



# The Sumbandila Scholarship Trust



Transforming the lives of underprivileged children,  
**creating entrepreneurs and leaders** who will make  
significant contributions to the future of South Africa.



We believe that the eight year relationship we have with the students starts a process of **positive change** that lives with the children throughout their lives and influences the people and communities with whom they interact.



Sumbandila  
means  
'show the way',  
or directly  
translated  
from Venda,  
'point the road'.

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# Introduction



“ A good head and good heart are always a formidable combination. But when you add to that a literate tongue or pen, then you have something very special ”

*Nelson Mandela*

- A frightening percentage of South African schools are under-resourced and under-performing.
- We risk creating a generation who do not have the skills nor confidence to effect much needed change in our society and economy.
- Sumbandila wants to **be part of the solution**, even the best designed macro solutions require microlevel implementation and so we focus on essential microlevel interventions.
- We select extraordinary children from backgrounds of extreme poverty and offer them a world-class education alongside a strong mentorship programme.
- Our Full Residential Programme includes full scholarship at Ridgeway College, an independent school offering the Cambridge curriculum where the tuition fees are relatively low.
- We have shown that within three years of our intervention, village children from deep rural primary schools can write world-class (IGCSE) exams and are able to compete with students from international schools.
- Our parallel Outlier Programme offers intense academic and psychosocial support over weekends and school holidays to children from outlying deep rural schools.
- Our University Programme provides access to bursaries and funding for our Full Residential and Outlier students to access tertiary education and offers a strong mentorship programme during the tertiary years.



# Education is the Key

Our children are independent and creative thinkers, they are confident, accountable, adaptable and most importantly recognise the importance of giving back, and “showing the way”.

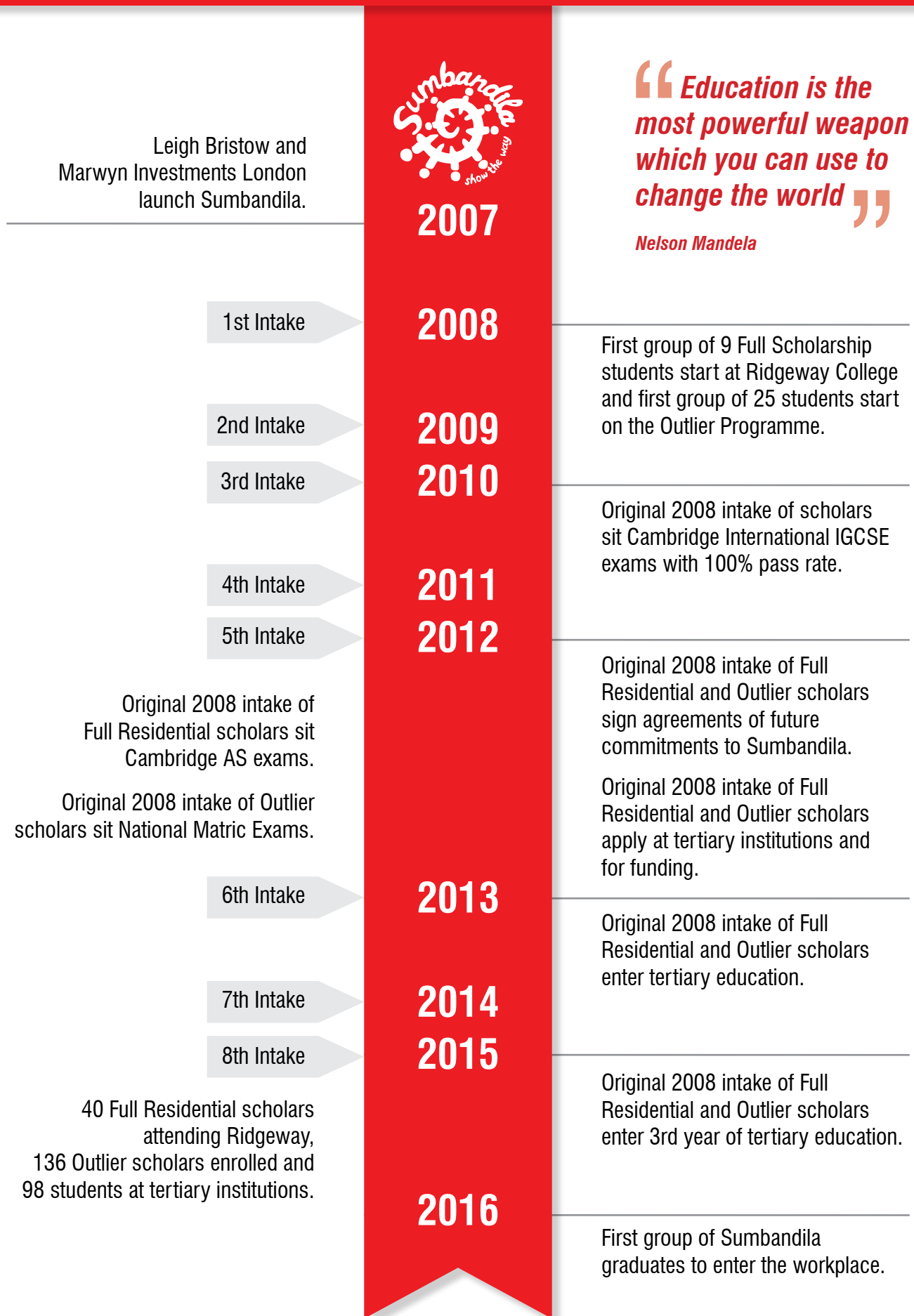
- Sumbandila aims to transform the lives of exceptional children from backgrounds of extreme poverty.
- Through its educational scholarship and mentorship programme Sumbandila aims to create entrepreneurs and leaders who will one day make significant contributions to their own communities and to Africa.
- Sumbandila is currently focused in the Vhembe district in Limpopo, one of the poorest provinces of South Africa.
- Since 2008 we have provided 222 children with academic support and mentorship in the form of either a full academic scholarship at Ridgeway College or weekend and holiday programmes at Ridgeway College.
- School leavers from both programmes are given intensive career counselling and financial and practical support in obtaining funding and entry into tertiary education. Currently 69 Sumbandila alumni are enrolled at tertiary institutions across South Africa.
- The next phase of our project will be connection to opportunity and entrepreneurial and social mentorship in the workplace for our graduates.
- The total budgeted cost of our programme for 2015 was ZAR 3.2 million. Our aim is to grow Sumbandila to a total of 360 scholars excluding alumni in the workplace. Our total annual target budget will be approximately ZAR 6.8 million.
- The ultimate and critical aim of Sumbandila is that our alumni will not only make significant contributions to their communities and the regional economy but that they will give back to Sumbandila in the form of bursaries and mentorship.



