING & MEMORY:
What's Possible?

A Bellavista iThemba Information Morning

How we think, learn and remember influences how we navigate the world every day. But what happens when we better understand these processes and learn ways to strengthen them?

Thursday, 12 November 2026 | 07h30-09h00 | Bellavista School

Join us for an introduction to Bellavista iThemba and our approach to cognitive enrichment. We will explore how we think, learn and remember and how developing these skills can contribute to cognitive vitality throughout life.

The morning will also explore our programmes, including our **new Thinking Memory Programme** and the practical strategies they offer for everyday thinking and memory.

Whether you're a healthcare professional (doctor, speech therapist, occupational therapist, physiotherapist or psychologist), parent, caregiver, educator or simply interested in cognitive development, this is an opportunity to learn more about our work, ask questions and explore how cognitive strategies can support people at different stages of life.

Complimentary Session | Scan to RSVP

Suitable for all life stages:
Early childhood, school-age children, adolescents, adults and retirees.

marketing@bellavista.org.za | 011 788 5454

BELLAVISTA
iThemba
Centre for Cognitive Education



SGEG Saving Grace Education Group

SACAI Registered

ONE ONLINE SCHOOL, WHOLE SPECTRUM

2027 Enrolment is open.

Every child deserves an education that fits. From CAPS to Cambridge to purpose-built Special Needs support, all in one online school.

CAPS · Grade R–12

SACAI-registered. The national curriculum, online and self-paced.

Cambridge

An internationally recognised curriculum, learned from home.

Remedial CAPS

Close learning gaps and rebuild confidence at your child's pace.

Special Needs CAPS

The CAPS curriculum, adapted for children who learn differently.

Special Needs

A purpose-built programme for children who learn differently.

Every lesson, on Canvas

Video lessons, slides, interactive workbooks and weekly quizzes. Pause and repeat any lesson.

Register before 15 December 2026

Get onboarded on Canvas now and get a head start on 2027.

Enrol Now

savinggraceeducation.co.za

021 300 8859



Binary School Introduces Children to Coding, Robotics and Artificial Intelligence

Binary School showcased its practical tech education approach at the EduXplore North Exhibition. Through hands-on robotics kits, Python courses, and artificial intelligence lessons, the South African organisation helps school and homeschool students build crucial problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and sequential reasoning to prepare them for a technology-driven future.

Why Are Homeschooling Families Choosing Cambridge?

Find out why homeschooling families are increasingly choosing Cambridge as their children's learning pathway. Boasting of its many globally recognised qualifications, flexible curriculum options and strong academic foundations.





One Online School, Whole Spectrum

No two children learn the same way, yet many families feel they have to choose between a curriculum that suits their child and a school that suits their life. Saving Grace Education Group is a South African online school that was built so parents do not have to make that trade-off.

The South African AI Olympiad

The South African AI Olympiad welcomes students with different levels of experience, including those who have never coded before. Through its structured programme, it aims to give students opportunities to develop practical skills over time, preparing them for an AI-driven future.



MANCOSA AI Hackathon 2026 Builds South Africa's Future Tech Talent

The MANCOSA Hackathon represents an important step towards developing South Africa's next generation of technology professionals. Find out about the winning team's development, a wearable technology prototype designed to improve women's personal safety.





The Midnight Search And The 81% Reality

Why Generic Content causes South African children more harm than good. As South Africa confronts an alarming reading deficit where 81.0% of Grade 4 learners cannot read for meaning, parents and teachers are turning to artificial intelligence for answers.

Grade 11 Results: The Overlooked Matric Diagnostic And University Passport

As Matric students sit down to write their final exams, public attention understandably fixes on the Class of 2026. Far less noticed is the parallel reality facing Grade 11s. Their own exams are imminent, and the marks they achieve now carry weight that extends well past this year, laying the foundation for next year, as well as university opportunities.





Navigating Autism Together with Ernie Els for Autism

Hosting gatherings that provide a safe and welcoming space to learn practical tips, share useful tools and connect with other families in the Autism community, offered free of charge. We recognise that raising a child with Autism can bring unexpected costs and financial pressure, and we are committed to walking alongside your family.

IT'S OFFICIAL!

Tippie has been approved by the Department of Basic Education!



Tippie's comprehensive, structured reading package is now officially available and prescribed for Afrikaans Home Language as well as First Additional Language in the Foundation Phase.

Penguin Random House South Africa

LAPA

What does this mean for your classroom?

- A reading series you can build on with confidence
- Material aligned with national guidelines
- And a reading journey that helps children grow, step by step



Visit **https://klaskameraad.co.za/**
for our comprehensive catalogue!

A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER



Dear Reader.

Welcome to the first edition of *Home & School Magazine*, the official rebrand and relaunch of *SA Homeschooling & Beyond Magazine*. Loyal readers have told us that much of our content reached far beyond the homeschooling community and we listened.

With the brand spanking new look, feel and logo, we expanded the scope of our publication to encompass parents who have children in the public and private school system, as well as those seeking healthy education alternatives like online learning and homeschooling.

Anchored by our new tagline, "Parent. Learn. Grow.", we are committed to providing every family with insightful reporting and deep dives into the issues that affect parents and children in our journey towards individual and collective actualisation.

To this end, our November issue centers on a crucial discussion. Is AI intelligent enough to teach our kids? In "The AI Feedback Loop: Why generic AI content will not solve the South African Literary Crisis," our new managing editor, Lesedi Theledi addresses the alarming reality where 81.0% of Grade 4 learners struggle to read for meaning. It explores why relying on synthetic, generic AI content causes more harm than good at home and in the classroom.

In addition we report on how the MANCOSA AI Hackathon 2026 builds future tech talent through practical local innovations, and how the South African AI Olympiad prepares students for an AI-driven future.

We also help you understand why Grade 11 exam results serve as an essential matric diagnostic passport to university, and explore why homeschooling families are increasingly choosing Cambridge for globally recognised qualifications.

Learn about Saving Grace Education's spectrum of tailored online learning options, and explore compassionate caregiver guidance with Els for Autism.

We hope the new direction we are taking inspires and supports you in every aspect of parenting, learning and growing. We would love to hear from you on this daring new adventure.

And as always, your best is good enough.

Earl Joseph

Editor-in-Chief and Publisher

Editor-in-Chief and Publisher
Earl Joseph
earl@digitalafrikan.com

Managing Editor
Lesedi Theledi
lesedi@homeandschool.co.za

Art Director
Itumeleng Tinise
wessidemafia@gmail.com

Social Media
Setyenzwa Gcali
setyenzwa@sahomeschooling.com

Sales Consultant
Imraan Mahomed
sales@digitalafrikan.com

Copy Editors and Online Publishing
Amalah Joseph
amalah@sahomeschooling.com

Ushim Hutchinson
ushim@homeandschool.co.za

Ushordan Joseph
ushordan@sahomeschooling.com

Head of Sales
Aipheli Nelwamondo
paris@digitalafrikan.com

Chief Operating Officer
Taahir Hoorzook
taahir@digitalafrikan.com

Chief Digital Officer
Stanley Moloto
stanley@digitalafrikan.com

Subscriptions & General Enquiries
info@digitalafrikan.com

Recognised as a homeschooling stakeholder by the Department of Basic Education and proud beneficiary of the Media Development and Diversity Agency

Find us on:

@Homeandschoolza
@Homeandschoolza
@Home_And_School
@Homeandschoolza

SA Homeschooling magazine is independently published by The Digital Afrikan (Pty) Ltd

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the owners, the publisher, contributors or its agents. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of its contents, neither SA Homeschooling magazine, the owners, the editor, the publisher, media alliance partners nor any of its endorsed organisations or contributors can be held responsible for any omissions or errors; or for any misfortune, injury or damages which may arise therefrom. The same applies to all advertising. SA Homeschooling Magazine & Beyond © 2025. All rights reserved. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without prior written permission from the publishers.

41 Juta Street, Braamfontein,
Johannesburg, 2001, South Africa

+27 11 883 4627
www.homeandschool.co.za

www.eduxplore.co.za

Eduxplore

FREE
ENTRANCE
*Online Registration

EXHIBITS | KIDS ACTIVITIES | ENTERTAINMENT | DEMOS | LECTURES

KZN 12 SEPT 2026: GRACE CHURCH, UMHLANGA

NORTH 17 OCT 2026: HEARTFELT ARENA, PRETORIA

CAPE TOWN 7 NOV 2026: SUNNINGDALE SPORTS CENTRE

DISCOVER A WORLD OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION AND A LOVE FOR LEARNING!

FUN OUTING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



- Homeschooling
- Cottage Schools
- Private Schools
- Curriculum Providers
- Educational Resources
- Extracurricular Activities
- Tertiary Institutions and Training
- Hobbies and Interests
- Short Courses and Gap Years

Signature Sponsors

TUTORS & EXAMS SOUTH AFRICA | MCS | eVolve | Van Schaik | impaq

Media Sponsors

YADA ADVENTURES | ALLES | the digital afrikan | SA

Binary School Introduces Children to Coding, Robotics and Artificial Intelligence



Binary School showcased its practical tech education approach at the EduXplore North Exhibition. Through hands-on robotics kits, Python courses, and artificial intelligence lessons, the South African organization helps school and homeschool students build crucial problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and sequential reasoning to prepare them for a technology-driven future.

Binary School, a South African education provider specialising in coding, artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics, shared its approach at the EduXplore North Exhibition on Saturday 17 October 2026.

Binary School helps schools and home learners develop technology skills through practical robotics kits, online lessons and coding courses. The school offers learners opportunities to explore electronics, block-based coding, Python programming and artificial intelligence while developing critical thinking.

> “Instead of simply receiving information, learners become actively involved in finding solutions.”

Bring Coding and Robotics into Education

Binary School works with schools across different learning levels and also aims to reach homeschooling families interested in introducing their children to technology-based learning.

For practical learning, the school offers two robotics kits designed to introduce children to different aspects of coding, electronics and artificial intelligence.

For practical learning, the school offers two robotics kits designed to introduce children to different aspects of coding, electronics and artificial intelligence.

The first kit focuses on electronics and teaches learners to assemble robotic projects using small components, including screws, nuts and bolts. Children can build approximately 10 different robotics projects. Children can also programme their creations using block-based coding or Python. The kit serves learners from Grade 1 to matric.

The second kit focuses on artificial intelligence and shows them how to train an AI model for their own coding projects. The kit includes a camera to train an AI model to recognise objects.

For example, a robot could be programmed to recognise people or distinguish between animals like cats and dogs.

