# Overport Secondary School

**Physical Address: 60 Ward Rd, Overport, 4091**
**Telefax: 031 2073277**
**e-mail address: overportsecondary@gmail.com**


25 January 2023

To whom it may concern

Appreciation: DUT School Engagement Programme

School profile:
We are a secondary school situated in the urban area of Overport, Durban. Our location is easily accessible by public transport and hence we see a great demand for admission from learners who reside in far-away, previously disadvantaged areas. Our learner population is currently over 1100 learners. Ninety eight percent of our learners are African and most come from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. We charge a very low school fee. We also have learners from five social welfare homes.

Education challenges:
Despite these challenges, we achieve a matric pass rate of over 80% every year. However, the reality of this pass rate is that the majority of learners do not achieve a bachelor pass. There are many varied and complex reasons for this. What is clear, though, is that public schools will continue to churn out high pass rates that effectively remove learners from the school system but allow them no future as their non-bachelor passes do not allow them access to tertiary education. Additionally, the strained public-school resources do not allow for extra-curricular and extra mural activities.

Filling the gap:
At our school, we are extremely grateful to the DUT School Engagement Programme as it effectively and consistently fills in the educational gaps outlined above. In particular:

1. The DUT programme provides free tuition to learners in the gateway subjects in grades 10, 11 and 12. This provides much needed extra tuition and revision for the learners in an effective manner that is co-ordinated by our school teachers. This effectively means that the DUT tutors and our schoolteachers are working together to provide the best academic support for our learners (who otherwise would not be able to afford this). We are also happy to report that our learner achievement in these subjects has improved steadily and our bachelor passes are improving (specific statistics can be made available).
2. The DUT programme provides in-depth and personal exposure to tertiary programmes. This close association allows learners greater access to information about their chosen career fields.
3. The DUT programme strengthens our aim of holistic education. While academics are important, social and entrepreneurial skills are also important. The peace club embraces divergent learner interests and explores mechanisms of peaceful co-existence. The social entrepreneurial club is more specific in its aim of financial education and independence. In the previous year, this club raised funds and established a peace garden on our school premises.

4. Opportunities to showcase learner talents are always welcomed at schools. Public schools like ours are hard pressed to organize such events. The DUT programme successfully hosted a sports tournament and a talent show. The keen interest and participation by our learners indicated that the learners thoroughly enjoyed these events. Of note, is that our school also won several prizes at these events.

   What makes the DUT programme a good fit for our schools is that their educational philosophy is value-based. They go beyond technical academic skills and extend their activities to enhance the holistic development of the learner. In broad terms, they assist in empowering the youth with value-based development – something our future will need. Examples of these are punctuality (of the DUT team) and the learners, commitment, dedication and passion for improvement, reliability and consistency (classes during exam period etc.) and integrity (mutual respect).

   Conclusion:
   The DUT school engagement programme has proved to be a valuable and essential partner to us as a public school. It is an excellent example of public-private partnership where the funds are effectively used to empower a generation of young adults. It is making a significant contribution to education in particular, and to the development of this country in general.

   We hope and pray that the DUT School Engagement Programme continues to function and assist public schools like ours.

Thank you

Dr SH Omar - Principal
Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information.

OVERPORT SECONDARY SCHOOL
60 WARD ROAD
OVERPORT, 4091
TEL/FAX: 031 2073277