Mmathapelo Ramahuma is one of the first Sumbandila full scholarship recipients selected in 2008. Pictured left in front of her Ramahantsha house (2008) and right at the University of Pretoria studying BSc Geology. (2014).

Now in our eighth year, we have learned from our children, our teachers, the local community and partner organisations and can claim to have offered a particular, uniquely **personalised approach** to the educational, social, ethical and personal development of our scholars.

# The story so far





We are looking for extraordinary children who, despite the ravages of poverty, have the **grit** and **zest** to create a better future.

“ **Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education** ”

*Martin Luther King Jr.*

# Our Programmes

## 1 Selection

- Assessment and recruitment of Grade 7 learners from deep rural primary schools for Residential and Outlier Programmes. Only students who fit the financial criteria of a total household income of less than R3000 per month can apply.
- Over 3000 learners tested since 2007.

## 2 Secondary Education

### Full Residential Programme

- Scholars receive full academic bursaries to attend Cambridge international secondary school including weekly boarding.
- 57 scholars since 2008.

### Outlier Programme

- Scholars remain in rural secondary schools but are transported to Ridgeway College on weekends and holidays where they receive intense academic and psychosocial support as well as career guidance.
- 196 scholars since 2008.

## 3 Tertiary Education

- School leavers from both programmes receive support with career advice, applications for admission, bursaries, accommodation etc. and once admitted become part of the University mentorship programme.
- 98 scholars since 2012.

## 4 Employment

- Connection to opportunity, skills development, work placement, small enterprise development and entrepreneurial mentorship programmes.

# Student selection



Watch videos on recruitment and other Sumbandila videos at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7eDNMC\\_WolzZm0qxvYnk5w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7eDNMC_WolzZm0qxvYnk5w)