They also offer robotics and AI learning using Quarky, which introduces learners to robot movement, AI integration and autonomous robots. Binary School’s robotics kits are supported by approximately 100 online lessons.

Beyond technology, coding and robotics helps children develop everyday skills. According to a Binary School representative:
“Through coding and robotics,you learn things like critical thinking skills, problem-solving, thinking in sequential steps,” the representative representatives explained.

Building and programming a robot requires children to follow instructions. They must understand how different components work together. And make adjustments when something does not work as expected. Instead of simply receiving information, learners become actively involved in finding solutions.

Can Artificial Intelligence Make Children Lazy?

The representative explained that people ask AI for answers rather than working through challenges themselves. “AI is here to make us all lazy. We don’t think of solving the problem; we just ask AI,” the representatives said.

Binary School focuses on helping children understand how AI works rather than simply relying on it to complete tasks. Learners train a model and apply it in their own coding projects.

Support Learning at Home and in Schools

Binary School’s programmes also help parents to introduce technology-based learning at home. Learners practise independently and develop their skills at a pace that suits them with self-guided courses and online resources.

TEXT Lotshiwe Ntuli

Lesedi Education Materials Promotes Home-Language Learning Through South African Educational Resources



The school believes parents should not feel pressured to abandon their home languages in favour of English. Instead, they can help children develop both languages from an early age. This also allows children to develop a better understanding of languages.

Lesedi Education Materials was among the exhibitors at the EduXplore North Exhibition on Saturday, 17 October. The organisation creates resources that reflect South Africa's linguistic diversity in nine languages. Its work extends to parents who want to introduce structured learning at home, particularly during the early childhood development years.

Bring Education Closer to South African Languages

Lesedi Education Materials aims to help close this gap with resources in languages children can understand. Although South Africa has 11 official languages, for the organisation there has been less demand for resources in isiNdebele and siSwati compared with the languages currently represented in its product range.

Rather than producing materials without a clear market, Lesedi Education Materials has focused on the languages that schools and parents are actively requesting.

Support Learning from as Early as One Year Old

The school also provides home-schooling packages for parents who want to introduce educational activities. A package is available for children aged one to two, while another caters for children aged three to five. The school also offers a Grade R programme, supporting children as they prepare for the transition into formal schooling. These resources give parents an opportunity to become more involved in their children's early education.

Help Children Learn Beyond Their Home Language

A child's home language can also serve as a foundation for learning additional languages. Lesedi Education Materials encourages parents to value the languages spoken in their homes while introducing children to English and other languages.

For example, a parent who speaks Sepedi can use the organisation's Sepedi classroom charts to support a child's understanding of concepts.

This gives parents an opportunity to use their own language knowledge to explain concepts.

The school believes parents should not feel pressured to abandon their home languages in favour of English.

> **"The school believes parents should not feel pressured to abandon their home languages in favour of English. Instead, they can help children develop both languages from an early age"**

Instead, they can help children develop both languages from an early age. This also allows children to develop a better understanding of languages. Parents can introduce languages naturally through daily routines. Every child develops at their own pace.

Lesedi Education Materials

TEXT Lotshiwe Ntuli



MANCOSA AI Hackathon 2026 Builds South Africa's Future Tech Talent

The 2026 MANCOSA AI Hackathon brought together students and industry experts in Johannesburg to solve South Africa's pressing social and economic challenges. Participants created practical technology prototypes, including an award-winning safety vest for women, offline educational tools, and community infrastructure monitoring systems tailored to local needs.

TEXT Farad Chohan

As the world becomes increasingly digitised and interconnected, artificial intelligence is transforming industries, economies and everyday life. However, technological progress also creates complex challenges that demand advanced digital skills, critical thinking and innovative problem-solving.

For South Africa, preparing young people to navigate this evolving landscape is essential to economic growth and social development.

"Higher education institutions have a crucial responsibility to equip future professionals with the knowledge, creativity and practical experience needed to develop technology that addresses local challenges and global demands," says Farad Chohan: School Manager of the MANCOSA School of Information and Digital Technology.

> **"AI will shape South Africa's economy whether we are ready or not. Our job as educators is to make sure our graduates are the ones shaping it, says Chohan."**

Preparing South Africa for an AI-Driven Future

Artificial intelligence (AI) is no longer confined to international technology companies. It is transforming how South Africans learn, bank, conduct business and access essential services.

For a country facing high youth unemployment, educational inequality and infrastructure challenges, AI presents opportunities to improve productivity, expand economic participation and strengthen service delivery.

"However, these benefits depend on developing professionals who can design, implement and evaluate technological solutions rather than simply consume imported innovations," says Chohan

MANCOSA is addressing this challenge through its School of Information and Digital Technology (SIDT), which integrates digital literacy, applied AI and responsible innovation into its educational approach.

The institution recognises that technical knowledge alone is insufficient. Graduates must understand how technology interacts with society, recognise its limitations and develop solutions that reflect local circumstances.

Industry collaboration plays an important role in this process, connecting students with practitioners who understand the practical demands of modern workplaces.

MANCOSA Hackathon 2026 Brings Innovation Into Practice

On October 23 and 24, MANCOSA hosted its 2026 Hackathon at its Auckland Park campus in Johannesburg.

Organised by SIDT, the event attracted 800 applicants, with 80 successful participants selected to develop technology-driven solutions to pressing societal challenges.

Under the theme Solving Complex Challenges Through Technology and Innovation, participants worked alongside industry mentors, technology specialists and experienced judges.

The event challenged students to move beyond theoretical knowledge by identifying problems, researching potential solutions, developing functional prototypes and presenting their innovations.

Participants selected from nine challenges aligned with three United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Quality Education (SDG 4), Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9), and Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11).

These challenges included AI-powered educational tools, offline learning applications, cold-chain monitoring for small retailers, water-leak detection and systems addressing illegal dumping.

The initiative demonstrated how technological innovation can respond to everyday challenges affecting South African communities.

Industry Experts Equip Students With Future-Ready Skills

Preparation began two weeks before the Hackathon through masterclasses facilitated by industry specialists.

Sam Ngobeni, Director of Startup Grind Johannesburg, explored design thinking, while Chris Ainslie, General Manager at FirstCore.AI, addressed data sovereignty and locally sustainable technological solutions.

Sarah Findlay, Impact Consultant at Open Cities Lab, examined responsible technology development. Adam Lin, Director of Sheen Robotics, introduced prototyping techniques and the hackathon development process.

Ming Ai, Founder and Chief Innovation and Ecosystem Architect at PROPELLER, discussed China's AI innovation landscape and its implications for global technology developers.

During the event, Lin demonstrated rapid AI and hardware prototyping using the Sheenbot.

Mishka Singh, an Admitted Attorney of the High Court of South Africa and Academic Programme Leader at MANCOSA, addressed intellectual property and ethical considerations.

Raeesa Ebrahim from MANCOSA's iTeach Lab introduced participants to immersive virtual reality learning experiences.

THE ANSWER SERIES

THE COMPLETE PACKAGE FOR HOMESCHOOLING!

Our study guides are designed for **independent learning** and feature 'teacher-on-the-page' boxes that have guided learners to **exam success** for **more than 50 years**!

- Comprehensive NOTES ☑
- Memorable VISUALS ☑
- Bite-sized SUMMARIES ☑
- TIP & TERM boxes ☑
- Carefully selected EXERCISES ☑
- Complete, detailed ANSWERS ☑
- Practice EXAM QUESTIONS and MEMOS ☑
- Proven EXAM ADVICE ☑

GET 10% OFF PER BOOK

Use coupon code HOMESCHOOL

SA's #1 STUDY GUIDE



scan for more

Grade 7 – 12
All major subjects
Afrikaans & English
Hard copy & eBook

www.theanswer.co.za

50+ YEARS of Exam Success

Additional contributions included an interactive workshop facilitated by Weich Malan, Founder and Director of Many Worlds, and a presentation by Malcolm Haefner, General Manager: Intelligent Buildings at First Technology, examining the relationship between human capabilities and workplace AI.

These engagements provided practical exposure to emerging technologies while encouraging students to consider their social and professional implications.

Developing Technology That Reflects South African Realities

A central message of the Hackathon was that successful technological innovation must respond to the circumstances of its intended users.

"According to Statistics South Africa's 2023 General Household Survey, only 14.5% of households had fixed internet access at home, while 72.6% relied primarily on mobile internet," says Chohan adding that these figures highlight the importance of developing affordable, accessible solutions that accommodate connectivity limitations.

An educational application requiring continuous high-speed internet, for example, may exclude learners who could benefit most from additional support.

"Similarly, affordable stock-monitoring technology could help spaza shops reduce waste, while water-monitoring systems could assist municipalities in identifying infrastructure problems earlier," says Chohan.

By focusing on practical challenges, students explored how AI can contribute to economic inclusion, educational accessibility and improved community services.

The Hackathon also reinforced the importance of ethical development, including data privacy, transparency and consideration of communities that might otherwise be excluded.

Senzani Smart Vest Wins With Women's Safety Innovation

The winning team developed the Senzani Smart Vest, a wearable technology prototype designed to improve women's personal safety. The innovation responded to gender-based violence, one of South Africa's most pressing social challenges, by exploring how technology could support women's freedom of movement.

The team drew inspiration from Elizabeth "Tsontso" Moselakgomo, a Kempton Park runner who disappeared and was subsequently found dead in September 2026.

Her death deeply affected running communities and highlighted concerns surrounding women's safety in public spaces.

The Senzani Smart Vest demonstrated how emerging technology can be directed towards challenges extending beyond conventional commercial applications.

Winning teams received prizes including cash, robotics kits and technology devices, sponsored by MANCOSA and participating industry partners.

These awards recognised technical achievement while encouraging participants to continue developing their ideas beyond the competition.

Industry Partnerships Strengthen the Innovation Ecosystem

The Hackathon benefited from partnerships with Vodacom Business, Datacentrix, First Technology, Sheen Robotics, Many Worlds, Open Cities Lab, Startup Grind Johannesburg, ICITP and DotNext.

These partners contributed mentorship, judging expertise, prizes and educational sessions, helping connect classroom learning with industry expectations.

Chohan emphasised the importance of preparing graduates to shape technological change.

"AI will shape South Africa's economy whether we are ready or not. Our job as educators is to make sure our graduates are the ones shaping it," says Chohan.

He highlighted students' ability to address challenges ranging from women's safety to infrastructure maintenance and educational accessibility.

"What we saw this weekend were students taking real South African problems, from women's safety to water leaks to learners without data, and building solutions that work in our context."

