



Empowerment Through Education



# TOP LEARNERS

QUARTER 1 2024



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# Executive Summary

## Our Top Learner Project is off to a great start in 2024.

Our high school team has already visited 40 high schools in the first quarter of 2024, identifying this year's Top Learners and launching our year-long support programme for them (page 4). We are distributing hundreds of study guides (page 6) have successfully implemented our new 'Wall of Fame' initiative (page 7).

Meanwhile, our university team (page 10) has been working diligently to ensure all our university students are well-supported as they begin their tertiary education journey. This includes assistance with registration, finding accommodation, obtaining funding, purchasing laptops and books, navigating online learning portals, and traveling to other universities. The transition from high school to university is always a significant challenge, and our team has been instrumental in making this process as smooth as possible for our students.

The Masinyusane Houses of Excellence continue to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our city's most impoverished students. Many of these students would otherwise be homeless, orphaned, or living in overcrowded shacks. The Masi Houses offer them the stability and support they need to succeed in their tertiary studies.

Through your support, we are creating a generation of graduates who are empowered to break the cycle of poverty for their families and communities. The 'Wall of Fame' initiative serves as a powerful reminder of the impact we are making and the bright future that lies ahead for these exceptional young people.



## Project Objectives

-  Ensure all of the learners from impoverished high schools have ACCESS to university (admission & funding)
-  Provide the support needed to ensure our students achieve SUCCESS while at university.
-  Creating a generation of young South Africans that are empowered to uplift their own families, solve their own community's problems, and to serve as role models to other youth.

# Support Roadmap



## High School Creating ACCESS to university

- Career Guidance
- Study Guides
- University Applications
- Workshops
- Food and welfare
- Financial Aid & Bursary Applications



## University Ensuring SUCCESS while at university

- Leadership Workshops
- Mentoring
- Bus-fare and Food
- Masinyusane Bursary Houses
- Scholarships



## Graduation Empowered to uplift one's own family

- Entrepreneurship Training
- Job Readiness Training
- Job Placement Assistance

# Project Numbers

Over the past 15 years, Masinyusane has assisted thousands of learners in pursuing their dreams and attending university. The roadmap to the left shows the journey we travel with each of these incredible young people.