## Student assessment and recruitment

- Essential to this process is our relationship with Circuit Managers, primary schools, Principals, and community leaders in the communities where we recruit.
- Application forms are delivered to, on average, 307 Primary School Principals in the Vhembe district.
- Applications require detailed documentation supporting the “means test” i.e. total household income of less than R3000. Application forms are therefore handed out by the Principals of the primary schools on this basis.
- Once children are selected onto the final stage, the information regarding the financial status of the family is thoroughly investigated by Sumbandila.
- Our selection incorporates a two-step process:
  - 1 – Testing takes place in five different centres over three Saturdays in August.  
The centres are chosen to enable students who cannot afford transport to walk to the venues.
    - The initial written assessment tests Mathematical ability and English comprehension.
  - 2 – The top 30-40 applicants who fit the financial criteria, are then invited to attend a full day assessment hosted at Ridgeway College.
    - Existing Sumbandila scholars participate in the selection process.
    - This includes further testing on perceptual skills, reading age, leadership abilities, creative activities, sporting activities and interviews.
- Finally depending on funding, the top candidates are selected into the Full Residential Programme and the remaining candidates onto the Outlier Programme.
- Candidates are not only selected for financial need and academic ability but for what we call at Sumbandila “**grit**” and “**zest**” (terms originated from the USA KIPP school system).
- **Grit** speaks of courage, resilience, determination and **zest** of enthusiasm, passion and drive.



# The Residential Programme



Some of the new Form 1's on the Full Residential Sumbandila Programme (2015).

- These students receive full bursaries to attend Ridgeway College, a Cambridge international school in Louis Trichardt in Limpopo province.
- These bursaries are full in the widest sense of the term. They cover:

Tuition Fees	Housing	Medical Needs	Transport	Exam Fees
Food & Clothing	Computer access & software	Books & stationery	Extramural activities	Mentoring & pastoral care

- The students live in a dedicated hostel adjacent to Ridgeway College. However, students are encouraged and financed to return home every weekend so that they remain rooted in their communities.
- Critical to the success of this programme is the ongoing support surrounding the transition from village life to an essentially middle-class school situated in the town. This support is not only given by the staff but by the older Sumbandila students and the alumni.



The Ridgeway College and Sumbandila student residence.

# Schooling at Ridgeway College

## Cambridge Top Achievement Awards

**2008** Matamela Maiwashe 1st in SA for Maths & IT, 7th in the world for Physical Science

**2009** Martin Rauch 3rd in the world for Accounting & Ulandi Prinsloo 5th in the world for Afrikaans

**2010** Rabia Chayya 1st in the world for IGCSE Physical Science, 2nd in the world for IT and 1st in SA for Maths

**2011** Lauren Taylor 1st in world in Business Studies and 3rd best across 7 AS subjects, Nabeelah Ghood 1st in SA in IGCSE Accounting, Rabia Chayya 3rd best across 3 AS subjects

**2012** Xongile Nghatsane 1st in SA for IGCSE Accounting, Taariq Tayob 1st in SA for IGCSE IT, Lauren Taylor 1st in SA for AS Physical Science

**2013** Mohammad Ayob 1st in the world for IGCSE Physical Science

**2014** Ismaeel Ayob 1st in SA for IGCSE Accounting

**2015** Nkavelo Shivambi 1st in SA for IGCSE Business Studies, Mohammad Ayob 1st in SA for AS Accounting and 1st across 4 AS subjects



Watch Ridgeway's promotional video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbczOKCbCzk>

Ridgeway College is Sumbandila's school of choice because:

1. The high standards of education enables our students to be internationally benchmarked.
2. Ridgeway writes the Cambridge international IGCSE and AS level exams which are written in top schools worldwide.
3. It has a truly "new South African" multicultural demographic.
4. The size (180 high school learners) lends itself to a family atmosphere where each child is seen as an individual.
5. The relatively low fee structure and the Sumbandila project means that students are drawn from economically diverse backgrounds.

## Why Cambridge?



Cambridge international qualifications are recognised by the world's best universities and employers, giving students a wide range of options in their education and careers. Together with schools like Ridgeway, Cambridge develops learners who are confident, responsible, reflective, innovative and engaged – equipped for success in the modern world.

Ridgeway College has achieved outstanding results in the Cambridge international exams.

In 2008 **Cambridge** decided to award **top achievement awards** to candidates who were ranked in the top **10 in the world** or in their respective countries. Cambridge is written in over 120 different countries throughout the world. The following are the awards achieved by Ridgeway College students between 2008 and 2015.