Chohan emphasised that future readiness requires confidence, sound judgment and a commitment to applying technology where it can make a meaningful difference.

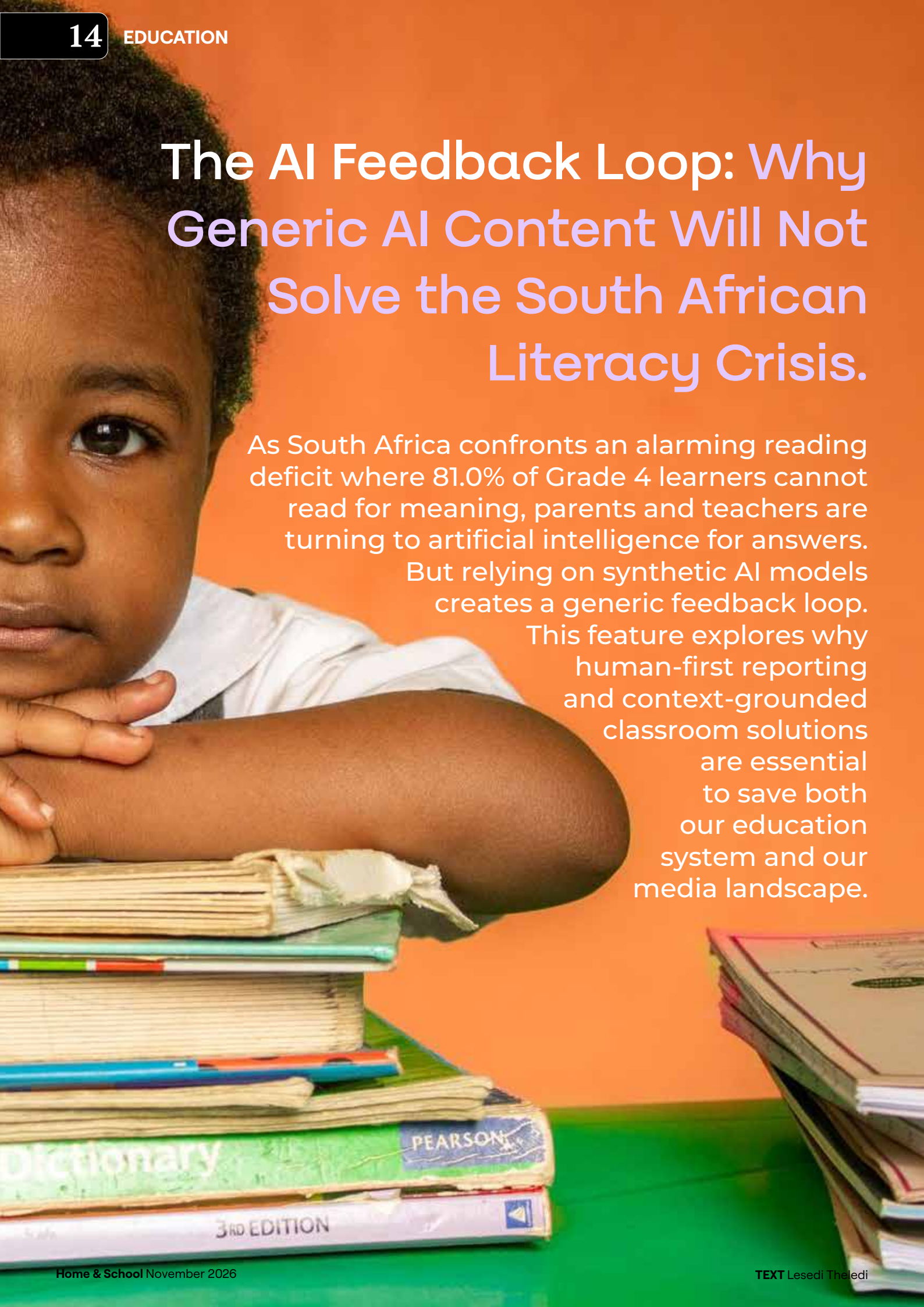
Building an Inclusive Digital Future

The MANCOSA Hackathon represents an important step towards developing South Africa's next generation of technology professionals. By combining practical experience, industry mentorship and responsible innovation, the initiative equips students to confront challenges in an increasingly interconnected world.

MANCOSA intends to expand opportunities for applied AI learning and collaboration, ensuring that technological education remains relevant to community needs. As digital transformation accelerates, empowering young South Africans to create accessible, locally relevant solutions will be essential to building a more inclusive and resilient economy.

The AI Feedback Loop: Why Generic AI Content Will Not Solve the South African Literacy Crisis.

As South Africa confronts an alarming reading deficit where 81.0% of Grade 4 learners cannot read for meaning, parents and teachers are turning to artificial intelligence for answers. But relying on synthetic AI models creates a generic feedback loop. This feature explores why human-first reporting and context-grounded classroom solutions are essential to save both our education system and our media landscape.



TEXT Lesedi Theledi

For many parents and educators, homework time has shifted from active problem solving to passively explaining the answer. Imagine it's homework time and your child comes in with English and maths homework, and instead of giving the question a thought, you type it into AI not because you don't understand it, but because you believe it'll explain it better. You then read them the answer, but they don't understand the question, they just know the answer. This is not so far-fetched, it's become a South African reality.

Foundational learning is a serious challenge for many South African children, the question has shifted from whether children can access information to whether access to instantly generated answers could come at the cost of a child truly learning how to find, assess and understand information on their own.

largest decline of all the countries participating."

This is what we need to understand: simply completing a task is not the same as developing the critical ability to do it independently. Parents rush to the internet to find out this alarming news, but while Large Language Models (LLM) grow more common, ironically parents and educators feed the findings to these AI models, to understand the possible reasons for this literacy crisis.

This unravels a deceptive paradox, while generative-AI guarantees quick and personalised responses it is fundamentally based on a system that recites already existing online data. So, when we take factual findings and prompt AI to explain them and produce solutions, we begin to depend on the tool that is meant to depend on us.

assistive tool, instead of increasing internal literacy and numeracy many of them have begun to copy AI outputs which causes lower rates in critical thinking and an unhealthy reliance on the tool.



> **"Deeply concerned about the state of reading in South Africa… South Africa experienced the largest decline of all the countries participating"**

What makes these questions urgent are the findings of The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) by The University of Pretoria (UP). They reported that 81.0% of South African Grade 4 students can't read for meaning in any language, the students who can't read stories then struggle to solve mathematical problems.

If that's not enough to cause concern, the South African Human Rights Commission's (SAHRC) responded to PIRLS findings, stating that they are: "…deeply concerned about the state of reading in South Africa… South Africa experienced the

We can't expect AI to develop contextually relevant solutions for our literacy crisis because our dependency on it plays a role on this issue. Instead of offering verifiable solutions tailored to a South African classroom, generative-AI models seemingly produce generic texts, what media publications such BBC News are increasingly calling "AI slop."

In a 2026 study the National Literacy Trust wanted to understand the possible effects of generative-AI in influencing literacy in students, their study revealed that while many students use generative-AI as an

For us to understand the structural dangers of generative-AI reliance, let's first understand how LLM's work. First off, LLM's lack human experience and empirical observation skills. They are pattern-matching computational engines that are trained on massive amounts of human-generated data, simply put we train them they don't train us.

A similar issue arises for publishers and educational websites who might give into the temptation of using LLM's to reach publishing timeframes or minimise costs, they risk producing and publishing generic content.

This results in a generic feedback loop, think of it like this: we teach AI on historical data; AI then creates generic content; media houses distribute this content, and future versions of AI models consume this synthetic content to train the next generation of LLMs.

> **"81.0% of South African Grade 4 students can't read for meaning in any language, the students who can't read stories then struggle to solve mathematical problems."**

When an AI-model is tasked with explaining South Africa's literacy crisis, it can compile information from existing web documents and then generate "polished", "authoritative-sounding" phrases and even propose general strategies. However, while these solutions may appear sensible, they neglect crucial demographical depth to developing a solution that is central to South Africa.

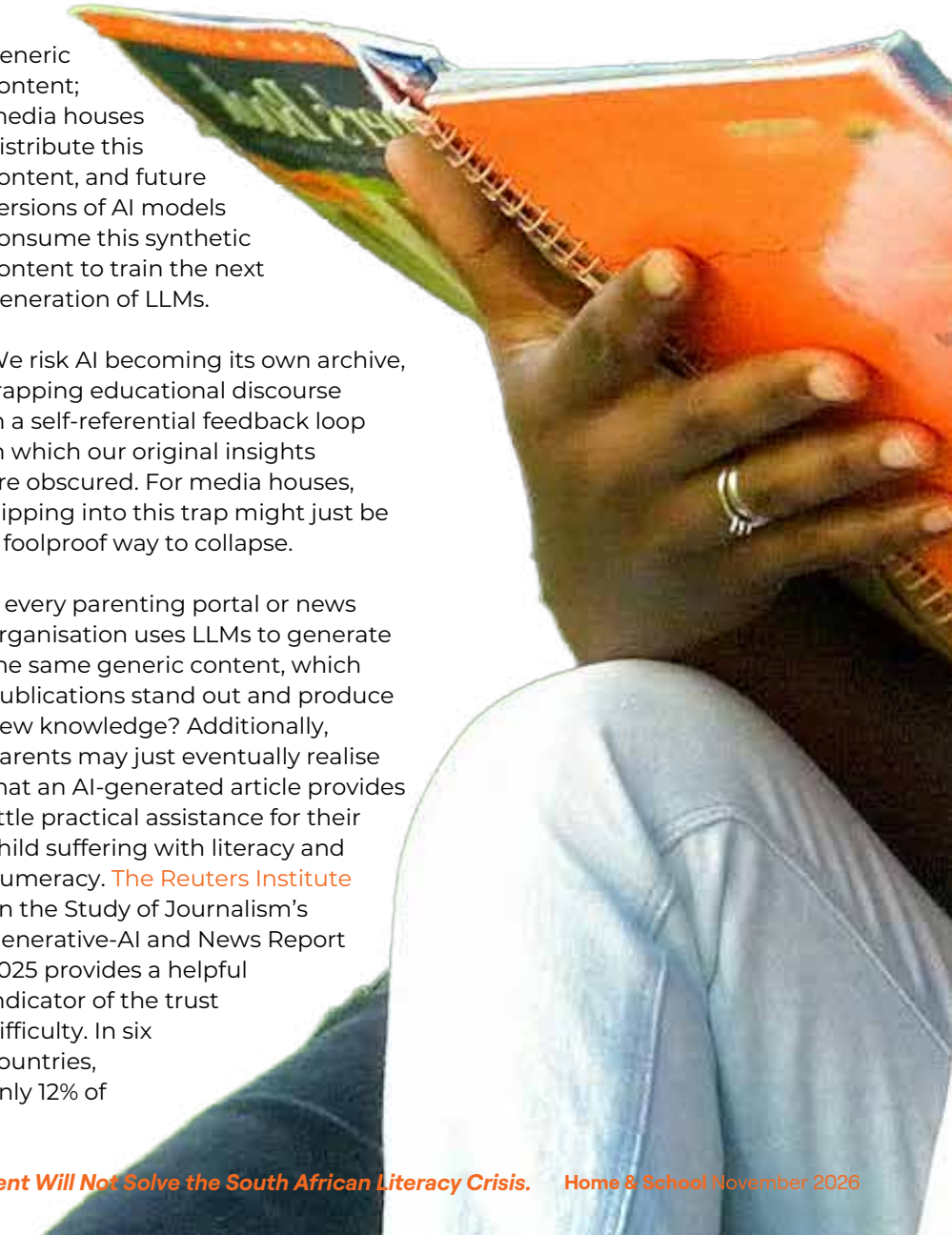
So while the findings may seem valuable, they are not true independent discoveries. Actual ground-truth reporting like the 2030 Reading Panel, suggests that what really improves reading outcomes in the South African foundation phase, is learning and teaching support material like workbooks and graded readers and teacher training.