5-Year  
Pass-rate



Students with  
Mentors



University  
Graduates



Students in Masi  
Houses



Nelson  
Mandela  
University  
Students

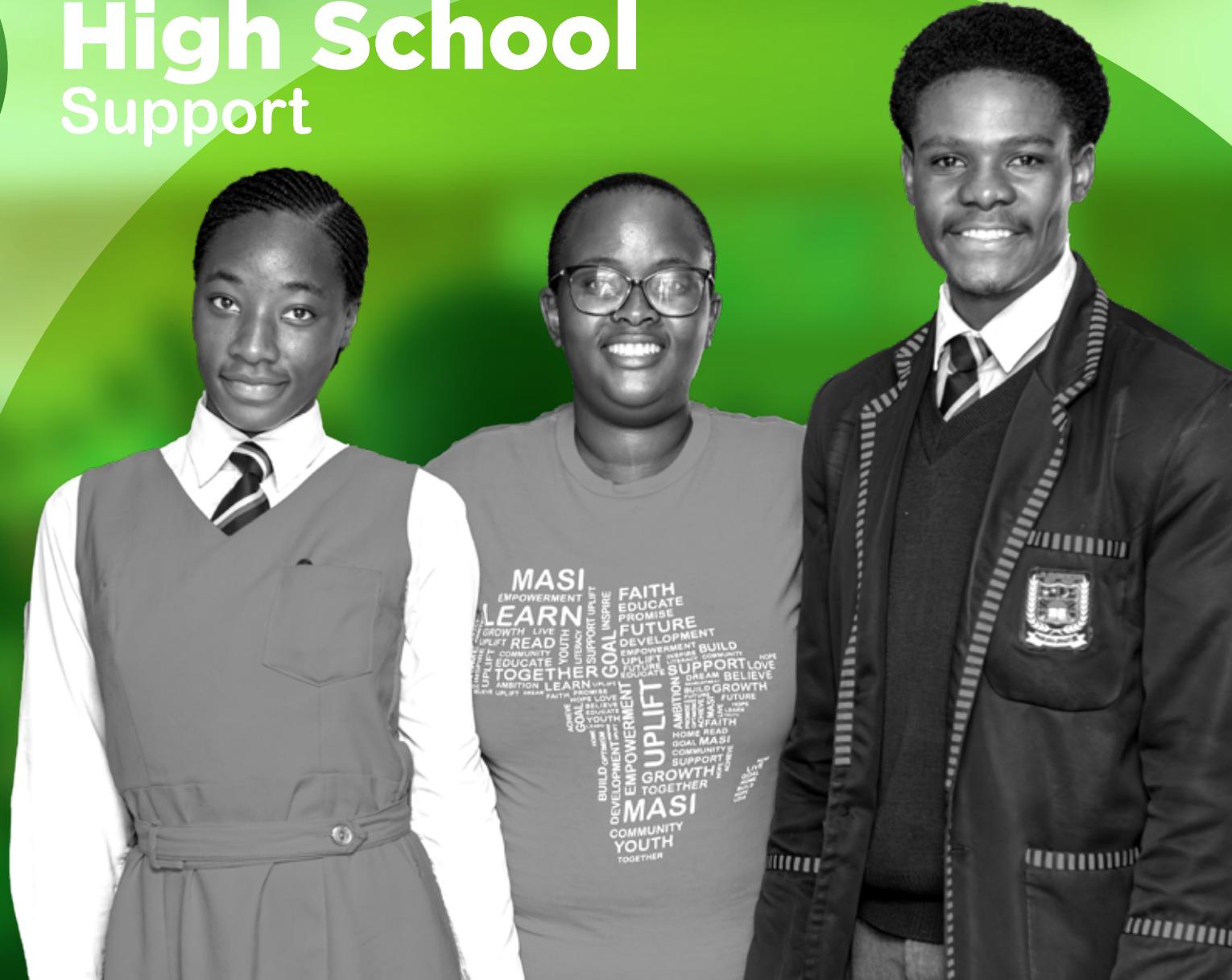


Top Metrics  
Identified

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# High School Support



# Masi Study Guides

We will deliver over R100,000 of customised Masi Study Guides to our Top Learners giving them a critical tool needed to succeed in Grade 12. Each learner now has dozens of practice tests (with answers) for each of their Grade 12 classes. Our experience has been that these study guides are amongst the highest return on investment we can make.



# Masi Walls of Fame

Fewer than 2% of children in our townships will ever make it to university. To celebrate those that have, we built Walls of Fame at all of our high schools featuring those stars. Each one serves as an inspiring role model to our current learners. Our townships need more heroes and we are creating them.





# Mentoring Tomorrow's Stars

Nolwazi (in Red) has joined our mentoring team last year. Having been a Masinyusane High School Top Learner herself and a successful university graduate, she knows what it takes to make it. Nolwazi serves as a powerful role model, demonstrating that with hard work, determination, and the right support, our students can achieve their dreams of a university education and a brighter future.

Her ability to empathize and connect with our high school learners, many of whom are facing incredible odds, takes Masinyusane's interventions to the next level. Our team has been there. And they are living proof to our learners that they too can make it. With mentors like Nolwazi, who have walked the same path and emerged victorious, our students have the guidance and support they need to navigate the challenges of high school and beyond.





# University Support



# Sending Students across the country

Historically, the large majority of learners that made it to university from Port Elizabeth's townships would stay local.

You have drastically increased our ability to enroll students at other universities, giving learners from our townships the opportunity to travel, live in another city and access other universities.