*Please note that if you achieve top in the world you are not awarded for the same award in the national award.*

Subject	Position in world	Number of times	Position in South Africa	Number of times
Physical Science	1st	X3	1st	X1
	7th	X1		
Maths			1st	X2
Accounting	1st	X1	1st	X2
	3rd	X1		
Business studies	1st	X1	1st	X1
IT	1st	X1	1st	X2
Across 7 AS subjects	1st			
Across 4 AS subjects	1st	X1		
Across 3 AS subjects	3rd	X1		



# The Outlier Programme



- Available funds dictate the number of students we can select onto the Full Residential Programme, but the final selection process brings us face-to-face with children who are just as talented and hungry for education.
- Sumbandila believes that having given these children a glimmer of hope they must be part of the family. Therefore any children that make it to the final selection process but not onto the Full Residential Programme, automatically become part of the Outlier Programme.
- Students are funded to come to Ridgeway College on Saturdays and during the school holidays for academic and psychosocial support as well as a wide range of activities and experiences designed to extend their cultural, social and personal horizons.
- Students have access to the Ridgeway Science and Computer labs, library and sports facilities.
- Intense academic support is given by highly qualified teachers (many from Ridgeway College) primarily in Science, Mathematics, English, Accountancy and Computer Literacy. Other subjects can be accommodated on request.
- Meals, textbooks, stationery and transport costs are provided and the children also have access to pastoral care.
- In their final year all Outlier students are given career guidance and assisted in applying to tertiary institutions and for bursaries throughout South Africa. All application costs are covered by Sumbandila.



Outlier Group 2012.

**“ True education does not consist merely in the acquiring of a few facts of science, history, literature, or art, but in the development of character ”**

**David O. McKay**

# Tertiary Education



- None of our students have parents who have had a tertiary education.
- None of our students have the financial means to attend a tertiary institution.
- In Grade 12 students from the Full Residential and Outlier Programmes are given intensive career advice and are encouraged to select courses that match their talents and interests.
- They are assisted practically and financially to apply to three tertiary institutions and are assisted in applying for a wide range of bursaries and funding options.
- They are assisted logistically and financially to attend interviews for bursaries.
- Critical partnerships for bursaries are Studietrust (by far the majority of our bursaries), REAP and Sasol Inzalo.
- They are assisted to apply for, prepare for and travel to the NBT (National Benchmark Tests) which are critical for University entrance.
- Deposits required to secure a university place or a place at residence are paid for by Sumbandila until the student's bursary or government funding is paid out.
- University residences cannot meet the demand for student accommodation, our students do not have parents who can guarantee lease agreements on their behalf and they have no funds for deposits.
- Sumbandila assists both financially and logistically by finding or providing accommodation for the students until their bursaries or funding are paid out.
- Students are assisted with travel expenses to get to university and are assisted with basics like bedding, cooking utensils, stationery, first groceries etc.
- Not all students receive full bursaries for tertiary, so where necessary, students receive supplementary financial support from Sumbandila throughout their tertiary education. All Sumbandila funding to tertiary students is given in the form of an interest-free loan to be paid back by bursaries or once they are in the workplace.
- Many of the Sumbandila students live in communal situations for mutual support, based on established bonds. Our experience has taught us that they perform better in these situations.
- The transition to university is difficult both emotionally and academically. Ongoing mentorship is given by Sumbandila staff and our critical partnership with Studietrust.
- University students themselves support and mentor one another academically and socially.
- University students are encouraged and assisted to find holiday employment wherever possible. They are also encouraged to return to assist during holiday schools for the Outlier Programme.

***“ Inclusive, good quality education is a foundation for dynamic and equitable societies ”***

***Desmond Tutu***





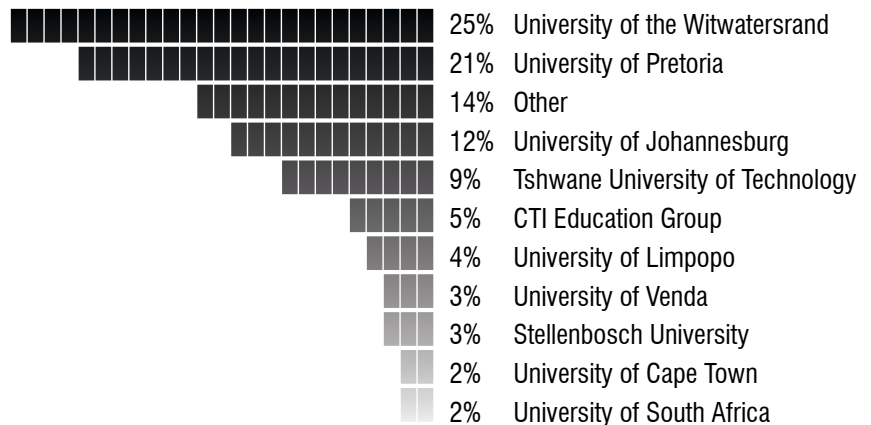
We currently have 69 students enrolled at tertiary institutions across South Africa.