In a 2024 IBM article they defined the term model collapse as: "the declining performance of generative-AI models that are trained on AI-generated content." When AI begins to learn from itself, we risk these models gradually losing crucial aspects of original data distribution and eventually becoming impractical.

We risk AI becoming its own archive, trapping educational discourse in a self-referential feedback loop in which our original insights are obscured. For media houses, slipping into this trap might just be a foolproof way to collapse.

If every parenting portal or news organisation uses LLMs to generate the same generic content, which publications stand out and produce new knowledge? Additionally, parents may just eventually realise that an AI-generated article provides little practical assistance for their child suffering with literacy and numeracy. The Reuters Institute on the Study of Journalism's Generative-AI and News Report 2025 provides a helpful indicator of the trust difficulty. In six countries, only 12% of respondents were satisfied with AI-generated news, compared to 62% with news produced entirely by human journalists, acceptance increased as humans led the job with AI support.

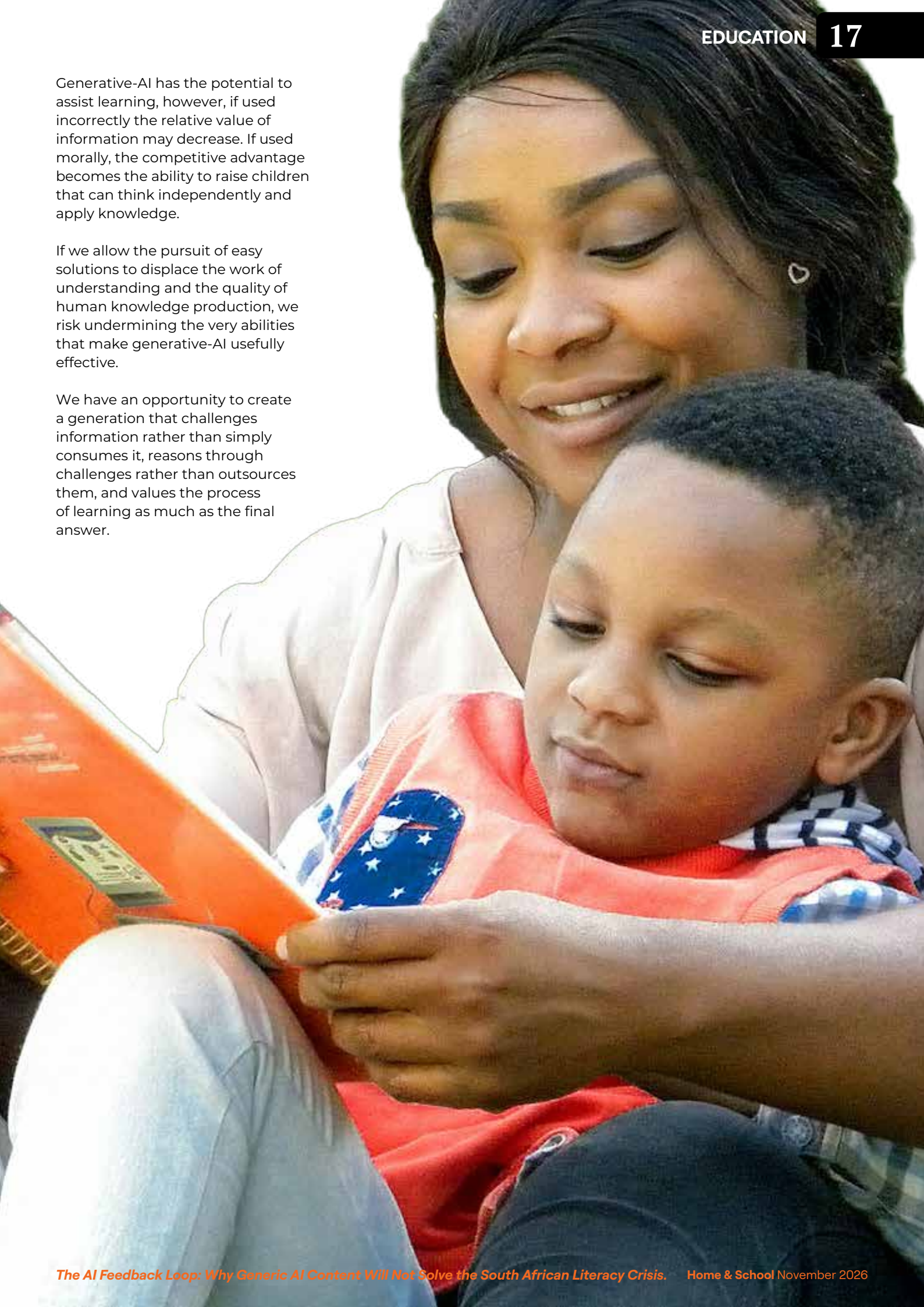
This shows that improved production efficiency does not always mean increased audience confidence, for publishers as the internet grows more cluttered with AI-generated jumble, human-first journalism becomes a critical competitive advantage and an ethical obligation. A Daily Maverick publication on illiteracy and AI puts this concern into perspective stating: "Our 10-year-old learners or Grade 4s are not able to read for meaning... This is a serious problem as reading is a fundamental skill that empowers learners to access knowledge, think critically, and engage with the world."



Generative-AI has the potential to assist learning, however, if used incorrectly the relative value of information may decrease. If used morally, the competitive advantage becomes the ability to raise children that can think independently and apply knowledge.

If we allow the pursuit of easy solutions to displace the work of understanding and the quality of human knowledge production, we risk undermining the very abilities that make generative-AI usefully effective.

We have an opportunity to create a generation that challenges information rather than simply consumes it, reasons through challenges rather than outsources them, and values the process of learning as much as the final answer.



CAMBRIDGE

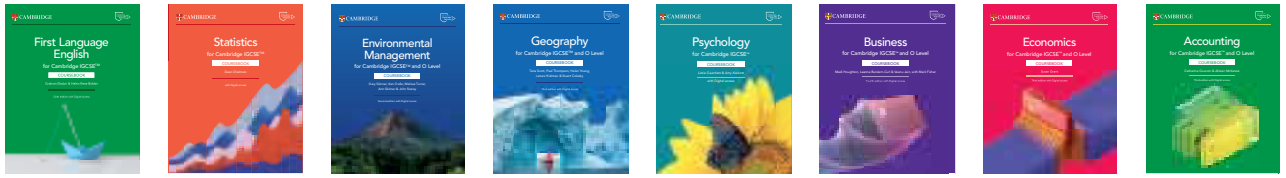
I am ready...
Ready for the world



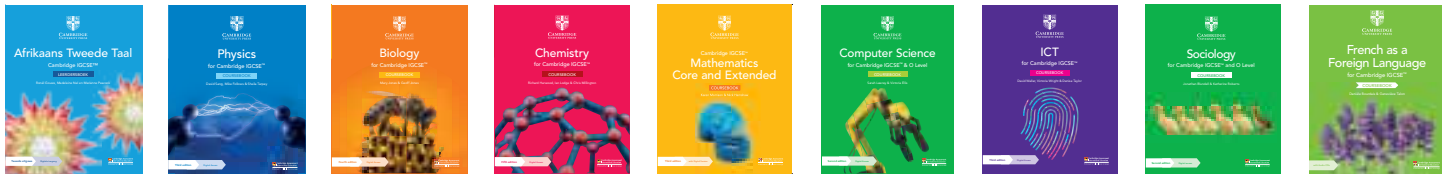
Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international qualification for 14–16 year olds, offered in over 150 countries and recognised by top universities and employers worldwide.

Cambridge IGCSE textbooks are globally trusted resources that support deep subject knowledge, critical thinking and academic rigour. Developed by subject experts and endorsed by Cambridge International, these books align with the Cambridge curriculum and assessment standards, offering flexible, inclusive content that empowers students to learn in ways that suit their strengths and contexts.

New!



Popular



Ready for anything

Whether for CAPS or Cambridge curricula, primary or high school, Be Ready with Cambridge textbooks and resources.

Core Textbooks (CAPS)



Core Textbooks (IGCSE)



Core Textbooks (CLS)



Early Years



Maths Dictionaries

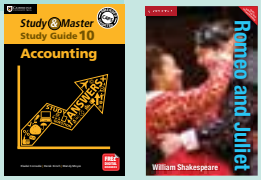




Dictionaries & Grammar



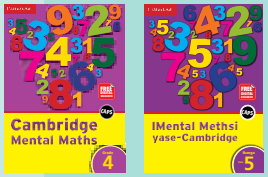
Study Guides



Subject Dictionaries



Mental Maths



ICT





Why are homeschooling families choosing Cambridge?

Homeschooling families choose Cambridge for its globally recognised qualifications, flexible curriculum options and strong academic foundations. With a clear pathway from early years to advanced levels, it helps learners foster independent thinking, build deep subject knowledge and prepare effectively for top universities worldwide.

Choosing a learning pathway is one of the biggest decisions a homeschooling family will make. Parents are considering not only what their child will learn today, but whether that education will prepare them for further study, work and life.