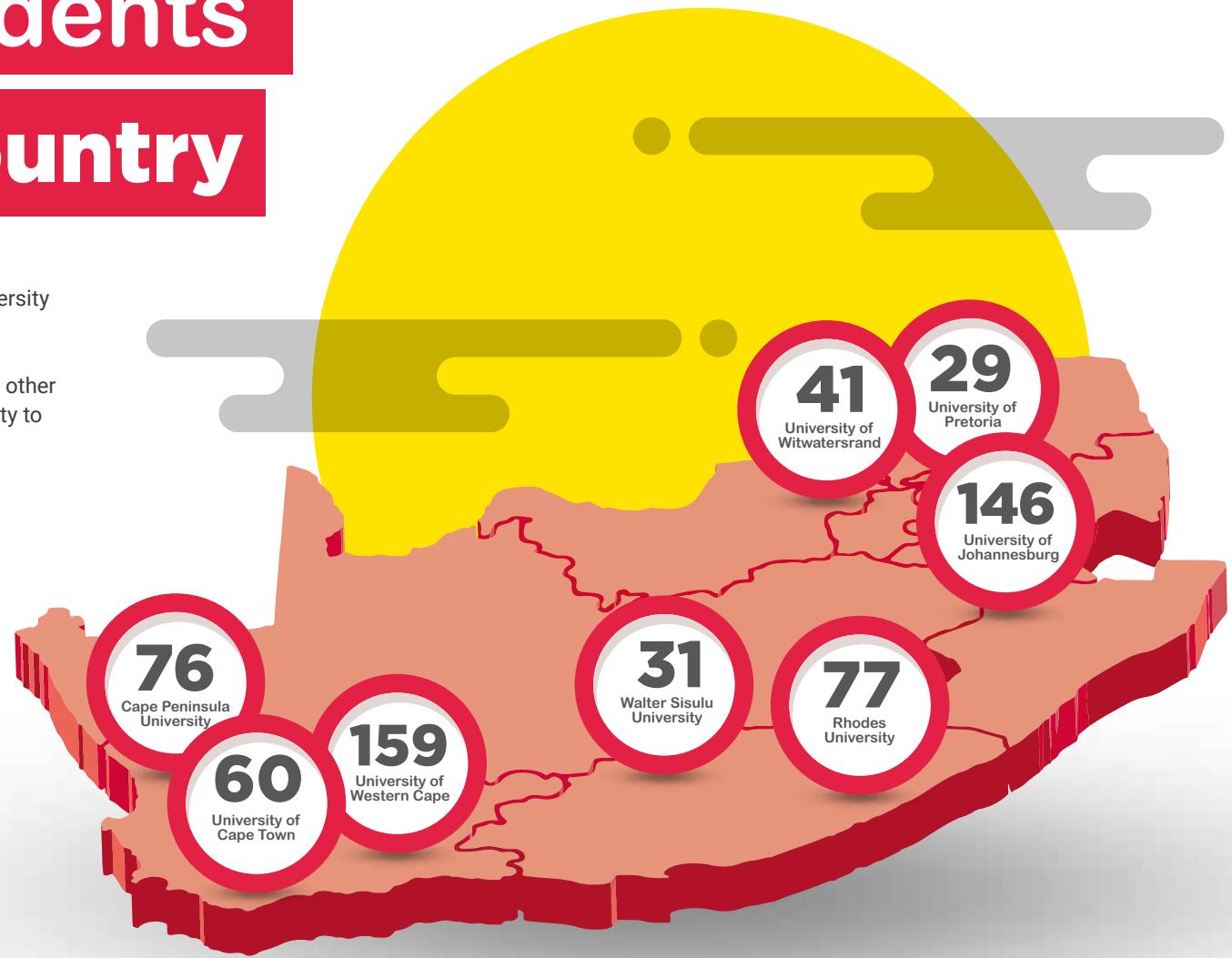
Our team makes an enormous effort to unlock access to other universities for our learners. We apply (and pay fees for) up to five universities for each learner. This equates to thousands of applications each year.

However, even after being accepted, the road to enrolling at a university outside of Port Elizabeth can be difficult.