Sumbandila scholars are currently enrolled for the following degrees:

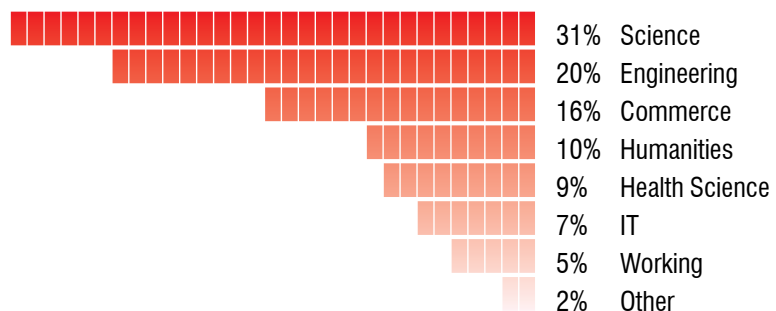
- Accounting Science
- Actuarial Science
- B Cur Nursing Services
- B Tech Food technology
- B.Com Logistics
- B.Eng Civil Engineering
- B.Eng Metallurgical Engineering
- BA Language Practise
- Bachelor in Education
- Bachelor of Social Work
- BCom
- Bcom Financial Sciences
- BSc Accounting
- BSc Biological Science
- BSc Biology
- BSc Agriculture
- BSc Biotechnology
- BSc Chemical Engineering
- BSc Computer Science
- BSc General/Geology
- BSc Geology
- BSc in Theoretical Physics
- BSc Life Sciences
- BSc Mathematical Science
- BSc Mathematics
- BSc Physics & Chemistry
- Chemical Engineering
- Construction Studies
- Ecological Management
- Environmental sciences
- Geoinformatics
- HCBPP
- Hospitality Management
- Industrial Engineering
- Information Systems
- Law
- Marketing and Management
- Marketing Management
- MBchb (Medicine)
- Mechanical Engineering
- MLM: Networking
- N Dip Water Care
- Nat.Cert Accounting
- ND Agriculture: Crop Production
- Pharmacy
- Political Sciences
- Teaching
- Veterinary Science



### 2012 - 2016 Tertiary Institutions



### 2012 - 2016 Tertiary Faculties



# Student numbers

## Today...

Today there are **274** Sumbandila students



**40**

Scholars in the Residential Programme

**136**

Scholars in the Outlier Programme

**98**

Scholars in the Tertiary Programme

## Our Target...

Our target is to be supporting **320** scholars at any one time within the education system...



**50**

Scholars in the Full Residential Programme

**150**

Scholars in the Outlier Programme

**120**

Scholars in the Tertiary Programme

and to establish a work placement programme which provides structured access to practical experience within real businesses and organisations.