Cambridge is part of the University of Cambridge and the world's largest provider of international education programmes for 3 to 19 year olds. Millions of learners in 160 countries follow Cambridge programmes, backed by more than 160 years' experience in assessment.

An international education from Cambridge builds deep subject knowledge, conceptual understanding and higher-level thinking skills. Learners are encouraged to think independently, apply what they know, solve problems and communicate their ideas clearly, becoming confident, responsible, reflective, innovative and engaged.

For homeschooling families, flexibility matters. The Cambridge Pathway offers a clear journey from Cambridge Early Years to Cambridge IGCSETM and Cambridge International AS & A Level. With more than 70 subjects at Cambridge IGCSETM and 55 at Cambridge International AS & A Level, learners can build a programme around their interests, strengths and ambitions. Clear syllabuses and fully aligned resources help parents see what their child needs to learn at each stage.

> **"Cambridge offers more than a route to exams. It builds knowledge, skills and understanding for life, helping learners be ready for the world."**

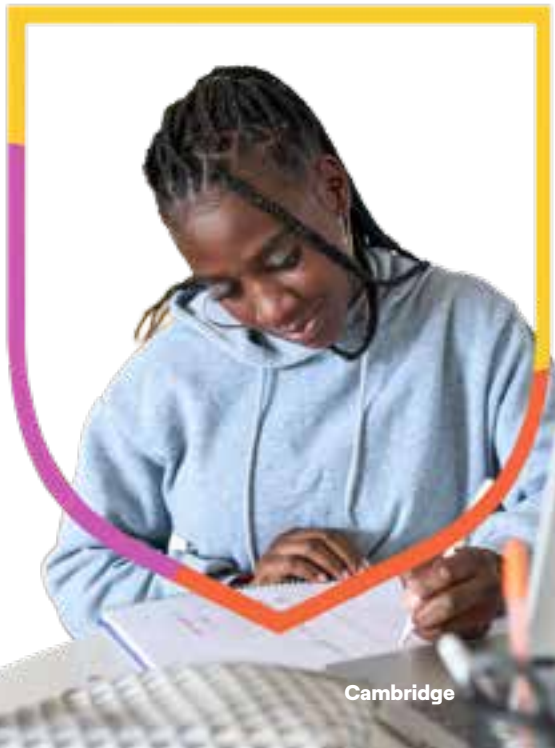
Recognition is equally important. Cambridge qualifications are globally recognised and trusted by top universities - 96% of Cambridge learners progress to university. In South Africa, Cambridge International AS & A Levels are recognised by local universities through established admissions processes, while also opening doors to study abroad. Families should check the entry and subject requirements of their chosen institution.

Cambridge offers more than a route to exams. It builds knowledge, skills and understanding for life, helping learners be ready for the world.

Find out more about accessing a Cambridge education as a homeschooling family:

SCAN QR CODE

Visit: cambridgeinternational.org



INSCAPE

LOVE SOCIAL MEDIA?
MAKE IT YOUR PROFESSION.





BA in Digital Marketing and Communication

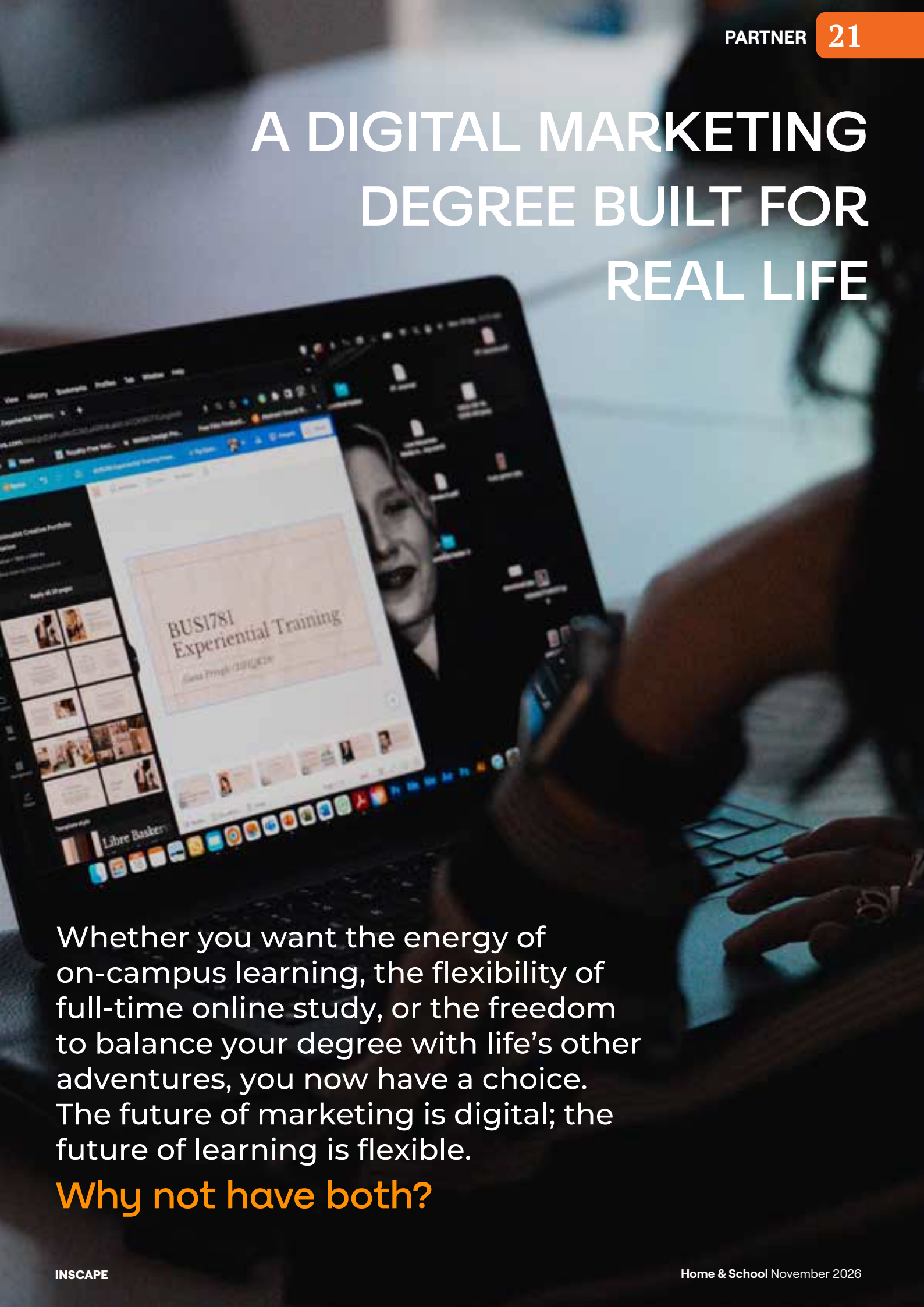
Build the skills to create content, shape brands, and understand what drives engagement in today's digital world.

+ Study online or in person

APPLY NOW AT INSCAPE.AC

Inscape Education Group (Pty) Ltd is registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training as a private higher education institution under the Higher Education Act, 1997 (reg. no. 2000/HE07/002). Company Reg: 2002/028979/07.

A DIGITAL MARKETING DEGREE BUILT FOR REAL LIFE



Whether you want the energy of on-campus learning, the flexibility of full-time online study, or the freedom to balance your degree with life's other adventures, you now have a choice. The future of marketing is digital; the future of learning is flexible.

Why not have both?

The world runs on content, clicks, conversations and communities. Every brand, creator and business is fighting for attention online, and the people who know how to build that attention are shaping the future. If you've ever wondered who creates viral campaigns, grows communities, launches brands or turns ideas into movements, digital marketing is where it happens.

Study Digital Marketing Your Way

Not everyone's path after school looks the same.

Some students want the full campus experience. Others are travelling, building a side hustle, competing in sport, working, taking a gap year with purpose, or simply need more flexibility. That's why the Bachelor of Arts in Digital Marketing and Communication is now available as a distance learning degree, giving you the freedom to study from anywhere without putting your ambitions on hold.

Some students want the full campus experience. Others are travelling, building a side hustle, competing in sport, working, taking a gap year with purpose, or simply need more flexibility. That's why the Bachelor of Arts in Digital Marketing and Communication is now available as a distance learning degree, giving you the freedom to study from anywhere without putting your ambitions on hold.

You can choose the study journey that works best for you:

Choose the study journey that works best for you:

- 3-year contact degree with face-to-face learning.
- 3-year full-time online degree for students who want a traditional study pace with maximum flexibility.
- 6-year part-time online degree for students balancing work, travel, sport, family commitments or entrepreneurial ventures.

These options ensure that your future is not determined by where you live, your schedule, or whether you can physically attend classes every day.

Learn By Doing

Let's be honest. Most students don't dream of spending years cramming for exams, that is why this degree was designed differently. Instead of traditional exams, you'll complete practical, project-based assessments that mirror the kind of work you'll do in industry.

This includes creating campaigns, developing content, solving real-world marketing challenges and building strategic communication skills throughout your studies.

By graduation, you'll have not only an accredited industry-relevant qualification, but also a professional portfolio showcasing your work, ideas and abilities to future employers and clients.

What Will You Learn?

You'll explore everything from audience insights and branding to content creation, campaign strategy, storytelling, digital tools, analytics and emerging technologies. The programme combines marketing, communication, design thinking and digital innovation to prepare you for a constantly evolving industry.

In other words, you'll learn how to connect people, brands and ideas in ways that matter.

Throughout the programme, you'll engage with real-world projects and industry-focused learning that helps bridge the gap between studying and working.

You'll complete job-shadowing opportunities and work-integrated learning experiences that expose you to professional practice before you graduate.

That means you'll develop practical skills, industry experience and confidence long before your first job interview.

Where Could It Take You?

Digital marketing is one of the most versatile career paths available today.

Graduates can pursue careers as:

- Digital Marketing Specialists
- Social Media Managers
- Content Creators and Strategists
- Brand Strategists
- Campaign Managers
- SEO and Performance Specialists
- Digital Analysts
- Copywriters
- Marketing Managers

Or you might use your skills to grow your own business, launch a personal brand, build an online community or create content that reaches audiences across the globe.

Your Future at Your Pace

There has never been a better time to study digital marketing. Businesses need creative thinkers who understand people, culture, technology and communication. They need graduates who can create, analyse, adapt, design, and innovate.

