

CEO MESSAGE



Dear RBI Community –

Greetings!

On behalf of the Royal Bafokeng Institute (RBI) I would like to thank you for your support during the past eighteen months of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been a particularly challenging chapter for all stakeholders involved within the Education sector.

This said, it is a distinct privilege to be making a contribution to the future of our Youth across all spheres of their learning journey, from early child development through to post-school and tertiary education.

Advancing ourselves through Education is a key aspiration for everyone in society and the community, at whatever stage of our lives, and our mission at RBI is to place education at the centre of our mindset as a 'Learning Nation'.

At Royal Bafokeng Institute (RBI), we have a unique opportunity to make an impact across the entire education pipeline, from pre- and early child development (ECD), through primary and secondary schooling, to post-school technical and vocational training, and tertiary education. As custodians supporting the lifelong learning journey, we are able to identify practical measures to address a range of challenges which prevent learners from achieving their full potential, and then to design and create unique interventions and to build on successes through scale and scope, thereby positively impacting education outcomes and contributing to the Royal Bafokeng Nation, the greater North West Province and the whole of South Africa.

At the heart of our ethos, our value based approach supports the development of a holistic, integrated education strategy aimed at achieving excellence in educational outcomes by delivering a quality, deep-rooted, positive experience of learning with each of the thousands of learners with whom we engage.

Whilst there is widespread reported evidence of the severe negative impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on education and schooling, with statistics confirming the setback to learners across all school grades and citing exponential drop-out rates and reducing household incomes linked to rising unemployment, the pandemic has also highlighted the need to embrace change and transformation and to act with a sense of urgency in order to regain lost ground and to deliver real progress regarding our education and development priorities. Enablers on this journey include education technology (EdTEch) and online learning, which hitherto were regarded as ambitious, and which have now become the new normal for information, knowledge sharing and learning in many forms, including synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning methodologies.

At RBI we are clear about our vision and purpose in pursuit of social justice and upliftment of the Royal Bafokeng Nation (RBN) and community, through the provision of equitable access to quality education, and aligning with - and delivering to - the Vision encapsulated in Plan 35 for RBN.

As we plan to embrace 2022 and the future, now is a good time to engage with us about your specific needs and aspirations, so that we can explore possibilities for collaboration and partnership in support of our learning journey and the vision of a better quality of life for all.

Stay safe and well.

Best wishes

Simon

Simon Tankard

CEO: Royal Bafokeng Institute