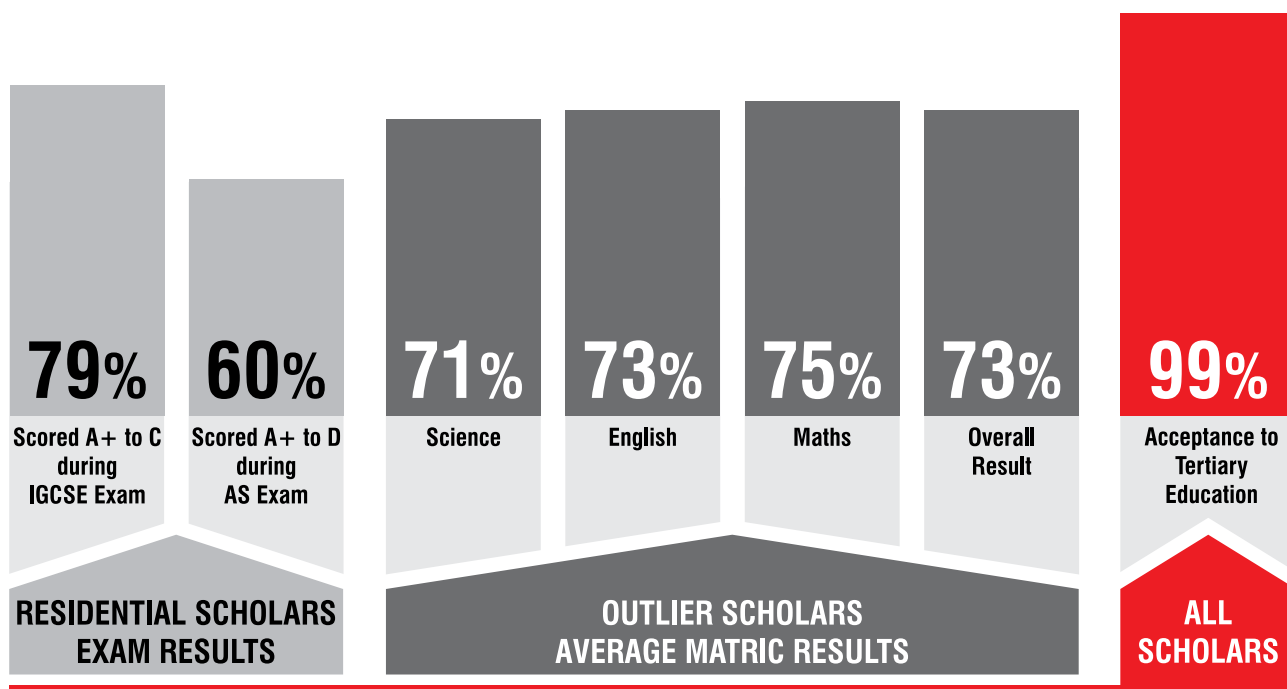


# Our impact so far

Our alumni will make significant contributions to their communities and the regional economy.



## Academic performance



The IGCSE and AS-Level qualifications from Cambridge are recognised by the world's best universities and employers, giving students a wide range of options in their education and career.



# Building communities



Sumbandila and the sponsor Cash & Rocket (UK) visit the home of Gladys Ramatsie to award her with a Full Residential scholarship (November 2014).

Watch Cash & Rocket 2014 visit to Sumbandila:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqqQ98IFDG4>

## Relationship with family and community

- Although some of the children on our programme have loving and supportive guardians or parents in their lives, more typically they come from home environments characterised by extreme poverty, absenteeism, terminal illness, death of parents, domestic violence and often abuse.
- Despite these very real difficulties, Sumbandila tries to keep in touch with parents and guardians and involve them in their children's lives and major decisions.
- Students are financed to return home on the weekends to ensure that they remain in their churches, youth groups, and maintain their friendships and family relationships.

Sumbandila stresses the importance of scholars respecting and maintaining their own cultural values, traditions and most importantly their language.

## Creating a legacy of commitment

- Central to our mission is to develop young adults who are grounded in their communities, proud of their culture and loyal to the ideals of Sumbandila so that they will one day give back to their communities and other children like themselves.
- From the start of their time in the Sumbandila family we talk to them about their responsibility to their communities, about the importance of giving back, the idea of service in leadership and the philosophy of Ubuntu.
- Our students mentor and support one another both academically and socially. They volunteer on holiday and Saturday school, take part in various outreach programmes and finally in grade 12 sign a contract obligating them to make a reasonable monetary contribution towards supporting another Sumbandila scholar once they have entered the workplace.



Khodani Ramuthivheli (Full Residential scholar 2010-2015) presents her Venda culture to Sumbandila Sponsors.



# What we have learnt along the way



For Sumbandila to truly be an institution of learning and healing, both the staff and the scholars need to be continually learning from one another and caring for one another so that the transformation process can run deep.

## Some of the challenges

- For our scholars, joining our programmes and attending Ridgeway for the first time represents a huge challenge.
- For many it is the first time that they have lived apart from their immediate community.
- Many are leaving behind unstable homes, with vulnerable siblings and/or elderly and unwell parents or grandparents. The death of family members during school term is a far too common occurrence for our scholars.
- They are now living and studying alongside other children who they may only have met on our induction day.
- They have often faced (at times fierce) ostracism from some members of their local communities as a result of their accepting a place with Sumbandila, out of jealousy or other factors.
- Our students often suffer from a feeling of guilt at being selected into the programme as they remain surrounded by peers at home who are not as fortunate.
- They have to face the difficult and ongoing navigation between two completely different worlds; their poorer home backgrounds and their more privileged lives in Louis Trichardt.
- They are exposed to middle class students who are not always sensitive and sympathetic to their backgrounds, and may deal with feelings of inferiority based on their economic and cultural backgrounds.
- Although the children excelled in our recruitment tests and were excellent scholars in their own primary schools, they are suddenly faced with a first language English medium of instruction and a much higher academic level. The initial drop in their academic results and an initial social awkwardness results in a lack of confidence and feelings of vulnerability.