The Bachelor of Arts in Digital Marketing and Communication is available as a 3-year contact degree, 3-year full-time online degree, or 6-year part-time online degree, allowing students to study from anywhere while building a portfolio of real-world work and industry-ready skills.

ctia Chefs Training & Innovation Academy

WORLD CULINARY AWARDS WINNER 2026

FOR PARENTS OF MATRICS

A RECIPE FOR THEIR FUTURE

Serves a lifetime.

RECIPE CARD

STARTS 16 FEBRUARY 2026

INGREDIENTS

1	passion for food
3	ways to study: full-time, part-time or online
100%	hands-on training with industry experts
2×	Africa's Best Culinary Training Institution, World Culinary Awards

METHOD

01 Enrol for our February intake.

02 Train in a real kitchen.

03 Work anywhere in the world, or open their own restaurant.



7% GROWTH IN CHEF JOBS

Chef jobs are projected to grow 7% from 2024 to 2034, more than double the 3.1% average for all occupations.

7% Chefs & head cooks

3.1% All occupations

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chat to us on WhatsApp

076 339 5302

WWW.CTIA.CO.ZA

ENROL NOW

A World of Opportunity: Why a Career in Culinary Arts Has Never Been More Exciting



A career in culinary arts can lead to international travel, entrepreneurship, leadership and opportunities that reach far beyond the traditional kitchen. With the right training, dedication and willingness to learn, a love of food can become the foundation for a rewarding and exciting future. Discover CTIA's accredited culinary and hospitality programmes and find the pathway that suits your ambitions.

Choosing a career is about more than finding a job. It's about discovering your strengths, exploring your passions and finding a path that opens doors to the future. For young people who love food, enjoy being creative and dream of doing something extraordinary, a career in culinary arts offers possibilities that extend far beyond the kitchen.

At **Chefs Training & Innovation Academy (CTIA)**, we believe the future of food belongs to those who are ready to innovate, create and lead. Our commitment to culinary excellence has earned us international recognition, with CTIA named **Africa's Best Culinary Training Institute at the World Culinary Awards for two consecutive years, in 2025 and 2026.** This recognition reflects our dedication to developing the next generation of culinary professionals and preparing them for an evolving global industry.

At CTIA, students benefit from practical training and connections to **more than 400 industry partners across South Africa**, gaining valuable experience in professional environments while they study. With a **100% employment guarantee** and international industry partners who create opportunities for graduates around the world, students can look forward to a pathway that extends beyond their qualification.

Imagine working aboard a luxury cruise liner, travelling between destinations while working with an international culinary team and earning in foreign currency. Or picture yourself developing new food products for a major retailer, building a business around handcrafted chocolates, or working as a private chef for a family travelling between holiday homes in destinations such as France and Mauritius. These are examples of the diverse opportunities available to culinary professionals.

Turn your passion into your own business

For some aspiring chefs, the ultimate dream is not to work for someone else, but to become their own boss. Recognising this ambition, CTIA offers a Food Business Development module as an add-on to programmes of 12 months or longer. It equips students with the knowledge and skills to explore entrepreneurship, develop a viable food business concept and take the first steps towards turning their culinary expertise into a business.

Whether the goal is to launch a catering company, open a bakery, create a specialist food brand or establish a unique dining concept, combining culinary skills with business knowledge can help graduates approach their ambitions with greater confidence.

CTIA also offers programmes in hospitality, opening further pathways for students interested in the broader world of hotels, guest experiences and hospitality management.

A learning pathway that fits your future

With campuses in Centurion, Durban, Mbombela and Stellenbosch, as well as an Online Campus, CTIA offers different ways to pursue a culinary education. Online students complete their theory and practical learning from home, with examinations written at their closest CTIA campus, making culinary training more accessible to learners who need flexibility.

For homeschooling families, this presents an opportunity to explore a practical, career-focused education that can complement a learner's interests and ambitions.

Your future starts with a passion. Where it takes you is up to you.

Visit www.ctia.co.za and start exploring your future in food.

> **"Africa's Best Culinary Training Institute at the World Culinary Awards for two consecutive years, in 2025 and 2026."**

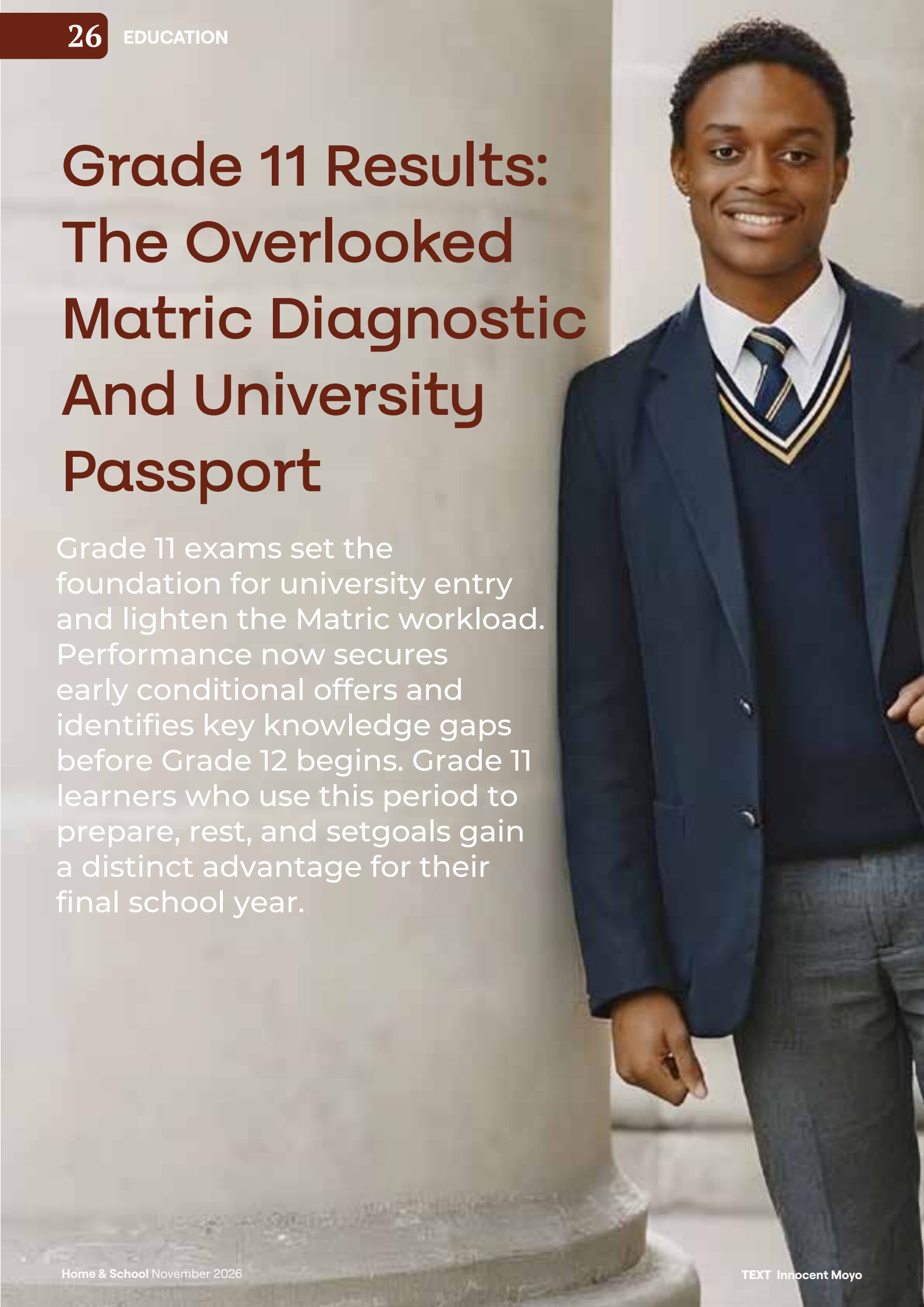
Future-proof skills in an AI-driven world

As artificial intelligence reshapes the workplace, careers that combine practical expertise, creativity, problem-solving and human connection become particularly compelling. Technology will continue to influence professional kitchens, but food remains a deeply human experience. Chefs bring ideas to life, adapt under pressure, lead teams and create memorable moments that bring people together. For young people entering the workforce, these are valuable skills that can evolve alongside technology rather than simply be replaced by it.



Grade 11 Results: The Overlooked Matric Diagnostic And University Passport

Grade 11 exams set the foundation for university entry and lighten the Matric workload. Performance now secures early conditional offers and identifies key knowledge gaps before Grade 12 begins. Grade 11 learners who use this period to prepare, rest, and setgoals gain a distinct advantage for their final school year.



TEXT Innocent Moyo

Innocent Moyo, Campus Head at Rosebank International, says a strong Grade 11 performance not only creates a backup option if Matric results fall short of expectations, but also gives students a clearer sense of their potential tertiary options and enables them to enter Matric with less catch-up pressure and more mental bandwidth for the higher demands ahead.

As Matric students sit down to write their final exams, public attention understandably fixes on the Class of 2026. Far less noticed is the parallel reality facing Grade 11s. Their own exams are imminent, and the marks they achieve now carry weight that extends well past this year, laying the foundation for next year, as well as university opportunities.

> **“It is tempting to switch off completely after the intensity of exams, yet a full mental shutdown carries a hidden cost, says Moyo.”**

“Grade 11 final marks play a decisive role in the university and college application process across South Africa. Many institutions, both public and private, issue provisional offers of admission based primarily on a learner’s Grade 11 results, allowing students to secure (pending final results) a place well before they write their Matric exams,” says Innocent Moyo at Rosebank International.

“Students in Grade 11 should therefore take these exams just as seriously as they intend to approach their Matric final exams, understanding that these results will have a significant effect on their trajectory.”

A strong performance this year functions as both an academic signal and a practical safety net: it opens doors sooner, creates a backup option if Matric results fall short of expectations, and gives students a clearer sense of where they stand relative to their preferred programmes.

“In a system where application deadlines often fall in the middle of the Matric year, the marks earned now can meaningfully shape the options available next year. At the same time, the content covered this year forms the direct foundation for next year’s work. Students who master it now enter Matric with less catch-up pressure and more mental bandwidth for the higher demands ahead,” says Moyo.

In short, treating Grade 11 as just another year narrows options and intensifies the load later. Treating it as the foundation of the Matric journey expands both academic and logistical choices.

How to build a stronger Grade 11 to Matric bridge through practical steps that compound:

Prioritise Depth Over Last-Minute Intensity

The remaining weeks are better spent consolidating core concepts in high-stakes subjects than attempting frantic coverage of everything. Identify the topics that repeatedly appear in past papers and the areas where marks are most easily lost, then allocate study time accordingly. Consistent, focused sessions now produce more reliable results than irregular bursts of effort closer to the exam dates, and consolidate core information ahead of Matric.

