

MEDIA RELEASE

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Professor Jonathan Jansen awed by Christel House efforts towards breaking the cycle of poverty

On Tuesday, 6 March 2019, internationally renowned trailblazer in transformational education, Professor Jonathan Jansen, paid a friendly visit to non-profit school Christel House South Africa (CHSA) in Ottery, Cape Town, to learn first-hand how the school magically works towards breaking the cycle of poverty. Professor Jansen has been inspiring audiences throughout the country with his contributions to the Education landscape of South Africa.

With a mission to break the cycle of poverty, the school works to empower their students to reach their economic potential through character-based and career-focused education. As a staunch believer in transformative education himself, Jansen, a Professor at Stellenbosch University, applauded Christel House's education model which picks for poverty over talent. "Understand Christel House, and you have the keys to solving our national school crisis," Jansen enthusiastically posted on his personal Facebook page later that evening. True to his reputation as a man who pays it forward, he offered to return to the charity school to work closely with the Grade 7 girls on developing their journalist talent.

Professor Jansen was expressly impressed at how Christel House admits students from Cape Town's most impoverished communities and gives them an opportunity to rise above their circumstances. Jansen is the perfect embodiment of a success story. As the many students enrolled at Christel House, Professor Jansen came from the Cape Flats.

His journey as an educational expert started immediately after graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Western Cape when he decided to become a teacher. That was when he fell in love with Education. He later attained a Doctorate from Stanford University in the United States. An outspoken critic of the education system, and a prolific writer, he is recognised across the world for his contribution to the narrative around poverty and inequality. Although he tackles injustice head-on, he also role-models restorative processes as he did when he acquitted the infamous "Reitz 4" as Vice Chancellor at the University of the Free State.

Having endured similar hardships the students at Christel House face daily, Professor Jansen encouraged the students to believe in themselves, to respect themselves and praised, in particular, the school's remarkable grade 12 academic achievements. "If anyone tells you that you cannot do Maths, bring me their number," he told the students to roaring applause.

Despite their challenging socio-economic circumstances, Christel House students go on to achieve exceptional results, outstripping their peers by 400% in Mathematics and English and attaining a 100% matric pass rate since inception. The school has matric subject averages of 80% and higher and is ranked 8th in the Western Cape for Economics. 96% of Christel House graduates continue to study, are gainfully employed or both.

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Non-discriminatory clause: Christel House admits students of any race, colour, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programmes and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarships and loan programmes, and athletic and other school-administered programmes.

Christel House is a registered non-profit organisation and a 100% of all donations benefit Christel House's projects and programs. All South African donors are eligible to receive a tax-deductible 18A certificate and companies can receive B-BBEE points for their contributions as a 100% of Christel House's beneficiaries are Black. To donate to Christel House, visit <https://sa.christelhouse.org/donate>

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