## Some of the learning

- We have learnt that there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach to dealing with the unique set of challenges faced by each individual child. The support they receive needs to be culturally sensitive and personalised for the specific individual.
- Sumbandila needs to grow into a haven for these children in terms of support, pastoral care and mentorship and to develop confidence and character alongside academic prowess.
- Most importantly we have learnt that the best mentors for the new students are the elder Sumbandila scholars themselves. They have travelled the same road and they are best equipped to lead their younger “Sumbandila siblings” and “show the way.”

**“ It is our moral obligation to give every child the very best education possible ”**

**Desmond Tutu**

# Some personal stories



Sandra with her brother Sindiswe in 2008.

## Sandra Rabulanyana

Sumbandila Residential Scholarship (2008-2012)

Civil Engineering – Pretoria University (2013-)



2015

Sandra was selected in 2007 and started at Ridgeway College with the first group of Sumbandila scholars in 2008. Her single mother was working at a fast food restaurant to support herself and her brother with no familial support. Six months into the programme her mother became desperately ill with HIV and whilst Sandra struggled with the challenges of her new school environment she had to care for her mother and young brother on the weekends.

Tragically her mother passed away at the end of the first year and she asked to leave the programme to care for her young brother. Sumbandila made the decision to take both children into full-time care and Sandra was able to write her international IGCSE exams in 2010 with which she achieved outstanding results and received several distinctions.

She went on to write AS-level exams with equal success and was accepted into the Pretoria University on a full Sasol Inzalo bursary to study civil engineering. Sandra obtained four distinctions in her second year and is currently in her fourth year of civil engineering having not failed a single course.

**“It always seems impossible until it is done”**

*Nelson Mandela*



2015

## Takalani Muedi

Sumbandila Residential Scholarship (2009-2013)

Accounting – UNISA (2015-)



Takalani is awarded the Sumbandila Scholarship in 2009.

Takalani was born in Madombidzha, a dusty rural village on the outskirts of Louis Trichardt. Her mother died when she was one year old so her and her elder brother were taken into the care of their grandmother who died when Taki was a nine year old. Heartbreakingly she overheard a conversation amongst the family members arguing about who would now take responsibility for the two orphans. Her youngest aunt gallantly agreed to leave school in order to care for the children. This wonderful woman supported them by selling maize crops at a local taxi rank.

In 2009 Takalani was awarded the Sumbandila Scholarship as she showed extraordinary determination and leadership qualities. Today she is studying a bachelor of accounting through UNISA whilst working at a local auditing firm to earn her fees and a small wage, but most importantly to gain valuable work experience. She plans to be a chartered accountant.

# Some personal stories



Rosy (age 12) tending her vegetable garden at her home village in Mashau (2008).



2015

## Rosymary Mudzanani

Sumbandila Residential Scholarship (2008-2012)

BCom Economics & Finance – UCT (2013-2015)



Rosy was a tiny, malnourished 13-year-old girl in a ragged dress when she applied for the Sumbandila scholarship in 2007. The selection committee will never forget the sparkle and determination in her eyes during her interview and later when she received the news of her success. She had always known with absolute certainty that she would be victorious.

Tragically she and her HIV-positive sister had been abandoned with distant relatives at a very young age after the death of their mother. There they endured extreme abuse, basic accommodation and inadequate nourishment. Rosy was finally taken into the full care of Sumbandila and her sister into a local NGO specialising in HIV children. Her sister lost her battle against HIV in 2015.

Despite all these hardships Rosy's ambitious, determined and politically minded character has made her enormously successful at school and she is now in her honours year at the University of Cape Town studying Economics and Finance on a bursary from Investec and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation.

Watch Rosy's remarkable journey of transformation with Sumbandila at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvLCd-odDHk>



Rosy (age 21) in a 2015 short documentary produced by Harbers Studios (USA) and RunRiot Films.

Watch the Harbers Studio documentary about Rosy at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqPDV\\_kJSX0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqPDV_kJSX0)



**“ Inclusive, good quality education is a foundation for dynamic and equitable societies ”**

*Desmond Tutu*



# Our current partners

To date, Sumbandila has been supported by a generous group of corporate sponsors and numerous individuals predominantly from South Africa and the UK.

MARKWYN

CASH & ROCKET

CLARINS

AVIS®

The August Schippers Foundation

valley farms  
FRUIT PROCESSING CO.