After The Exams, Close The Gap

Once the Grade 11 finals are over, the December holidays become the most valuable window of the year.

“It is tempting to switch off completely after the intensity of exams, yet a full mental shutdown carries a hidden cost,” says Moyo.

“The content and skills that still feel shaky will not improve on their own - they simply wait to reappear as heavier burdens in Grade 12. By investing even a modest, structured portion of the holiday, students can close specific knowledge gaps while the material is still fresh. This targeted effort removes obstacles that would otherwise consume disproportionate time and energy in Matric, turning what feels like extra work now into a lighter load later.”

“The same period also offers rare mental space to map post-school options,” Moyo says.

It gives you the opportunity to research preferred programmes at leisure, compare university offerings and campuses, note application deadlines, and check how current subject combinations align with entry requirements.

“Students who enter Grade 12 already clear on their direction can focus effort more precisely and avoid rushed decisions under pressure.”

Get Your Gameplan On

“Grade 11 results function as both a diagnostic and a passport,” says Moyo.

“Its value does not only lie in its role of academically preparing you for Matric. It also shows you how you show up when the pressure arrives. So use the coming exams and the final stretch of Grade 11 to identify your personal warning signs: when you are tired, overwhelmed, avoiding difficult work, or trying to do too much at once. Then decide, in advance, what you will do if those signs appear when the chips are down next year.”

The key is to build a simple routine that protects focus and energy: regular sleep, movement, time away from screens, and a realistic weekly plan that includes rest rather than treating rest as a reward.

“Matric rewards consistency, not constant intensity, and students from the Class of 2027 who know how to reset after a difficult day, and who have built a mental framework and logistical systems ahead of time, will be far better placed to sustain effort across the tough year ahead.”

One Online School, Whole Spectrum

Saving Grace Education offers five curriculum paths, from CAPS to Cambridge and tailored special needs support, in one online school. Delivered via Canvas, our self-paced lessons help learners thrive at home. Enrol for 2027 by 15 December 2026 to get early access and start the academic year ahead.

No two children learn the same way, yet many families feel they have to choose between a curriculum that suits their child and a school that suits their life. Saving Grace Education was built so parents do not have to make that trade-off.

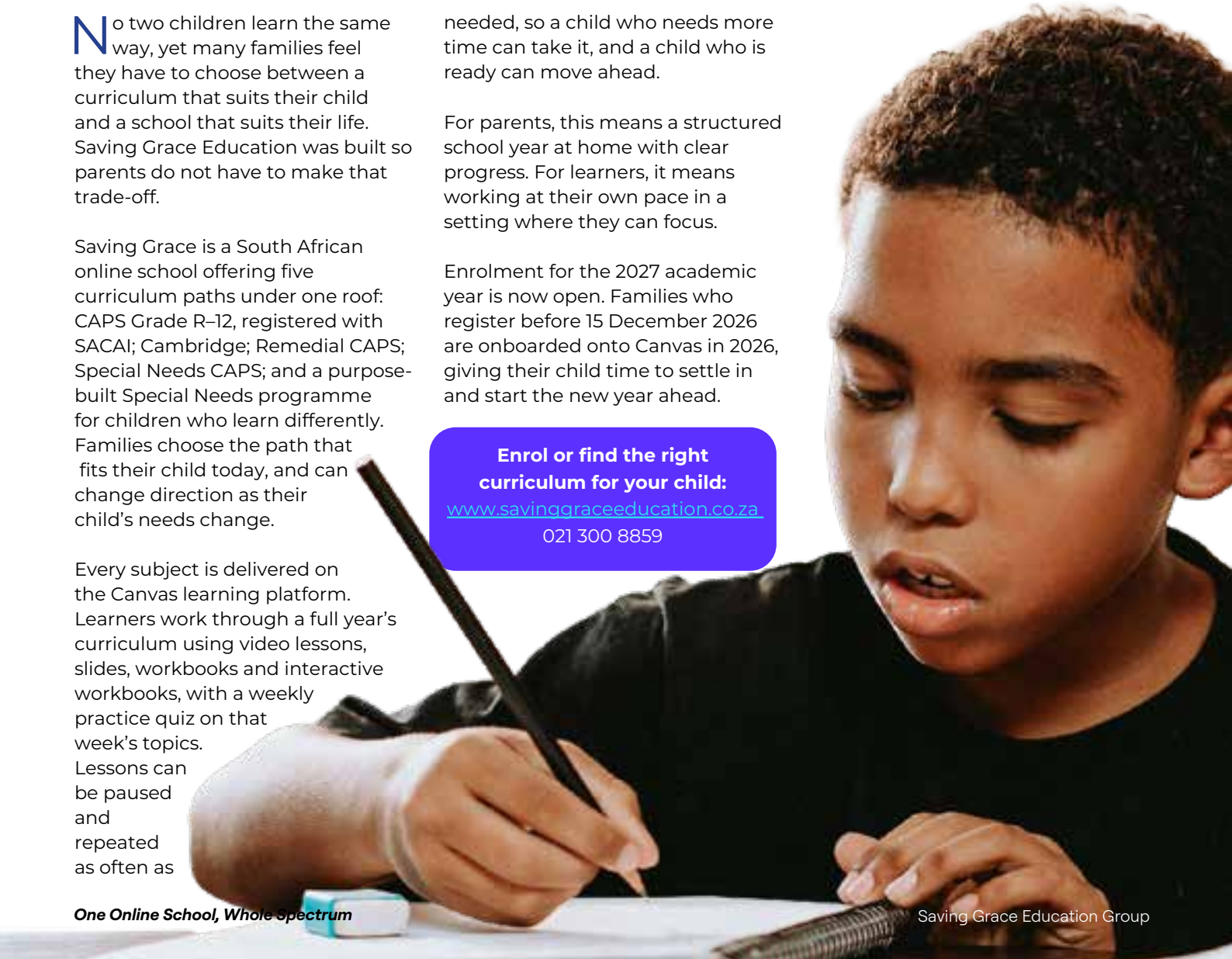
Saving Grace is a South African online school offering five curriculum paths under one roof: CAPS Grade R–12, registered with SACAI; Cambridge; Remedial CAPS; Special Needs CAPS; and a purpose-built Special Needs programme for children who learn differently. Families choose the path that fits their child today, and can change direction as their child's needs change.

Every subject is delivered on the Canvas learning platform. Learners work through a full year's curriculum using video lessons, slides, workbooks and interactive workbooks, with a weekly practice quiz on that week's topics. Lessons can be paused and repeated as often as needed, so a child who needs more time can take it, and a child who is ready can move ahead.

For parents, this means a structured school year at home with clear progress. For learners, it means working at their own pace in a setting where they can focus.

Enrolment for the 2027 academic year is now open. Families who register before 15 December 2026 are onboarded onto Canvas in 2026, giving their child time to settle in and start the new year ahead.

Enrol or find the right curriculum for your child:
www.savinggraceeducation.co.za
021 300 8859



One Online School, Whole Spectrum Saving Grace Education Group

Brainline®

Setting a **higher standard** in online schooling

Our **91.7% matric pass rate** reflects our commitment to quality education and learner success.

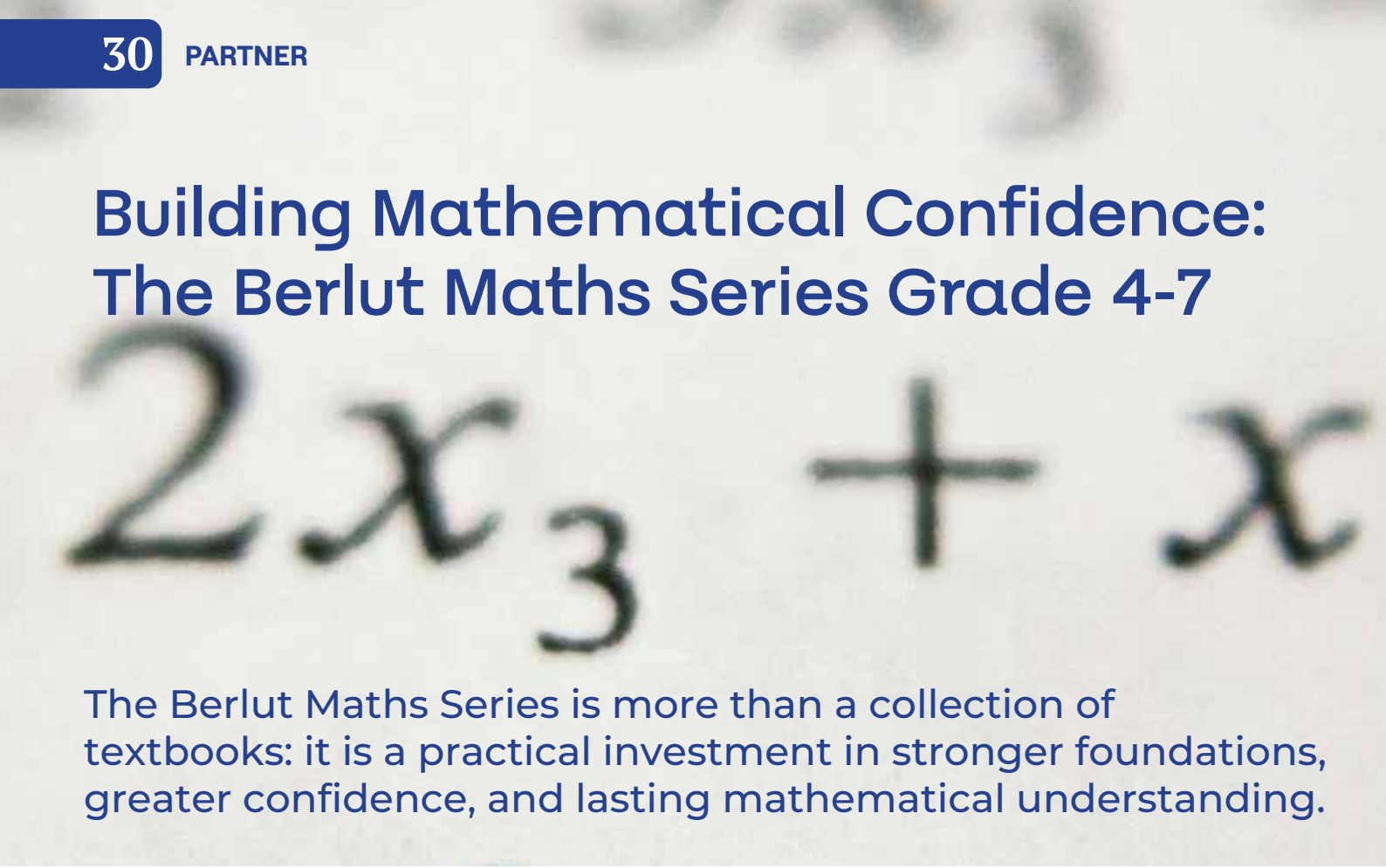


brainline.com

+27 12 543 5000 info@brainline.com

ieb
assessment matters

Building Mathematical Confidence: The Berlut Maths Series Grade 4-7



The Berlut Maths Series is more than a collection of textbooks: it is a practical investment in stronger foundations, greater confidence, and lasting mathematical understanding.