Some institutions require you to be present before assigning housing. Therefore, you must show up in other city and accommodate yourself for a few days until the housing lists are sorted out

Needless to say, this is an impossible expense for our students. This year, we once again bought bus tickets, paid nights in hostels, and provided travel stipends to learners.

The experience of living outside of the only city they have ever known will be life-changing for many of these students. We are excited to be able to provide that opportunity.



# University Support

Masinyusane has always sought to go above and beyond what other scholarships and bursaries provide. We are acutely aware of the situation of each of our learners and have developed a comprehensive system of support that provides customized levels of support.

The most obvious expenses include tuition and housing, both of which we feature on the pages that follow. But we also provide welfare and food stipends for those in need. We purchase books, laptops, calculators, lab equipment, and sometimes even uniforms. We host workshops and conferences, ranging from study skills to motivational talks.

Most importantly, we assign coaches and mentors to the students. The coaches are typically our own beneficiaries who know the struggle, traveled the journey, and successfully graduated. Their ability to understand and empathize allows us to trust their recommendations. Our mentors are typically industry leaders, business persons, or Masi alumni. They help build the much needed networks for our students, plugging them into the working economy.

The majority of our students live in the townships and commute an hour to campus every day. They are disconnected from campus life, the libraries, the computer labs and all evening study sessions. Yet they still outperform the typical university student.

Their success is largely a testament to their character, work ethic, and ability. But it's also a reflection of the tremendous effort our team puts into making sure our students have the support needed to succeed.

**With your support, we are able to provide our students with the support needed to succeed at university.**



We are investing in a generation of university graduates that will be empowered to uplift their own families, solve their own community's problems and serve as role models to other youth.

# Masi Houses of Excellence

Masinyusane continues to provide housing to the most impoverished students in Port Elizabeth. Without this assistance, these students would not succeed at university.

They come from homes in informal settlements, many live with 10+ people in a household, most share beds with siblings and some are even homeless. They constitute the 'poorest' five percent of our entire cohort of students.

The two Masi Houses of Excellence are our effort to ensure Masinyusane remains focused on those most in need.

The houses continue to provide the students with a safe, secure home next to campus. It includes study areas, food stipends, computers & internet access, leadership workshops, and daily mentoring from Masinyusane staff.

We are very proud of the fact that our two houses have had a pass-rate over 90% over the past 5 years. The culture of excellence permeates through each of these students' lives and they continue to raise the bar.

The photo to the right shows the 2024 group at one of our houses!





# 2024 Graduates

from Masinyusane



# A Generation of Leaders



## Number of Masinyusane Graduates



Our High School and University Scholarship projects were built with the goal of empowering a generation of young South Africans to obtain professional employment. Those jobs, and the income that comes with them, would then empower the youth to uplift their families, solve their own community's problems and serve as role models to other youth.

This dream is now becoming a reality. We have graduates that are lawyers, engineers, teachers, bankers and even politicians! Some of these graduates have bought their parents new houses. Others have built up impressive investment accounts with the goal of ensuring no one in their family tree ever suffers from poverty again. Still others have become involved in local politics and are flexing their leadership muscles to fight for their own people.

The ripples of change from these young stars will be felt for many years to come. Masinyusane's generous donors have made long-term investments that will have a long-term impact. The future is bright.