LIT BOLT & NUT



thank you

*We need to secure additional funding in order to meet our target size and to ensure our long-term success.*



## Conclusion

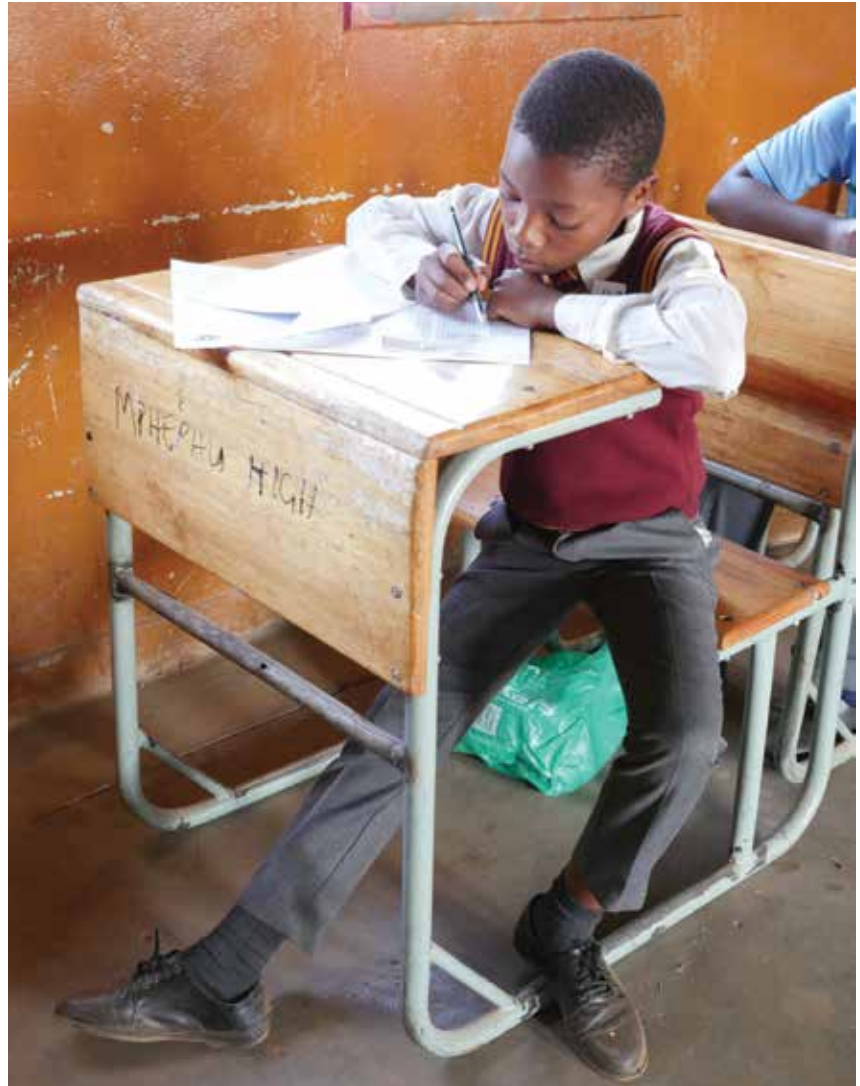
- Sumbandila is having a real and lasting impact on the lives of children in South Africa.
- 222 Children are currently on the Sumbandila programme. In 2016 our first young adults will graduate from tertiary education programmes across the country.
- All our alumni are imbued with a sense of social responsibility and leadership with the belief and ability to make a positive difference to the future of our country.
- Africa needs committed ethical leaders, social entrepreneurs and young Africans who understand what it is to come from poverty, understand the principle of service in leadership and who will in turn **show the way** to future generations.





## How you can contribute

Share in the real change that we are making to our country.



**“ Everyone can rise above their circumstances and achieve success if they are dedicated to and passionate about what they do ”**

**Nelson Mandela**

Our supporters are changing the lives of children and the future of South Africa. If you would like to join this group of supporters and share in the real change that we are making to our country, Sumbandila welcomes any donation, however small.

- Direct deposits can be made into our bank account:  
**Bank:** Standard Bank of South Africa  
**Branch:** Louis Trichardt  
**Branch IB Number:** 052549  
**Branch SWIFT Address:** SBZAZAJJ  
**Account Name:** Sumbandila Scholarship Trust  
**Account Number:** 20 024 846 4
- Sumbandila is a registered Trust (Number T6/2008):  
**PBO Number:** 930032385  
**NPO Number:** 080-267-NPO

w w w . s u m b a n d i l a . o r g



Sumbandila Scholarship Trust

P.O. Box 1705 / 31 Protea Street

Louis Trichardt, 0920

Tel: 015 516 0250/1

E-mail: [lbristow@sumbandila.org](mailto:lbristow@sumbandila.org)

Sumbandila is having a **real, lasting impact** transforming the lives of children in South Africa.