A strong foundation in Mathematics is essential for academic success, yet learners often struggle when concepts are not fully understood, or lessons are missed. The Berlut Maths Series for Grades 4-7 offers a comprehensive, accessible solution designed to build understanding, develop confidence, and encourage independent learning.

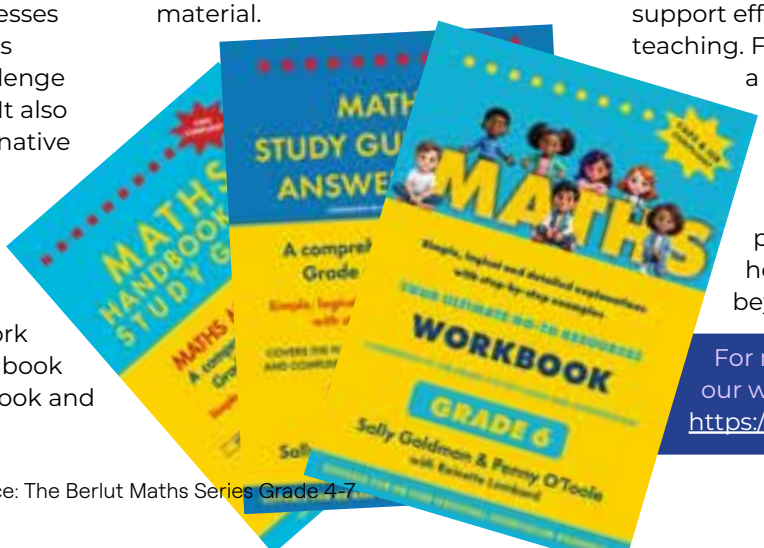
Aligned with South Africa's CAPS curriculum and IEB requirements, the series caters to the needs of both specialist and non-specialist teachers, while also equipping parents to support their children's learning at home. From basic principles to more advanced concepts, the material consolidates essential knowledge, addresses learning gaps, and provides extension activities to challenge high-performing learners. It also offers a cost-effective alternative to additional tuition.

Each grade's series comprisesa Study Guide and a complementary Workbook, designed to work hand in hand (the Grade 7 book comprises both the workbook and study guide).

The Study Guide explores the how and why behind mathematical concepts through detailed, step-by-step explanations, worked examples, and solutions. Its logical progression and cross-referencing help learners connect ideas, strengthen foundational skills and develop a deeper understanding. Comprehensive answers to the Workbook are also included.

> **"The Berlut Maths Series for Grades 4-7 offers a comprehensive, accessible solution designed to build understanding, develop confidence, and encourage independent learning."**

The Workbook reinforces these concepts through a learner-friendly layout and a full year's worth of material.



Carefully structured questions progress from core fundamentals to higher-order problem-solving and non-routine challenges. Real-life applications demonstrate the relevance of Mathematics, while practical activities, investigations and discussions encourage learners to explore concepts and think critically.

For teachers, the series provides ready-to-use resources that reduce preparation time and support effective classroom teaching. For learners, it offers a structured pathway towards greater understanding and independence. For parents, it provides practical guidance to help reinforce learning beyond the classroom.

For more information visit our website at https://berlutbooks.co.za/



ELS FOR AUTISM SOUTH AFRICA

We support families of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

What we do

- 1:1 caregiver-child focused coaching
- Caregiver support groups
- Sibling support groups
- Teacher training
- Pre-vocational soft skills programmes
- Ernie Els #GameON Autism Golf and Tennis program

How we can help

- Trained Facilitators
- Evidence-based practices
- Learn how to teach your child skills
- Parent coaching and support
- Generalisation and maintenance of skills

We are a non-profit organisation, all of our services are offered free of charge.

ERNIE ELS
ELS FOR AUTISM
SOUTH AFRICA

Connect with us at: info@elsforautismSA.org

+27 11 484 7254

+27 72 961 5756

@ElsforAutismSA

@elsforautism_sa

@ElsforAutism_SA

Navigating Autism Together



Els for Autism South Africa supports families navigating Autism Spectrum Disorder through tailored coaching and practical interventions. From short-term parent programmes to support groups for caregivers and siblings, our free services empower families with the understanding and guidance needed to help every child thrive in a caring community.

At Els for Autism South Africa, we help families of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder build the knowledge and practical skills they need to support their loved ones. Through personalised coaching and evidence-based interventions, we work alongside parents and caregivers to create the conditions in which each child can communicate, develop and thrive.

Our personalised one-on-one sessions deepen families' understanding of Autism, their child's communication and behaviour, and the conditions that help their child thrive. As our organisation has grown, we have expanded this approach into a broader range of compassionate services tailored to each family's needs.

Families can access the following services as part of our practical, family-centred support pathway:

Short-Term Parent And Caregiver Coaching

Every family joining our centre begins with a structured parent-coaching programme. Guided by RUBI Autism Network workbooks, facilitators meet with families every two weeks across 11 to 18 sessions, helping parents and caregivers develop practical techniques for responding effectively to challenging behaviours.

Parent And Caregiver Support Groups

We host monthly online support groups on Fridays via Zoom for parents and caregivers. These gatherings provide a safe and welcoming space to learn practical tips, share useful tools and connect with other families in the autism community.

The following support groups are available: Coffee Conversations – A monthly conversation for dads, uncles, grandfathers and other male figures involved in a child's life. It provides a supportive space for men to share their needs, concerns and achievements.

Caregiver Connect and our online monthly chat – Open to all parents and caregivers, these conversations provide mutual support and explore topics and questions that often arise following an Autism diagnosis.

Sibling Support Groups

In partnership with other Autism-focused organisations, we host quarterly sibling support groups. Through activities and peer connection, these friendly, fun and safe sessions give siblings space to share experiences and feel understood.

Contact us to learn more about our services:

Co-ordinator: Aretha Kausele

Email: infoSA@elsforautism.org

Telephone: 0114847254

WhatsApp: 0729615756

Website: www.elsforautismsouthafrica.org

Instagram: @elsforautism_sa

Facebook: Els For Autism, South Africa

> **"Our personalised one-on-one sessions deepen families' understanding of autism, their child's communication and behaviour, and the conditions that help their child thrive."**

Access to resources

Families registered with the centre receive exclusive access to our resources and events, extending support beyond scheduled coaching and group sessions.

All the services described above are offered free of charge. We recognise that raising a child with Autism can bring unexpected costs and financial pressure, and we are committed to walking alongside your family. Contact us if you have questions or would like to learn more about any of our programmes.

To find out which service may be right for your family, please contact our team.



South African AI Olympiad Opens 2027 Programme to Help Students Develop Artificial Intelligence Skills



The 2027 programme offers another opportunity for learners from across the country to discover artificial intelligence, test their abilities and work towards representing South Africa on the international stage.

TEXT Lotshiwe Ntuli



The South African Artificial Intelligence Olympiad (SAAIO) is giving high school learners across South Africa an opportunity to develop AI skills and compete internationally. Supported by the Internet Service Providers Association (ISPA) and academic partners, the programme welcomes beginners and learners with coding experience.

Following South Africa's debut at the International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence in 2026, the 2027 programme is now underway. Round 1 applications close on 20 January 2027, with the National Finals scheduled for April 2027 at the University of Johannesburg.

Introducing Students to Coding and Artificial Intelligence

The South African AI Olympiad welcomes students with different levels of experience, including those who have never coded before.

According to the organisation, the competition begins with a first round that tests learners on artificial intelligence concepts. The round is designed to be accessible to beginners and does not require advanced coding skills.

The programme also welcomes learners who already have strong technical abilities. It also aims to help those who are curious about technology build a foundation from which they can progress.

Students who move through the programme can access free coding resources and self-paced training materials to help them prepare for more advanced stages.

While coding is increasingly being introduced in schools, AI development may not always receive the same level of attention. The Olympiad aims to address this gap by providing additional learning opportunities.

Build Skills for International Competitions

The South African AI Olympiad views AI education as a long-term learning journey.

The organisation describes its programme as a two to three year development process. Learners can start at their current level and gradually build their knowledge.

The national pathway includes further training opportunities, camps and the National Finals at the University of Johannesburg. The top three learners are selected to represent South Africa internationally.

These stages provide opportunities for learners to apply their knowledge, learn from others. Participation can also help learners explore whether artificial intelligence, coding or technology development.

Can Artificial Intelligence Make Children Lazy?



Concerns about AI impact on children's learning have become increasingly common among parents. Some worry that children could become dependent on AI to complete their work. Others are concerned about future employment opportunities.

The South African AI Olympiad believes that education should focus on teaching children how to use these tools appropriately. Children still need to contribute their own ideas, judgement and knowledge.

When used appropriately, AI can support learning and help learners explore difficult concepts. However, these benefits depend on learners understanding the technology rather than relying on it to do all the work for them

Online Learning Makes the Programme Accessible

The South African AI Olympiad primarily operates online, allowing students to participate regardless of where they live.

Although the organisation may offer an in-person programme in a major city on occasion, its usual approach allows learners to access the programme remotely.

> **“Students who move through the programme can access free coding resources and self-paced training materials to help them prepare for more advanced stages.”**

This is particularly important for learners who may not have access to coding clubs, specialist AI classes or other technology-focused learning opportunities in their communities.

Whether learners are based in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, the Western Cape or smaller towns and townships, the online first round gives them an opportunity to participate from where they live.

However, access to suitable devices becomes increasingly important as participants progress through the competition.

According to the organisation, students can complete the first round using a cellphone. Access to a computer becomes necessary because of the more demanding nature of the programme.

Prepare Children for an AI-Driven Future

Through its structured programme, the South African AI Olympiad aims to give students opportunities to develop these skills over time.