# Feature Graduate

**Mekyle Solomon**

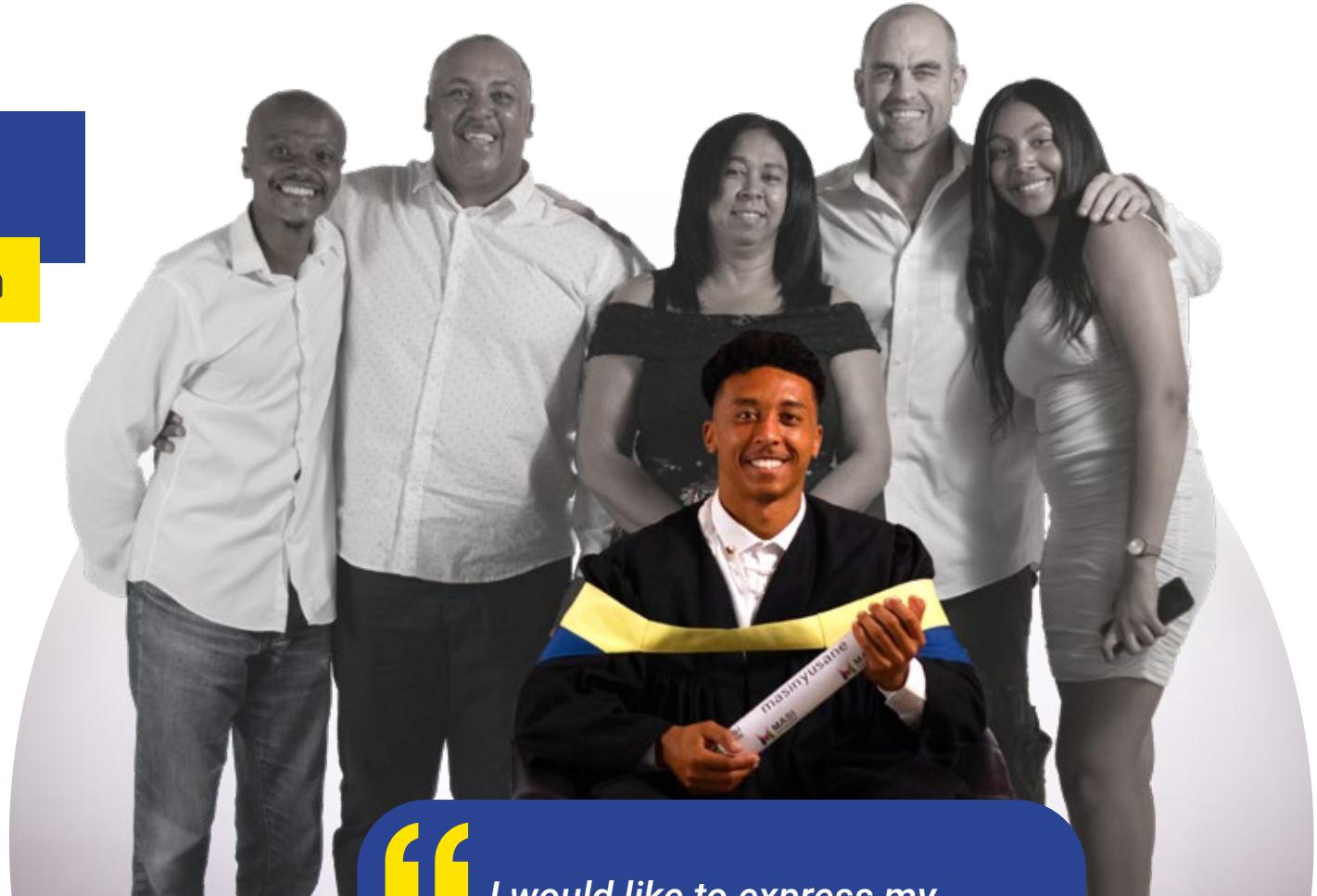
One of our all-time favourites!

Mekyle was a stand out student, rugby player, and all-around person in the Masi Houses these past three years.

Sponsored by the local Kouga Wind Farm, he earned a degree in teaching and will be soon leading the next generation (both in the classroom and, do doubt, as a coach on the field).

As he awaits his official post, Mekyle is exploring opportunities to fulfil his lifelong dream of playing rugby abroad.

With a huge heart and A+ character, we are excited to know that Mekyle will change hundreds more lives with his own.



