

## **St James High School awards inspire district-wide academic excellence in Mokhotlong**

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We have consistently seen how this initiative motivates our learners. The career guidance and awards encourage them to work harder, and the results speak for themselves. Over the years, more of our final-year learners have achieved improved aggregates

--said St James Principal, Mrs. 'Masetho.

For the first time since its inception in 2008, the Kobeli Business Services Academic Excellence Awards hosted at St James High School in Mokhotlong welcomed participation from other schools across Mokhotlong and Mashai, Thaba-Tseka. Held on 25 April 2025, the event brought together high school principals and final-year learners from Mabuleng and St Martin's for a weekend of career guidance and recognition.

This milestone marks a growing recognition of the awards' influence beyond St James High School, as other schools begin to consider adopting a similar model to foster a culture of academic excellence in the district.

In a district long challenged by poor performance in national final-year exams, the awards have emerged as a beacon of hope. Education stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education and the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA), continue to explore sustainable strategies to improve outcomes across the region. The growing interest from other schools is seen as a strong indicator of the awards' district-wide relevance and success.



This year, the LHDA contributed M20,000 towards supporting high-potential learners facing financial challenges. “LHDA has been a committed partner in this initiative, and we are now seeing its ripple effect across Mokhotlong – just as we envisioned. More vulnerable learners are staying in school and achieving more thanks to this investment,” said founder Mr. Teboho Kobeli. “We also appreciate the increasing support from local small businesses who are stepping up to join the cause.”

A total of 23 top-performing learners—including one from Seeiso High School—were honoured with certificates, prizes, and gifts for their outstanding 2025 performance in the Lesotho General Certificate of Secondary Education examinations.

The attendance of other schools and more stakeholders at the 2025 Kobeli Services Excellence Awards is a significant milestone for the district, highlighting a turning point in Mokhotlong’s education journey. The initiative’s momentum acceleration stands as a an example of how local partnerships can reshape futures.