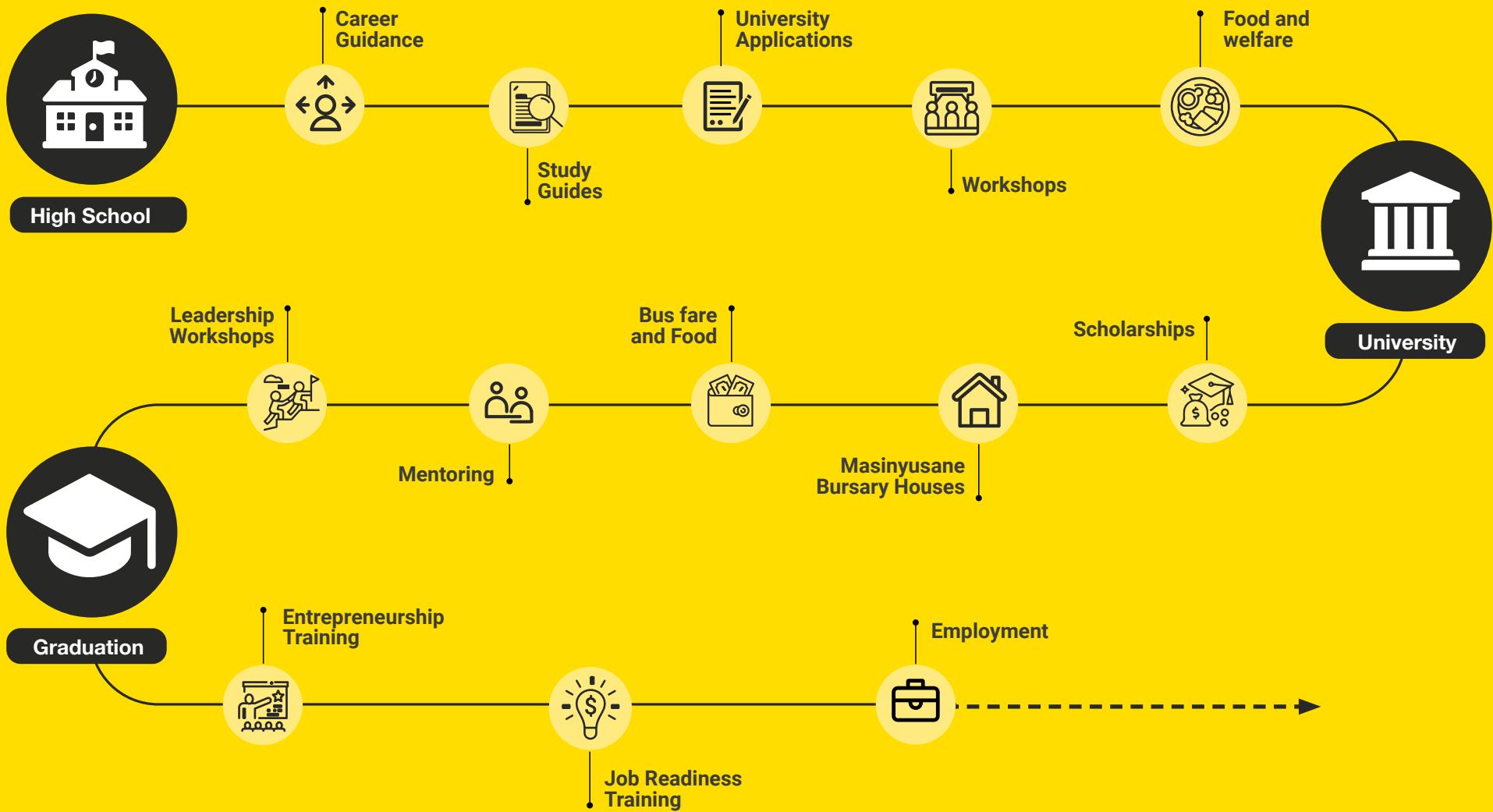
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*I would like to express my sincere gratitude. Thank you Masinyusane for everything. I have been blessed and learned so much living in the Masi House. My gratitude runs deep.*

# **Annexures & Appendices**



# Comprehensive Scholarship Model



# Over 40 High Schools

Masinyusane's high school team is supporting 41 high schools across the Nelson Mandela Bay and its rural areas.



# **THANK YOU** for your support



**Empowering  
Through Education**

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